



Was Tutankhamun's Tomb Cursed?

Many people believe that there was a curse on Tutankhamun's tomb. Anyone who opened the tomb would be a victim of this curse. Is there any truth in this belief?





The Death of Lord Carnarvon. When Lord Carnarvon died on 5th April 1923, seven weeks after the official opening of pharaoh *Tutankhamun's* burial chamber, rumours were spreading about a curse.

News of *Tutankhamun's* tomb and its discoverers had sent the world's media into a frenzy.



The Lights Went Out. All sorts of curse links were found. The lights of Cairo were said to have gone out at the moment of his death (a common event in those days then).

Back at Carnarvon's English estate his dog, Susie, was supposed to have howled and died at the same time.





Warnings. Carnarvon's death came just a couple of weeks after a public warning by novelist Mari Corelli that there would be dire consequences for anyone who entered the sealed tomb. Conan Doyle, the creator of Sherlock Holmes, announced that Carnarvon's death could have been the result of a "Pharaoh's curse".





Media Frenzy

One newspaper even printed a curse supposed to have been written in hieroglyphs at the entrance of the tomb. The translation was:

"They who enter this sacred tomb shall swift be visited by wings of death."





However, no inscribed curse was found.

One inscription, found on the *Anubis* shrine in the tomb's so-called Treasury, did say:



"It is I who hinder the sand from choking the secret chamber. I am for the protection of the deceased."



Another "casualty" was the pet canary of the tomb's discoverer, Howard Carter. The bird was swallowed by a cobra on the day the tomb was opened. This was significant as a cobra was depicted on the brow of the pharaoh from where it would spit fire at the king's enemies.





According to one list, of the 26 individuals present at the official opening of the tomb, six had died within a decade. However other key people associated with the discovery and work on the tomb lived to a ripe old age.





Even when some of the treasures of *Tutankhamun* went on tour overseas in the 1970s, some people still believed in the curse.

A policeman in San Francisco, guarding *Tutankhamun's* gold funerary mask, tried to claim compensation for a mild stroke. He blamed the curse. The judge dismissed the claim.



So was there a mummy's curse? Or are all the strange events just a coincidence? What do you think?