
Unveiling the Haunting Narratives of Tutankhamun's Cursed Trumpets and the Declaration of Wars in the Egyptian Cultural Heritage

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Abstract

The enigmatic legacy of king Tutankhamun never fails to remain a source of captivation for both scholars and enthusiasts. Among the remarkable treasures discovered within his tomb are his renowned trumpets, which have become mysterious artifacts intertwined with haunting narratives from Egyptian heritage. These trumpets are steeped in legends of curses and dark narratives, forming a significant part of Egypt's cultural tapestry and the young pharaoh's legacy. This paper aims to explore the intricate narratives and dark history surrounding the trumpets of Tutankhamun, often referred to as the “Cursed Trumpets”, and how they influence modern perceptions, including their alleged connection to declaration of wars. It further investigates the symbolic significance of these instruments within the broader context of Egyptian funerary practices and socio-political landscapes through a multidisciplinary approach that integrates archaeology, cultural heritage, and history. Additionally, it examines the dual role of the trumpets as both significant artifacts of the ancient Egyptian cultural heritage and as catalysts for modern myths and cultural folklore. Moreover, it highlights the enduring impact of cultural artifacts in narrating the complexities of human experience across time.

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Keywords: Tutankhamun, haunting narratives, Egyptian heritage, cursed trumpets, dark history, wars, myths.

1. Introduction

UNESCO's 2003 convention for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage recognizes five domains in which the intangible cultural heritage is clearly manifested. Within these domains, narratives are considered a fundamental tool for preserving and transmitting cultural knowledge, values and identity. They also represent an essential aspect of human communication and have been used to share stories, myths, legends and historical events. In addition, they provide a sense of identity, belonging and continuity for the living communities by sharing stories about their history, traditions, customs, experiences and practices (UNESCO, 2003).

The concept of haunting narratives in the context of UNESCO primarily relates to the stories and meanings associated with cultural heritage, particularly those evoking strong emotional reactions or reflecting profound historical significance. These narratives reveal the complex relationship between memory, trauma, and cultural identity. In this context, cultural heritage artifacts incorporate haunting narratives that reflect the complexity of human experience, often acting as powerful reminders of historical events, cultural identities and shared experiences. They also function as tangible links to the past, offering insights into various aspects of human civilization. In addition, they embody values, beliefs and lives experiences of those who created and utilized them (Sweeney, 2015).

UNESCO's recognition of certain artifacts highlights their significance in comprehending the breadth of human expression and experience (Smith, 2019). Some artifacts are deeply connected to moments of trauma and grief, while others hold spiritual meanings and are crucial to cultural heritage

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practices and beliefs. Artifacts that are also recovered from battlefields or conflict zones encapsulate the suffering and despair of soldiers, offering haunting glimpses into lives disrupted by armed conflict (Jones, 2021).

The haunting narratives associated with specific artifacts often emerge from traumatic and dark histories, serving as a means for individuals and communities to confront and articulate their pasts (Sweeney, 2015). The Egyptian community is no exception. Its cultural heritage represents a treasure trove of narratives, legends and myths that have been passed down from one generation to another and continue to inspire and captivate people worldwide. Egyptian narratives spanning from ancient mythological tales to contemporary accounts of daily life, have played a vital role in shaping cultural identity, through the transmission of oral traditions and folktales, and examining how these narratives influence the community's perceptions and values (Lindsay, 2020).

The discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb in 1922 by Howard Carter and Lord Carnarvon is one of the most significant events in the Egyptian cultural heritage. This remarkable discovery not only unveiled the wealth of the king but also sparked a worldwide interest in the ancient Egyptian civilization, shaping enigmatic and haunting narratives, archaeological pursuits and historical discovery. This find has been also woven into various accounts that have sustained the king's popularity and lasting fame, including narratives of the pharaohs' curse, the quest for immortality and the revealing of ancient secrets (Lekić, 2023). Moreover, the tomb contained numerous mysteries and surprises linked to its wealth of artifacts, particularly the trumpets which are infused with tales of curses and supernatural phenomena.

