



GREAT KINGS & QUEENS OF AFRICA

PRINCESS MERITATEN



Ancient Egypt was located in north-eastern Africa along the longest river in the world named the Nile River. The early African Naqada III civilization which previously occupied the region came to an end in around 3100 BC and developed into the foundations of what would become the world famous empire of Ancient Egypt. Princess Meritaten was the eldest daughter of the Egyptian King Akhenaten and Queen Nefertiti who were rulers during the 18th Dynasty of Egypt. Princess Meritaten was the first of six daughters born to King Akhenaten and Queen Nefertiti, her sisters were named Ankhesenpaaten, Neferneferuaten Tasheritare, Meketaten, Neferneferure, and Setepenre.

During the time of Princess Meritaten Ancient Egypt was monotheistic, worshipping one God whom they named Aten. This modification in the religion of Egypt was instituted by her father King Akhenaten. The boundary Stelae of Akhenaten are royal monuments of stone located in Upper Egypt (modern-day southern Egypt) between the city of Thebes and Memphis. On these monuments the following intentions for the eventual burial of

Princess Meritaten are described for her and read:

“LET A TOMB BE MADE FOR ME IN THE EASTERN MOUNTAIN OF AKHETATEN. LET MY BURIAL BE MADE IN IT, IN THE MILLIONS OF JUBILEES WHICH THE ATEN, MY FATHER, HAS DECREED FOR ME. LET THE BURIAL OF THE GREAT KING'S WIFE, NEFERTITI, BE MADE IN IT, IN THE MILLIONS OF YEARS WHICH THE ATEN, MY FATHER, DECREED FOR HER. LET THE BURIAL OF THE KING'S DAUGHTER, MERITATEN, [BE MADE] IN IT, IN THESE MILLIONS OF YEARS”

Princess Meritaten is depicted on many monuments in Ancient Egypt sometimes alongside her parents and she was married to Pharaoh Smenkhkare of the 18th Dynasty of Egypt. In time Princess Meritaten took over the role as leading royal lady at court and she is depicted on paintings in temples, chapels and tombs such as Tutankhamen's tomb throughout Ancient Egypt.