



Historically Speaking

Volume 5, Number 8, August 2026

Nubian Influence



What's happening?

Marcion is published, and the Kickstarter campaign is in process. I am prepared to accept the possibility that the campaign might not succeed to funding. In any case, Marcion will be available to those wishing to read the novella (it is only about 22,000 words, so doesn't qualify as a novel.) I am back to writing Amon and should have a first draft soon. I have been working on it for two and a half years, so it really needs to keep moving toward publication. I will get back to attempting to create a screenplay based on The Phoenix Gife.

Nubian influence on Egypt was profound, shaping its military, economy, and culture. For centuries, Nubia served as Egypt's crucial gateway to African trade and a source of gold and elite archers. This culminated in the 8th century BCE when Nubian kings of the Kingdom of Kush conquered Egypt, ruling as the "Black Pharaohs" of the 25th Dynasty and launching a major cultural renaissance.

The 25th Dynasty and the "Black Pharaohs"

During the Third Intermediate Period, Egypt faced severe internal fragmentation, allowing the Kushite king Piye to invade and unite both Egypt and Nubia under one crown. This dynasty lasted for nearly a century (c. 747–656 BCE). Under rulers like Shabaka, Taharqa, and Tantamani, Egypt experienced a flourishing cultural revival. The Nubian pharaohs restored traditional Egyptian religious practices and built or expanded major temples, including the great temple complexes at Karnak. Recognizing Egyptian religious importance, these Kushite rulers also heavily incorporated Egyptian hieroglyphs, preserving ancient texts and traditions.

This object features cartouches that read, "Khensa, may Amen give life and health." Inscriptions between the cartouches read, "May Amen give all stability and prosperity, all life, all health and all joy." King Piankhy, the first king of the 25th Dynasty, had at least three queens and perhaps as many as five or six.



Ouranian Publishing of Spokane
304 N. Adams Rd.
Spokane Valley, WA 99216=2062
(509) 710-7185
website: ouranianpublishing.com



Historically Speaking

Volume 5, Number 8, August 2026

Military Might and Mercenaries

Historically known by the Egyptians as "Ta-Seti" (Land of the Bow), Nubians were legendary for their exceptional archery skills. Because of this, they were heavily recruited into the Egyptian military. Highly regarded for their loyalty and combat prowess, the Medjay—a group originating from Nubia—served as elite scouts and even evolved into Egypt's premier internal security and paramilitary police force.

The Economic and Geographic Significance

Nubia sat at a critical geographic crossroads along the Nile River (between modern-day Aswan and Khartoum). It was Egypt's vital access route to sub-Saharan Africa, which allowed the flow of highly prized luxury goods. Through Nubia, Egypt acquired immense wealth in gold, ivory, ebony, incense, leopard skins, and exotic animals. The Kushite kings utilized the enormous wealth generated by these trade routes to fund massive building projects both in Egypt and their southern capital at Meroë.

Cultural Exchange and Modern Nubians

Because the two regions were closely linked for millennia, there was extensive cultural exchange, trade, and royal intermarriage between Egyptian and Nubian nobility. Many Egyptian pharaohs possessed Nubian ancestry even before the 25th Dynasty. Today, Nubians continue to be a vital part of Egypt's demographic fabric, living primarily in southern Egypt (such as in Kom Ombo and Nasr al-Nuba) and major cities, preserving unique traditions, dialects, and marriage customs that trace their roots back to antiquity.

My Use of Nubian Characters

I have chosen to include Nubian characters in my books, to support themes of social justice and to address racism.



Map of Kush and Ancient Egypt, showing the Nile up to the fifth cataract, and major cities and sites of the ancient Egyptian Dynastic period (c. 3150 BC to 30 BC) (map: Jeff Dahl, CC Y-SA 4.0)