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dancers and musicians. (The Met, 2024)

2. The Significance of Trumpets in Ancient Egypt

The origins of trumpets can be traced back to the Pre-dynastic period, when early versions of horn instruments were used for ceremonial, signaling and communication purposes. These primitive horns evolved over time into more sophisticated trumpet-like instruments made from metals like bronze or silver (Müller, 2005). The earliest representations of trumpets in ancient Egypt date back to the Old Kingdom, where they were frequently illustrated being played alongside other musical instruments. The oldest known examples of trumpets are believed to have emerged during the Middle Kingdom period. They were often found in tombs, suggesting their significance in funerary practices and rituals (Manniche, 1991).

The ancient Egyptians used the word *šnb*  in hieroglyphs to refer to the trumpet. Furthermore, the ancient Egyptian expression *dd m šnb*, which is translated as “speak with/into trumpet”, is frequently used as a title for the trumpeter as well (Muga, 2019).

Trumpets held a profound significance beyond their musical function (Davis, 2013). They are often depicted accompanying royal processions and coronation ceremonies of the kings (Fig.1). The artistic representation of trumpets in processions and other events illustrates the Egyptian artisans' creativity, skills, and attention to details. These scenes provide a visual documentation of the cultural practices, traditions and beliefs associated with the trumpets in various aspects of the ancient Egyptian society (Meyer, 2015). Additionally, scenes depicting religious festivals and temple rituals often feature priests and musicians playing drums and military trumpets, as they are

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believed to honor the deities and facilitate communicating with them (Manniche, 1991). The resonant sound of the trumpets was thought to capture the attention of the gods, solicit their blessings, convey prayers and offerings, and indicate devotion and piety towards the revered deities. During rituals and ceremonies, various gods and goddesses, including Amon-Re, Horus, Anubis, Isis, Osiris, Hathor, and Thoth, were frequently invoked through the sounding of trumpets. (Davis, 2013).

Furthermore, trumpets were essential in military parades, victories, and triumphant processions. They were primarily used to convey messages over long distances on the battlefields. The sound of trumpets not only alerted soldiers but also rallied them and boosted their morale (Manniche, 1991). During crucial moments in battles, soldiers could also find inspiration in the psychological effects of the trumpets' sound. In this setting, trumpeters were often regarded as figures of authority on the battlefields, symbolizing the leadership and order of the military forces. Moreover, their presence demonstrated the discipline, unity, and strength of the Egyptian army (Smith, 2019).

3. Tutankhamun's Trumpets

A pair of trumpets were found in the burial chamber by Howard Carter during the excavation of the king's tomb in 1922. These trumpets are considered the earliest functioning trumpets in the world and the sole surviving samples from ancient Egypt. They were crafted from precious metals including silver and bronze or copper (Wilkinson, 2022).

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Both trumpets share a common construction of a ring, tube and bell. They are relatively lengthy; the bronze trumpet is about 50 cm long, while the silver trumpet is around 58 cm (Fox, 2020). The maximum diameters of the bells are 8.4 cm and 8.2 cm. Unlike modern brass instruments, these trumpets lacked



Fig. 2: The silver trumpet of Tutankhamun and its wooden protective core. (Fox, 2020).

the traditional mouthpieces. Instead, the mouth ends of the tubes were folded over a wire ring, creating an embouchure to produce a

resonant sound from the

instrument (Manniche, 1991). The trumpets had also wooden cores that were vividly painted and could have been used as protective inserts when the instruments weren't in use (Smith, 2019). They may also symbolize the connection between music and nature since they were frequently decorated to resemble lotus flowers. In many scenes, soldiers were often depicted with similar wooden support cores tucked under their arms, either while they are playing or held in their other hands. These wooden cores could have been served as the mandrels used during their construction which reflects both the ceremonial nature of the instrument and the advanced metallurgical skills of ancient Egyptian craftsmen (Montagu, 2014).

The silver trumpet is made of beaten silver with a golden mouthpiece and a decorative golden band at the bell (Fig. 2). The bell is decorated with a square panel bearing elaborate decorations featuring the Egyptian gods including Ptah, Amun-Ra and *R^c-hqr^ckhty* (Manniche, 1991). It is also adorned with a lotus-flower-like motif, symbolizing purity and rebirth, along with the king's cartouches positioned for visibility to the person blowing the instrument (The Global Egyptian Museum, 2024).

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The copper trumpet is made from copper alloy; however, some sources suggest it may be bronze (Fox, 2020). It features a gold overlay at both ends of the



Fig. 3: The copper trumpet of Tutankhamun and its wooden protective core. (Fox, 2020).

tube, while the central section retains the rich color of black ebony (Fig. 3). The bell is probably crafted from electrum and has decorative engravings depicting the king wearing the blue crown of war alongside lotus flower

motifs but is less ornate than its silver counterpart. A wooden core is also included, undoubtedly serving as a protective element when the instrument is not in use (Manniche, 1991).

