

**Reconsidering two
Monuments found at karnak
(pls.I-5)**

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Reconsidering two Monuments found at Karnak* (pls.1-5)

Mansour El-Noubi**

The topic of this article presents an attempt to study and offer some new remarks concerning the gate and the fragment of lintel that were uncovered among the numerous monuments at Karnak by the Egypt Exploration Fund. The two monuments had been built by Tuthmosis II¹, who, inspite of his short reign, contributed to establishing the buildings in the temple of Amun at karnak. ²

The gate with the fragment of lintel, the subject of this article, formed a very important and distinguished style of the buildings erected in the complex of karnak during the New Kingdom period. They manifest archaeological evidence of the architectural activities that date back, with certainty, to this time.³

* For important comments I am especially indebted to. Luc Gabolde, for his approval to study and republish these interesting monuments.

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¹ Edgerton, W. F., *The Thutmoside Succession*. Chicago, 1933 passim: Rosalie and Antony E. David, *A Biographical Dictionary of Ancient Egypt*, London 1992, pp. 159ff.

² D. forbes, Akheperenre, The all-But -Forgotten Thutmosis in: *KMT* vol. 11, no.2, summer 2000, 63-75. (this article about the king Thutmosis II is an adaptation of a chapter from the Auther's forthcoming book, *Imperial Lives: Illustrated Biographical Sketches of Significant New Kingdom, Volume I, The Early Eighteenth Dynasty*, to be published by *KMT*: As with most reigns of the New Kingdom, there is little scholarly agreement on the length or exact time-frame of Akheperenre Thutmosis II's period on the throne. Some of the options are: Baines and Malek, 1492-1479; BC; Dodson, 1491-1479; Clayton, 1518-1504; Montet, 1510-1490; Grimal, 1493-1479; Steindorff and Seele, 1508-1504; Montet, 1510-1490.

³ for the preliminary mentioning for these blocks see: H. Chevrier, in *ASAE* 36, 1936, p. 137, id., *ASAE* 38, p. 600: id., *ASAE* 47, 1947,p.172): id., *ASAE* 50 1950, p. 433: B. Letellier, « La cour à peristyle de Thoutmosis IV à Karnak (et la «cour des fetes» de

The gate and the fragment of the lintel, the subject of this article, have been built by Thutmosis II between the fifth and sixth pylons and later on were enlarged by Thutmosis III. But unfortunately their blocks were dismantled and reused during the rule of kings Thutmosis IV and Amenhotep III.⁴

The style and the workmanship of the two monuments, which will be discussed in the following pages are very useful, the figures (all in sunk relief) are well drawn and the composition of the scenes is pleasing and the hieroglyphs are well designed.⁵

1. The Gate

1.1. The archaeological circumstances of the blocks of the gate.

The blocks of the gate and the fragment of the lintel in question bearing the name of Thutmosis II have been already mentioned by L. Gabolde in his publication of the monuments of Thutmosis II at karnak in (Cahiers de Kanak VIII, IX). They were discovered by Mohammed Abdul-Qader and Legrain during the restoration works carried at the third pylon at karnak temple, where most of the Thutmosis II' structures at karnak were dismantled a few generations later - probably by Amenhotep III. Some of them were used as filler in the third pylon, preseving them for posterity. For these reasons, the gate with the lintel fragment of Thutmosis II found was broken into several pieces, together with a lintel of Thutmosis IV. These blocks were removed away from

Thoutmosis II Hommages Sauneron I 1979, p. 51-71, fig. 3: Th. Zimmer, Un Linteau fragmentaire de La XVIIIe dynastie, in: Karnak VIII (1982-1985), p. 307-308 PL. VIII B: Luc Gabolde in Cahier de Karnak IX 1993, p. 27-28, pl.XV11, fig.15.

⁴ Luc Gabolde, op. cit., p. 48-49: id., La chronologie du regne de Thutmosis II in: *SAK* 14, 1987, pp. 61-8.

