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### Forgotten Sepulchers: The Uninscribed Tombs in the Valley of the Kings in Luxor, Egypt

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#### Abstract

The elaborately decorated tombs in the Valley of the Kings in Luxor, Egypt, have captured the imagination of scholars and tourists alike for thousands of years. Yet despite the attention lavished on these tombs, they are outnumbered in the Valley of the Kings uninscribed tombs that have been largely ignored. Excavations in several of the uninscribed tombs have demonstrated that although their walls may be bare, the tombs are certainly not empty, and a variety of finds ranging from scattered funerary objects and human remains to several nearly intact burials of high officials have been uncovered. This thesis will assemble the context of funerary practices during the period of Egyptian history when the Valley of the Kings was used. The history of modern exploration and excavation in the uninscribed tombs, as well as the Valley as a whole, will also be examined in some detail. Using a cognitive and symbolic systems approach, the information about each uninscribed tomb will then be examined and interpreted to gain an understanding of each tomb's possible ownership. Such an analysis of the uninscribed tombs in the Valley of the Kings will shed light not only on the mortuary behavior of the ancient Egyptians but will also provide information regarding the ways that they interpreted and reacted to their social and physical environment.

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For years the Valley of the Kings in Luxor, Egypt had a strict photography ban, which resulted in not that many photos online. However, in 2018 the photography ban has been partially lifted and visitors can take photos without flash if they purchase a special permit at the entrance. This isn't really advertised anywhere and group tours aren't told about it. How to reach the Valley of the Kings in Egypt. Where to stay in Luxor. How much are Valley of the Kings tickets and photo passes? The tombs in the Valley of the Kings extra tickets and photo passes. What tombs are currently open to the public at Valley of the Kings in 2020? Photography at Valley of the Kings. The best tombs in the Valley of the Kings for photos (or just to oggle at!) Tomb of Ramses IV – KV2. Tomb of Ramses III – KV11. For many years there was a photography ban in the tombs in the Valley of the Kings but recently, they have lifted this and so you can now take personal photos and videos on your visit. However, there's a catch. You will need to buy a photography permit in order to take photos. This was my favorite tomb in the Valley of the Kings. It is one of the largest tombs, featuring a very long hallway and several series of staircases. The pillared hallway, at about the midpoint of this tomb, is breathtaking. From start to finish, our experience with Egypt Tailor Made was fantastic. Tim communicated with the owner of the company by email to customize their day tours into our itinerary. In Luxor and Aswan, we had a van and a private driver which took the hassle out of arranging our transportation. Ali, an Egyptologist, was our guide. He is very knowledgeable, punctual, and has a great personality.