



Stunning Discovery: Mummies Found with Golden Tongues

Description

Recent archaeological excavations have unveiled sheets of gold adorning the tongues of over a dozen mummified Egyptians in proximity to contemporary [Al-Bahansa](#). This remarkable discovery echoes an ancient practice believed to bestow upon the deceased the power of speech in the afterlife.

Archaeologists unearthed a wealth of artifacts from a tomb dating back to the Ptolemaic era (305 to 30 BCE) in the ancient city of [Oxyrhynchus](#), associated with an individual named Wen Nefer. Among the findings are not only the thirteen gilded tongues but also a mummy adorned with golden fingernails, heart scarabs, amulets, funerary pottery, and [canopic jars](#) that contained the removed organs of the deceased. The tomb's walls are elaborately painted with intricate gilded depictions of deities, celestial bodies, and the embalming process.

Mummies With Golden Tongues And Fingernails Found in an Egyptian Tomb

Gold leaf believed to cover fingernails. ([Egyptian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities/Facebook](#))

This is the first instance of many artifacts being retrieved from Al-Bahansa, according to the team of archaeologists from the University of Barcelona and the Institute of the Ancient Middle East in Germany. "These discoveries provide profound insights into the religious customs and funerary practices of the Ptolemaic period in Al-Bahansa," stated Mohamed Ismail Khaled, Secretary-General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities of Egypt in an interview with *Al-Ahram*.

Golden tongues are a rarity in ancient Egyptian burial sites, likely due to historical pillaging, yet they offer a revealing perspective on what the ancient Egyptians considered significant for the afterlife. Such gold tongue amulets were placed in the mouths of the deceased to ensure they could articulate before [the court of Osiris](#).

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Pottery artifacts including scarabs, Djed pillars, and deity representations. ([Egyptian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities/Facebook](#))

Gold [fingernail covers](#) were typically reserved for individuals of high social standing, believed to serve both a protective function against the hazards of the embalming process and as a safeguard from metaphysical threats.

The discovery encompasses 52 mummies from the Ptolemaic era and the remains of a large burial structure housing around 300 mummies in close proximity, along with various amulets and scarabs representing deities such as [Horus](#), [Thoth](#), [Isis](#), [Anubis](#), [Osiris](#), [Atum](#), and [Nut](#).

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The goddess Nut depicted on the tomb ceiling. ([Egyptian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities/Facebook](#))

Four limestone sarcophagi remain intact within the tomb, and in one chamber, the mummified remains of a

man were found, still possessing a golden tongue and a heart scarab preserved in their original positions. The heart scarab is particularly noteworthy, as these artifacts were typically placed within the wrappings of the deceased, directly over the heart, to [facilitate the passage into the afterlife](#).

Additionally, [Djed pillars](#), [Wadjet eyes](#), figurines of deities, and beads have persisted in the tomb for over two millennia since sealing.

The murals within the tomb are particularly captivating. [Nut](#), the goddess of motherhood and the cosmos, is depicted bare-chested against a deep blue sky adorned with stars. Other deities are shown traversing serene waters in funeral boats beneath similarly rich starlit skies.

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Image not found or type unknown

The embalming of the deceased by divine figures. ([Egyptian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities/Facebook](#))

In one particularly striking mural, a man—potentially Wen Nefer, although further analysis of the canopic jars is necessary for confirmation—bears a face enhanced with gold leaf, as he undergoes embalming rituals performed by Anubis, while the goddesses Isis and [Nephthys](#), both closely associated with funerary rites, observe the proceedings.

This tomb stands out as one of the most ornate burial chambers unearthed to date, evoking a sense of solace among the living, knowing that their loved ones were well-equipped for whatever awaits them in the afterlife.

For more captivating imagery of these archaeological finds, please visit the [Egyptian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities' Facebook page](#).

