

Original article

THE GOLDEN SHRINES OF TUTANKHAMUN AND THEIR INTENDED BURIAL PLACE

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Abstract

The most famous tomb at the Valley of the Kings, KV 62 housed so far the most intact discovery of royal funerary treasures belonging to the eighteenth dynasty boy-king Tutankhamun. The tomb has a simple architectural plan clearly prepared for a non- royal burial. However, the hastily death of Tutankhamun at a young age caused his interment in such unusually small tomb. The treasures discovered were immense in number, art finesse and especially in the amount of gold used. Of these treasures the largest shrine of four shrines laid in the burial chamber needed to be dismantled and reassembled in the tomb because of its immense size. Clearly the black marks on this shrine helped in the assembly and especially the orientation in relation to the burial chamber. These marks are totally incorrect and prove that Tutankhamun was definitely intended to be buried in another tomb.

Keywords: KV62, WV23, Golden shrines, Tutankhamun, Burial chamber, Orientation.

1. Introduction

Tutankhamun was only nine years old when he got to throne; at that age, he did not really rule Egypt. All pharaohs had advisers known as viziers. Tutankhamun's vizier, Ay, was known to be the decision maker and one of those to run the country. Tutankhamun ascended the throne by virtue of his association with Ankhesenpaten (afterwards known as Ankhesenamun), the eldest surviving daughter of Akhenaten. The boy king might have started to rule only when he started to grow up. Even so, he did not have much time to make a name for him in ancient Egyptian history as a great pharaoh. Tutankhamun died approximately at the age of nineteen,

and the real cause of his death remains enigmatic. X-rays taken in the past suggested that he might have received a deadly knock to the back of the head. This information led to assumption about his murder at the hands of one of his two successors. In 2005, the National Geographic Society arranged for cat scans to be done on his mummy. They revealed that the dark area at the back of the skull fissure was actually a result of the mummification process during the 18th dynasty. The tests did show an unhealed injury to his left thighbone. This wound could have occurred just preceding his death and may have resulted from merely an accident. Since no signs of recovery are

apparent, a related infection may have led to his death [1] As his priests were mummifying his body, the workers were in search to find a tomb for the king's interment. Usually the tombs are very large, with several chambers and they take years to build, but King Tutankhamun's tomb was not ready when he died causing him to be interred in a tomb that was not planned for him. It is only his treasures that gave him the fame he has attained today as the world's most eminent ancient Egyptian king [2]. Beginning in 1915, Carter set out to thoroughly search for the tomb of Tutankhamun with only a few clues. The so-called embalmer's cache of Tutankhamun, located close by the tomb of Seti I helped him limit his search area. The discovery of the tomb of Tutankhamun was a unique incident in Egyptian archaeology and one that passed everlastingly into history. Tutankhamun's tomb eventually yielded over 5,000 artifacts, ranging from small, intricate jewellery pieces to massive shrines, and from simple gilded stools to the king's innermost solid golden coffin. Before the tomb's discovery, Tutankhamun was known as a short-lived king, but it was these priceless artifacts that revealed more about him [3]. It comes as a surprise to many people to learn that not everything inscribed with the name of Tutankhamun comes from his tomb. Though since a good number of the monuments for which Tutankhamun was responsible were subsequently usurped by his successors. The boy-king was succeeded by Ay, known from a painted scene that represents Ay overseeing his predecessor's funeral. Ay is undoubtedly the one who can be attributed for the funerary furniture put for the use of the young Tutankhamun in tomb KV62. And it is he who - exceptionally of all royal tombs - was represented in this tomb as a *sem*-priest

