

The Dream Stele: The Sphinx's Bargain

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A royal inscription says the Sphinx promised Prince Thutmose the throne if he cleared away its suffocating sand. The monument preserves a dream claim that helped frame a king's authority.

STATUS	Surviving royal inscription recounting a dream; supernatural experience unverified
CLASSIFICATION	STR
MATERIAL	Giza, Egypt
DISPOSITION	PUBLIC / SOURCED STORY
CATEGORY	Strange Files
RECORD TYPE	Ancient stories
STORY HISTORY	Stele erected around 1401 BCE under Thutmose IV

THE ACCOUNT

The young Thutmose rests beside the Sphinx and falls asleep. In the story inscribed between its paws, the monument speaks through a dream, burdened by the sand surrounding its body. It promises the prince kingship if he will release it. The future ruler's destiny is thus tied to an act of restoration: uncovering an ancient presence that can still speak, choose and reward. The agreement is later given a permanent public voice in stone.

FOLLOWING THE TRAIL

The Dream Stele was erected under Thutmose IV around 1401 BCE, according to Harvard's account of the monument. It remains between the Sphinx's paws, while casts preserve details useful for study. The lower portion is damaged and partly unreadable. The inscription securely documents how the king presented this dream and his relationship with the Sphinx. It cannot independently establish that a supernatural encounter happened during sleep or prove a specific hidden struggle over succession.

WHY IT STAYS WITH US

Unlike a loose legend, this account has a place and an audience built into it. Anyone approaching the Sphinx could encounter the king's explanation of why he belonged on the throne. The eerie voice of a buried monument and the practical language of royal legitimacy occupy the same slab.

WHERE THIS TELLING COMES FROM

Dream Stela

Harvard Museum of the Ancient Near East

<https://hmane.harvard.edu/dream-stela>

A cast fit for an Egyptian king

Harvard Gazette

<https://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2018/06/dream-stela-of-ancient-egypt-re-created-by-harvard-students/>

RETURN TO THE STORY

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