

PYRAMIDS and PYRAMIDIOTS

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The background of the cover is a photograph of the Great Pyramids of Giza in Egypt. The scene is captured during the "golden hour" of sunset or sunrise, with a warm, orange glow. In the foreground on the right, a person is silhouetted against the bright sky, riding a camel. The pyramids are visible in the mid-ground and background, their forms softened by the atmospheric haze of the low sun.

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1

PYRAMIDS OF NORTH AFRICA, MESOPOTAMIA AND THE CANARY ISLANDS

AFRICA

EGYPT

The Giza Plateau

The hot, dry desert wind increased my energy levels as such climates always have. With heightening enthusiasm, I watched the dust-veiled, setting sun slide behind the Great Pyramid. Within a very short time, night had blanketed the Giza Plateau, wrapping the pyramids and the Sphinx in a dense darkness wholly appropriate to the mysteries they concealed.

The silent stillness, broken only by the occasional grunts and groans of camels and a distant muezzin's call to prayer, allowed me to slip into a quiet contemplation of the magical atmosphere (Figure 1.1). I smiled to myself, recalling a similar sunset at Urchisar in Turkey when a new moon was just beginning to show. There, we were lost in contemplation of the last rays of the setting sun painting the apricot-laden roofs of a village below an even deeper shade of apricot. At that sweet moment, a blaring,



Figure 1.1: The beauty of the pyramids of the Giza Plateau, Cairo, at sunset. (Courtesy: Michael Peterson, 223PPT.com)



Figure 1.2: The commercial light-and-sound-show of the Giza Pyramids. (Courtesy: izzetzorlu.com)

public-address system announced a muezzin's call to prayer, shattering the stillness. Back in Egypt, I continued to savour the moment. I have no idea how much time had passed when my reverie was suddenly interrupted. The darkness was shattered by the glare of atmospheric-effects lighting accompanied by a sound-track that appeared to assault the dignity of the Sphinx (Figure 1.2). The shock was palpable. That crass intrusion of modern technology into the secret silence of an ancient, sacred site recalled many memories. We had experienced this type of shock before at other historic sites throughout the world. There as in Egypt, the demands of tourism were used as an excuse to create displays aimed at sensationalism rather than respect for history. We retreated disappointed to our hotel's landscaped terrace and pools where a similar atmosphere of crass commercialism also prevailed.

The Pyramids and Sphinx.

The Great Pyramid of Cheops (Egyptian: Kheops) is the largest of three major pyramids located on the Giza (Gizeh) Plateau along with the Sphinx at the apex of the Nile delta in Egypt. There are two other major pyramids: Chephron (Khafre), the smallest of the three, Mycerinus (Menkare) and six small pyramids. The Great Pyramid of Cheops is reputed to be the most mysterious structure on Earth. To this day no one knows when and why it was built, or how and by whom. It not only incorporates solar astronomy and sacred geometry in its design and construction but also Earth-commensurate data, i.e., measurements of the planet including its diameter and circumference.

The mysterious Great Pyramid cannot be compared with any other structure in ancient Egypt. Some authors believe that it was constructed on the Giza Plateau because the builders were aware it marked the 'central point' of the Earth's continental landmass. This central point may be clearly seen on a globe of the world (not a map). Take a piece of string and stretch it over the globe. Hold it on the North Pole and run it through the meridian of longitude that passes through Cairo. Extend it until it reaches the South Pole. This meridian passes over more landmass than any other line of longitude on the planet. Next, run another string around the entire globe horizontally through the latitude that passes through Cairo. Once again, the line passes over more landmass than any other latitude. But this experiment only adds to the intrigue surrounding the Great Pyramid. How did its designers/builders know this fact?

Apart from the pyramids of Egypt, there are others around the world. According to present knowledge, they can also be found in the Americas, Asia and Europe.

The Great Pyramid of Cheops.

Squaring the Circle. It is often assumed that the Great Pyramid of Egypt, the archetype for pyramid investigations, is based on the equilateral 60° triangle, but it is not. Over the years, many researchers have tried to accurately calculate the angle of the sides of the pyramid, arriving at results ranging between 40-60 degrees. The angle is actually $51^\circ 50' 34''$, but this figure proved elusive because those who tried to measure it were unaware that the Egyptian priests knew how to 'square the circle'. If the vertical height of the pyramid is used as the radius of a circle, the circumference of that circle will be equal to the length of the perimeter of the square base of the pyramid. A general

way to express this is the perimeter of the base is to the height as the circumference of a circle is to its radius (2π or 2π). From this, it can be calculated that the angle is $51^{\circ}50'34''$. To understand the significance of squaring the circle to the ancient Egyptians, it is necessary to look into the esoteric meaning of the symbols involved. Obviously, the Egyptians placed great significance on these symbols because they knew how to use the far simpler geometry of the 60° pyramid, yet chose not to. (See Appendix A.)

