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Funerary Practices of the Egyptians

Ancient Egyptians’ funerary practices were very elaborate because Egyptians believed that such practices ensured immortality in the afterlife. They also loved life and enjoyed its pleasurable experiences so much that they wanted to ensure it continued after death. The funerary practices of the early Egyptians reflected their significant religious beliefs. The current practices are different from the ancient ones as some of them changed, abandoned, and adopted new practices.

During the ancient period, the dead were buried in the ground, and the Egyptians scattered items, such as pottery around the bodies and placed them in curled and fetal positions during burial (Römer, p.266). Changes in the ancient funerary practices begun when royalty demanded fancier rituals for their burials; for example, the rich wanted mud-brick tombs known as mastabas for themselves. Tombs were not as effective as desert sand in preserving the body; thus, the early Egyptians invented the mummification process to keep the dead bodies.

This process involved drying the bodies in the sun and wrapping them in linens. The process changed later, and the Egyptians began to remove the dead body’s organs and place them in different containers and plaster the body. They then used a sarcophagus to keep the body and placed it in the pyramid. Only wealthy people like the Pharaohs could afford mummification because it was an expensive process (Römer, p.267). The Egyptians could also mummify animals and put them with the dead in the pyramid, along with other items like high-quality pottery or jewelry.

In summary, Egyptians’ funerary practices have developed from simple practices, such as burying the dead bodies in the ground and scattering items to more complicated processes like using tombs and pyramids and engaging in mummification.

Work Cited

Römer, Cornelia. "The Beautiful Burial In Roman Egypt: Art, Identity, And Funerary Religionthe Beautiful Burial In Roman Egypt: Art, Identity, And Funerary Religion. By RIGGSCHRISTINA. Pp. Xxiii, 334. Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2005. ISBN 978 0 19 927665 3. £124.". The Journal Of Egyptian Archaeology, vol 97, no. 1, 2011, pp. 266-267. SAGE Publications, doi:10.1177/030751331109700130.