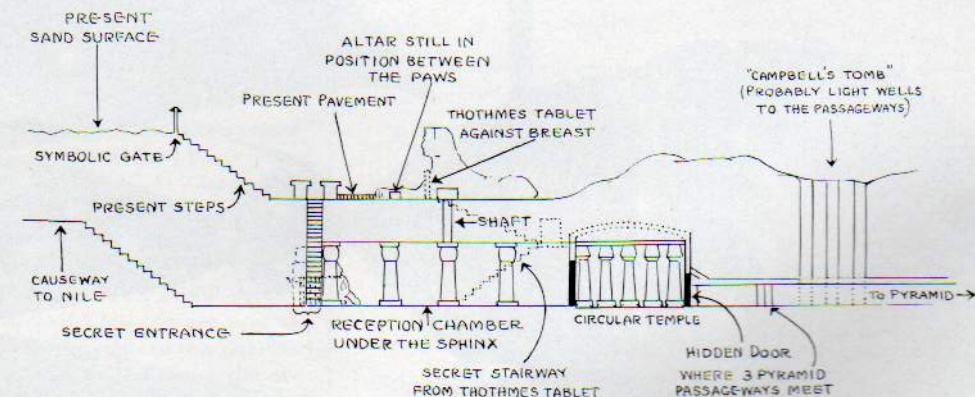


BEHIND EVERY TRADITION that has persistently withstood time, there lie some elements of truth. These elements of truth, in being transmitted from one culture to another, may suffer the accretion of exaggeration. However, most all of these traditions are worthy of a serious investigation. For centuries, the references in Homer's poem, *The Iliad*, to Troy and its wars were considered mostly to be myth. It was not until Heinrich Schliemann uncovered and explored the ruin-heap at Hissarlik in Asia Minor (1870-1879) that there was revealed proof of ancient Troy and the culture that preceded it.

Many are the tales that descend from antiquity about the pyramids of Egypt, and in particular the Great Sphinx. Down

through the centuries, not only the common people of the waves of civilization that swept over Egypt stood in awe before the colossal structures, but also world conquerors stood before them in wonderment and sought to fathom their mystery. Napoleon had his engineers and mathematicians estimate the bulk of the Great Pyramid at Gizeh. They could arrive at its physical proportions, but just *why* certain chambers within it were built and *why* there is an empty sarcophagus (coffin) in the so-called King's Chamber has never been evidentially established by its investigators.

The Sphinx, too, has looked down through centuries from its regal height upon the curious humanity who look up at its enigmatic face, wondering *why*.



Egyptologists explain that it is a colossal statue of the king who built the second pyramid at Gizeh, and is carved from a large promontory of rock. Others relate it was intended as a statue of the Sun god.

However, legends, tales, and secret accounts elaborate upon the significance of the Sphinx and its relationship to the Great Pyramid. In particular the ancient mystery schools of Egypt told of its *initiatory* purpose. These accounts are not only verbal but have been secreted in their archives in written form. Sometime in the remote past, they were reduced to written form but not profaned by any general disclosure. Only by word of mouth did the mystical initiatory functions of the Sphinx reach the ears of modern man.

Over forty years ago (1936), in his book, *The Symbolic Prophecy of the Great Pyramid*, Dr. H. Spencer Lewis gave an account of what the mystery schools had to relate about the Great Pyramid and the Sphinx. He was privileged in gaining this information from a representative of the Egyptian mystery schools because of the Rosicrucian Order, AMORC's, traditional relationship with an ancient mystery school of that land.

We quote in part from Dr. Lewis' book:

"For centuries there was a whispered story to the effect that there was a ceremonial court or courtyard in front of the Sphinx, buried beneath the sands, in which court initiation ceremonies were held prior to the entrance into the Pyramid. For centuries this whispered story was ridiculed by geologists and some historians and by many of the natives and officials of Egypt. However, in recent years the sand around, and especially in front of, the Sphinx has been removed revealing a very beautiful pavement of a courtyard between the paws and in front of the breast of the Sphinx, and in the center of this court, a symbolical altar such as had no use in any of the priesthood religions of Egypt but was known to have its place in the temples of mystery for initiation ceremonies. . . .

"Another of the traditions was to the effect that a great movable stone or slab in front of the breast of the Sphinx, between its paws, blocked the entranceway to a secret passage that ran beneath the Sphinx and beneath the sands to the center of the Great Pyramid, and that this long passage-way was the secret ceremonial passageway from the outer court in front of the Sphinx to the rising passageways and chambers in the Pyramid itself."

The Great Sphinx has looked across centuries of time. Over 4800 years old, the Sphinx has been covered by drifting sands for most of those centuries. However, at various times in history the sands have been cleared away. In this photograph Imperator Ralph M. Lewis points to the great stele against the breast of the Sphinx. This stele records the legendary story of how Thutmose IV became Pharaoh of Egypt. Not designated as successor to his illustrious father, Amenhotep II, the young man was told by the Sun god in a dream that if he would clear away the drifting sands then covering the Great Sphinx, he would become Pharaoh. Thutmose vowed to remove the sands, did so, and many years later, following his father's death, became the next Pharaoh of Egypt. The head and body of this ancient monument are carved from solid rock.

