



UNDERSTANDING

EGYPTIAN

WRITING & LANGUAGE

WRITING vs LANGUAGE

WRITING vs LANGUAGE

① **HIEROGLYPHIC**

② **HIERATIC**

③ **DEMOTIC**

① **HIEROGLYPHIC**

② **HIERATIC**

③ **DEMOTIC**



HIEROGLYPHICS

(from the Greek) hieroglyphikos - "sacred writing."
Formal script: religious works (tomb inscriptions, etc), state documents (king lists, etc), and monumental inscriptions.



RELIGIOUS WORKS (BIOGRAPHIES)

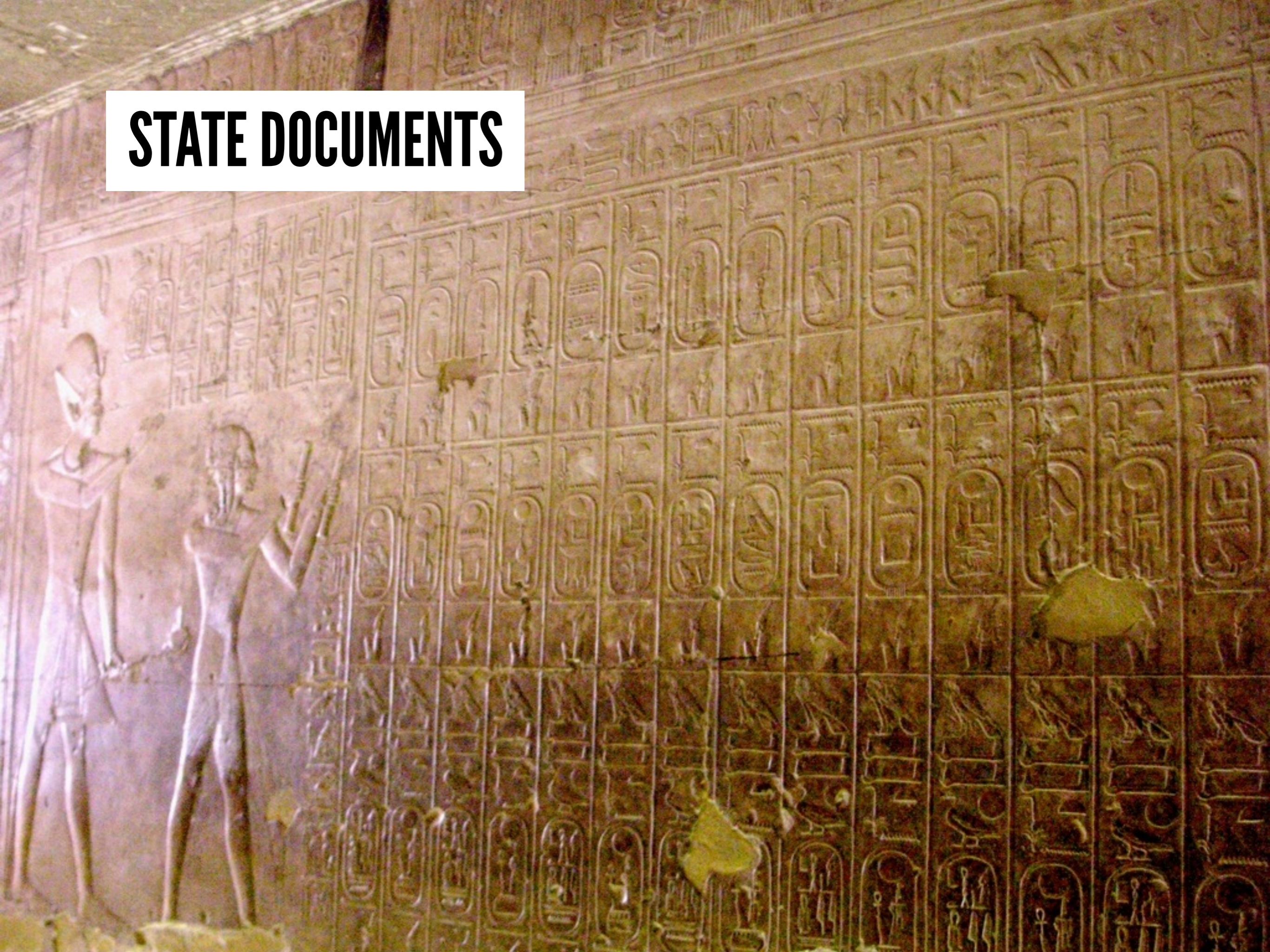
RELIGIOUS WORKS (MAGICAL TEXTS)

