Queen Hatshepsut, His Majesty

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The Best of Yolo County: A History-Social Science Symposium

Hatshepsut's Cartouche
(Maatkare is Hatshepsut's Throne Name)

Hatshepsut-Khnumet-Amun - Foremost of Female Nobles, Joined With Amun

Maat-ka-Ra - 'Truth/Cosmic Order/Balance ('Maat') is the Spirit/Double ('Ka') of Ra'

Hatshepsut's Kingdom
Hatshepsut's Mortuary Temple at Deir el-Bahri

Obelisks at Karnak

A relief on the fallen red obelisk at Karnak of Hatshepsut, as a man, receiving the royal crown from Amun.

Hatshepsut's Mortuary Temple and Karnak Obelisks

"I am his daughter in very truth, who works for him and knows what he decrees. My spirit, even my father's life, stability, dominion upon the Horus Throne of all the living, like Ra forever.

(Extract of an inscription on Hatshepsut's obelisk)

"When you rest in your building where your beauty is worshipped, Amun-Ra, the Lord of the Thrones of the Two Lands, give Hatshepsut Ma'at-ka-Ra life, duration and happiness. For you she has made this building fine, great, pure and lasting.

(Inscription in Hatshepsut's temple)

"Now, my heart turns this way and that, as I think what the people will say. Those who shall see my monuments in years to come, and who shall speak of what I have done; let them make no mistake as to who I am. My heart goes to him who served him here, knowing what he did for him. I am his daughter in very truth, who serves him. He knows what he ordains. My command stands like the mountains and has no end, shine and spread rays over the titulary of my august person, and my falcon rises high above the kingly banner unto all eternity."

(Extract of an inscription on Hatshepsut's obelisk)
Divine Conception

Hatshepsut claims her father is the god - Amun

Amun took the form of the noble King Thutmose and found the queen sleeping in her room. When the pleasant odors that proceeded from him announced his presence, she woke. He gave her his heart and showed himself in his godlike splendor. When he approached the queen, she wept for joy at his strength and beauty and he gave her his love.

(Inscriptions on the Walls of Hatshepsut’s Temple)

“I will shape for thee thy daughter... I will endow her with life, health, strength, and all gifts... I will make her appearance above the gods, because of her dignity as King of Upper and Lower Egypt.”

(Inscriptions on the Walls of Hatshepsut’s Temple)

“The King’s Daughter, God’s Wife, King’s Great Wife, Lady of Two Lands, Hatshepsut, says ‘O my mother Nut, stretch thyself over me, that thou mayest place me among the imperishable stars which are in thee, and that I may not die.’”

(Prayer inscription on the lid of one of three sarcophagi commissioned for Hatshepsut’s Coronation)

Hatshepsut’s Coronation

Amun and Hathor’s proclamation of Hatshepsut as Pharaoh
Hatshepsut’s Coronation

“Then his majesty said to them: ‘This daughter of mine, Khnumetamun Hatshepsut – may she live! – I have appointed as my successor upon my throne. She shall direct the people of every quarter of the palace; it is she indeed who shall lead you. Obey her words, listen joyfully to her command. The royal nobles, the dignitaries, and the leaders of the people heard this proclamation of the promotion of his daughter, the king of Upper and Lower Egypt, Ma’at-ka-Ra – may she live eternally!”

(Inscriptions on the Walls of Hatshepsut’s Mortuary Temple)

Said to her by His Majesty: ‘Come, thou blessed one. I will take thee in my arms that thou mayest see they directions…carried out…in the palace; thy precious images were made. Thou hast received the insignia of the double crown. When you reign…When they enter in the palace, thy brow is adorned with the double crown united on they head, for thou art my heir, to whom I have given birth…This is my daughter Khnemet-Amun Hatshepsut, living. I put her in my place.”

(Inscriptions on Hatshepsut’s Temple)

“Utterance by Amun-Ra, Lord of the Throne of Two Lands…, ‘O my beloved daughter Maatkare, I am thy beloved father. I establish for thee thy rank in the kingship of the Two Lands. I have fixed thyubication”

(From Texts of Hatshepsut and Sethos I inside Speos Artemidos)

Hatshepsut’s Transformation from Queen to Pharaoh

Feminine Descriptions of Hatshepsut

“To look upon her was more beautiful than anything; her splendor and her form were divine; she was a maiden, beautiful and blooming.”

