



DISCOVERING TUT: THE SAGA CONTINUES - by A R Williams

Class: XI

Sub: ENGLISH

INTRODUCTION:

The chapter deals with the mysteries and various theories regarding the life and death of the teenage pharaoh of ancient Egypt- Tutankhamun. Some speculated that he was murdered. King Tut's tomb was discovered in 1922 by the famous archaeologist Howard Carter. After Carter's investigation, Tut's mummy was also subjected to an X-ray and a CT scan. These investigations have answered a lot of questions and offered new clues on details of Tut's life and the mystery surrounding his death.

SUMMARY:

'Discovering Tut: The Saga Continues' gives an insight into the mystery surrounding the life and death of Tutankhamun, the last teenage ruler of the powerful Pharaoh dynasty that had ruled Egypt for centuries. He was the last of his family's line, and his funeral brought an end to this powerful dynasty. Not much is known about his family. Tut's father or grandfather, Amenhotep III was a powerful pharaoh who ruled for about four decades during the dynasty's golden age. His son, Amenhotep IV shocked the country by attacking Amun, a major God, smashing his images and closing all his temples. He changed his name to Akhenaten and promoted the worship of Aten or the sun disk. After his death, a mysterious ruler, Smenkhkare appeared briefly and exited with hardly a trace. When Tut took over, he changed his name from Tutankhaten to Tutankhamun and restored the old ways. However, Tut ruled for nine years and then died unexpectedly and mysteriously.

In order to unravel the mystery of his death, King Tut's mummy was scanned after a thousand years, thus opening new perceptions regarding the cause of his death. In 1922, his tomb was discovered by Howard Carter who used all kinds of means to remove Tut's mummy from the coffin. The ritual resins had hardened, thereby cementing Tut to the bottom of his solid gold coffin. Carter finally had to chisel the mummy away having no other option. Every major joint was severed. In 1968 an anatomy professor X-rayed the mummy and revealed that Tut's breast bone and front ribs were missing. Such a revelation would not have been possible without technological precision. This fact gives us a clue that Tut, in all likelihood did not die a natural death. Tut's mummy was scanned in 2005 under the supervision of Zahi Hawass, Secretary General of Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities. The Computed Tomography Scan couldn't solve the mysterious death of Tut but gave clues for sure.

The lesson also provides a comprehensive awareness about ancient Egyptian culture. The ancient Egyptians believed that there was life after death. That is why the Pharaohs were buried with

tremendous amount of wealth including things of daily use so that they could use them in their life after death. It was also believed that gold would guarantee their resurrection.

Character List

- **Zahi Hawass** – Secretary General of Egypt’s Supreme Council of Antiquities. He is one of the members of the team of researchers, and very particular about getting the details right. It also shows that he is extremely focused on this project as he exclaims that he was not able to sleep thinking of the seriousness of this extraction and reconstruction.
- **Howard Carter** – He is the British Archeologist who discovered King Tut’s tomb in the year 1922. This discovery was sensational as it was successful after years of futile searching. He was not able to separate the body from the other belongings buried along with the Kings body. He justified his action of chiseling away the consolidated material from the body to raise the king’s remains.
- **Amenhotep III** – King Tut’s grandfather who was a powerful pharaoh and ruled for almost four decades.
- **Amenhotep IV** – Successor of Amenhotep III. He promoted the worship of Aten and changed his name to Akhenaten. Amenhotep IV also moved the religious capital to Akhetaten. He attacked the Amun, a major God and smashed his idols.
- **Tutankhaten** – Widely known as King Tut. He was just a teenager when he became a ruler. He also changed his name to Tutankhamun; reigned for about nine years and died unexpectedly. The speculation of his death gave rise to exploration to find the truth. His mummy became the first one to be examined using a CT scan.