



## GREAT KINGS & QUEENS OF AFRICA

# QUEEN

# AMANIRENAS



The Nubian Empire was established in 4800 BC. The Nubian Empire was located in north-eastern Africa in the area which is today known as Sudan. Later the capital cities of the Nubian Empire would be Kerma, Napata and Meroe. By 40 BC the capital of the empire was the city of Meroe which was located near to the east bank of the Nile River and the Nubians constructed over 200 pyramids there.

Nubia enjoyed throughout its history many strong female rulers which was relatively unique in the world at the time. By 40 BC the ruler of Nubian Empire which was also known as the Kush Empire was Queen Amanirenas. Amanirenas ascended to the throne after her husband Emperor Teriqetas of Nubia died in battle. Queen Amanirenas also had a son named Prince Akinidad. At the same time in 40 BC the neighbor of the Nubian Empire to the north was the African empire of Egypt which was also being ruled by an African Queen named Cleopatra. Queen Cleopatra was engaged in an ongoing battle with the Roman Empire who were a European power from Italy and Nubia had been monitoring the on-

going conflict. By 27 BC Rome had made significant headway in Egypt and Rome had also attempted to impose taxes on Nubia. Suspecting that Rome eventually intended to attempt a full scale invasion of Nubia, Queen Amanirenas launched a military attack against Roman positions in Syrene and Philae in Egypt in 24 BC. Queen Amanirenas led an army of 30,000 Nubian soldiers and reinforcements from Central Africa against the Romans.

The Romans were completely defeated and the Nubians defaced and destroyed any Roman monuments that they found. Queen Amanirenas and her son Prince Akinidad returned to Nubia with hundreds of Roman slaves and treasure. Nubian artifacts depict Queen Amanirenas feeding Roman soldiers to African lions. After the victory a peace treaty was agreed upon between the Nubian Empire and the Roman Empire and the two powers reached agreements that were favourable to the Nubians. Queen Amanirenas is remembered in world history as a fierce warrior and strong African leader.