(Inscriptions on Hatshepsut’s monuments - in her own words Hatshepsut describes herself)

“His majesty himself put with her own hands oil of an on all her limbs. Her fragrance was like a divine breath, her scent reached as far as the land of Punt; her skin is made of gold, it shines like the stars…”

(Inscriptions on Hatshepsut’s monuments - in her own words Hatshepsut describes herself)
Hatshepsut's Transformation from Queen to Pharaoh

The following inscriptions showed Hatshepsut's belief that she could command her artists and sculptors to depict her as a traditional Egyptian male pharaoh, complete with beard. Hatshepsut began to adopt several male attributes, after the Oracle of Amun pronounced it Amun's will that Hatshepsut should be Pharaoh. She took on the new role gradually, rather than appearing all at once as the Pharaoh, which would have been a drastic step. Hatshepsut dropped her titles relating to those only a woman could hold, took on those of the Pharaoh, and slowly started the trend towards appearing like a male, wearing the shendyt kilt, nemes headdress with its uraeus, khat head cloth, false beard, and false beard. She even, eventually, dropped the female ending from her name ('t') and became His Majesty, Hatshepsu. }

Hatshepsut in Full Pharaoh Symbols Giving Offerings to Horus

nemes
headdress with
its uraeus
khat head cloth
false beard
shendyt kilt

Hatshepsut's Transformation from Queen to Pharaoh

...
Pharaoh Image Descriptions of Hatshepsut

“The Great Princess, great in favor and grace, Mistress of All Lands, Royal Daughter and Royal Sister, Great Royal Wife, Mistress of Two Lands, Hatshepsut”

(Inscription on one of three sarcophagi commissioned for Hatshepsut possibly before she became Pharaoh. Perhaps it was never used because it names her as a “Princess,” not “Pharaoh” or “King”)

“The god knows it of me, Amun, Lord of Thrones of the Two Lands. He gave me sovereignty over the Black Land and the Red Land as a reward. None rebels against me in all lands. All foreign lands are my subjects. He made my boundary at the limits of heaven. All that the sun encompasses works for me…”

(Extract of an inscription on Hatshepsut’s obelisk that emphasizes that no one questioned her authority.)

Modern Day Representations of Hatshepsut

[Images of modern day representations of Hatshepsut]

Senenmut and the Princess Neferura

It is clear from the statues found of Senenmut, that he enjoyed a very close relationship with Neferura - the daughter of Hatshepsut. It is possible that this is the only sort of relationship he had with the King Hatshepsut, as teacher to her daughter. Although the opposite may be argued - that Senenmut educated Neferura because of his relationship with Hatshepsut.
Princess Neferura, Hatshepsut’s Daughter

"Hatshepsut gave me repeated honors. I raised her oldest daughter, Princess Neferura, while she was still a child at the breast."

(Inscription in Hatshepsut’s temple quoted from Senenmut, her daughter Neferura’s tutor)

On becoming Pharaoh, Hatshepsut had to give up her title — not just a title, but a special job with specific duties — of “God’s Wife.” She granted her daughter Neferura (Thutmose III’s daughter) this title. Unfortunately Neferura died young, but Hatshepsut apparently was grooming her daughter as a prince, rather than a princess, despite the title. Please note the beautiful block statue of Senenmut, holding the child Neferura enfolded in his arms. Neferura is wearing the royal false beard, and the side lock of a youth.

Senenmut – Courtier to Hatshepsut?

Senenmut had a humble background, but under Hatshepsut’s reign he became one of the most powerful men in the country. There is speculation as to whether this was due to Senenmut’s own natural talents as an administrator that caused this rise to power — or was there a close personal relationship between the King and her subject? Senenmut originally entered the royal court during the reign of Thutmose II. Under Hatshepsut he would eventually hold over 80 titles during his period as an official and administrator working in the royal court.

Senenmut – Courtier to Hatshepsut?

"Companion greatly beloved, Keeper of the Palace, Keeper of the Heart of the King, making content the Lady of Both Lands, making all things come to pass for the Spirit of Her Majesty…"

"Spokesman for King Hatshepsut, Steward of the royal family, Superintendent of the buildings of the god Amun…"

(Inscription that Senenmut himself left in Hatshepsut’s tomb)

"Giving praise to Amun and smelling the ground to the Lord of the gods on behalf of the life, prosperity and health of the King [Hatshepsut] of Upper and Lower Egypt, Maatkare, may he live forever, by the Hereditary Prince and Count, the Steward of Amun, Senenmut, in accordance with a favor of the King’s bounty which was extended to this servant in letting his name be established on every wall, in the following of the King, in Deir el-Bahri, and likewise in the temples of the gods of Upper and Lower Egypt. Thus spoke the king."

(Inscription that Senenmut himself left in Hatshepsut’s tomb)
What Happened to Senenmut?