to the mummy of the young king, carrying out the "Opening of the Mouth" ceremony which would naturally be done by the king's son or better known as successor. However, this time Ay is neither a son to Tutankhamun nor a younger successor. [4] All the same he ascended the throne, a fact that may point to his popularity and success as a military leader. [5] The existence of Ay is first discovered in his tomb at the west end of the Amarna necropolis. That it was the best of all those tombs, one of the largest, and the most beautifully decorated TA 25, indicating that its owner was a high rank official. The tomb has non-historical inscriptions, telling us practically nothing about Ay. Besides, the tomb was never completed, but it surely was rock cut and decorated before the ninth year of Akhenaten because it contains the early forms of the names and epithets of Aten [6]. Therefore, if Ay was not of royal lineage, thus, the question is "How did Ay claim the throne of Egypt?" A finger- ring found by Newberry, in the Delta but unfortunately its exact provenance remains unknown. It has an inscription of the prenomen of King Ay and the name of Ankhesenamun side by side, both names being written in cartouches. Ankhesenamun was Tutankhamun's widow and the "heiress" of the family of Akhenaten. Nevertheless, the fact that no titles were inscribed on the ring can only be interpreted as evidence of the alliance with King Ay; who legitimized his throne by marriage with princess Ankhesenamun, the widow and immediate predecessor to the throne [7]. The aim of this research paper is to attempt and allocate the orientation marks on the outermost golden shrine of Tutankhamun and its actual intended location of burial in accordance to the correct orientation of the marks. Therefore, finding the original burial site of this boy-king.

2. Tomb KV62

2.1. The architectural plan of KV62.

Architecturally it was a small and insignificant tomb, hastily dug out of the foot of the cliff, but every room was packed to the ceiling with treasures. The plan of the private tombs of this era in comparison to the basic plan of KV62 demonstrates a complexity that is unparalleled. It shows a basic similarity to the Amarna period rock cut tombs at the Valley of the Kings such as, the tomb of Yuya and Tuya (KV46) and the mysterious tomb KV55. [4] The plan of KV62 had been clearly adapted although in a very much limited form to the royal type; this involved rotating the chambers 90 degrees, to resemble the usual architectural plan of the royal 18th dynasty tombs to re-adjust a former private tomb. Possibly at the time of death the treasury and the burial chamber were added, fig. (1) The whole of the northern side of the antechamber opens into the only decorated room in the tomb, which is the burial chamber.

A sealed door separated it from the antechamber, which Carter had totally removed during the clearing of the tomb to enable to extract the shrines and canopic shrine. The chambers were rotated 90 degrees to resemble a typical royal ground plan of the 18th dynasty that confirmed the architectural purpose of the ancient architects who adopted a pre-existing private tomb. The burial chamber is oriented east west and is wider than the antechamber measuring 6.37 m long, 4.02 m wide and 3.63 m high. [4] [8]. The outermost shrine of the four shrines measures 5.08m x 3.28m x 2.75m high. [9] As for the floor of the burial chamber whilst its floor was lowered 0.94 m below the antechamber, the floor of the burial chamber of KV46 (where Ti's parents Yuya and Tuya were interred) was also dropped approximately 1m from the level of the entrance doorway, though only at the left end. [10]

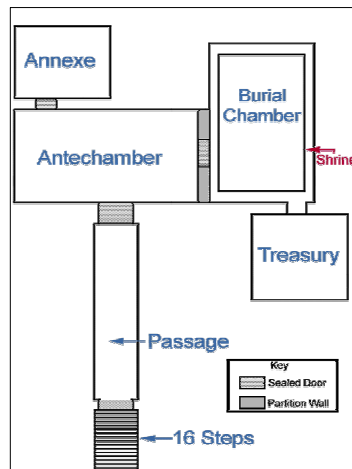


Figure (1) Plan of KV 62, after <http://history1900s.about.com/library/misc/bltuttomb.htm>, 21/3/2012

2.2. The decoration and scenes of KV62

Only the walls of the burial chamber were plastered with gypsum and decorated with painted scenes. The plaster seems not to have been completely dry when the tomb was sealed. There is no kheker frieze, and the walls all share the same uniform

golden ground. The scenes and inscriptions are principally of a religious theme. On the west wall are baboons. As for the northern wall, it displays the most famous scene of the tomb, Ay wearing the blue Khepresh crown of war and the panther's skin of priesthood,