The Symbolism of the Pyramid Form.

According to the famous 19th-century esotericist, Helena P. Blavatsky, the pyramid represented a tree; at its apex, a link was made between Heaven and Earth. The original Great Pyramid was thought to be capped with gold over the limestone casing to symbolise the importance of this mystic connection with heaven. In the 'Mysteries of Egypt...the measurements of the great pyramid were studied as emblematical of the proportions of the Universe' (Leadbeater 1926). The Mystery teachings concerning the pyramid (and hence the inverted, universal-tree symbol) were taken up by the Hindus as *Aswartha* (the Hindu Tree of Knowledge) (Blavatsky, 1960, 1973) as well as by the Kabbalists, resulting in the Tree of the Sephiroth (Figure 1.3). The symbolic value of the circle in original Sanskrit sources was that it circumscribed the extent of creation (Chapter 8).

Most controversies associated with the Great Pyramid are based on two important questions that have never been satisfactorily answered.

1. How old is the Great Pyramid? The answer seems to lie between 3000-2500 and 10500-7000 BCE? (BCE = 'Before the Current Era', is equivalent to the old term BC, while CE, is 'Current Era', equates to the previously used AD.)
2. Why was it constructed? Was it built as a tomb or monument to display knowledge and/or to conduct magicoreligious rituals?

Most Egyptologists hold that sophisticated pyramids such as those on the Giza plateau were constructed at a time when Egyptian civilisation had only just evolved out of its Neolithic Period (Neolithic Periods in different civilizations have different dates depending on the time when a culture settled and planted crops). Archaeologists, mathematicians and historians only compound the mysteries surrounding the Great Pyramid when they raise questions they cannot answer. Nothing else made by human hands compares with the mysteries surrounding this immense monument. The Great Pyramid is fascinating in its precision, method of construction, size and placement of stones, as well in the function of its interior spaces.

Here some of these mysteries are considered, and the opinions of certain experts who have hypothesised about them are presented. The academics and professional students of ancient Egyptian monuments and associated studies are referred to as 'Egyptologists'.

Orientation and construction.

The Great Pyramid is 146.59 m (480.95 ft) high (Fix, 1978), i.e., as high as a 40-storey building on a base that could accommodate the cathedrals of Milan and Florence, as

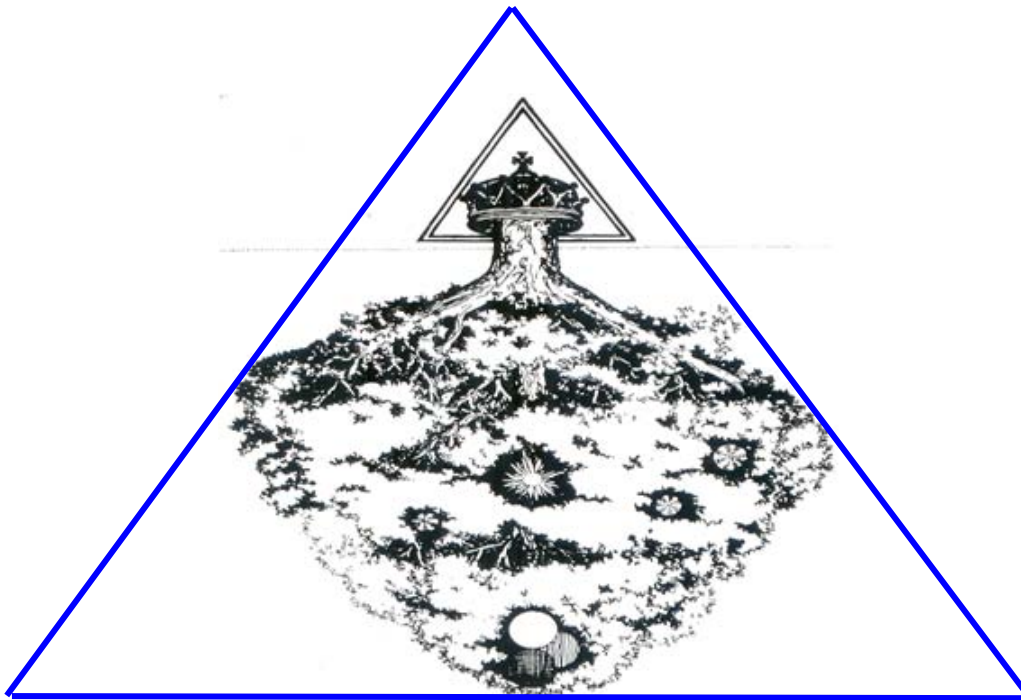


Figure 1.3: The Tree of the Sephiroth. The branches reach down into the earth and thence 'to the four cardinal points of the universe of matter' (Leadbeater 1926). (Redrawn from Hall 1962)

