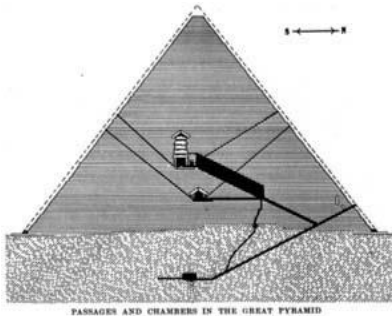


The Great Pyramid of Giza - Egypt

Considered by the ancient Greeks as *the first of the Seven Wonders of the World*, the Great Pyramid has endured time. It is the only classic "wonder" remaining. The Greek geographer *Strabo* (circa 64 BC to 23 AD) wrote, "It seems like a building let down from heaven... built without the aid of human hands".

Situated on the Giza Plateau at the border between "upper" and "lower" Egypt, guarded by the Sphinx (a monument shaped with the head of an Egyptian princess and the body of a lion), the Pyramid stands like a gentle giant waiting to be discovered.



The Great Pyramid is a fantastic structure -- the most massive building erected on the planet -- 30 times the mass of New York's Empire State Building. It is aligned to the cardinal points of the compass. How this happened at the dawn of history before the compass was invented is not understood by scholars.

Its refined stones weighing up to 70 tons are cut and positioned to less than 1/50th of an inch thick. [On paper, practice drawing a line 1-inch long. Then divide it into 50 equal parts. Now try it using stones. Challenging, isn't it?]

Following its baseline from corner to corner, each side is constructed in a curve that if extended would draw a circle the exact circumference of the Earth. Its 2,300,000 blocks were quarried, transported and tightly fitted

together. If 10 massive blocks were precisely placed daily, the building would take 700 years to complete.

The Egyptian *Book of the Dead* describes interior chambers and explains the very construction of the Pyramid as a *message* written in stone. A descending passage leading to a dead-end and a pit is called "The Descent of Man". "The Hall of Truth in Darkness" -- an upper passage is narrow. To climb it, you must stoop. Giza is the only Egyptian pyramid with upper passageways.

Josephus, the historian wrote the Giza Pyramid was "built by descendants of Seth". Others called it, "Pillar of Enoch".

In 1799, French armies advanced into Egypt. On August 12th, Napoleon visited the Great Pyramid asking to be left alone, as Alexander the Great had been. Exiting it, the General refused comment. To his death, Napoleon never spoke of his strange, moving experience while inside it.

Egyptian archaeology suggests cultural sophistication fully formed instead of developing slowly as in other societies. Earliest hieroglyphs were stylized and in common use. No evolutionary trace of culture exists when talking about Egyptian mathematics, medicine, astronomy or architecture. Everything in Egypt was suddenly in place at the start.

The stones speak for themselves, but questions remain. Who built it? Why was it built? And what message might we learn from the Great Pyramid of Giza?