while performing the opening of the mouth ritual to Tutankhamun in the Osirid mummified form. Clearly the ritual was a political expediency of no religious intent. The latter scene was ordinarily represented in the 18th dynasty tombs, but became rare after the end of Tutankhamun's reign. The two rulers' names and titles were inscribed in cartouches above the scene. [11]. Furthermore the proportion of the figures in the burial chamber were obviously decorated in haste after the shrines, had been erected within the burial chamber. Noteworthy, all the figures in this tomb are rather curiously depicted, with those of the north, east and west walls being of exceptional proportions of the figures not based upon the Amarna canon of 20 squares but upon the more traditional 18 square compositional grid and those of the south in more traditional style. Thus, a different draughtsman laid them out. [8][10]. Obviously, the art of KV62 was similar to the tomb art of Aten from the prior period of Tell el Amarna. This art was not abandoned immediately after

the death of Akhenaten, but was moved to Thebes and used during succeeding eras [10][12]. Ay's tomb of the 18th Dynasty seems to anticipate the stylistic elements of the later 20th Dynasty tombs. Exclusive scenes occur in the tombs of both Tutankhamun KV 62 and Ay WV 23. The Amduat is not found represented in the trivial tomb of the boy king but in its place shortened extracts are shown in large scale in the only decorated room, the burial chamber, possibly due to the space limitations. The other funerary texts of the Amduat, the Litany of Re and the Book of the Dead and unidentified texts were decorating the nested shrines that housed the sarcophagus [11] [13]. A shortened version of the first hour of the Amduat is found in both the burial chambers of Tutankhamun and Ay. The first hour is when the sun becomes no longer visible, but its last rays illuminate the lands, it was the antechamber of the underworld journey. Illustrations from two further hours are represented on the golden shrines [14].

3. Tomb TA 25

3.1. Ay's tomb at Tell el Amarna TA 25

Kheperkheperura-Ay, the 14th king of the 18th dynasty, had a short reign of approximately 4 years, succeeding the deceased boy-king Tutankhamun. Ay was basically the last of the Amarna kings. The Amarna period after Akhenaten continued in confusion. It was necessary to wait Tutankhamun to legitimize his accession to the throne. It is certain that Ay was not the rightful heir to the throne and his origin remains vague. However, if Ay briefly ruled Egypt, his military and political career was, on the other hand, very long, since he started serving Amenhotep III, followed by the kings Akhenaton, Smenkhkare and Tutankhamun, explaining the continuous growth of his influence. An evidence of Ay's significant power is revealed by his tomb at Tell el Amarna TA 25, fig. (2), is one

of the early ones to be cut. At this tomb is where his main titles were found "Supervisor of all the horses of his majesty", "Standard carrier at the right of the king", "royal scribe" and the one that he preferred most "Divine father". He used the latter title during the reigns of Akhenaton and Tutankhamun; its exact significance remains debatable. During the reign of Tutankhamun, Ay held an exceptional position of vizier, general of the Chariotry, Guardian and Regent of the Young King. Ay had important responsibilities under the reigns of Akhenaten, Smenkhkare and Tutankhamun before becoming king in his turn. His Amarna tomb is especially revealing the religious sensitivity towards monotheism. This tomb is one of the southern group of tombs and the most beautiful of the

necropolis by its size and the quality of its reliefs. Unfortunately, today it is badly damaged. The cartouches of the god Aten represented on the reliefs, document rough dating of the incomplete construction of the tomb; taken place in year 9 of the reign of Akhenaten, thus rock cut before that date. By year twelve

of Akhenaten's reign the events became opaque. It is not possible to advance a trustworthy hypothesis that explains the mystery of the incompleteness of the tombs. Yet obviously from the plan of the tomb of Ay, it was regarded as the most important, an undoubted sign of its owner's status in the royal court.