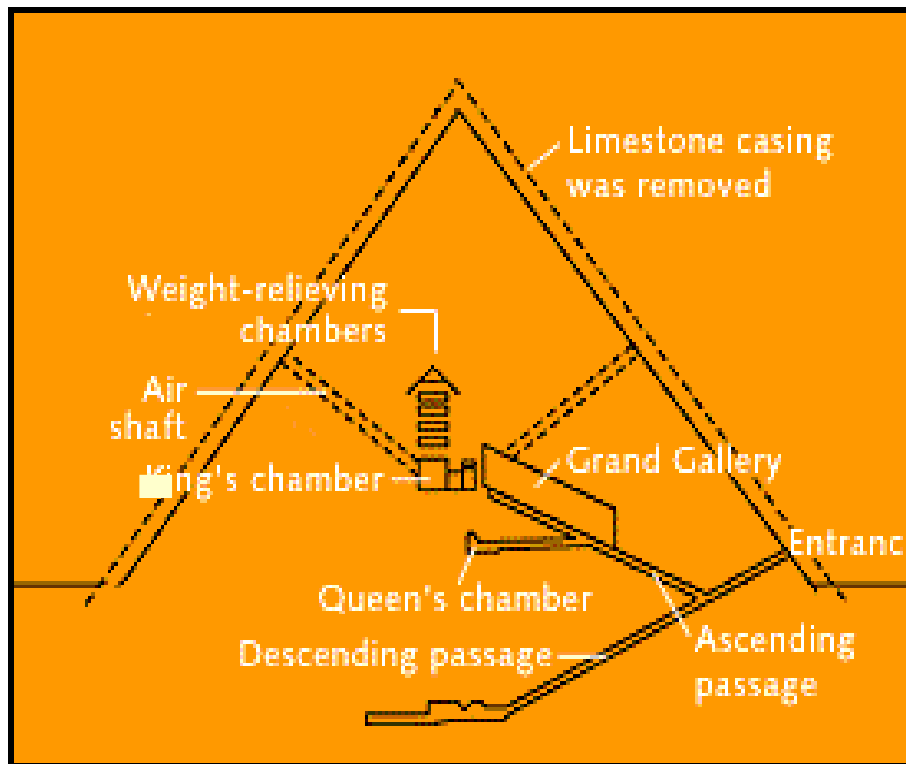


Figure 1.4: The Great Pyramid of Cheops, Egypt. Diagrammatic Section (*not to scale*) (Courtesy: <http://www.linux-host.org/energy/ecrosskhufu>)

well as those of St Paul's Basilica in Rome and Westminster Abbey in England. Although it is generally thought that it has a square base, this is not so as it has indented sides (as discussed below). If the estimated 2,300,000 blocks of pyramid limestone in the pyramid were crushed into gravel, a road-bed 5 m (16 ft 5 in.) wide and 30 cm (12 in.) thick would range a distance of 4830 km (3000 miles) across the continent of Australia. This would be the same distance across the United States of America, and such a road would traverse well beyond the shores of both continents.

Because the corners of the Great Pyramid are aligned almost perfectly to the four cardinal points of the compass, the builders appear to have used a compass, or could this merely have been a remarkable accident of orientation? Curiously, the magnetic compass, was not invented until thousands of years later when open sea navigation began. As the alignment of the sides is accurate within 0.02 per cent, how did the ancient Egyptian designers know how to locate magnetic north?

Early 20th-century pyramidologist, David Davidson (1937), demonstrated that the exterior surface was very precisely indented with a slight indentation down the middle of each exterior face (Figure 1.8 and Appendix E). Many years later, an aerial photograph verified this fact by catching the outline of the shadow cast across the extensive indentations of the sloping edges. These precise indentations were not accidental. The concavity of each side makes the monument a 12-sided figure executed with extraordinary precision. Flinders Petrie (1883, 2002) also recorded the indentation at the centre of each face. The unknown designers and builders of the Great Pyramid evidently knew more about the Earth than present-day historians can explain.



Figure 1.5: Some of the 2,300,000 limestone blocks in the Great pyramid, weighing approximately 15 tonne each. (Courtesy: Martin Gray; sacredsites.com)