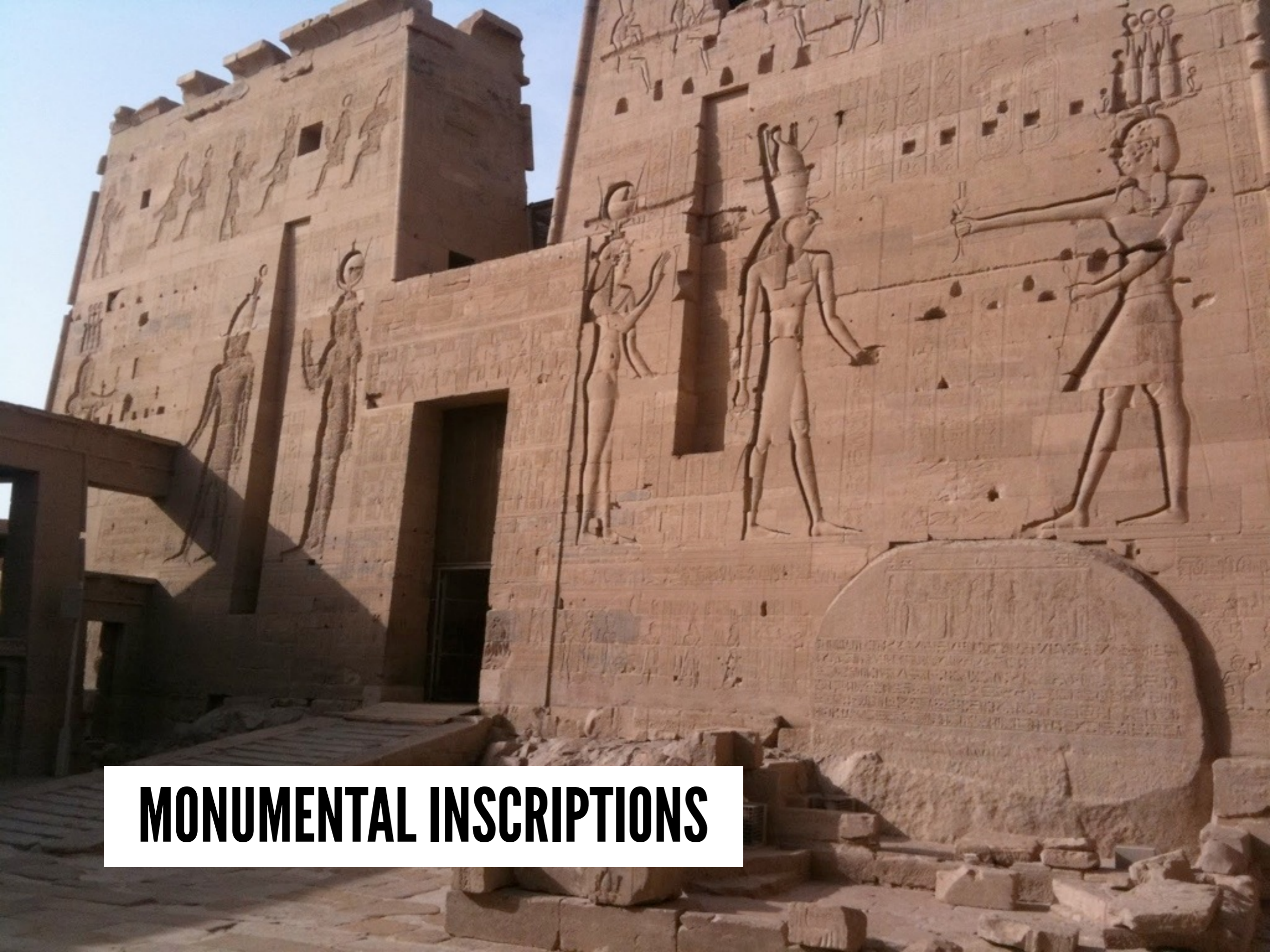




STATE DOCUMENTS

STATE DOCUMENTS





MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS

MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS



STRUCTURE OF HIEROGLYPHS

PHONETIC/ALPHABETIC

symbols that represent sounds (that are read independently of the symbol's visual characteristic)