⁵ Chevrier, *ASAE* 51 1951, figs. 1, 2: J. Leclant, *RdE* 8 (1951), pl. I,VIII. For parallel of this lintel see: Nimes, Places about Thebes, in: *JNES* 14 1955, P.118, 123 n.30, 32: PM. 11, p.72: P. Barguet, Le temple d' Amon Re à Karnak (*RAPH* 21), 1962, p. 78-79, 86, 94-96, 308. Abduel Qader Mahmmad, *ASAE* 59 1966, P. 150-151, pl. VIII, XIII: Yoyotte, Un porche dore: La porte du IVe pylone au grand temple de Karnak, *CdE* 28, n. 55 (Janvier 1953), p. 28-38: D. Forbes, Op. cit., p. 74-75.

their discovery place and scattered for a long time around the temple of Montu.⁶

1.2. The already published information on the blocks:



The monuments of Thutmosis II originated from karnak and dated to his reign are quite few, and unfortunately most of them were usurped or totally damaged. For example, the gate has been found in a very bad state of preservation and some of its blocks were reused during the time of Thutmosis IV and Amenhotep III.

Although the gate of Thutmosis II, is mentioned and briefly, described by Luc Gabolde in *Karnak IX*, 1993, p. 27, 28. Unfortunately, the gate was never studied in detail and it is, therefore, the subject of this study.⁷

1.3. Measurements and description:

The limestone lintel of this gate is 3,75 m long, 2, 2,15 m high, and 1,20 m. thick. The south door jamb is 1.57 m. long, 3.20 m. high, and 1.40 m. thick. The north door jamb is 1,17 m. long, 3,35 m. high, and 1,70 m. thick.

The incomplete lintel consists of four pieces. Two main fragments at its left side with two smaller fragments at its central part are missing. Most of decoration about two third of the lintel are defaced (disfigured).


The whole composition of the lintel is topped by the sky sign  supported on both sides by the  scepters (symbol of dominion.) Below the sky, still above the central pair of the standing figures of Amon (one figure of him at the right side is missing except the two plums of his crown are preserved) there is a sun disk with outstretched wings and with two pendent uraei on both sides of the disk.⁸

The god Amon appears on the scenes of the lintel on its both sides, facing two vertically cartouches containing the name of the

⁶ L. Gabolde, *op.cit.*, 48-49.

⁷ P. Bargout *op. cit.*, p. 85, n 7, n 3., see also B. Letellier (*Hommage Sauneron I*, p. 69, for the preliminary study of this gate see L. Gabolde, *op.cit.*, 27-28.

⁸ For a similar arrangement see H. G. Fisher, *The Orientation of hieroglyphs I, Reversals*, 20, 92-97, figs. 18: 21.

king Thutmosis II,⁹ unfortunately the right one is missing. The god Amon wears his typical high crown with two plums. He is also dressed in an identical tight kilt with a bull's tail fastened to his belt. He is extending his right arm towards the king's name with a  *nh*-sign, the symbol of life. His left arm holds the same sign hanging down at his side.¹⁰


1.4. Reconstruction of the gate

As it is pointed out, the gate has been reconstructed in 1997 in its preserving place at the Open Air Museum by the Egyptian-French team work of restoration who joined the blocks together and filled the gaps. Also the fragmentary text of the lintel was restored and completed by parallels found in other gates from the same period:¹¹

1.4.1. Translations and comments upon the inscriptions

The texts of the gate, in general, are restored and completed as follows:¹²

1.4.1.1. The central cartouche of Thutmosis II reads :

() *n-sw-bit*(v) *nb irt 3-hpr-n-R^c { di=f nh }*.

The king of upper and Lower Egypt, lord of fulfilling the rites (Aakhper-en-Re) (great is the form of Re) granted life.¹³

The epithet relating to the winged sundisk, which means the personification of the Horus from Behdet, is preserved on both sides of the lintel and it reads as :¹⁴

⁹ J. Von Becrath, *Handbuch der ägyptische Königsnamen*, MAS 20, 1984, p. 225-226: For the reign of Thutmosis II see D. Forbes, *op. cit.*, p. 63 f. A common epithet associated with the god Amon or Amon- Re see: Barguet, *op. cit.*, 150.

