

## Egyptian Evolution of Kingship

A. *Instruction Addressed to Merikare* [Old Kingdom]

But this should be said to the Bowman: Lo, the miserable Asiatic, he is wretched because of the place he is in. Short of water, bare of wood, its paths are many and painful because of the mountains. He does not dwell in one place, food propels his legs, he fights since the time of Horus, not conquering or being conquered, he does not announce the day of combat, like a thief who darts about the group.

B. *Biography of Uni* [Old Kingdom]

“This army returned in safety, after it had flattened the sand-dwellers; land. This army returned safely after it had sacked its strongholds...after it had cut down its figs, its vines...after it had thrown fire in all its mansions...after it had slain many thousands of troops ...after it carried off many thousands as captives.”

C. *Great Sphinx Stela of Amenhotep II* 41-42 [New Kingdom]

He [the king] also came to do the following...Entering his northern garden, he found erected for him four targets of Asiatic copper, ...Then his Majesty appeared on the chariot like Mont [the god of War] in his might. He drew his bow while holding four arrows together in his fist. Thus he rode northward shooting them, like Mont in his panoply, each arrow coming out the back of its target....It was a deed never yet done, never yet reported...

D. *Annals of Tutmose III, “Battle of Megiddo”* [New Kingdom]

His Majesty ordered to tell the whole army: “Your valiant lord will guide your steps on this road which becomes narrow.” For his Majesty had taken an oath, saying: “I shall not let my valiant army go before me from this place!” This his Majesty resolved that he himself should go before his army. Every man was informed of his order of march, horse following horse, with his Majesty at the head of his army.

E. *Kadesh Poem* [New Kingdom]

“We stand alone in the midst of battle, abandoned by soldiers and chariotry.”...His Majesty said to his shield-bearer: “Stand firm, steady your heart shield-bearer! I will change them as a falcon pounces, I will slaughter, butcher, fling to the ground. Why do you fear these weaklings whose multitudes I disregard?” His Majesty then rushed forward. At a gallop he charged the midst of the foe. For his sixth time he charged them. I was after them like Baal in his moment of power, I slew them without pause.

F. *Stela of Ramses III* from Dier el-Medineh [New Kingdom]

He (Ramses III) has captured the land of the Temehu, Libu, and Meshwesh (Libyan tribes), he made them cross the Nile, carried off into Egypt. They are settled into strongholds of the Victorious King. He makes their language disappear, he changes (?) their tongues. They go on a way that they have not descended before.