After their discovery, these instruments were housed in the Egyptian Museum in Cairo along with other numerous artifacts unearthed from the tomb of Tutankhamun. Although museums are generally regarded as safe havens for such treasures, the bronze trumpet was among the various items stolen from the museum less than two decades after being put on display. Fortunately, a bag found on the Egyptian Metro contained the trumpet along with several other items, ensuring their return to history (Finn, 2011).

4. Tutankhamun Trumpets' Dark History and its Associated Haunting Narratives

The discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb was accompanied by a series of bizarre and tragic events that fueled *Egyptomania*, and the phenomenon known as *thtṃniʿ*, including the rise of the infamous “Curse of the Pharaohs”. This curse

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narrative was likely associated with various objects found in the tomb, potentially including the trumpets (Little, 2021). The media played a significant role in spreading haunting narratives, mixing scientific facts with fantasy, and capturing the public's imagination. Such narratives often mirror cultural anxieties and invoke the supernatural, implying that disturbing the resting place of the young pharaoh could provoke his wrath (Lekić, 2023).

The trumpets are frequently related to the ancient belief that certain sounds could trigger cosmic events or summon supernatural entities. This notion imbues them with a haunting presence, suggesting that each note played carries the depth of ancestral legacies and spiritual resonance (Hofmann, 2002). Over time, Tutankhamun's trumpets have become entwined in a web of intrigue, speculation, and myth-making that adds to their haunting allure. Narratives of supernatural events, unexplained phenomena, and mysterious deaths linked to the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb have further enriched the aura of mystery surrounding these artifacts (Luckhurst, 2012).

Historians believe that trumpets were employed by kings to rally their troops for battle (Little, 2021). The narratives surrounding Tutankhamun's trumpets are steeped in mystery, superstition, and historical significance, particularly concerning their alleged connection to war declarations. These instruments are often connected to a dark and mysterious history (Roberts, 2019). Furthermore, it has been proposed that the trumpets played a significant role in military campaigns or conflicts, serving as symbols of aggression or power. In addition, other haunting narratives indicate that the sound of these trumpets could summon spirits, invoke curses, or influence events beyond the realm of the living (Hofmann, 2002).

Moreover, the narratives associated with the "Curse of the Pharaohs" suggest that those who disturb the tombs of ancient Egyptian kings will face dire consequences (Jigoulov, 2024). This narrative gained prominence after the

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discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb, particularly following a series of unfortunate events involving individuals linked to the excavation. The trumpets, as artifacts from this tomb, became entwined in these tales of curses, with their sound being implicated in declaring wars (Roberts, 2019).

Due to their fragility, the sound of the trumpets has been replicated a few times since the time of their discovery. Reports describe the moment they were played again after more than three millennia as a painful experience. The narratives surrounding these trumpets gained further attention resulted from a series of coincidences (Finn, 2011).

4.1. The 1939 BBC Broadcast

In the spring of 1939, the BBC revealed plans to conduct a live broadcast featuring the extraordinary sound of Tutankhamun's trumpets for the first time in over 3,000 years. The Egyptian Antiquities Services was convinced to participate in this momentous event, which would be transmitted globally from the Egyptian Museum (Finn, 2011). Following this announcement, anxiety among the British populace began to increase as rumors of the Pharaohs' Curse spread worldwide. Despite prevalent apprehension, many remained fascinated and cautiously eager to hear how these ancient instruments would sound compared to their modern counterparts. Moreover, there was a curious interest in discovering whether the curse could somehow be transmitted through the radio waves. Ultimately, approximately 150 million listeners tuned in to the broadcast, anticipating a spectacular experience (Little, 2021).

In April 1939, radio presenter and documentary maker Rex Keating decided it was the time for the public to hear the sound of Tutankhamun's trumpets. An expert trumpeter was enlisted to play the instrument, and the accomplished

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bandsman James Tappern, who was a member of Prince Albert's 11th Royal Hussars regiment, was selected for this historic performance (Finn, 2011). Five minutes before the broadcast went live, Cairo suffered a blackout, and the museum was plunged into complete darkness. This incident could have been seen as an ominous sign, yet Rex Keating chose to proceed with the broadcast. He had to read his script by candlelight, while the rest of the BBC team also worked under the dim glow of candles (Lebée, 2020).



