

STUDY GUIDE FOR KAMRIN

CHAPTER FIVE OFFERING PRAYERS

LESSONS 35 and 36

Pages 131-137

You deserve a week off after Chapter 4. Then we begin again.

Lots of reading and a very short exercise at the end.

The offering prayer is by far the most common item you will ever see in an Egyptology display in a museum. Be prepared to see variations in form, spelling, everything. Through it all there is a standard theme which you will be able to recognize. Once you learn it, you will be able to read quite far into inscriptions.

At the bottom of page 131 Kamrin talks about the three main aspects which accrue to each person, in the Egyptian view. The other two are the shadow and the individual's name. These two do not usually, if ever, make an appearance in the offering prayer.

The curses that she mentions on page 133 are fairly rare, and no, there was no such curse for the tomb of Tutankhamun. And the mortality rate for those who entered followed the normal distribution for the general population. In other words, there was no such curse nor was any evidence of one.

The king gets involved in the offering prayer because technically, he is the conduit of communication between the gods and the people on Earth. Everything is funneled through the king. That's part of his job. It makes sure that the messages don't get garbled in transmission or translation. The neat thing is that the king can do it automatically, unconsciously using the powers given to him, and to him alone, by the gods.

You can find lots of nice examples of the offering prayer on my webpage at www.bobmanske.com under the section entitled "Read Glyphs". Not that I'm trying to build up a visitor count, I don't keep one - and enough people visit the site anyway, but I think it has good examples and takes a try at an instructional technique that you might find helpful. You'll see the glyphs as they were painted or carved, as you have already observed, many of these can look quite different from the typeset glyphs you see in books, and sometimes the same sign looks very different under different conditions.

Homework: HW35

Pag 137

Just two trial runs for transliteration and translation. Enjoy.