LOGOGRAMS

a symbol which represents a word or a morpheme (the smallest grammatical unit of language)

UNBREAKABLE

The root, a free
morpheme



UN BREAK ABLE



a bound
morpheme
signifying
"not"



a free
morpheme
signifying "can
be done"

UNILITERAL



b



t



n



i

BILITERAL



ms



wr



pr



r^s

(sun)



pr

(house)



swt

(reed)

DETERMINATIVES



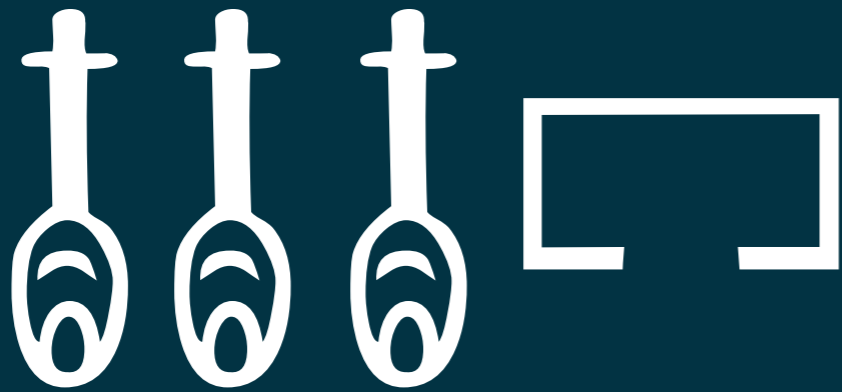
*Tired man sinking to ground
(weariness, tiredness,
faintness)*



*Man carrying basket on head
(to carry, to work, load up)*



nfr.w
the beautiful young people
(young military recruits)



nfr.w
foundations
(of a house)



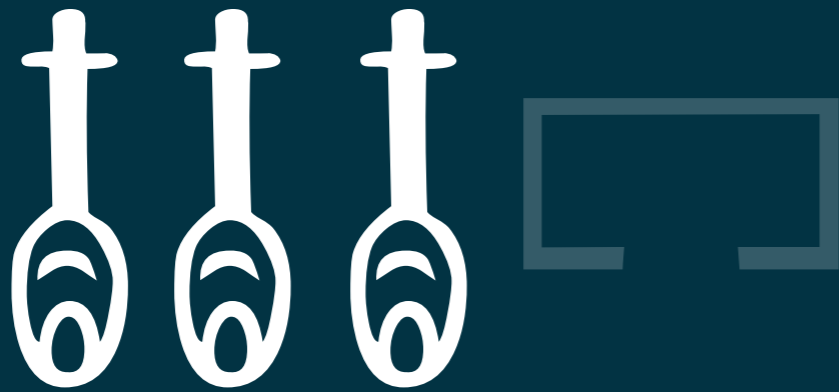
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① HIEROGLYPHIC

② HIERATIC

③ DEMOTIC

Handwritten text in Arabic script, likely a manuscript or ledger. The text is written in black ink with several lines of red ink used for headings or emphasis. The script is dense and fills most of the page.