Fig. 4: The 1939 BBC Broadcast by James Tappern. (Lebée, 2020).

Rex Keating later recounted that during a rehearsal attended by king Farouk, the bell of the silver trumpet shattered like glass, however it is made of melted silver. As a result, Alfred Lucas, a member of Carter's team who was responsible for the restoration of the tomb's finds, was deeply distressed, left as shattered as the trumpet and in need of hospitalization. While it was later attributed to the crystallization of silver after being buried for thousands of years, this explanation did little to quell the public's fears about the pharaoh's curse (Finn, 2011).

During a subsequent broadcast, James Tappern stood before a studio microphone and inserted a modern mouthpiece into the instrument (Fig. 4), but this time it didn't break, and he played a haunting melody on both trumpets (Fig. 5), comprising only three notes that lasted for a continuous five minutes (Marie, 2019).

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Fig. 5: The trumpets performance from the 1939 broadcast. (Lebée, 2020).

James Tapper improvisation created "ear-splitting discord" since the trumpets were not designed to play more than one note at a time. The resulting sound offered a unique and haunting auditory experience (Robert, 2019).

In September 1939, four and a half months after the BBC broadcast, the German Military led by Hitler invaded Poland and Britain got involved in the Second World War (Marie, 2019). The ensuing conflict inflicted devastating consequences upon Britain, leaving deep scars on its society, economy and global standing. Moreover, it suffered significant casualties, with over 400,000 military and civilian deaths (Beavor, 2012). In the wake of the BBC broadcast and the onset of WWII, these instruments were nicknamed "Tut's Trumpets of War", leading the British public to associate the beginning of the conflict with these musical devices. Essentially, the trumpet sounds served as a symbolic catalyst for the war (Das, 2023). Thereafter, people across the globe started to link the playing of the trumpets with the catastrophic wars raging across Europe since these instruments were originally used to summon troops to combat in Ancient Egypt. After all, these artifacts were discovered in the burial chamber of King Tutankhamun, which was believed to be guarded by the Pharaohs' Curse. This legendary curse was said to bring sickness, mortality, and ailments upon anyone who dared to violate the tomb's seal (Little, 2021).

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4.2. The 1967 Six-Day War, The “Setback” or “*Al-Naksa*”

The haunting narratives associated with the cursed trumpets of king Tutankhamun continued to evolve as subsequent instances followed later performances of the trumpets. After about 30 years from the BBC broadcast, one of the curators of the Egyptian Museum in Tahrir Square attempted to refute the idea of declaration of wars and disasters occurring after blowing the trumpets, considering it a myth (Masahil, 2022). As a result, the silver trumpet was played again in 1967 to persuade the public that the ominous stories associated with Tutankhamun’s trumpets since the BBC broadcast were mere rumors. However, shortly after the trumpet was blown, the Six-Day War between Israel and its neighboring countries erupted (Farid, 2022).

The Six-Day War of 1967 was a pivotal military confrontation between Israel and a coalition of Arab states, including Egypt, Jordan, and Syria. The conflict was ignited by rising tensions, particularly the mobilization of Egyptian forces and the closure of the Tiran Straits, actions that Israel interpreted as a direct threat (Hirschfeld, 2024). Israel's preemptive strike on June 5 led to the destruction of the Egyptian air force and rapid ground victories. Estimates indicate that Egypt incurred between 10,000 to 15,000 military casualties, along with significant civilian losses (Gat, 2005). This war not only redrew territorial boundaries but also transformed the geopolitical landscape, leaving lasting effects on Arab-Israeli relations. For Egypt, the most immediate fallout was the loss of the Sinai Peninsula, which was a substantial territory both in size and strategic importance. The region not only provided Egypt with access to the Red Sea but also played a key role in its military strategy against Israel (Oren, 2002).

The defeat in the Six-Day War had profound psychological effects on both the Egyptians and the broader Arab world (Muhammad, Yehia and Kandil, 2017).

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Furthermore, a belief emerged suggesting that the events leading to the conflict were somehow linked to the sound of Tutankhamun's trumpets, which were believed to have cursed properties capable of summoning soldiers and provoking war (Doe, 2021).

