

What is YOUR legacy?

Could we be related??



John and I just went to the King Tut exhibit and it was wonderful! As you can see....I had a blast! The King and I both love the bling!

If we hadn't been certain that we were going into a museum to see some artifacts, I'd have sworn we



were taking a tour of the mysterious Fort Knox or being escorted into area 51 or something! We went through no less than 3 security checks and stood in a couple of lines. Then we stood outside two enormous wooden doors under a sign that said in giant gold letters, "Tutankhamun". We were not without a guide until they sealed us into the one way in, one way out exhibit which of course, dumped us out into the souvenir shop.

So here is what I learned and observed: The Egyptians were a loyal people who followed leadership, worked hard and believed in being prepared for the afterlife. The Pharaoh, Akhenaten, who was the Pharaoh, just before King Tut (assumed to be Tut's father though it is not certain), had begun a revolution when he changed the National Religion of the day from the worshiping of "Gods" to the worshiping of ONE God, Aten, God of the Sun. His subjects were not too happy about it so needless to say, this Pharaoh was highly unpopular at the time of his death after only a 5 year reign. Perhaps Akhenaten's greatest claim to fame was his wife Nefertiti whom has become one of the most recognizable names as a result of a Bust that is one of the most copied art pieces of Ancient Egypt.

Tutankhamun was named King at the age of NINE years old. His rule lasted only 10 years when he died suddenly and unexpectedly at the age of 19. Can you imagine a 9 year old Pharaoh who is considered to be a God?! Unbelievable! The greatest legacy of Tut left during his reign was that he reinstated the Country's previous religion, restored the priests to their leadership positions and reopened the temples. Overall, it could be said that Tut, though well liked, was not one of the most notable Pharaoh's or even one of the top ten of all time. He never fought in battle or led his soldiers into war and was basically obscure. In fact, Tut's existence was known

by scientists only a few years prior to the discovery of his tomb but he was defined as an "unknown" Pharaoh. Isn't it amazing that this young boy went from being an "unknown" to perhaps one of the most talked about figures in ancient history?

The entrance to Tut's tomb was found by accident when a water carrier was trying to dig holes to secure pots of water in. When the tomb was open, the mystery of Tut was both answered and born. They found the tomb virtually undisturbed though it had been robbed a few months after his burial. The actual burial chamber was **untouched** from the time it was sealed some 3000 years ago! The drawings, writings and artifacts buried with Tut told us a great deal about this boy King and in fact represent all that we actually know about him. He wasn't a big or strong man, in fact, at 5'6", he was just a scrawny boy. He was married and it is presumed he had two stillborn daughters.

While we don't know a lot, there were some things that struck me about Tut that can be surmised from what we do know about him.

Based on hieroglyphics and writings, Tut was a loving husband. He fathered two children whose bodies had been mummified and were buried with him in his tomb. It was clear to me that this man was loved. He was a dedicated leader who actually listened to his advisors and who cared what his subjects wanted. He was traditional as demonstrated in his returning his people to the traditional religion of Egypt. He was spiritual in that he changed his name, (thereby changing its meaning) in order to honor the God Amun. Tut showed no fear in standing up for what he believed in when he reversed the religious changes of his predecessor. He was in good health. No physical problems were detected including perfect teeth! He cared enough to take care of himself.

It appeared that Tut was well regarded by his subjects as indicated by their rush to send him into the afterlife with honor and dignity after his unplanned and untimely death. There were items that were lovingly placed with him and indicate the affection those around him had from him. It is believed that his mother, step-mother and wife were living at the time of his death and no doubt some of the more playful items from his childhood like his little chair and several games. A tomb had not been prepared for Tut so one was donated for his burial. There were many figurines called shabti's that were believed to be able to come to life and serve him in the afterlife. There were golden statues of royal guards to protect the entrance of his tomb and two intricately carved and painted boats to take him down the river to the afterlife. He was buried in 6 elaborate, gold and jewel encrusted nesting boxes and coffins. To give you an idea of the value of his treasures, it is said that just the inner coffin alone, which was solid gold, would be worth over 1.7 million dollars today.

Ok so I've given you this history lesson on King Tut to show you that you don't have to change the world to leave a legacy. Think about these questions and write down your answers:

What are/were the names your Grandparents?

What were the names of your Great Grandparents?

What were the names of your Great-Great Grandparents?

Even if you know names of your family members, what else do you know about them?

It doesn't take long to run out information does it? Now ask yourself this: Will my grandchildren's children, remember me? What will they be told about my legacy?

It is somewhat scary to realize that unless we're a president, extremely wealthy or a person worthy of historical significance, our life goes by virtually undocumented for the most part. More than likely, within less than 100 years of our death, we're virtually forgotten. I know that is kind of a downer isn't it?

Well, I determined long ago, that wanted my legacy to be that I was loving, loyal and fun. What better legacy to leave behind. I love deeply and passionately. I love God and treasure my relationship with Him. I love life and I believe in and seek joy and laughter. It is my hope that if artifacts of my existence are ever uncovered, that they would reflect these things. If nothing else could be said of me, I would want it said that I was loving and joyful!

If thousands of years from now, someone dug up your home, what would they learn about you? What is your legacy and what do you want to be remembered for? Have you ever really considered what you're leaving behind? Start with the people in your household. Do they find you loving, loyal, joyful, peaceful, dedicated, and diligent or are you stressed out, overworked, anxious, frustrated, angry and exhausted?

Are you passing down generational garbage, or are you building your family's legacy?

If what you've written down about your own legacy is true, then share it with your family and ask them if they feel what you've written accurately reflects what they perceive your legacy to be.