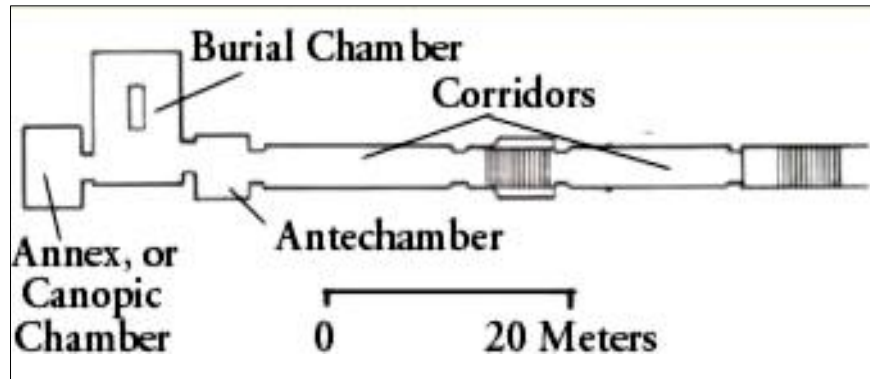


Figure (2) Plan of the tomb of Ay after www.egy-king.blogspot.com, 18/3/2012

3.2. The history of WV23

WV23 is located in an area known as the West Valley, but is occasionally called the Valley of the Monkeys or Baboons, after the caches of mummified baboons that were found there or possibly the scene in tomb WV23 depicting twelve baboons, a scene parallel to that decorating KV62 [15]. The University of Minnesota Egyptian Expedition cleared the tomb WV23 of King Ay in the Western Valley of the Kings during the summer of 1972. The tomb was actually discovered by Belzoni in 1816, which reported of the single discovery of the sarcophagus. At the moment this sarcophagus lies at the Cairo museum (Cairo 624) after restoration [16]. The extensive damage to the side of the sarcophagus implies robber-activity in the tomb during the Ramesside period. Did the mummy of Ay get destroyed at this time? The discovery of remains of a single funerary assemblage in KV58 deposited by the end of the New Kingdom, when the tombs in the necropolis were being dismantled reflects that Ay's body may have possibly gone through re-burial in the close by tomb KV57. However, other suggestions

propose that perhaps it was used as a cache at this time [10]. It is commonly believed that KV23 was not originally intended for Ay and that the ownership could have included Akhenaten, Semenkara, and Tutankhamen. Interestingly, there is a suggestion that possibly Tutankhamen was first buried here before being moved to KV62. Sadly, no foundation deposits have been found to support any of these suggestions. While it uncertain if Ay was buried here, remains of some of his funerary equipment have been found in the tomb. At an unknown date, the images and names of Ay were chiseled out from the wall paintings. The so called West Valley of the kings of the Amarna age; although the earliest and latest of these tombs to be studied were those of Amenhotep III WV 22 and Ay WV 23, were decorated and inscribed for their occupiers, however, WV25 remains a mystery with no inscriptions and lack of evidence. It possibly was started as a tomb for Akhenaten, based on the general location in the West Valley, the size and architectural features. All the latter would seem to place the monument chronologically between the reigns of Amenhotep

III and Ay. It seems that, for some cause, the rock cutting of the tomb was stopped. A clear identity as to the owner of the tomb WV25 can only be found by discovering a foundation deposit pit or

3.3. The architecture of WV23

With Ay serving Akhenaten during his entire reign, it is expected that WV23 would show architectural similarity to the tombs at Amarna even more than the previous 18th dynasty tombs. The corridors went on to be enlarged and even wider than that of Amenhotep III and if not quite as high. Its long axis is perpendicular to the axis of the previous corridors, as a pillared chamber would have been. Its measurements are 8.89m x 6.46m and 3.92m in height. The floor level is 0.7m below that of the previous chamber. The pillared hall was altered to

3.4. The major scenes of WV23 [15]

It is a small tomb, which is distinguished only for its baboon paintings and its marsh scenes. The marsh scenes are unusual in royal tombs as they are mostly represented only in the private tombs, which in fact King Ay originally was. Are these an indication of Atenist custom or to some disputation on Ay's part as to his coming destiny? [11]. There are good reasons to think that Ay was finally interred in this tomb, as a matter of fact, pieces of the disjointed sarcophagus and its intact lid were found in situ, and other funerary objects but no trace of any canopic vases or even any ushabtis. The latter objects could have been removed on purpose when the tomb was vandalized; this was well defined by the abolition of nearly all images and names of Ay and his wife Tiy. The existence of the wife is

pits. Only one pit survives mysteriously with no clue as it was emptied, but it gives way to the possibility to link the New Kingdom Royal tombs to foundation deposits [17].

