

Near the centre stood a temple which Herodotus had seen, and which he describes fully, praising its remarkable elegance. The ruins have quite lately been uncovered. The excavations which have been made there during the winter 1888 have shown that Bubastis was an important settlement of the Hyksos, and that their kings had raised there very large constructions. The cartouche of king Apepi has been found on a door-post, and it is to him undoubtedly that must be attributed two colossal statues, now broken to pieces, but which formerly adorned the entrance of the temple on the east side. The original cartouches no more exist; they have been erased first by Rameses II., who substituted his own name; but who had to undergo the same treatment from one of his successors, Osorkon II. However, the Hyksos type of the sphinxes of Tanis is so well marked on both statues that it is impossible not to recognise the same art and the same race as at Tanis. Those statues represent kings seated; they are made of black granite, and must have had a height of from 12 to 15 feet. It is only a powerful king who may have erected monuments of such large dimension; therefore it is natural to attribute them to Apepi, the king of Joseph. Close to the place where stood the cartouche of Apepi, the king whom the Christian tradition considers as having been the king of Joseph, has been discovered the lower part of a statue of a king absolutely unknown till now, king *Raian*. It is doubtful whether he was a Hyksos king, but it is very curious that the Arab tradition relates that the king under whom Joseph rose to his high dignity was called *Raian ibn waleed*; there is thus identity of names.

The king whose minister Joseph was did not reign over all Egypt; his power did not extend very far south of Memphis; and when it is spoken in the sacred text of the whole land, it must be understood as meaning only the Delta and part of the neighbouring territory. Formulas of that kind are often employed in speaking of Oriental sovereigns, even of Apepi himself, of whom a papyrus says that the whole earth paid him tribute.

Joseph, it must be remarked, was a purely civil dignitary;