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HIERATIC

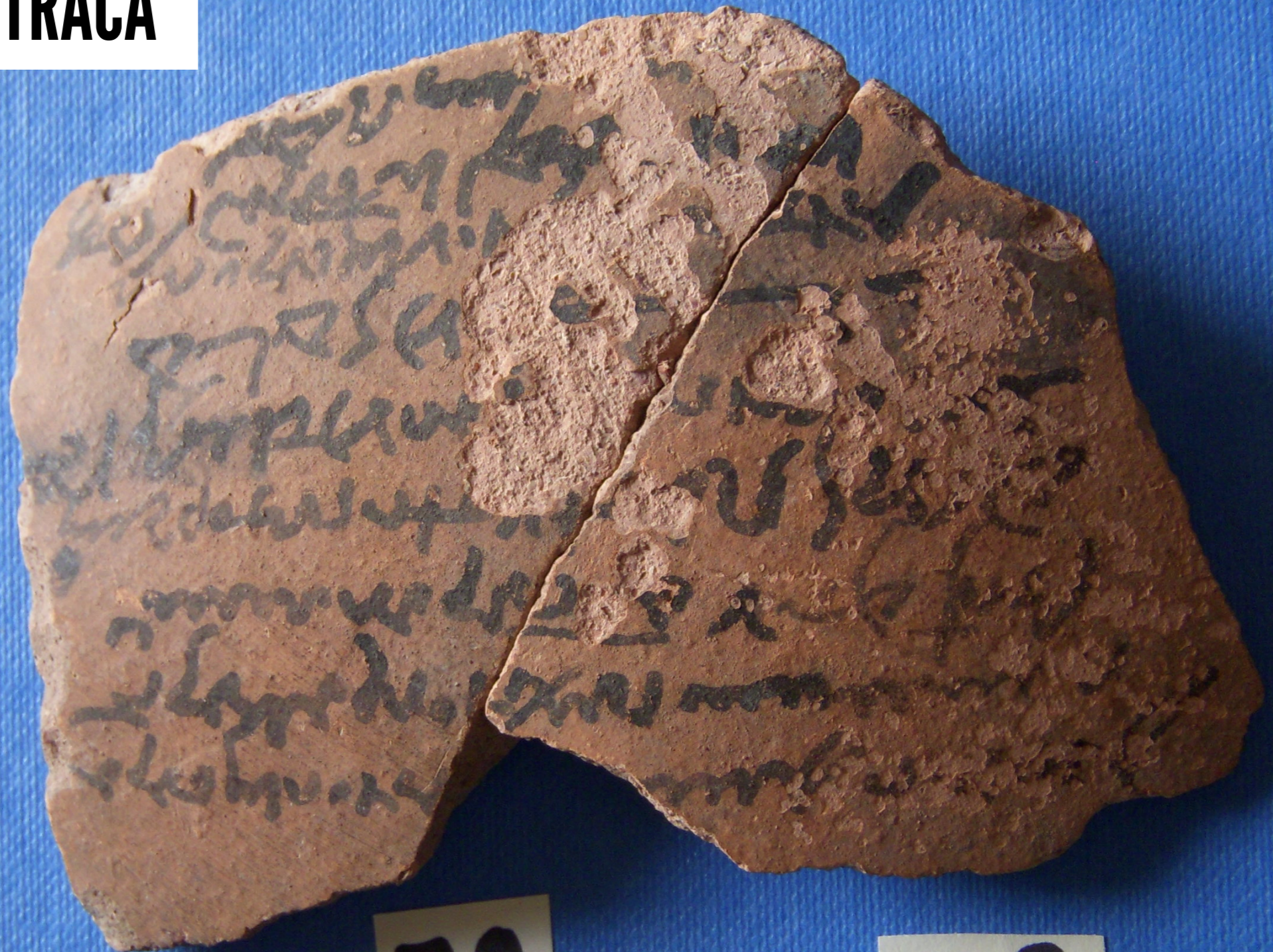
(from the Greek) hieratika - "priestly writing." Less formal. written in ink with a reed brush on papyrus, wood, stone or pottery ostraca

Handwritten text in an ancient script, likely Punic or Phoenician, inscribed on a fragment of limestone. The text is arranged in approximately 12 horizontal lines across the fragment. The script consists of numerous small, angular characters, some of which are grouped together with vertical lines, possibly indicating syllables or specific words. The fragment is irregularly shaped with jagged edges, suggesting it is a piece of a larger inscription.

LIMESTONE

OSTRACA

CERAMIC OSTRACA



79

103

① HIEROGLYPHIC

② HIERATIC

③ DEMOTIC

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
الحمد لله الذي هدانا لهذا
أما كنا لننسئله