¹⁰ Le Saout, Maarouf, Zimmer, Karnak VIII, p. 303.

¹¹ The fragmentary texts of our monuments are restored by parallels found in the same period at karnak. For example, the complete gates belong to Thutmosis IV and Amenhotep III. see L. Gabolde, *op. cit.*, p. 36-37.

¹² L. Gabolde, *op. cit.*, p. 48-49.

¹³ J. Von Becrath, *op. cit.*, p. 225-226.

¹⁴ In the inscription, there are two different toponyms referring to Edfu: Behdet in terms of the sanctuary of Horus at Edfu and Mesen, probably a broader term referring to the Edfu settlement as a whole

Bḥdti ntr ʕ, nb pt di=f (ʕnh)

"The Behdeti, the great god, lord of the sky. May he be given (life)

1.4.1.2. The inscription of the left part of the lintel:

(←) *Bḥdti, ntr ʕ nb pt } di(=f) ʕnh*

"The Behdeti, the great god, lord of the sky May he be given life". The inscription (begins from outside to inside): where the god Amon grant ʕnh-sign, the symbol of life to Horus who stands on the palace facade (serekh) followed by the erased cartouche of the king Thutmosis II.

(↘) *Hr k3 nḥt wsr pḥt(i)*

s3 R^c n ḥ.t=f Dḥwty- ms nḏty R^c

The victorious bull Wser pḥty, the son of Re, beget (him) from his body, Thutmosis II nḏty-R^c.¹⁵

1.4.1.3. The upper inscription (above the columns) is:

(←) *di ʕnh ḏ.t* (who is granted eternally life)

1.4.1.4. The lower column under the god reads:

(↘) *Imn R^c nb pt* (Amon-Re lord of the sky.)¹⁶

1.4.1.5. The column in front of the god reads:



(←↘) *di ʕnh nb ḏd w3s nb* The one who is given all life, all stability and force.

1.4.1.6. The caption at the back of the god reads:

(↘) *ḏd mdw: di.n(=i) n=k ʕnh, w3s snb nb mi R^c*

Words to be spoken: I have given to you all life and force, all health like Re

The inscription in the central part mentions Wadjet.

In this part, the goddess Wadjet stands upon the  nb-sign, holding the  sn-circle, the scene is surrounded by a papyrus flower.

1.4.1.7. The text under the goddess reads:

(↘) *W3ḏt di=s ʕnh w3s mi R^c ḏ.t*

see: H. G. Fisher, *Reversals* 20, fig. 18: 2: A. Gardiner, *JEA* 30, 1944, 23-60; Zibelius, *Ägyptische Siedlungen*, 102-105; D. Kurt, *GM* 142, 1994, 93-100.

¹⁵ J. Von Bécraeth, *Handbuch der ägyptische Königsnamen MAS* 20, p.225-226.



¹⁶ P. Barguet, *op. cit.*, 150.

Wadjet, she is given life and force eternally like Re.

1.4.1.8. The caption at back of the goddess reads:

(↙→) *W3dt Dp P nb.t p.t m hnw pr-Mnw hnw.t ntr.w.*¹⁷

Wadjet of Dep and Pe, mistress of the sky, in Pr-Mnw, lady of the gods.¹⁸

1.4.1.9. In the south part of the lintel, Amon is represented standing and facing left and he is granting the  *nh*-sign, the symbol of life to the name of the king as  *s3-Rc* Thutmose II.

(↙) *Hr k3 nh.t wsr pht(i)*

Horus, the strong bull wser-phty

s3 Rc Dhwtj ms ndty-Rc, d.t (nh)

the son of Re Djhwty Mes (may he be given) eternally life.

