
The Story

Date: March 25, 2027
To: Prime Minister of Egypt
From: United States National Security
CC: United States Secretary of Defense

Chemical analysis of stone compound positive.
Transfer of 20 billion US\$ to Egypt's National Bank begun.
Proceed with plan when balance complete. Advise of progress. Confidential.

To an Egyptologist, it seemed an unimaginable nightmare. The American government, with the Egyptian governments consent, was about to secretly dismantle the great pyramids and replace the stone blocks with carefully reproduced concrete. The last surviving wonder of the ancient world would be lost simply to harvest a new chemical that would allow the US to create the most powerful weapon ever made without telling the public what they did. Why did the chemical have to be found only in the stones of the pyramids?

My life's work was finished, destroyed. I went back to Cairo as the government's Overseer of pyramid "restoration" to hopefully sabotage their destructive mission. I was determined to do something. Anything rather than sit in my university office, helpless.

On arriving in Giza I sullenly looked at the horizon. The awe inspiring eternal structures would be lost forever. A feeling of loss overcame me. I sunk slowly to the ground cursing a society that would let this happen. I remained there at the foot of the great pyramid through the cold night and most of the next day.

I gazed around me as it began to get dark again and saw a scraggly, old Egyptian. He hobbled over to me with an uneasy grin. He stopped near me. his cane scratching

absent-mindedly on the side of the great stones. His toothless smile turned stale and he stared at me for some time. "You are a scientist from America? You know about the tragedy that is about to transpire?" Despairingly I whispered a weak "Yes, but how did you know?." The small man leaned towards me supporting himself on his cane. "A pity, yes, but much more will be lost than they ever imagined. More than just this incredible tribute to mankind. More than just a beautiful attempt at immortality." A smile played on my lips as I sardonically said, "Really? What could be worse than losing these magnificent structures after all these thousands of years?" The little man glanced around nervously and whispered "Come with me if you think you have the courage." Having nothing to lose, I followed.

He brought me to a small stone dwelling that looked as if it had been standing as long as the pyramids themselves. He showed me into a dimly lit room with a long, low table and traditional Egyptian cushions on the floor. He sat comfortably on a golden embroidered pillow which looked out of place in the dingy room. His leathery, windswept face crinkled as he intently packed a small clay pipe. After lighting the herbs inside, the man slowly looked me over again and began his story.

"It was in the time before Khufu's rule, when he was yet a young prince lounging at his father's feet. This inexperienced boy had what some called a vision or a dream. It was neither, of course, but an actual visitation. A figure appeared to Khufu and identified himself as the sun god Ra. He told the boy that he must accomplish a great mission. If it was not completed to his exact specifications, Ra would bring death to all Egypt. Ra proceeded to give Khufu an enchanted ring and stone tablets on which were written instructions on how to build the three great pyramids as royal burial places, larger than any existing tomb. Ra instructed Khufu long into the night. Once Khufu came to power these pyramids were built. According to legend the tablets of Ra are still inside the greatest pyramid in hidden chambers and passageways although no one has ever seen them since."

Doubtfully I broke in "So Khufu had divine inspiration to build the greatest pyramids. That is hardly a unique theory. What are you trying to tell me?" He took a long draw of his pipe and said, "I am trying to tell you that if you enter the pyramids and find the tablets of Ra, you will be able to save the pyramids." He cried, "And if you fail the entire human race will perish!"

I believe that there was some truth in this man's desperate story. He handed me a ring. It was made of gold with a crystal at its center. He said, "You must take this. Once inside the great pyramid you will see various colored crystals. They will give you great power. Approach each crystal and it will transfer power to the ring to make stone walls disappear. You will have to do this to find the hidden passages that contain the lost pieces of Ra's tablets. If you put the pieces together correctly you will find clues to the secret of the pyramids.