



Historically Speaking

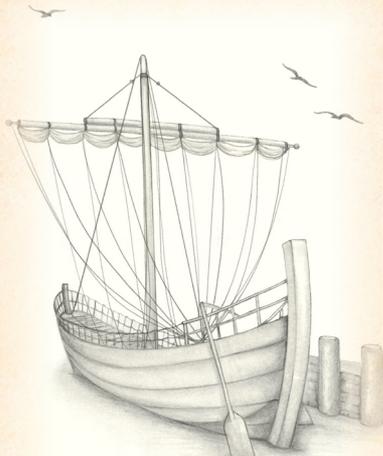
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Akhenaten - The Armana Period

Akhenaten, originally named Amenhotep IV, ruled Egypt during the 14th century BCE and is known for promoting the exclusive worship of the Aten, a solar deity represented as a radiant sun disk whose rays end in small human hands extending toward the royal family.

This distinctive imagery, common in Amarna-period reliefs and stelae, reflects a radical shift from Egypt's traditional polytheistic religion toward a form of monotheism centred on the Aten (god as the solar disc.) As part of this transformation, Amenhotep IV adopted the name Akhenaten, meaning "effective spirit of the Aten," and established a new capital at Akhetaten.

While Egyptology explains these developments through religious, political, and philosophical change, some alternative interpretations suggest Akhenaten's experiences or visions may have been influenced by contact with non-human intelligences, a speculative idea that remains outside mainstream scholarship but continues to attract interest due to the period's unusual art, theology, and symbolism...



What's happening?

I have updated the Ouranian Publishing website with a poem, a blog and several newsletter archives. I will be doing more blogging again.

I continue to work on AMON, my historical novel based in ancient Egypt. My research for that book is the focus of this and future newsletters. I believe I am at least a year out on seeing this book get published. There are more real historical figures in this book than in any of the others I have written.

Also, (as part of my prep for this book) I am in the process of learning to read hieroglyphics.

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He transformed the religious landscape of Egypt, altered its artistic expression, and then seemingly disappeared from historical records. Akhenaten, who reigned from 1353 to 1334 BC, disrupted a millennium of tradition by supplanting the pantheon of Egyptian deities with Aten, and proclaimed himself its exclusive prophet. This dramatic change sparked significant upheaval, provoked widespread opposition, and ultimately resulted in the obliteration of his contributions. However, in 2010, genetic testing validated a long-standing theory: the enigmatic mummy found in KV55, previously assumed to be too youthful, was indeed Akhenaten, the father of Tutankhamun. His elongated skull and distinctive traits echoed the revolutionary Amarna art style he fostered, merging the realms of divinity, genetics, and social upheaval.

While Akhenaten accomplished much in his lifetime, his capital was abandoned shortly after his death. His son King Tutankhamun moved the center of power back to Thebes and reversed his father's policies. The so-called Amarna reform was short-lived and had limited impact in Egypt. However, certain Canaanite Amarna Letters suggest that news of this Aten-based religious reform spread to the Levant. A letter from King Abimilki of Tyre includes several poems that compare the pharaoh to both the solar disk and also to the local storm god.

Akhetaten

For a brief period, Tell el-'Amarna, the name of the modern day site, was ancient Egypt's capital city, called Akhetaten ("Aten's Horizon"). The city was a new capital, founded by Pharaoh Amenhotep IV, who took the name Akhenaten ("Beneficial to Aten") in honor of the deity Aten. Both the pharaoh's name and that of his city reflect his aim of destabilizing the powerful cult of Amun—a chief god of the Egyptian pantheon—and other deities, to replace them with Aten and to position himself as the leader of this new religious movement.

He established a new capital, and embellished it with unique architecture and art known today as the Amarna style.

He also implemented religious and political reforms that destabilized the traditional cultic centers in Egypt, decreeing that the traditional gods of Egypt were subservient to the divine sun disc, Aten. Not only did Akhenaten portray Aten as the most important god, he presented himself and his family members as the intermediaries between Egypt

Akhenaten

