

# THE KING *Herself*

Today she is in the Royal Mummy Rooms at the Egyptian Museum in Cairo, reunited at long last with her family of fellow pharaohs, with a sign saying she is Hatshepsut, the king herself (1479–1458 BC).

But in 1903, when the archaeologist Howard Carter found Hatshepsut's sarcophagus in the Valley of the Kings, it was empty. Had her mummy been stolen or destroyed? The truth only came out a century later when Egyptian scientists positively identified a mummy called KV60a, discovered more than a century earlier in a minor tomb, as that of Hatshepsut. None of the treasures normally found with pharaohs' mummies were with it. It was not even in a coffin.

For Hatshepsut, a pharaoh who did not fear death as long as she was remembered, the irony is great. As one of the greatest builders in one of the greatest Egyptian dynasties, she raised numerous temples and shrines. She commissioned hundreds of statues of herself and left accounts in stone of her titles, her history, even her hopes and fears. Inscribed on an obelisk at Karnak are the words: 'Now my heart turns this way and that, as I think what the people will say. Those who see my monuments in years to come, and who shall speak of what I have done.'

But following her death, her successor and stepson Thutmose III set about erasing her memory, ordering all images of her as king to be removed from monuments and temples. At Deir el Bahri, at the temple designed to be the centre of Hatshepsut's cult, her statues were smashed and thrown into a pit. Images of her as queen were left undisturbed, but wherever she proclaimed herself king, the destruction was careful and precise. Why?

Hatshepsut was the eldest daughter of Thutmose I and Queen Ahmose. But Thutmose also had a son by another queen, and this son, Thutmose II, became pharaoh when his father died. As was common among Egyptian royalty, Thutmose II married his sister, Hatshepsut. They produced one daughter; another, less important wife, Isis, gave Thutmose II the male heir that he longed for, but Hatshepsut was unable to provide.



When Thutmose II died not long after from heart disease, his heir, Thutmose III, was still a young boy. As was the custom, Hatshepsut assumed control as the young pharaoh's queen regent. And so began one of the most intriguing periods of ancient Egyptian history.

At first, Hatshepsut acted on her stepson's behalf, respecting the convention that the queen should handle political affairs while the young king learnt the ropes. But before long, she began performing kingly functions, like making offerings to the gods. After a few years she assumed the role of 'king' of Egypt, supreme power in the land. Her stepson was relegated to second-in-command and 'the king herself' proceeded to rule for an amazing 21 years.

What caused Hatshepsut to break so radically with the traditional role of queen regent? A social or military crisis? A desire for power? A belief that she had the same right to rule as a man? No one really knows. Maybe she felt, as a direct descendant of the pharaoh Thutmose I, she had a greater claim to the divine line of pharaohs than Thutmose III. At first she made no secret of her sex – in images her body is unmistakably a woman's – but later she is depicted as a male king, with headdress and beard, standing imposingly with legs apart.

Her hieroglyph inscriptions have frequent references to 'my people' which suggest that she knew she had broken with tradition and wanted her subjects' approval. Whatever their opinion was, there is no doubting the frustration of the king in waiting, Thutmose III. After Hatshepsut's death, he took his revenge, wiping his stepmother's reign as pharaoh out of history. But in the long term it is she, the King Herself, who has achieved greater fame.

**coffin** (n) /'kɒfɪn/ a box in which a dead body is placed to be buried  
**commission** (v) /kə'mɪʃn/ to order and pay for something to be made  
**divine** (adj) /dɪ'vaɪn/ related to god  
**heir** (n) /eɪ/ a successor

