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**Howard Carter and the Tomb of
Tutankhamen - Part IV**

Lead: Five years of failure and disappointment flashed away as Howard Carter looked through opening he had made. The young King came alive.

Intro.: *A Moment in Time* with Dan Roberts.

Content: The rule of Pharaoh Tutankhamen was a short one. He lived about 1350 years before Christ and died at seventeen, his rule brief, obscure and dominated by powerful advisors. He was buried and over the

years the location of his small tomb was forgotten. Most Egyptologists had assumed the grave site to have been discovered but Carter and his partner George Lord Herbert Carnarvon thought otherwise and spent the five years before 1922 searching the Valley of the Kings near ancient Thebes for the young King's illusive tomb. After nearly giving up, on November 4th, workmen discovered a step cut into the rock of the Valley floor. Carter cabled his partner to come from England and Lord George arrived November 23rd. By that time a stairway and door were uncovered and Carter had found the name of Tutankhamen cut into the wall at several places. Two days later the corridor leading into the tomb had been cleared and he had reached a

second door. At 4:00 PM Carter made a small hole in the door and looked in. Carnarvon recalled the scene. "Mr. Carter, holding a candle before him, put in his head." He did not say anything for two or three minutes, but kept me in rather painful suspense. I thought I had been disappointed again, and I said, "Can you see anything?" "Yes, yes," he replied. "It is wonderful."

What he saw stunned him. While plundered at least twice in antiquity, the remaining contents of the grave were priceless. Gold coffins and statues, figures of gods, magical objects, jewelry, amulets, thrones, musical instruments, tools, lamps, weapons, and games all gave a

unprecedented representation of ancient Egyptian life.

Carnarvon died shortly thereafter giving rise to speculation about a curse of King Tut, but Carter lived on to 1939, spending the better part of a decade clearing the tomb of its invaluable objects. The young King had at last given up his secrets.

At the University of Richmond, this is Dan Roberts.

Resources

Carter, Howard. *The Tomb of Tutankhamen*. New York, NY: Excalibur Books, 1972.

Reeves, Carl Nicholas. *The Complete Tutankhamen: The King, the Tomb, the Royal Treasure*. New York, NY: Thames and Hudson, 1990.

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