هذا الكتاب العظيم
الذي هو من كنز
الحق والهدى

والذي لا يزول ولا يغير
والذي هو نور
الهدى والرحمة

والذي هو من فضل
الملك الوهاب
والذي هو من فضل
الملك الوهاب

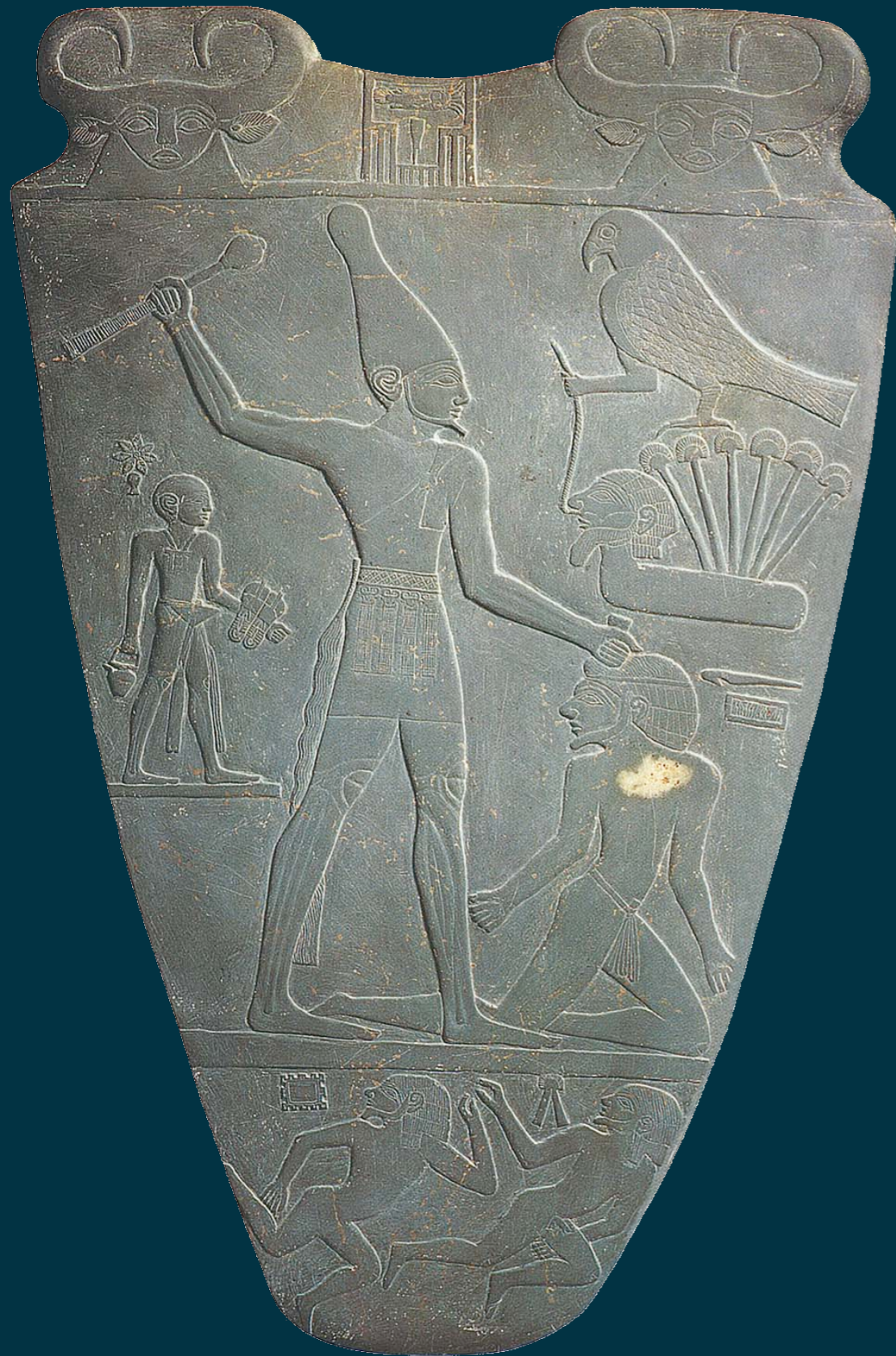
DEMOTIC

(from the Greek) epistolographikē - "letter writing."
In use from 650 B.C. (26th Dynasty) to A.D. 452
(December 11th). Fell out of use as Greek
became the administrative language of the country

Handwritten text in a cursive script, likely a form of Arabic or Persian, covering the upper portion of the fragment. The text is densely packed and follows the curve of the fragment's top edge.

A large block of handwritten text in a cursive script, likely a form of Arabic or Persian, covering the lower portion of the fragment. The text is densely packed and follows the curve of the fragment's bottom edge.