become the burial chamber, and at that time only a small, 'canopic' chamber was cut further in. Moreover, the tomb of Ay WV23 continued the straight axis of the Amarna royal tomb and the burial chamber itself being offset from the axis. [10]. The idea was to allow the entry of the light and bond it to the sun. An unusual feature is the large main chamber, which was converted into an annex measuring 5.44m x 4.39m and set off the square burial chamber [14], when clearly the tomb could not be finished on time.

quite scarce in a royal tomb and tempts us to think of her relationship, as much as the vandalism which seems to be set against her as well. In the corridors and rooms preceding the burial chamber, there is neither decoration nor text, as previously found in the tombs of Tutankhamun KV62; this could have been by choice. Actually, even if Tutankhamun's death was not foreseen, and the walls were already cut and smoothed, thus it could have possibly received a plaster coating and decoration, between the time of death of Tutankhamun and the time of his funeral ceremony, which did not occur. It was not till the following tomb of King Horemheb KV57 that the decoration extended outside the burial chamber.

4. Discussion

4.1. For whom originally was WV23 rock cut?

Suggestions include whether Tutankhamun had a tomb at Amarna, possibly tomb TA 27 in the royal valley might have been started and ascribed to Tutankhaten. Secondly, a tomb resembling that of Akhenaten TA 29 comprised of a 45m long corridor may have also been started for Tutankhaten or possibly

Neferneferuaten. However, frequently, WV23 is believed to include several candidates of ownership including Akhenaten, Semenkhkara, and Tutankhamen and not the final interment of King Ay. However, if WV 23 was originally intended for the interments of Tutankhamun perhaps to provide him burial near

his grandfather Amenhotep III. An assumption frequently acknowledged that it was destined for Tutankhamun, however, yet remaining unfinished at the time of the sudden death of the young king, he was interred in a non-royal tomb KV62. Another theory supposes the other incomplete tombs, such as KV24 or WV 25, close by, could have been firstly planned for him. Interestingly, there is a suggestion that

4.1.1. Similar scenes in both WV 23 and KV62

Reminders of the Tutankhamun-Ay's KV62 and WV23 similar scenes are found on the northern wall's lower register of WV23, which is peculiarly decorated once again with baboons, pl. (1-a, b). The second scene on the right wall shows a scene of the royal *ka*, which theologians do not believe it to be Ay's *ka* especially that it was found in a good condition and not obliterated. In each tomb the *kheker*-frieze is nonexistent, and several of the scenes are almost alike. Even the famous scene

possibly Tutankhamen was first buried here before being moved to KV62. The final interment of Tutankhamun was KV62 and Ay in the tomb KV23, the last tomb used in the Western Valley. However, concerning mortuary temples Ay ended up having one at Madinet Habu, which was finished by Horemheb but none yet identified for Tutankhamun [18]

found on the east wall the only marsh hunting scene, pl. (2), on the walls of a New Kingdom royal tomb is identical to the scene of Tutankhamun hunting wild birds on the famous 'little golden shrine', also, the two statuettes of the Tutankhamun the harpooner on his small papyrus raft [10]. The burial chambers of KV 62 and WV 23 are differently oriented. KV 62 was oriented east to west, whilst WV23's burial chamber was oriented north to south [8] [19].



<http://www.kingtutone.com/tutankhamun/tomb/burial/>



http://www.osirisnet.net/tombes/pharaons/ay/e_ay_02.htm

Plate (1) The baboons in the burial chamber of **a** KV62, **b** the baboons in the burial chamber of WV23

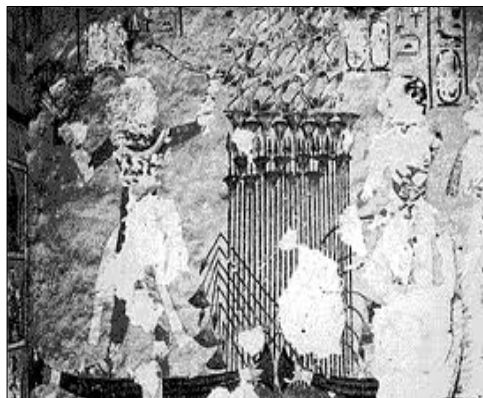


Plate (2) Ay badly obliterated on his papyrus raft in WV23, after <http://ib205.tripod.com/ay.html>, 18/3/2012

