



Ptolemy the Eighth Cultural Archaeological Study

Thesis Submitted For M.Sc Degree in Guidance Department

Submitted By

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Abstract

The relationship between Greeks and Egyptians started probably from the archaic period. There are many archaeological evidences that indicate clearly this relation during the Old Kingdom (2700-2200 B.C): the cartouche of Pepi II has been found in Greece as well as some Egyptian statues. During the Middle Kingdom (2160-1785), the trade dominated the relationship: Egypt imported the vases of pottery of Crete and the exported corn to them. Before the New Kingdom Egypt was known for the Hellenic writers and poets such as Homer; he mention it in his *Odyssey* IV, 81-85, 219-232, 351-479, 581-582; XIV, 244-246; *Iliad*, IX, 381-384. The scenes of the New Kingdom prove the continuity of such kind of relationship.

During the 23rd (818-715) dynasty, the Greeks started to appear in Egypt as mercenaries; then they were became a major part during the reign of the kings of 26th dynasty (627-525 B.C) as King Pasmatic I (664-610 B.C) has hired many Ionian mercenaries and installed them in Delta. As their importance has risen in the Egyptian army, king Ahmos II rewarded them by founding the first polis, Naucratis, in the Delta of Egypt and many mercenaries choose to reside in Memphis. Also during that Period, V century B.C, many Greek philosophers and writers have come to Egypt such as Hecate and Herodotus who reserved his second book to describe his Journey to Egypt.

The Great number the Greeks, especially the community of Memphis, facilitate the acceptance of the Egyptians to Alexander the Great, who arrived in 332 to Egypt, and later the first Ptolemaic king, who become the king of Egypt in 305 B.C. the King Ptolemy I started a new dynasty in Egypt (323- 30 B.C) which continued to be so strong during the first four kings. They made great

achievements in different fields of life, literature, art, economy and military activity. By the death of the fourth king, it began to enter the weakness period. The fall of the Ptolemy kingdom in Egypt started to face its end after the Ptolemy IV, then the king Ptolemy V who died and leaved the kingdom in the hands of child kings under the regency of the bad courtiers. The struggle between the two brothers was a main feature of the second half which was marked by fights, disturbance, revolutions, etc....

This dissertation tries to spot the light on the most important king of the weakness period, King Ptolemy VIII or Euergetes II. The collapse of this dynasty was accelerated at the end of his reign. It was thought that all the reasons that leads to decline of the Ptolemaic dynasty were collected in the reign of the Ptolemaic VIII, such as the struggles of the royal family, the weakness of the Ptolemaic king, the increase of the Roman power and also the increasing the national awareness of the Egyptians.

All of these actions and problems in the reign of Ptolemy VIII were the motivations which pushed the researcher to choose this topic in order to stand on the features of this era with the investigation to the different cultural fields in His reign. The researcher will try to answer many questions concerning this period:

1. What were the aspects of the life during the reign of Ptolemy VIII?
2. Is the policy of the Ptolemy VIII had a negative or a positive impact on the Egyptian Kingdom?
3. What are the monuments that he erected in Egypt?
4. What is his religious policy including the nature of the relationship between the king and the priests of Egypt?

In this research, many approach and sources will be applied as:

- The Historical approach to indicate the political circumstances and the main event, either in or outside Egypt that affected on the king decisions:

study the historical events during the reign of the king whatever in or outdoors of Egypt. Also, this approach will be applied in studying the cultural aspects during his reign.

- The Descriptive approach will be applied on the studying the monuments of the King Ptolemy VIII such as temples, coins and statutes
- The analytical approach will be applied to emphasis the main findings of the researcher by analyzing the cultural aspects and monument.

With applying these approaches, the researcher aims to give a fully image about King Ptolemy VIII. We will use some previous studying such as the dissertation (in Arabic) the M.H. Awaad, *Egypt's internal affairs and foreign policy during the reign of Euergetes II*, and some others searches that deal with the cultural aspects during the Ptolemaic period.

Also the research will depend on the publications of the temple especially that of Edfou, Kom Ombo and Qasr el Aguz. The ancient sources such as papyri will be studied carefully in this research.

The thesis will divide into four parts, historical introduction, two chapters and conclusion. The Historical introduction will cover the political events during his reign starting from the death of his father Ptolemy V and ending with his death.

The first chapter will deal with the cultural aspects during the reign of the King Ptolemy VII covering the following points:

- the administration system
- the economic system
- the courts and the judiciary
- the cultural life
- the religious policy

In every part we will study briefly the system before his reign and in details during his reign.

The second chapter will cover the archeological aspects during his reign. We try to explain all his monuments, temples, statues and coins, and emphasize his relationship with gods and goddesses. The chapter will cover the following points:

- The temple of Koptos
- The temple of 18th dynasty at Habu
- El Aguz temple
- Karnak temple
- El Tod temple
- Edfu temple
- Kom Ombo temple
- Philae temple
- El Dakka temple

The analytical part contains the results of the whole study. The study will contain also a part for the scenes of the temples.