## 9c The king herself

### Reading

- 1 Work in pairs. Look at the title of the article. What is strange about the words *king* and *herself* together?
- 2 Read the article and put these events about Hatshepsut's life in the correct chronological order.
  - a Her mummy was discovered in a minor tomb.
  - b The monuments she built were destroyed.
  - c Thutmose III became pharaoh.
  - d She ruled Egypt as king for 21 years.
  - e Her mummy was identified and put in the Royal Mummy rooms.
  - f She married Thutmose II.
  - g She was born, the eldest daughter of Thutmose I and Queen Ahmose.
- 3 What were the different roles that Hatshepsut fulfilled (e.g. pharaoh)?
- 4 Choose the correct option (a–c) to complete the sentences.
  - 1 Hatshepsut's mummy was not identified at first because it:
    - a was badly damaged.
    - b was not in a royal tomb.
    - c had another name with it.
  - 2 Hatshepsut was very worried that people would:
    - a realise she was a woman.
    - b not think she was royalty.
    - c not remember her.
  - 3 Thutmose III did not want people to know that Hatshepsut had been:
    - a king.
    - b queen.
    - c related to him.
  - 4 Thutmose II's children consisted of:
    - a one son and one daughter.
    - b one son.
    - c one daughter.
  - 5 According to tradition, the queen regent was supposed to:
    - a make offerings to the gods.
    - b help until the king was ready.
    - c be a politician.
  - 6 In later statues and images, Hatshepsut appears male from:
    - a her body shape.
    - b the way she stands.
    - c her clothes.

### Critical thinking weighing the evidence

- 5 Find evidence that supports each sentence (1–6). If the sentence is definitely true, write 100%. If there is no evidence, write 0%. Put percentages in between if it is not clear.
  - 1 When Hatshepsut's sarcophagus was first found in 1903, it was empty.
  - 2 The mummy called KV60a was Hatshepsut's body.
  - 3 Hatshepsut wanted to produce a male heir, but failed.
  - 4 Hatshepsut had a greater claim to become pharaoh than Thutmose III.
  - 5 Hatshepsut knew she had broken with tradition and wanted her subjects' approval.
  - 6 The king in waiting, Thutmose III, was angry that Hatshepsut had assumed the role of king.
- 6 Work in pairs. Compare your scores and the evidence you found.

### Word focus long

- 7 Find these six phrases (1–6) in the article with the word *long* and match each one to its definition (a–f).

|                    |                              |
|--------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 at long last     | a soon                       |
| 2 as long as       | b over a long period of time |
| 3 long for         | c after much waiting         |
| 4 long after       | d provided that              |
| 5 before long      | e much, much later           |
| 6 in the long term | f desire very much           |
- 8 Complete the sentences using phrases with *long*.
  - 1 Hatshepsut clearly \_\_\_\_\_ people to remember her.
  - 2 The grand monuments she built ensured she would be remembered \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 3 \_\_\_\_\_ people believed she had a divine right to be pharaoh, Hatshepsut felt safe.
  - 4 Hatshepsut died in 1458 BC and \_\_\_\_\_, Thutmose III had destroyed most references to her as king.
  - 5 No one understood the story of Hatshepsut until experts in hieroglyphs \_\_\_\_\_ uncovered the truth.
  - 6 Thutmose III ruled for another 34 years, \_\_\_\_\_ Hatshepsut had died.

### Speaking

- 9 Work in small groups. Say who you would expect to find doing these jobs: mostly men, mostly women, or an equal number of men and women. Give reasons.

cleaner   company director   doctor   florist   IT technician  
lawyer   machine operator   nurse   plumber  
prime minister   secretary   senior civil servant   teacher

- 10 Look at the UK statistics on page 154. Which job in Exercise 9 fits in which category? Compare and discuss your answers.

