



Combating Corruption in Ancient Egypt



The caveman lived above the trees throughout the day and resorted to caves at night. He was corrupted because he robbed, assaulted, killed, and raped. Since the era of Lousy and Kourdy millions of years ago until the Cro-Magnon era (40 thousand years ago), the anthropoid noticed he dreamt of those who had passed away. This primitive man believed the air, wind or spirit left the dead body to hover over him while sleeping. Trembling with fear, he believed there is a life following this life and there are good and evil gods who can harm with earthquakes, fires, and volcanoes. Therefore, he tried to present sacrifices, humans then animals, seeking to supplicate the gods to stop their anger. It is noteworthy the word "TIRSPS" meaning "NOITARIPSER" indicates breathing. Abo Al-Tayeb Al-Motanabi alludes to this meaning in his poetry says:

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"The soul is nothing but from the breath, hey!
The flesh is nothing but from sounding clay"

The primitive man was afraid of these spirits, as they used to take out the dead body from a hole in the wall of the hut and beating around the hut seven times seeking to mislead the body from pinpointing the location of the door. He went to the cemetery, far away from his hut, to bury him. Then he put thorny plants around his grave, so the soul of the dead cannot get back to him while sleeping.

The tribal chief delivered a ceremony to the tribe saying god sees both good and evil deeds and accordingly there is a heaven and hell. Moreover, the chief set an earthly law specifying the punishments and promised to reward those who are benevolent.

Such transformation of the primitive anthropoid to be, quoting Nizar Qabbani, a civilized human being only in the external appearance lacking knowledge from the inner spirit is an absolute ignorance. This transformation was achieved according to a divine law: heaven or hell from one side and an earthly law: freedom, prison or execution from the other.

This era extended from the Cro-Magnon to the dawn of conscience, the first Dynasty – 5619 B.C. Manethon, as James Henry Breasted called it, a «civilization quest», as it was without any historiography. However, the Egyptian Civilization started to record the chronological

history as of 5619 B.C. the so-called the "First Dynasty".

Dr. Mahmoud El-Saqa, Professor of Law at the Faculty of Law, Cairo University, says in his masterpiece book "The Philosophy and History of Ancient Egyptian Law": The Ancient Egyptian law has perfect rules, universal goals, fair provisions, pure principles, and decisive articles, and it astonished historians thanks to its two main pillars:

A. Justice is the basis of ruling which is the bond forged between the ruler and ruled.

B. Social justice: Everyone is equal before the law.

We notice in the Throne Speech recited by the King to the Chief Minister (Prime Minister). You should know: ministry is bitter not sweet, water and air will move to everything you do, do not sustain patronage to a person because they are close to me, and do not arouse aversion to a person because I detest them. Favoritism and banishment should be based on efficiency and not for any other reason. Know! people respect you for nothing but for establishing justice, and never commit the sins the Chief Minister Khety has previously committed. He practiced injustice to be attributed with being righteous.

He wronged his family and granted their own rights to the others as he was afraid of being accused with favoring his family.

Follow Justice Goddess "Maat" as your guiding light. Grant



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everyone his own right, and do not differentiate between a relative or a stranger.

«James Henry Breasted - Dawn of Conscience»

Bentaur, son of King Ramses III, was accused of treason, and a court was formed from fifteen judges. They sentenced him to death, and the sentence was executed. Then, the court discovered that two of the judges had relations with the rulers in palace. Accordingly, they have been sentenced to death. However, before the execution of the sentence, the two judges committed suicide.

There was no attorneyship profession before the Roman era since all the Egyptians had the right to plea before the court. A woman had the right to claim against her husband if he maltreated her either through insults or beating. He would be warned at the first time, and, if repeated, would be hit at second time and, if repeated, would be divorced at third time in case the wife decided the divorce. Indeed, there was a clause in the marriage contract articulated by the wife says: If I left you as a husband, I will give your dowry back to you in addition to all the wealth we collected together throughout our marriage journey!

Moreover, the most amazing and beautiful point is the youngest daughter, provided that her age must exceed sixteen years old, was the one who distributed wealth equally between siblings in the case of her father's death!

Thus, the rights of youngest girl and daughter not to be usurped by her older siblings and men respectively.

