

priests. Here everything is plain and primitive; no colossi, no obelisks, no great pillars. The inmost shrine is a room without openings to admit light, and here the image of the god was kept. This is the form in the old temples of Egypt, and I was impressed with the resemblance in structure to the Temple of Jehovah on Mount Moriah; and when the guide would announce these places instinctively I would draw back from entering until I remembered I was in Egypt. The holy of holies is always a chamber without windows in the Egyptian temples. It was the same in the Temple of Jehovah, as is implied in 1 Kings, viii, 12. "He would dwell in thick darkness." Over so many centuries did the wave of Egyptian influence make its power felt in Palestine. The external walls of the Temple of Karnak are covered with battle scenes. On the north side of the main building is represented a battle with Asiatic people. Seti I is driving his chariot furiously over these people who have long beards and whose features show they are foreigners. Some are dead under his feet, others are fleeing, pierced with arrows in the back. The king is leading some by a rope, and on his return offers his captives and his vases of gold and silver to Amon Ra. On the southwest side of the main hall are represented the exploits of Rameses II, and also Shishak who invaded Jerusalem and carried away the treasures of the temple and plundered the palace of the king.

Thus, from a heathen temple in a foreign land, far from Judea, and by the voice of a strange language deciphered only during this century, God is bringing to light evidence to verify the Bible, sufficient to silence the skepticism of this age. Of course it would be impossible to pretend really to catalogue all the curiosities and marvels of Karnak. All that can be done by the rapid tourist is to get correct general impressions and fill in the details at leisure. From the desert or the river, from within or from without, by sunshine or by moonlight, however you look at Karnak, it is the very aspect in which it shows to most advantage. And when this was all perfect, when its avenues opened in vistas upon the noble temples and palaces of Sesostris, and when its courts were paced by gorgeous priestly pageants, and busy life swarmed on a river flowing between banks of palaces, I was reminded of scenes in Venice but magnified many fold. When all this was in its prime no wonder its fame reached over the world. For many days after I had seen it, and even yet after a severe illness and during the delirium, glimpses of these ruins mingle with my thoughts and blend with my dreams and I wander again through those forests of pillars, obelisks and shrines as if that vision had left its impress upon my brain forever, sick or well. Those ruins seem to have seen the whole portion of time of which history keeps the reckoning. They have seen kingdoms rise and fall—Babylonian, the Jew, Persian, Greek and the Roman. They seem as though they might stand to tell their tale to those who will hereafter call us ancients. Still they are perishing for the Nile will surely destroy their foundations. The poor and the maimed of Luxor make their abode in some of those kingly halls. The bats fly about in scores and wild beasts rendezvous in the famous hall of columns. These grand temples and palaces which were built for eternity are silently going to ruin, even in the dry atmosphere of Egypt. The valleys are perforated by royal houses of the dead; some of the kings had reigned before Abraham had entered the delta. Later on our journey back to Cairo we were entertained some days with these different cemeteries.

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