## Answer Key of Page 110

1. King is masculine, so one would expect the king himself or the queen herself.

2. 1-g 2-f 3-d 4-c 5-b 6-a 7-e

3. Hatshepsut fulfilled the roles like (wife, mother, regent, politician and cult leader).

4. Choose the correct option.

1-b 2-c 3-a 4-a 5-b 6-b

5. Student's own answer

7. 1-c 2-d 3-f 4-e 5-a 6-b

8. 1. longed for 2. long after/ in the long turn 3. As long as

4. and before long 5. at long last 6. long after

## Vocab List Unit 9 Pages 110/ 111

| #                                    | Vocabulary                  | Example  | Definition   | Synonym                   |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|--|---------------------------|
| <b>Reading Passage(s) Vocabulary</b> |                             |  |  |                           |
| 1-                                   | Archaeologist ( <i>n.</i> ) | > There were several archaeologists studying the site where the tombs were found.        | A scientist who studies buildings, graves, tools and objects of people who lived in the past                             |                           |
| 2-                                   | Mummy ( <i>n.</i> )         | > The archaeologists have found three Pharaonic mummies.                                 | A preserved dead body  |                           |
| 3-                                   | Coffin ( <i>n.</i> )        | > They put the dead bodies in coffins six feet under.                                    | A box in which a dead body is placed to be buried  | = a sarcophagus; a casket |
| 4-                                   | Inscribe ( <i>v.</i> )      | > The wall was inscribed with the names of the dead soldiers of the war.                 | Write words in a book or carve them on an object   | = carve                   |
| 5-                                   | Cult ( <i>n.</i> )          | > Their son ran away from home and joined a religious cult.                              | A religious group often living together and whose beliefs are considered extreme or strange by many people               | = a religious group       |
| 6-                                   | Dynasty ( <i>n.</i> )       | > The Mogul dynasty ruled over India for centuries.                                      | A series of rulers or leaders who are all from the same family or a period when a country is ruled by them               | = a royal family          |
| 7-                                   | Commission ( <i>v.</i> )    | > The newspaper commissioned Roger Grey to write a series of articles on Brexit.         | To order and pay for something to be made  | = assign                  |
| 8-                                   | Divine ( <i>adj.</i> )      | > The Ayatollah described the earthquake in Iran as a divine test.                       | Related to god   | = heavenly; godly         |
| 9-                                   | Heir ( <i>n.</i> )          | > The heir to the throne was a minor whose mother controlled the kingdom until he is 18. | A person who will legally receive money, property or a title from another person when that person dies                   | = successor; inheritor    |
| 10-                                  | Regent ( <i>n.</i> )        | > He was formally appointed regent of the royal family since the King was only 16 years. | A person who rules a country only for a limited period because the king or queen is absent or too young or too ill, etc. | = a custodian             |

|     |                    |  |  |  |
|-----|--------------------|--|--|--|
|     |                    |  |  |  |
| 11- | imposingly (adv.)  | > She is depicted as a male standing imposingly.                         | In a way which dominates and looks powerful  |  |
| 12- | Convention (n.)    | We should teach our kid to respect the convention of their society.<br>> | A traditional way of behaving                |  |
| 13- | Shrine (n.)        | They have turned the room into a shrine for the dead king.<br>>          | A holy place in memory of a religious person |  |
| 14- | To learn the ropes | The young prince learnt the ropes of ruling a kingdom.                   | To learn how to do something new.            |  |

| <b>Word Focus (Phrases with Long)</b> |                  |   |  |                                     |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| 15-                                   | At long last     | > I finished my essay at long last.                           | After much waiting                                     | = finally                           |
| 16-                                   | As long as       | > You wouldn't get promoted as long as you keep coming late.  | Something must happen before something else can happen | = Provided that                     |
| 17-                                   | Long for         | > The deaf child's been longing for hearing his mum's voice.  | To desire very much                                    | = look forward to; miss (sth.) much |
| 18-                                   | Long after       | > He came long after I had expected him. He was too late.     | Much, much later                                       | = after a while                     |
| 19-                                   | Before long      | > They'll be home before very long.                           | Soon   | = in no time                        |
| 20-                                   | In the long term | > Taking no decision now will cost us a lot in the long term. | Over a long period of time                             | = in the long run                   |

**1 - Complete the following sentences with the words between brackets:**

**[regent – heir – dynasty – commissioned – as long as- cults – mummies – archaeologist – divine - inscribed]**

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ to the throne abdicated to get married to one of the common people in a rare royal incident.
2. The archaeologists have found a group of \_\_\_\_\_ along with their gold and clay belongings in a hidden tomb.
3. The Clergy during the Medieval Ages claimed to have \_\_\_\_\_ powers bestowed on them from God.
4. The Duke was appointed a \_\_\_\_\_, for the queen was too young to take power.
5. The King started a powerful \_\_\_\_\_ that ruled for over three centuries.
6. In all religions, there are \_\_\_\_\_ whose beliefs and rituals differ from the main teachings of the original religion.
7. The prisoner \_\_\_\_\_ his initials with his nails on the wall of his cold cell.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ are interested in knowing about past historical events and unravel their mysteries.
9. The soldier was \_\_\_\_\_ to guard the spot on the hill from enemy attacks.
10. The project will go on \_\_\_\_\_ there is enough funding from the state.

**Answer Key**

- |          |              |                   |                 |                |
|----------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. heir  | 2. mummies   | 3. divine         | 4. regent       | 5. dynasty     |
| 6. cults | 7. inscribed | 8. Archaeologists | 9. commissioned | 10. as long as |