All Egyptians had the right to submit their complaints before the regional governor. The evidence proving that is the story of the eloquent well-spoken farmer and the nine letters he sent to Rensi Ibn Mero the Wadi Natrun Governor, as the thieves stole his goods. The first letter was a wonderful literary masterpiece, it says: "your heart is meant to be an equalizing justice force; your tongue is meant to be the justice scale, so let justice cheer your name." The governor submitted this letter to the king who ordered to arrest all the thieves but without telling the farmer. The king hoped the farmer to continue writing other letters like this wonderful one! The farmer Akhanoub became irritated, so that he wrote, in a strongly worded style, the third and fourth letters!

The farmer says: "Do justice as you are not so! How procrastinated you are in granting my rights! Did the king mandate you as a governor to support thieves and bandits?!"

When the farmer announced he is about to leave Wadi Natrun because Ma'at (the goddess of justice) has left it, the governor told the farmer he purposely did not reply to his letter so that the farmer could write further letters to the king!

Who could believe that Thutmose III, who built the Egyptian Empire reached the Mesopotamia in the north, Cyrenaica in the west and Ethiopia in the south, thought of amending one paragraph in the country's law. However, he Chief Judge refused, saying: "Rulers decisions shall not prevail over the law" and the great emperor apologized accordingly!

Gunnar Myrdal, a Swedish economist and sociologist, wanted to find out the common ground among the weak "or failed" states. He found the absence of the rule of law is the key.



According to the ancient Egyptian law, the punishment was to cut off the hand of anyone who steals, deceives buyers while weighing their goods, takes a bribe or forges documents, and the penalty for adultery was one hundred lashes and cutting the nose tip.

Traitor was punished with their tongue being cut, while rapist was punished by cutting their genitals. In addition, bandit who practice thuggery was punished by cutting their right arm and one of their two ears.

Egypt is the first state to set a law regulating human rights; Horemheb developed this law;

Egypt is the first state to set the first international law; Thoth developed this law;

Egypt is the first state to set a scale of justice

Egypt is the first state to have a female judge in the world (NAFRAIHT)

Egypt is the first state whereas the first queen ruled (Merneith, the ruler of the 1st dynasty)

Egypt is the first state to develop a universal health insurance system

Physicians did not receive any fees from patients due to the decent life provided by the State. Rather, they were obliged to submit any gift they receive from patients to the House of Life (the Faculty of Medicine) where they had graduated.

It is worth mentioning that citizens did not have to pay any court fees as well.

Among the advices given to judges was "O judge who judges among people in this worldly life, know that you will be held accountable before God to be asked about every judge you have made". Moreover, there were officials whose responsibility was mainly to inspect the courts and make sure judgements are follow the applicable law. Moreover, judgements and sentences used to be issued in a swift manner and the state was able to enforce judgements without any delay. This was the reason that pushed people to move away from violence and revenge.

Karin Schubert, Berlin's current mayor, wondered how the world would look like now if the ancient Egyptian civilization was not built. Moreover, Wallace Page, the British Egyptologist said, we need two centuries to reach such supreme level of human civilization.

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The following are some examples of the Negative Confession:

I have neither made someone cry, nor caused suffer to any animal. I have never forgotten to water a plant. I have never lied, been accused of theft or killed. I have never felt arrogant for being at a rank higher than the others. I have never shouted at any person while talking. I have never gossiped about people behind their backs. I have never felt jealous of anyone. I have never polluted the Nile River. I have never deprived someone from their freedom. I have never let this worldly life delude me.

The following are some examples of the Positive Confession:

I was acting as the eye for the blind, the hand that supports for the paralyzed, the leg for the crippled can stand, and the father of all orphans. I loved all people and used to mention their good deeds. I used to respect the other beliefs and I do not forget to mention God. I once made my mother happy and my father satisfied. I used to provide the needy with bread and fruit cultivated in my land. I was good-hearted and my hands are innocent.

This marvelous moral law, under which every Egyptian man or woman is held accountable before the Divine Court of Justice, was used to eliminate corruption. Plato, who learned philosophy by Egyptian scholars for 13 years, once said: "We have no knowledge except what Egypt has taught us, just as Solon came to Egypt and embraced the doctrine of Amun. Solon, who was taught the law in Egypt, once said: "an Egyptian Priest patted on my shoulder and said: You Greeks are like children if compared to us'. Jean-François Champollion once said: «Imagination falters and falls motionless under the feet of the ancient Egyptian civilization.» Moreover, the Prince of Poets, Ahmed Shawki was totally right when he wrote the following poetic lines:

Thanks to their knowledge, Rome could walk
And even their science studied by Greek.

O Almighty Allah, as if they are magicians

They make rocks talk. Indeed, they are Egyptians!