4.3. The 1990 Gulf War

According to Egyptologist Hala Hassan, the curator of Tutankhamun's collection at the Egyptian Museum, who advocates for the notion that the trumpets are cursed, these instruments are said to contain "magical powers", suggesting that "whenever someone blew into one, a war would break out" (Hamdy, 2024; Egypt Museum, 2022). Perhaps tempting fate, one of the trumpets was played again by anonymous students who were conducting a study on Tutankhamun's collection at the Egyptian Museum. Shortly after this incident, the Gulf War broke out in 1990 (Strom, 2017)

The Gulf War, referred to as the First Gulf War or the Persian Gulf War, began on August 2, 1990, and officially ended on February 28, 1991. It was a significant conflict initiated by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait to control the rich oil fields of Kuwait to boost the Iraqi's economy (Freedman and Karsh, 1993). This invasion was met with widespread condemnation, promoting the United Nations to swiftly impose economic sanctions on Iraq and demand with the withdrawal of Iraqi forces. In response to this invasion, a coalition of 34 countries led by the United States was formed (Lieber, 2001).

The Gulf War led to the displacement of hundreds of thousands of people in both Kuwait and Iraq, leaving lasting implications for the Middle East and global politics. The war had catastrophic effects on human lives. While estimates of casualties differ, it is believed that the coalition forces experienced

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approximately 300 fatalities, with thousands more injured. In contrast, Iraqi military and civilian casualties are estimated to be significantly higher, with estimates suggesting between 20,000 and over 100,000 military deaths, along with tens of thousands of civilian casualties due to military operations and the subsequent humanitarian crisis (Al-Tamimi, 2012).

When the Gulf War occurred nearly seventy years after the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb, rumors began to circulate suggesting that sounding these trumpets could summon disastrous events. There was speculation that blowing the trumpets might herald apocalyptic scenarios, echoing the historical context of ancient Egypt, where trumpet blasts often accompanied significant events (Carmen, 2020).

Many believe that the atmosphere created by the Gulf War, filled with tension and fears of ecological disaster caused by oil spills and burning oil wells, further amplified narratives that connected ancient prophecies with modern conflicts. Certain media outlets suggested foreboding signs related to the "Trumpets of Tutankhamun," intertwining ancient lore with contemporary military action (Katz, 1991).

4.4. The 2011 Revolution

The ancient Egyptians believed that Tutankhamun's trumpets possessed magical properties and even some modern Egyptians agree on their abilities of the declaration of wars and conflicts (Doe, 2021). Egyptologist Hala Hassan reported that a week before the 2011 revolution, a staff member at the Egyptian Museum staff allegedly sounded one of Tutankhamun's trumpets during a photographing session (Egypt Museum, 2022). This event occurred during a visit to the museum by a Japanese grant delegation to Egypt, referred to as "JICA" (Gioia, 2023). Soon thereafter, violence erupted in the streets of Egypt as millions took to the street, the government struggled to maintain order and the 2011 revolution broke out (Strom, 2017).

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The 2011 Egyptian Revolution marked a significant turning point in Egypt's history, commencing on January 25, 2011, with widespread protests driven by dissatisfaction with political repression, corruption, economic struggles, and social injustice (El-Ghobashy, 2011). The protesters were primarily organized through social media platforms, enabling a coalition of diverse groups including youth activists, labor unions, and political parties to unite. Tahrir Square in Cairo emerged as the epicenter of the movement, symbolizing the demand for democratic reforms (Khoury, 2013). Tragically, hundreds of protesters lost their lives during the 18-day uprising, highlighting the violent repression faced by demonstrators. These protests witnessed confrontations between civilians and police forces which resulted in numerous injuries and fatalities (Schapals, 2018).

On January 28, 2011, during a day of intense clashes between protesters and police, the Egyptian Museum was breached. Amid the turmoil, looters took advantage of the chaos to invade the museum and vandalize its exhibits. The museum's security systems were inadequate to cope with the situation, and many valuable artifacts were damaged and over 50 items, including Tutankhamun's trumpets, statues, jewelry, and other objects were stolen (Cuno, 2011).

The theft garnered extensive media attention which raised global awareness of the threats to Egypt's cultural heritage and the lore surrounding the cursed trumpets. The person who stole the trumpet in 2011 may have feared consequences whether magical or otherwise (Gioia, 2023). In March 2011, police found a bag containing several stolen items from the Egyptian Museum in a Cairo metro station. This bag included various objects that had been

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reported missing from the museum. The police swiftly secured and cataloged the recovered items and began the process for their restoration and return to the museum (Al-Hakim, 2012).