ROOTS OF ANCIENT EGYPTIAN WRITING





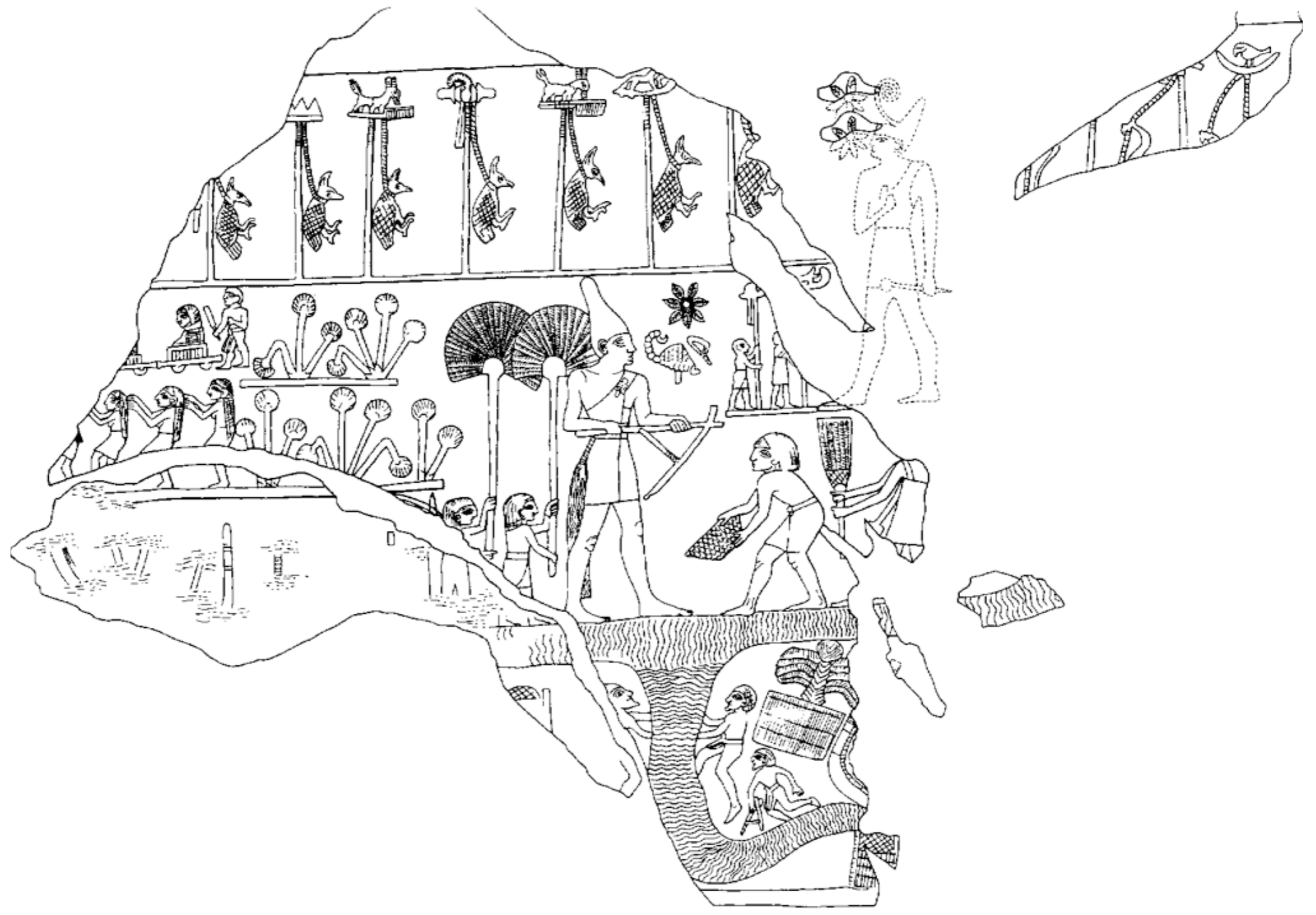
Serekh with the name
Narmer



Wash (name of the
kneeling man)











