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Significance of identity, individuality & ideology in Old Kingdom tomb iconography

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STELLINGEN

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Significance of Identity, Individuality & Ideology

in Old Kingdom Elite Tomb Iconography

PROPOSITIONS

1. The elite tomb is an encyclopedia of ancient Egyptian knowledge.
2. The biological, social, and psychological processes in the funerary context are represented by symbols (e.g. mummification, tomb decoration, and emotional gestures), which are in essence, the way humans continuously (re)generate images of reality.
3. The phenomenon of change in any society or culture is “never linear” (i.e. it is an irregular unpredictable sequence).
4. Ma’at is an ethical philosophy (not a belief system), which offered the ancient Egyptian a means by which he could discover and fulfill the expectations required from him by society, and which we may do well to follow now.
5. Since death alone is certain and the time of death is uncertain, the ancient Egyptians were concerned with considering the question - how shall one live? By considering this, they became more conscious of life as witnessed in the tomb iconography.
6. The job of the Old Kingdom artist was that of a transmitter of the concept of eliteness.
7. The primary purpose of iconography is to relate how the ancient Egyptians viewed and categorised their world.

8. The development of the self is a progression of the way the elite construed the cultural generics (i.e. identity, ideology, and individuality), which are subject to entropy and which probably led to the ultimate collapse of the Old Kingdom.
9. The idea of entropy (inevitable and steady deterioration of a (sub) system in society) is one of the most useful terms for understanding just about everything.
10. The controlling power of ambition and corruption are evils that are not adequately addressed in our society.
11. Society's problems stem from a lack of respect for the individual.
12. The monetization of everything is a recipe for disaster.