The 2011 Revolution along with the narratives surrounding Tutankhamun's trumpets, and their alleged curse illustrate the complex interplay between history, culture, and politics in Egypt. The concept of the curse resonates with the broader themes of the revolution. Similar to the curse's implication of consequences for those who disrespect the past, the revolution was a response to decades of neglect and misgovernance. Many Egyptians felt that the political elites had betrayed the legacy of their ancestors, leading to a renewed call for accountability and justice (Rizk, 2011).

4.5. Contemporary Haunting Narratives

The *Tutankhamun: Treasures of the Golden Pharaoh* exhibition at the Saatchi Gallery in London, held from November 2, 2019, to May 3, 2020, served as a notable tribute to the centenary of Howard Carter's discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb. The exhibition showcased over 150 artifacts from Tutankhamun's tomb, including items that had never been before displayed outside Egypt. This event marked the third stop in a global tour aimed at commemorating the discovery of the king's tomb. Among the exhibition's most fascinating artifacts was the silver trumpet which has been linked to various haunting narratives and superstitions, particularly regarding its alleged curse (Saatchi Gallery, 2019).

As the exhibition approached, rumors of the curse began to spread, creating a mix of anticipation and apprehension among the people of London. Articles were published, documentaries were broadcast, and discussions flourished about the idea that anyone who encountered Tutankhamun's treasures could be subject to serious repercussions (Edwards, 2019).

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As the exhibition neared its conclusion in early 2020, the world faced an unprecedented challenge with the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Just as interest peaked for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to view Tutankhamun's treasures, public health concerns led to widespread closures and restrictions (Jones and Taylor, 2020). The Saatchi Gallery ultimately closed its doors on March 17, 2020, ahead of its scheduled end date. The unexpected turn of events added a new dimension to the haunting narrative surrounding Tutankhamun's treasures. Many interpreted the pandemic as an extension of the curse associated with the artifacts—an ironic twist that highlighted the deep-rooted nature of these legends in contemporary culture. The interplay between historical artifacts like the trumpets and modern events such as the COVID-19 pandemic reveals how narratives evolve over time, reflecting society's fears and fascinations (Williams, 2022).

As of October 2024, it was announced that more than 220 artifacts from Tutankhamun's collection would be relocated from the Egyptian Museum in Tahrir to the Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM) ahead of its official opening. The GEM, set to be one of the largest archaeological museums in the world, is located near the Giza Pyramids and aims to showcase Egypt's rich heritage, including the treasures of Tutankhamun (Tag, 2024). The transfer of these artifacts represents a significant milestone in Egypt's efforts to manage and preserve its cultural heritage. Among the treasures being moved are the famous trumpets, which are notable for their exquisite craftsmanship and their historical and ceremonial role in ancient Egypt. The GEM intends to present the Tutankhamun collection in a manner that narrates the story of the young

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pharaoh's life and death, intertwining these narratives with the broader cultural context of ancient Egyptian civilization (Tawfik, 2017).

The official grand opening of the GEM is scheduled for July 3, 2025 (Asaad, 2025; Taha, 2025). The inauguration ceremony is anticipated to be a remarkable spectacle, showcasing a fusion of traditional and modern performances. A standout feature of the event is a planned performance involving the ancient trumpets of Tutankhamun, which hold both historical and cultural importance (Smith, 2023). The blowing of these trumpets during the opening ceremony is intended to honor the legacy of Tutankhamun and the rich history of Egypt. The performance is also expected to draw considerable media attention and global interest since the trumpets are believed to possess magical properties capable of invoking wars and dire consequences (Jones, 2022).

As preparations for the museum's opening progress, the haunting narratives associated with Tutankhamun's collection, particularly the trumpets, have resurfaced. Some may view the sounding of the trumpets as a foreboding omen, amplifying concerns about broader geopolitical unrest. The legends surrounding these artifacts have gained new significance, particularly amid rising global tensions and fears of a potential Third World War (Williams, 2023). Furthermore, speculation has emerged that playing or even displaying these ancient instruments could provoke unforeseen consequences in today's geopolitical landscape. The idea that ancient artifacts might possess powers that influence modern events reflects deep-seated anxieties about history repeating itself and humanity's inability to escape its past. Moreover, the contrast between the celebratory act of blowing the trumpets and the anxiety surrounding imminent global conflict highlights the tension between the appreciation of the practices of the ancient Egyptian cultural heritage and confronting contemporary fears (Johnson, 2022).

