

were the same in all, and every Egyptian, according, to the national beliefs, was theoretically entitled to such an eternal dwelling. But theory and practice, like faith and works, often differ, and the typical Egyptian tomb was virtually for only the wealthier dead. Maspero gives a pathetic picture of the lot of the poor. The funeral rites once over they were disposed of in ransacked tombs, or huddled *en masse* in shallow pits in the sand, and covered only with their bandages or a few palm branches. A pair of sandals of painted card-board or plaited reeds, a staff and a simple ring, the toy image of some favorite god, a mystic eye or scarab, and a cord twisted round one of the limbs to protect from necromancy—such were the funerary trappings of the pauper dead.

The greatest of the Egyptian tombs, the pyramids, have called into existence a literature of their own. More than thirty volumes aim to shew the purpose for which these massive structures were built; and in addition to books, there are magazine articles and pamphlets without number, written to accomplish the same end. The conjectures of these writers are numerous and some of them fanciful. It is contended that the pyramid of Cheops, *Khufu*, the great pyramid, 454 ft. high and 750 ft. wide, divinely reveals a system of weights and measures for the human race, and for all time. Another thinks that they were granaries to provide against famine, and another that they were astronomical observatories. The best Egyptologists, however, stand aloof from such theories. They agree that the 66 pyramids found in Egypt were tombs and were built for no other purpose. The nature of Kings, their souls, bodies, and whole constituent parts, were not supposed to differ from those of other men, and their royal tombs, the pyramids, like other tombs, contain a chapel, passage, and sacred vault. They differ greatly in size, as the smallest is only 30 ft. high, and it is difficult to conceive why the Pharaohs, during the thirteen centuries in which these tombs were built, should have chosen sepulchres of such different proportions.

In constructing their tombs, when space permitted, the chapel was built over the vault, and a shaft connecting the two was sunk, sometimes in front of the tomb door, and sometimes into a corner of one of its chambers. In instances the chapel was built apart from the tomb, and occasionally at a considerable distance from it. It was into the chapel that on feast days relatives, friends and priests