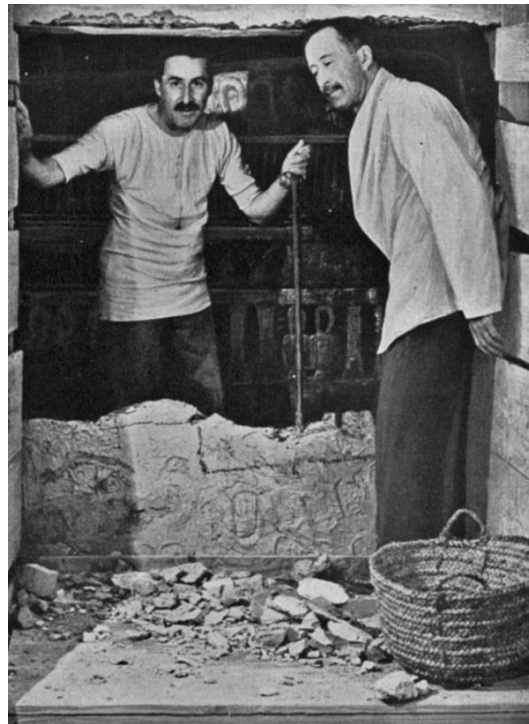


Today, we are going back to November 26 1922, when HOWARD CARTER and LORD CARNARVON broke into the antechamber of the tomb of the Egyptian Pharaoh (or king) TUTANKHAMUN (pronounced 'Toot – ahn – ka – moon'). Carter leaned through the door of the antechamber with a lit candle. Carnarvon, behind him, said, 'Can you see anything?' Carter said, 'Yes, wonderful things.' The tomb was completely intact - Carter and Carnarvon were able to see in the dust on the floor the footprints of the people who had built the tomb 3,000 years before. The tomb was filled with beautiful objects that the Egyptians thought that their Pharaoh would need in the afterlife - furniture, clothes, jewellery, weapons, and a chariot. But also some walking sticks: Tutankhamun had a deformed left foot which meant he had to use a cane in order to support him while he was walking. In the furthest room in the tomb, Carter and Carnarvon discovered Tutankhamun's coffin - made out of pure gold, when it was opened, the mummified remains of Tutankhamun were discovered, completely intact and behind a beautiful gold mask.



Tutankhamun died very young, when he was just 18, in 1325 BC. He became Pharaoh when he was just eight years old - so younger than you are now! His father was the very great Egyptian Pharaoh AKHENATEN, who had ruled Egypt for 18 years, until 1336 BC. What made Akhenaten so great was that he had somehow seen that there was just one God, not many gods, and with his wife NEFERTITI (pronounced 'Neff - er - tee - tee'), he had tried to get rid of the Egyptian worship of loads of different gods. This is a quick video about him:

<https://youtu.be/h2JbcMoVv24?t=29>

Akhenaten failed in the attempt to get rid of Egypt's worship of multiple gods. Once his father had died, and Tutankhamun became the Pharaoh, Tutankhamun ordered that

everything should go back the way it was before, and the Egyptians should start worshipping their traditional gods again. But by reversing everything his father had achieved, Tutankhamun ensured that it was not just his father who would be forgotten - everyone associated with Akhenaten became really unpopular, and Tutankhamun was soon forgotten after he died. But the fact that he was forgotten helped to ensure that his tomb was never disturbed by robbers because no one knew where it was. It just sat there waiting 3,000 years for the British archaeologists (pronounced 'Ark - ee - ol - oh - jists') Carter and Carnarvon to find the tomb and break in.

But there was a rumour that whoever broke into Tutankhamun's tomb would be cursed, and would pay a terrible price for doing so. The rumour seemed to come true when just five months after Tutankhamun's tomb was discovered Lord Carnarvon died in Egypt, in April 1923. Apparently all the lights in Cairo (the capital of Egypt, and pronounced 'Kai - row') went out when Carnarvon died, and back home in England, at the exact same moment, Carnarvon's dog Suzy started barking madly and dropped down dead. Spooky! Two other archaeologists who had been part of the attempt to discover Tutankhamun's tomb died in 1924, but Carter did better and only died in 1939, when he was 64. All the treasures he had rescued from Tutankhamun's tomb (including Tutankhamun's coffin) went on display all around the world, sparking a huge interest in Ancient Egypt. But if you want to see the treasures for yourself, you will have to go to Egypt - they are housed permanently at the Egyptian Museum in Cairo.