For some reason, towards the last quarter of Hatshepsut's reign, Senenmut fell from favor and disappeared from view (sometime between Year 16 to Year 19 Hatshepsut). There are theories: Neferura (Hatshepsut's daughter) died in Year 11, after her death Senenmut seeks to join with Thuthmose III. However, Senenmut was a strong supporter of Hatshepsut, once Senenmut died / disappeared Hatshepsut herself soon lost the throne.

It is certain, however, that Senenmut was never buried in either of his two tombs. Due to the sudden disappearance of Senenmut (and the lack of a burial), speculation remains high: was he killed abroad, drowned in the Nile, had a lovers' spat with Hatshepsut who then had him killed, agents of Thuthmose III had him killed... and so on.

Many of Senenmut's images and monuments were attacked and vandalized after his death - but by whom? Hatshepsut or Thuthmose III?

The Expedition to Punt

• The Egyptian soldiers arrive at Punt. It is interesting to note that they are led by an unarmed man, but that on the other hand, the military presence was notable. The contacts all appear to have been of a more or less peaceful nature. Although Hatshepsut sent five ships and the reliefs in her mortuary temple clearly show armed men (see image above), there is no record of a military conflict. Still the Egyptians brought back the rich produce of Punt. However, it must also be noted that the submissive character of the Puntites is very much stressed in Hatshepsut's account of the event, which states that "they were obedient, like dogs are." The text does not really express the notion of peaceful exchange and trade between the two peoples, but states that the Egyptians "took (all) the myrrh they wished."
The village of the Puntites was made up of simple, cone-shaped huts. Their natural environment must have been a fertile and rich one.

Queen of Punt- The Puntite chief and his rather obese wife bring gifts to the leader of the Egyptian expedition. From the temple of Hatshepsut at Deir el-Bahari.

Live incense trees from the "incense terraces" planted in baskets to be transplanted back in Egypt at the temple of Hatshepsut at Deir el-Bahari.

"Said by Amun, the Lord of the Thrones of the Two Lands: 'Come, come in peace my daughter, the graceful, who art in my heart, King Maatkare… I will give thee Punt, the whole of it... I will lead [your soldiers] by land and by water, on mysterious shores which join the harbors of incense, the sacred territory of the divine land, my abode of pleasure... They will take incense as much as they like. They will load their ships to the satisfaction of their hearts with trees of green (that is, fresh) incense, and all the good things of the land.'" (Inscription in Hatshepsut's tomb)

"How have you arrived at this land unknown to the men of Egypt? Have you come down from the roads of the Heavens? Or have you navigated the sea of Ta-nuter? You must have followed the path of the sun. As for the King of Egypt, there is no road which is inaccessible to His Majesty; we live by the breath he grants to us." (Quote from the chief of Punt and his wife, inscribed on Hatshepsut's temple.)
The Expedition to Punt

“The King himself, the King of Upper and Lower Egypt, Maatkare takes the good things of Punt, and the valuables of the divine land, presenting the gifts of the southern countries, the tributes of the vile Kush, the boxes [of gold and precious stones] of the land of the negroes to Amen-Re, the Lord of the Throne of the Two Lands. The King Maatkare, she is living, she last, she is full of joy, she rules over the land like Re eternally.”

(Inscription in the Temple of Deir el-Bahari)

“The loading of ships very heavily with marvels of the country of Punt; all goodly fragrant woods…with ebony and pure ivory, with …eye-cosmetics, with apes, monkeys, dogs and with skins of the southern panther, with natives and their children. Never was brought the like of this for any king who has been since the beginning.”

(Inscription in the Temple of Deir el-Bahari)

Power Struggle Between Hatshepsut and Thutmose III??

Hieroglyphs showing Thutmose III on the left and Hatshepsut on the right. Hatshepsut seems to be more in the position of power and in the greater role. She is facing forward, thus first, in the profile drawing. Her arms are wielding.

What Happened to Hatshepsut??

Her images and name were etched out and some of her monuments were destroyed. Her body was not found in her mortuary tomb. Why was she erased from history and where is her mummy??

Royal beard and nose are destroyed

Hatshepsut erased from history
Where is Hatshepsut's Mummy??
Will the Real Hatshepsut Please Stand Up!

Four female mummies that were subjected to CT scan to test for a DNA match or a clue to their lineage.

Crime Scene Investigation – CSI
Stay Tuned for the Investigation on the Disappearance of Hatshepsut.

• Hatshepsut’s mummy?
• Wooden box that preserved the liver and molar of Hatshepsut.
• The scan that shows the possible molar match.

(Photos by: Brando Collin)

6th Grade Archaeologists
Should you choose to accept this mission...be here tomorrow to hear more testimony from experts, sift through artifacts, debate the sources, and try to reach a reasonable conclusion so that Hatshepsut can lie in peace for eternity.