

The Ghosts of Ancient Egypt

The obsession that the ancient Egyptians had with the other world seems to have created powerful supernatural forces which have lasted for thousands of years. Some of the more sinister and potent ghostly activity reported in modern times stems from Ancient Egypt, whose ageless hauntings have spanned fifty centuries and more.

The Cult of the Dead, which originated in India, reached its apotheosis in Egypt. At first the Egyptians believed that only members of the royal family and certain chosen companions were privileged to enjoy eternal life. Later the hereafter became democratized and at first nobles and high officials, and finally "all good men" were permitted through the eternal gates.

It is strange that, for all their preoccupation with eternity, the Egyptians never evolved a sophisticated religion. They were not, however, alone in considering life on earth merely as a brief preparation for the great hereafter. Their chief god became Osiris, who ruled the region of the dead and who was believed to have fathered all the Pharaohs. The Egyptians were so obsessed with this Cult of the Dead that they turned the teeming and fruitful valley of the Nile into a place devoted to the dead.