

# The Chronicles of Narmer

The Empire of Ancient Egypt has been one of the most significant in the world. There is little to no record left of an Egypt which was separated into both Upper and Lower Egypt. The Ancient Egyptian empire was an empire to remember and flourished the longest. But who started this significant empire? Horus Narmer was the successor of the early protodynastic Pharaoh Ka and belonged to the monarchy of Upper Egypt (Baines, 1995). Narmer had one successor, by the name of Hor Aha and his spouse was Neithhotep but recent evidence contradicts this and shows that she might have been Hor Aha's spouse (Köhler, 2002). Narmer did unite Egypt but he has done so much more. From the exploration of Canaan and other foreign trade to the creation of the Narmer Palette (Goren, 1995), this is Horus Narmer's story.

In the beginning, 26 years after Narmer was born in 3100 BCE to an Upper Egyptian monarchy, Horus Narmer conquered Lower Egypt and unified Egypt. Thus, creating the first dynasty of an Empire that lasted and flourished for centuries to come. At the time, Egypt was already partially unified, with most of the country living as one with a few separate settlements. Archaeological finds and evidence actually suggest that the protodynastic Pharaohs before Narmer also fought to unify Egypt. Narmer only completed the unification of the entire Egypt (Costa-Pinto, 2006). Pharaohs before Narmer as early as the Scorpion king and even his father, Ka fought to unify the separate empires of Upper and Lower Egypt (O'Connor, 2011).

Shortly after Narmer first came to power in 3100 BCE, he started going on trade expeditions (Maydana, 2022). Similar expeditions were also made into Canaan, a small country situated

along the side of the River Nile. This expedition was particularly significant as this was the second and last expedition ever made to Canaan. Shortly after Narmer's death, this fragile alliance was destroyed (Goedicke, 1995). This was also the first expedition made by the newly reunited Egypt. Evidence of this expedition was scattered across Canaan. Literally, pieces of Ancient Egyptian pottery shards litter the fertile soil of Canaan and may have been gifts extended by Narmer at the time. The second piece of evidence was not physical but rather a statement from a manuscript written by Manetho who was a famous Egyptian priest, dedicated to writing the history of Egypt in Greek (Thomas E. Levy, 1995). He wrote, "Menes made a foreign expedition and won renown." (Manetho, 2018). As Menes was Narmer's honorific name by which people addressed him, Manetho was effectively speaking of the expeditions of Narmer. But Manetho's writings were not the only evidence of Narmer's empire. One of the most important ancient works dedicated to Narmer was in fact, the Narmer Palette.

The famed Narmer Palette was created in 3000 BCE, the famed Narmer Palette was made. The Narmer Palette is so important that it has never been allowed to leave Egypt. As well as containing one of the earliest forms of hieroglyphics, the Narmer Palette was the most significant piece of evidence dedicated to Narmer. It was the work that proved that Horus Narmer was the first king of the first dynasty of Egypt (Costa-Pinto, 2006). While it depicts Narmer defeating his enemies of Lower Egypt on the front and back, it also has hidden meanings and has led to countless theories about it (Calvert, 2015). On the back of the palette carved out of siltstone, there is a picture of Narmer wearing the white crown of lower Egypt and sacrificing his enemy. There are also references in the picture signifying his divine authority. This is shown by two images of the cow goddess, named Hathor, looking down on Narmer, showing Narmer as an equal to the goddess; Another few examples include his central positioning on the palette, his significant size compared to others on the palette, his

mace and crown, his servant faithfully laying out his sandals and Horus the hawk god, showing Narmer a depiction of Lower Egypt (Calvert, 2015) These representations of Narmer tell the story of him fighting his enemies in battle and also portray the Egyptian gods' approval at the unification of Egypt. Narmer's reign lasted a long time. In 2987 BCE, Narmer's death came by the teeth of a hippo. Narmer's reign was great and was the beginning of a new era and empire.

Narmer's glorious legacy reigned long and great, and lasted centuries even after his death in 2987 BCE (Baines, 1995). He unified Egypt and defeated his enemies, while also leading foreign trade expeditions. His legacy was so great, it was etched into history. Personally, I think the unification of Egypt was the start of an era, and that not only he but all his predecessors before him helped. I think they all would agree that their efforts were not in vain. If everyone works together, maybe it could turn into something *great*.

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