4.2. The usurped funerary equipment found in KV62

Reflecting the small size of Tutankhamun's KV62 tomb in proportion to the magnificence of his funerary equipment. Exclusively, the arrangement of the tomb where the four large golden shrines were placed in the burial chamber in the reverse orientation from that for which they were designed; the latter being positive evidence that the tomb in which Tutankhamun was found was not prepared for him. Therefore, for whom, was the tomb designed, and where is the tomb in which Tutankhamun should have been interred? The answer appears to be that tomb KV 62 was original prepared for Ay during his Theban service to Tutankhamun. Nevertheless, if we assume that the queens of the late 18th dynasty were interred in the Royal Valley, it is very questionable that it was ever designed for Queen Ti because she was known to be the favorite wife of king Amenhotep III and it was smaller than that of her parents, thus her funerary equipment would have been superior than that of her parents, Yuya and Tuya. It still remains an unanswered question with no evidence as to where be Queen Ti buried? When Ti visited her son Akhenaten at Tell el Amarna, it is likely that Akhenaten gave her a gilded shrine, bearing the Aten name. Most probably made at Amarna and transferred to Thebes. While Martha Bell inspected the shrine remains from KV 55 by in the late

4.2.1. The re-use of the burial equipment of KV62

Tutankhamun died unexpectedly young causing the possibility that little progress had actually been prepared for his burial. Both KV55 and KV62 date back to the Amarna period, a period that owes its name to the new capital, dedicated to the Aten or solar disc, which Akhenaten established in Middle Egypt following his desertion of Thebes. Much of the country's wealth would have indeed been expended on the restoration of the traditional gods following Tutankhamun's abandonment of the Aten cult and the city of Amarna. Evidence of seals found in the tomb

1970's; she was able to suggest corrections and new constructional correlations. When she reconstructed Ti's shrine, little information was found on Tutankhamun's shrines, aside from the textual and iconographic studies [9]. There are evidences from Tutankhamun's funerary equipment that show traces of artifacts usurped for him, such as, the miniature golden canopic coffins have inscriptions for Smenkhkare. A close examination of the four shrines of Tutankhamun, shows the fact that the interior and front of the second outermost, every cartouche, which originally must have been of Smenkhkare, has been changed to Tutankhamun. The other shrines bear no signs of usurpation. With king Smenkhkare having no heir, his unfinished funerary equipment at Thebes was claimed and re-used by the priests for Tutankhamun ending up in a small tomb intended mostly for his priest Ay. There is a different hypothesis expressing the fact that the priests working on the interment of Smenkhkare found Ti's shrine and re-used it in more than one burial, possibly that of Smenkhkare followed by Tutankhamun. R. Engelbach suggests that WV23 was made for general Horemheb, apparently the most influential noble of Tutankhamun's court after Ay. Probably Ay was buried in some unnamed cache in the Royal Valley, or elsewhere.

KV55, are proof of the abandonment of the Amarna necropolis took place either at the time of Tutankhamun's death, or had been urged by it. The contents of the Amarna tombs became both adaptable equipment and reusable. Several artifacts from the tomb KV 62 had clearly been intended for use by earlier kings; and, although original possession of a large number of these seized pieces cannot always be recognized. Many of the artifacts in the funerary equipment, including one of the enormous golden shrines, the canopic coffins, and some of the

jewellery that covered the mummy itself, had originally been prepared for Smenkhkare and were usurped for the

4.2.2. Tutankhamun's burial equipment re-adjusted for KV62

Tutankhamun planned for a quartzite sarcophagus to replace the granite one in the tomb of the western valley, but the lid was yet incomplete and perhaps was not even prepared before his death. Thus, when Ay buried Tutankhamun he needed to re-adjust the usage of the lid of the sarcophagus in the western valley tomb to be used with the quartzite sarcophagus. Since the lid could be adjusted to fit the other sarcophagus, but an accident occurred causing damage to the lid that was restored with pilaster. Besides Tutankhamun's outer anthropoid coffin, was too big for the granite lid of the quartzite sarcophagus to be closed down on it. Therefore, the lid was raised again for the carpenters to cut away the top of the foot of the coffin and thus wooden chips were found inside the sarcophagus. Moreover, adzes damaged the golden decoration of the innermost shrine when the northern and southern sides were lengthened to house the