1.4.1.10. Under these columns read:

(→) *di nh {nhh}* The one who is given life {eternally}

1.4.1.11. The caption under the god reads:

(↙→) *Imn-Rc nb p.t* Amon-Re the lord of sky.¹⁹



(the column of the text in front of the god is disappeared)

(↙→) *di nh nb dd w3s nb* (The one who is) given all life, all stability and force.

1.4.1.12. The column behind the figure of the god Amon reads:

(↙→) *dd mdw: di n(=i) n=k nh w3s nb snb mi Rc*

"Words to be spoken: (I) have given to you {all} life and force {all health (prosperity) like Re.

1.4.1.13. In the middle part of the lintel stands the goddess *Nhbt* above the  *nb*-sign with lotus-blossom, giving the  *sn*-circle to the king. The inscriptions under the goddess reads:

(↙) *Nhbt (hd.t) di=s nh w3s mi Rc d.t.*

Nekhbet, (the white one) of Nekhn, she is given life and dominion eternally.

¹⁷ Bonnet, *RARG*, p. 853-854.

¹⁸ Wadjet, Mistress of sanctuary of *Pr-nw* see D. Arnold, *LÄ IV* (1982) col.932-933: id., *Lexicon der ägyptischen Baukunst*, 189. For parallel see Chevrier, *ASAE* 27 (1927), pl.6.

¹⁹ A common epithet associated with the god Amon-Re, see P. Barguet, *temple d' Amon-Re à Karnak*, 150.

1.4.1.14. The caption at back of Nekhbet reads:

(←↓) *Nhb.t hḏ.t n Nhn*

Nekhbet the white one of Nekhen.²⁰

1.4.2. The inscription of the two door jambs can also be reconstructed as follows

1.4.2.1. Left door jamb: (west ›), Its inscription disposed in three vertical lines of texts

{a} *Hr k3 nht wsr-phṯy nṯr nfr ʿ3-hpr-n-R^c mry Imn nb n sw(t) t3wy di ʿnh mi R^c ḏ.t*

Horus, the strong bull victorious, Wser Phtj, the good god Aa-kheper-en-Re beloved of Amon, lord of the thrones of the two lands, who is given life eternally like Re.

{b} *Nbty n-sw(t)-bity n-sw(t) nṯr.w s3 Imn Djhwty-mis ndjty R^c mry Imn R^c nsw(t) nṯr.w di ʿnh mi R^c ḏ.t*

Who belongs to the two ladies (goddesses), the King of gods, the son of Amon, Djhwty-Mes Ndjty-Re, beloved of Amon-Re the king of the gods, who is given eternally life like Re.

{c} *Hr nwb šhm hprw nb h^c.w it hḏ.t nfr n-sw(t)-bity (ʿ3-hpr-n-R^c) mry Imn-R^c hr tpy t3.wy nb p.t di ʿnh mi R^c ḏ.t*

The golden Horus Sekhem-Kheperu, lord of diadems, who wears the beautiful and white crown, the king of upper and lower Egypt Aa-kheper-en-Re, beloved of Amon-Re, who is upon the two lands, lord of the sky, who is given life eternally like Re.

1.4.2.2. The inscriptions of the left door-jamb are repeated at the south door jamb on three vertical lines, unfortunately their state of preservation are lesser than the right one, though they are reconstructed as follows:

{a} *hr k3 nht wsr phṯi nṯr nfr ʿ3-hpr-n-R^c mry Imn nb nsw(t) t3wy di ʿnh mi R^c ḏ.t*

Horus, the strong bull victorious, Wser Phtj, the good god Aa-kheper-en-Re beloved of Amon, lord of the thrones of the two lands, who is given life eternally likes Re.²¹

²⁰

A similar epithets of Nkhbet were found at Deir el- Bahri see: D. Naville, Deir el Bahri, pl. 35, *Nhbt, hḏt Nhn, 3wt-ʿ, nbt F^cg, nbt pt, hnwt nṯrwt*. For *3wt-ʿ* see: Wbl, 5, 6, about *F^cg* see: Brugsch, Dic. Geogr. (1879), p. 243; Gauthier, D.G., II, 160; Montet, Geogr. de L'Égypte Ancienne, II (1961), 44; Wbl, 576,6-9; De Wit, Opet III (1968), 47,3; Ph. Derchain, Elkab I (1971), p. 41, 49.