Vocabulary List:

1. **Excavations** /ˌɛks.kə'veɪ.jənz/ (noun): The process of digging up and removing earth to uncover artifacts or structures.
2. **Artifacts** /'ɑ:rtɪ.fæks/ (noun): Objects made by humans that are of historical or cultural interest.
3. **Customs** /'kʌs.təmz/ (noun): Traditional practices and rituals of a particular culture or society.
4. **Preserved** /prɪ'zɜ:rvd/ (verb): Maintained in its original state or kept from decay.
5. **Elaborately** /ɪ'læb.ə.rət.li/ (adverb): In a very detailed and complicated manner.



6. **Gilded** /'gɪl.dɪd/ (adjective): Covered thinly with gold leaf or gold paint.

Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice

1. What were the tongues of over a dozen mummified Egyptians adorned with?

- Option: Silver sheets
- Option: Gold sheets
- Option: Bronze sheets
- Option: Diamond sheets

2. Which ancient Egyptian deity is associated with the court of Osiris?

- Option: Horus
- Option: Thoth
- Option: Isis
- Option: Osiris

3. What was believed to be the function of gold fingernail covers in ancient Egypt?

- Option: Enhancing the embalming process
- Option: Protecting against metaphysical threats
- Option: Serving as writing implements
- Option: Improving vision

4. How many mummies were discovered from the Ptolemaic era in the archaeological excavations?

- Option: 13
- Option: 52
- Option: 300
- Option: 1000

5. Which goddess is depicted in the tomb against a sky adorned with stars?

- Option: Hathor
- Option: Isis
- Option: Nut
- Option: Sekhmet

6. Who is known to facilitate the passage into the afterlife in ancient Egyptian belief?



- Option: Ra
- Option: Anubis
- Option: Thoth
- Option: Horus

True-False

- 7. The tomb discoveries in Al-Bahansa provide insights into religious customs of the Pharaonic period.
- 8. Canopic jars typically contained the hearts of the deceased in ancient Egyptian burials.
- 9. Djed pillars and Wadjet eyes are among the artifacts found in the tomb.
- 10. Golden tongues were a common find in ancient Egyptian burial sites due to no historical pillaging.
- 11. The mummified remains found with a heart scarab were positioned over the stomach area.
- 12. The goddess Nut is associated with death and the underworld in Egyptian mythology.

Gap-Fill

- 14. The mummies found in the tomb from the Ptolemaic era were preserved for over _____ years.
- 15. The walls of the tomb are decorated with intricate gilded depictions of deities, celestial bodies, and the embalming process, showcasing the artistry of ancient Egyptian _____.
- 16. In the tomb, the goddess Nut is depicted against a deep blue sky adorned with stars, symbolizing her connection to the cosmos and _____.
- 17. The presence of Djed pillars, Wadjet eyes, and deity figurines in the tomb signifies the importance of Egyptian _____ in the afterlife beliefs.
- 18. The rituals depicted in the tomb include embalming by Anubis, with goddesses Isis and Nephthys overseeing the proceedings, emphasizing the significance of _____ practices in ancient



Egypt.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Gold sheets 2. Osiris 3. Protecting against metaphysical threats 4. 52 5. Nut 6. Anubis

True-False: 7. False 8. False 9. True 10. False 11. False 12. False

Gap-Fill: 14. 2000 15. culture 16. motherhood 17. religion 18. funerary

Vocabulary quizzes

Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. What does proficiency refer to?

Option: A. Skill or expertise in a particular area

Option: B. A type of musical instrument

Option: C. A form of transportation

Option: D. A mathematical formula

2. What does morphological relate to?

Option: A. Study of plants

Option: B. Study of human behavior

Option: C. Study of word structures

Option: D. Study of historical events

Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

3. Can you _____ the meaning of this complex passage?

4. _____ the negotiation process does not always lead to a better outcome.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

5. The decision to cut costs had serious financial for the company.

6. The doctor diagnosed the patient with a rare medical that required specialized treatment.



Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. A. Skill or expertise in a particular area 2. C. Study of word structures

Gap-Fill: 3. Elucidate 4. Prolonging

Matching sentence: 1. Implications 2. Syndrome

CATEGORY

1. Sci/Tech - LEVEL5

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Author

aimeeyoung99

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