4.2.3. The Golden shrine and KV62's burial chamber

Carter and his team were challenged by what seemed to be a wall of gilded wood inlaid with brilliant blue faience behind the blocking entrance of the burial chamber. This gilded wall proved to be the outermost of a nest of floorless shrines of carefully joined wood [4]. An enormous gilded wooden shrine almost entirely filled the burial chamber. This great outer canopy enclosed, three other shrines one within another, all covered with sheets of gold, the innermost of which in turn enclosed the quartzite sarcophagus, which was topped by a granite lid, pl. (3) [21],[22]. The doors of the outermost shrine were positioned at the eastern end of the burial chamber. The burial chamber contained more than 300 separate pieces, which finally in the end extracting, disassembling the shrines, opening the sarcophagus, and the coffins, which consisted of 88 groups of artifacts had

use as part of Tutankhamun's burial assemblage.

sarcophagus. Noteworthy, the inaccuracy of the size of this shrine, which could have not enclosed the granite, coffin of Ay because it is somewhat longer than the quartzite sarcophagus of KV62. Both cases are a result of careless errors. It seems offensive for Ankhesamun to marry Ay and then he would put his older wife's figure on the walls of the WV23 tomb. There are several considerations concerning Queen Ankhesenamun, since she firstly attempted to marry a foreign prince. Second, Ay had not usurped Tutankhamun's furniture, not even his golden coffin. Third, if he did give up his tomb KV 62 because that of Tutankhamun was not ready, he performed the funerary rituals for his king. Lastly, he appears to have placed Tutankhamun on the throne, and remained his vizier throughout his reign; in fact he served the boy-king caringly [20].

lasted for more than eight months. The outermost shrine was made out of thick cedar wood; both the interior and exterior surfaces are gilded and inlaid. The majority of the exterior was decorated with double *tt*-knot amulets of Isis and *dd* pillars (stability) hieroglyphs of Osiris, set to dazzling effect, against a brilliant blue faience background [4]. On the fourth shrine the *wadjet* eyes were decorated on the northern side, but as erected they actually faced the south. The space left for the erection of these shrines was very limited causing the shrines to be introduced in sections and assembled from inside out. The readings of the marks, pl. (4), are mere proof that these shrines were made to be located in another tomb rather than KV 62. The purpose of these marks was not only to show the exact fitting of the sections together, but also mainly to give the correct orientation when reassembling the

shrines. These readings of these marks were oriented incorrectly and therefore, should have been placed in a different tomb, pl. (5) [23]. While examining the shrine remains from KV 55 by Martha Bell in the late 1970's; she was able to

suggest corrections and new constructional correlations. When she reconstructed Ti's shrine, but she had found little information on Tutankhamun's shrines, regardless from the textual and iconographic studies.



Plate (3) The outermost shrine of Tutankhamun
http://serene-musings.blogspot.com/2008/07/life-death-and-modern-discovery-of_23.html



Plate (4) The black orientation marks (photographed by author)



Plates (5) Incorrect marks in accordance to orientation of KV62's burial chamber (photographed by author)

4.2.4. IV. IV. The Golden shrine and WV23's burial chamber

Noteworthy, the measurements of the burial chamber of WV23 are 8.89 m. × 6.46 m. × 3.92 m. in height and its orientation was directed from north to south. However, the measurement of the outer golden shrine of Tutankhamun is 5.08 m. × 3.28 m. × 2.75 m. showing an easy task to house this shrine. There is a great possibility that this shrine was prepared to be placed in the burial

chamber of WV23. Furthermore, the black marks written for re-assembling these shrines did not follow the correct orientation of KV62. Nevertheless, surprisingly when re-arranging these marks, they tend to follow the correct pattern of orientation of WV23. Thus, a mere evidence that WV23 was planned to entomb Tutankhamun but not at such young age.