{b} *Nbty n-sw(t)-bity nsw(t) ntr.w s3 Imn Djhwti-ms ndty R^c mry Imn R^c n-sw(t) ntr.w di 'nh mi R^c d.t*

(The king who) belongs to the two ladies, the king of gods, the son of Amon, Djhwti Mes Nedjty Re, beloved of Amon-Re, the king of the gods, who is given eternally life like Re.

{c} *Hr nbw shm hprw nb h'w it h'd.t nfr n-sw(t)-bity ('3-hpr-n-R^c) mry Imn-R^c hr tpy t3.wy nb p.t di 'nh mi R^c d.t.*²²

The golden Horus Sekhem-Kheperu, lord of diadems, who wears the beautiful and white crown, the king of upper and lower Egypt Aa-kheper-en-Re, beloved of Amon Re, who is upon the two lands, lord of the sky, who is given life eternally like Re.²³

2. Fragment of lintel of Thutmosis II:

This fragment of the lintel was found by Legrain in the depres "de la cour de la Cachette" foundation sector A, in front of the 4th Pylon at Karnak. It is more probably formed main gate for the festival hall and some of its blocks used as filler in the third pylon erected by Amenhotep III. and is now stored in the open air museum at karnak under the registration number B 111(LG 403).²⁴

2.1. Measurments and discription:

2.1.1. The fragment of limestone lintel measure 135 cm long, 114,5 cm high and 91 cm thick. The surface of the block is relatively well preserved except on the right part and the left corner of the relief being completely lost. Both the relief and the inscriptions are made in sunken relief. The incomplete monument consists of two main pieces. The right part with the lower corner of the left part being completely lost.

2.1.2. The decoration of the fragmentary relief arranged into two symmetrical groups facing towards the center (the right part is



²¹ For the similar arrangement of the epithets associated with Amon (*Nb 3wy nb h'w*) see Urk. IV 1688, 9, 1694, 9.

²² The golden Horus name is more disputed. Some high authorities have supposed, that the monogram symbolized Horus as victorious over *Nbt* (y), the Ombite i.e the god Set who was worshipped at Ombos near the modern Kus. For more details see: A. Gardiner, *Egyptian Grammar*, and p.73.

²³ Ibid, p. 73.

²⁴ L. Gabolde, *Karnak VIII*, 1982-1985, p.307, pl. VIII B.

missing but there is a fair possibility that it was identical with that situated on the left side.)

2.1.3. The whole composition of the lintel is topped by the sky sign  *p.t* supported by the  *w3s*-scepters. Below the sky above the central pair of the standing figures of Amon and the king (were lost) still the winged sun disk with two uraei on both sides of the disk (the feathers of wings only remain).

2.2. Translations and comments upon the inscriptions

2.2.1. The epithet relating to the winged sun, the personification of the Horus from Behdet, is preserved on the left side of the lintel and it reads:²⁵

1- (←) *Bḥdti, nṯr ʿ3 s3b-šwt nb p.t di=f ʿnh*

The Behdeti, the great god with colored plume, lord of the sky; (May) he be given life.²⁶

2.2.2. The symmetrically placed horizontal inscription to the right of the sun disk with outstretched wings is missing but it should be identical with the left side as follows:

(←) *Bḥdti, nṯr ʿ3 s3b-šwt, nb p.t (Msn) di=f ʿnh*

The Behdeti, the great god with the colored plume, lord of the sky (or lord of Mesen?) May he be given life.²⁷

In the above mentioned inscriptions and in the traditional texts of the New Kingdom documents, there are two different toponyms referring to Edfu: Behdet in terms of the sanctuary of Horus at Edfu and Mesen, probably a broader term referring to the Edfu settlement as a whole.²⁸

The goddess Nekhbet closes the procession of gods on the left side of the lintel. (Disappeared) In her hands she holds two long palm fronds, symbols of million of years, in front of her the god Set, which the upper part of his ear only remain

²⁵ For the similar arrangement of epithets associated with the sun disk see: L. Habachi, Tell Basta, fig.2.