MESOPOTAMIA

EGYPT

4th Millennium BC



ABYDOS



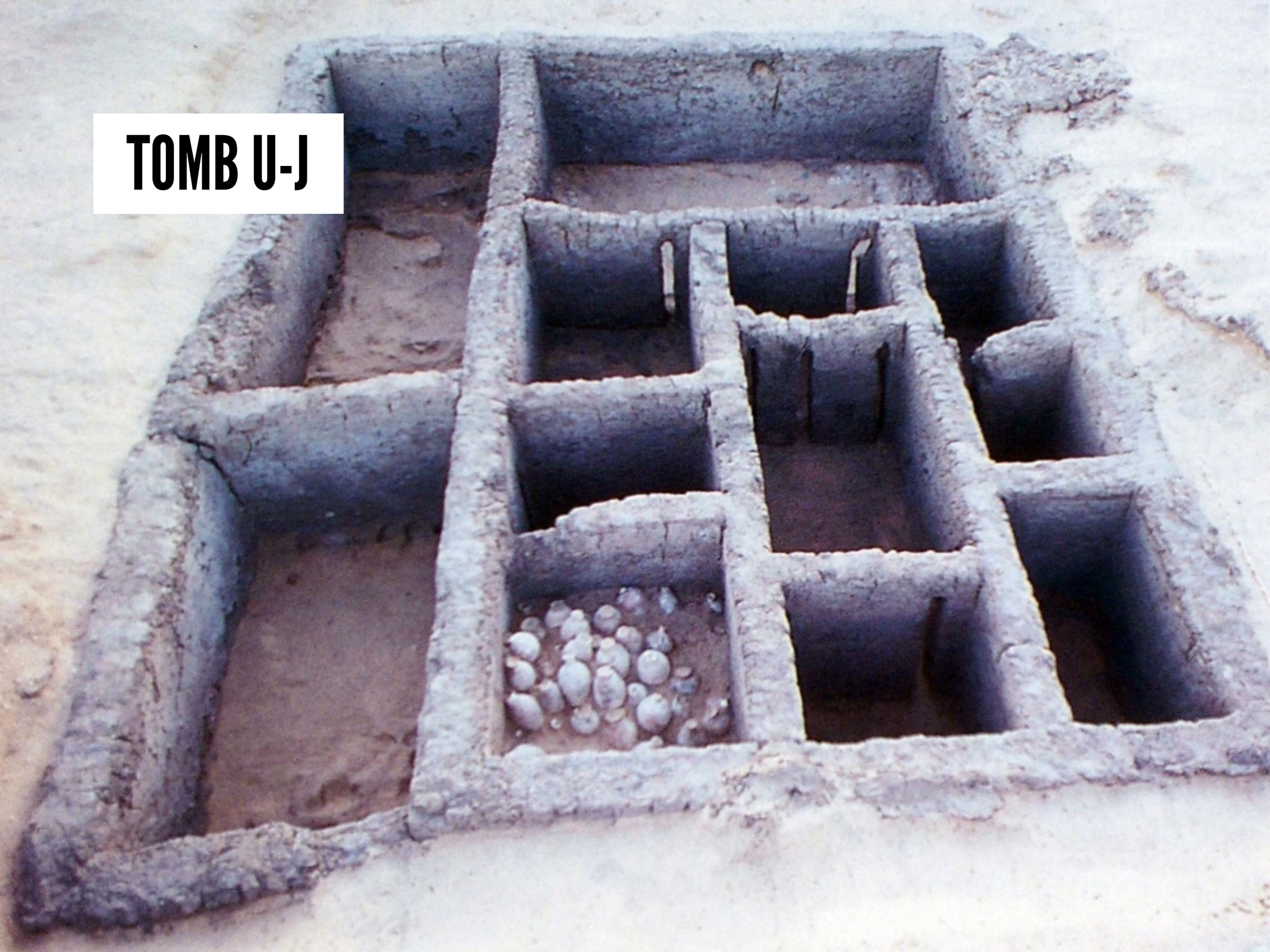
UMM EL-QA'AB





UMM EL-QA'AB

TOMB U-J



TOMB OF DJER





- ★ **EGYPT: PURPOSES OF TRADE (BOTH LOCAL AND EXTRA-LOCAL). TOOL OF THE STATE & PHARAOH**
- ★ **MESOPOTAMIA: PURPOSES OF INVENTORY (TEMPLE) AND TAXATION**

CARTOUCHE



- ★ **SHENU (CARTOUCHE) - DENOTES A ROYAL NAME**
- ★ **CAME INTO USE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 4TH DYNASTY**
- ★ **ELONGATED VERSION OF THE SHEN RING**



SEREKH





- ★ **PREDYNASTIC - OLD KINGDOM**
(THOUGH USED SPORADICALLY
UNTIL LATE PERIOD)
- ★ **NICHED OR GATED FAÇADE OF A**
PALACE SURMOUNTED BY THE
HORUS FALCON



THE END