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THE DJESER AXIOMS.

Nebil SWELIM (Le Caire)

A fact that cannot be overlooked is that the IIIrd Dynasty possesses more royal monuments than those generally selected by some historians today. Their selection is based on the number of kings recorded in the New Kingdom king lists. Manetho's nine kings are closer to the eight monuments believed to belong to this dynasty (3 open courts, 2 step pyramid complexes, 2 unfinished pyramids and the Pyramid of Maidum).

It is also very difficult to accept the step pyramid complex as a prototype in the context of step pyramids and open courts. In the development of the design of open courts this complex can only be placed in the mid position of the IIIrd Dyn.

Accepting the tradition that Djeser was the first stone builder, we may attribute to him Gisr El Modir, which is an immense open court excavated by J.de Morgan, West of the 2 Step Pyramid Complexes. This great monument apparently demonstrates more primitive features, compared with the other stone monuments of the LIIrd Dyn. The suggestion may become more acceptable if Queen Nymaathap and Imhotep are looked upon as complex characters belonging to different generations using the same names as frequently occuring in Egyptian history.

The argument we present concerns the widely accepted axioms identifying Djeser with Netjerykhet and consequently considering Djeser the owner of the Step Pyramid Complex or vice versa. If they are proved to be axioms and not facts, then we have solved one of a few points which support the above mentioned.