4.3. Are there other 18th dynasty non-royal tombs in the Valley of the Kings?

The Valley of the Kings yielded tombs for kings, royal family members, as well as, several undecorated and uninscribed tombs prepared for highly placed courtiers. However, a few

individuals were bestowed the privilege of burial in the royal eastern and western valleys. An example of such is, the royal fan bearer Maiherpri, who was interred in KV36, Yuya and Tuya, the parents of

Queen Ti, found in KV46. Both KV36 and KV46 by chance escaped serious robbery; the bulk of the valley's non-royal burials were completely looted since antiquity, and the identities of tomb owners still remain enigmatic. Practically all of the lesser tombs happen to have been cut during the 18th dynasty. Both basic types of either staircase or shaft tombs, were commonly reused for family burials during the Third Intermediate Period. Maspero's examination of the mummy of the royal fan bearer Maiherpri

results turned out to be of a 24-year-old prince, born to a black queen, but it was more likely that he was a close companion of one of the kings of the early 18th dynasty during his childhood. From the tomb contents, he is believed to have been interred during the reign of Tuthmosis IV, even if the linen sheets carried the cartouche of Hatshepsut [10]. Another tomb was KV48, tomb of Amenemopet [24] the mayor of Thebes and vizier of Amenhotep II contained wooden *ushabtis*. [10]

5. Conclusion

The Valley of the Kings consisted not only of royal tombs, but also tombs of royal family members, as well as, several other tombs prepared for highly placed courtiers, such as KV 36 of a fan-bearer named Maiherpri, KV 46 of Yuya and Tuya, Queen Ti's parents and KV48 of Amenemopet the mayor of Thebes and vizier of Amenhotep II. All the latter tombs date back to the eighteenth dynasty. During this era the royal tombs were very large and consist of several passageways and chambers. As for the small tomb KV62, known as the tomb of Tutankhamun, it had certainly been prepared for the burial of a non-royal individual. In the burial chamber of KV62 the assembling of the golden shrines was no easy task. These shrines exhibit incorrect orientation when the marks are read; the marks on the east read north, whilst, those on the north read south and so forth. These marks were mainly helping with the correct orientation when reassembling the shrines in the burial chamber and subsequently the misplacement of the shrines clearly reveal that Tutankhamun should have been buried in a different tomb. It is frequently assumed that because WV23 was unfinished at the sudden death of Tutankhamun he was interred in the non-royal tomb KV62. Another theory supposes the other incomplete tombs, such as KV24 or WV 25, close by, could have been firstly planned for him. Interestingly, there is a suggestion that possibly Tutankhamun was first buried in WV23 before being moved to KV62. However, WV 23 was originally thought to be for the interment of Tutankhamun; perhaps to provide him burial near his grandfather Amenhotep III. WV23 appears to be one of the most appropriate answers due to the large size of the burial chamber that would easily fit the outermost shrine and even more the marks would correctly follow the pattern of orientation. Frequently, WV23 includes several candidates of ownership including Akhenaten, Semenkhkara, and Tutankhamun and not the final interment of King Ay. However, there are several other tombs that were proposed for his interment. Thus, a possibility that this heretic king had a tomb at Amarna, possibly tomb TA 27 or the long tomb TA 29 which could have been started as his tomb and was similar to that of Akhenaten.

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The discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb was one of the most significant archaeological finds of all time. Tutankhamun was an Egyptian pharaoh who ruled from 1332 to 1323 BC. Howard Carter and associates opened the shrine doors in the burial chamber. Before being discovered by Carter's team, the mask had been hidden in the darkness of Tutankhamun's sarcophagus for approximately 3,250 years. The golden head cloth bears the symbols of a cobra and a vulture, which represent the union of Lower and Upper Egypt under the rule of the pharaoh. Also, the back of the mask is adorned with a protective spell written in hieroglyphs: Its purpose was to shield Tutankhamun from any evils that he may have encountered in the afterlife. Golden Mask of Tutankhamun in the Egyptian Museum.