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5. Conclusions

In conclusion, Tutankhamun's trumpets serve as a powerful reminder of the connection between the past and present, encouraging further exploration of Egypt's rich history and the enigmas that continue to captivate public interest. The dark history and haunting narratives associated with these "Cursed Trumpets" provide a valuable framework to examine the dynamic relationship between cultural heritage and storytelling. In this context, UNESCO highlights the significance of storytelling as an essential aspect of cultural heritage, acknowledging that these narratives enrich the appreciation of cultural expressions while fostering a sense of belonging and continuity within communities. Additionally, they exemplify how historical artifacts intertwine with mythology and cultural heritage memory, reflecting broader themes such as power, mortality, and humanity's fascination with ancient civilizations (Bauman, 2006)

As contemporary audiences explore the legacy of Tutankhamun, they are confronted with a complex history that symbolizes both the splendor of an ancient civilization and the chilling stories sparked by its artifacts. Indeed, the trumpets' haunting narratives and relevant events fueled sensational media coverage and popularized the idea of a curse connected to the king's burial site and its treasures, including the trumpets (Simpson, 2006). Although the truth of such a curse remains a topic for debate, the dark stories of the deaths that were connected to it have become an enduring element of the tomb's lore. Furthermore, the trumpets have inevitably become wrapped up in this narrative of intrigue due to their considerable cultural and historical value. The belief that they could harbor a malevolent spirit or serve as vessels for the pharaoh's

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wrath resonates with those who are inclined to believe in the supernatural, further reinforcing the mysterious aura of these artifacts, particularly in relation to declarations of wars. Historical events, such as the outbreak of World War II and various regional conflicts have provided a fertile ground for speculation and mythmaking (Williams, 2019).

These tales not only ignite curiosity, enticing both scholars and tourists to explore Egypt's cultural heritage, archaeological treasures and mysterious artifacts, but also underscore the profound relationship between cultural memory and identity. Therefore, Tutankhamun's trumpets embody narratives that continue to resonate and attract audiences worldwide as they prepare for the opening ceremony of the Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM). This illustrates the transformative power of storytelling in preserving cultural heritage, fostering the collective memory of communities and ensuring the continuity of cultural traditions and practices. Moreover, these dark tales strengthen the notion that they are living narratives that continue to influence contemporary cultural expressions and identities regardless of their accuracy. Ultimately, they foster a sense of intrigue that guarantees Tutankhamun's legacy and name will continue to reverberate for future generations.

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الملخص العربي

لا يزال الإرث الغامض للملك توت عنخ آمون مصدرًا للإثارة لكل من العلماء والهواة علي حد سواء. ومن بين الكنوز الرائعة التي أكتُشفت داخل مقبرته أبواقه الشهيرة، والتي أصبحت قطعًا أثرية غامضة متشابكة مع العديد من الروايات المروعة من التراث المصري. فهذه الأبواق مشبعة بأساطير اللعنات والسرديات المظلمة والتي تشكل جزءًا كبيرًا من نسيج الثقافة المصرية وإرث الفرعون الشاب. يهدف هذا البحث إلى إستكشاف الروايات المعقدة والتاريخ المظلم المحيط بأبواق توت عنخ آمون، والتي يشار إليها غالبًا بإسم ”الأبواق الملعونة“، وكيفية تأثيرها على التصورات الحديثة، بما في ذلك إرتباطها المزعوم بإعلان الحروب. كما يحقق كذلك في الدلالة الرمزية لهذه الآلات ضمن السياق الأوسع للطقوس الجنائزية المصرية والمناظر الاجتماعية والسياسية من خلال نهج متعدد التخصصات يدمج بين علم الآثار والتراث الثقافي والتاريخ. بالإضافة إلى ذلك، يفحص البحث الدور المزدوج للأبواق بإعتبارها قطعًا أثرية هامة من التراث الثقافي المصري القديم ومحفزًا للأساطير الحديثة والفولكلور الثقافي. علاوة على ذلك، يسلط هذا البحث الضوء على التأثير الدائم للقطع الأثرية الثقافية في سرد تعقيدات التجربة الإنسانية عبر الزمن.