²⁶ A.H. Gardiner, *JEA* 30, 1944, 23ff.

²⁷ For epithet, lord of Mesen see: H. Altenmüller, *LÄ* III, 1980, col. 36-39, Vernus, *LÄ* IV (1982), col. 108-109.

²⁸ Gauthier, *Dictionnaire* III, 60: D. Kurth, Edfu. Ein ägyptischer Tempel gesehen mit den Augen der alten Ägypter, 68: Kurth, *Treffpunkt der Götter*, 302: Vernus, *LÄ* VI, 1986, 323-331.

2.2.3. The column below Nekhbet reads:

(↙→) *di=s ṅḥ nb dd w3s nb* (May) She be given all life, all stability and dominion.

Nḥb.t ḥd.t Nḥn, 3wt-ḥt3w Nekhbet, the white one of Nekhen, stretch (its) sail{?}

nb.t p.t mistress of the sky

ḥnw.t ntr.w mistress of the gods.²⁹

2.2.4. The columns below the god reconstructed on three vertical lines reads as follows:

(↙→) *di=f ṅḥ nb dd w3s nb* (May) He be given all life, all stability and dominion.

Nbt(y) nb t3 šmḥ

Ombite, lord of the south,

ḥnt sis.w

who settel in Sesou

2.2.5. The column behind the god reads:

(↙→) *dd mdw: di.n (=i) n=k rnp.wt nḥḥ ḥḥ hr ist-hr d.t mi Rḥ*

Words to be spoken: I have given to you eternal years (may you) appear on the throne of Horus eternally like Re.³⁰

For the bad state of preservation of this monument, specially the right part which is totally missing, the two cartouches of the king Thutmosis II in front of the figure of the god Amon in both sides were missing.

It seems that the king represents the central motif of the scene of this lintel. He is being offered by Amon (the main god of Thebes) and Horus and Nekhbet and Seth respectively.

2.3. Conclusion



A number of results can be drawn from the evidence presented in the previous pages as follows:

2.3.1. Our monument from Karnak is almost identical with the previously mentioned gate of the same king where the god Amon seemingly a principal god worshipped in karnak.

2.3.2. The design at the top of the lintel helps in determining a date in the beginning of eighteenth dynasty lintels. Some of iconography details place the lintel of the eighteenth dynasty for the piece, as the upper decoration is typical of the period of the

²⁹ for other epithets of Nkhbet see: M. H Van Voss, *LÄ IV* (1980), col.366- 367.

³⁰ For the Throne of Horus as Edfu see: Gauthier, *Dictionnaire V*, 84: also Legrain, *ASAE IV*, 1903, p. 13.

New Kingdom: the whole composition of the lintel topped by the sky sign  p.t supported by the  w3s-scepter and the winged sun disk with two uraei occurs most frequently during that period.

2.3.3. The terminology of the epithet relating to the winged sun disk, the personification of Horus from Behdet refers to the same date.

2.3.4. The exact provenance spot of the monument is the third pylon built by Amenhotep III but its original position is in the festival hall erected by Thutmose II between the fifth and the sixth pylon.

Regarding the composition and arrangement of the scene, it seems plausible that the lintel was made originally as part of a monumental gateway erected by Thutmose II and it was completed by his royal wife Hatshepsut and her son Thutmose III. A close parallel to the lintel provides evidence from the reign of Amenhotep III (gate C Karnak IX p.44-47) in the northern wall of festival hall from Karnak.

3. General Commentary:

3.1. The architecture style of the gates built at Karnak temple on the first half of dynasty XVIII could be viewed as a final development of the classic Egyptian style that had grown up in the Middle Kingdom.

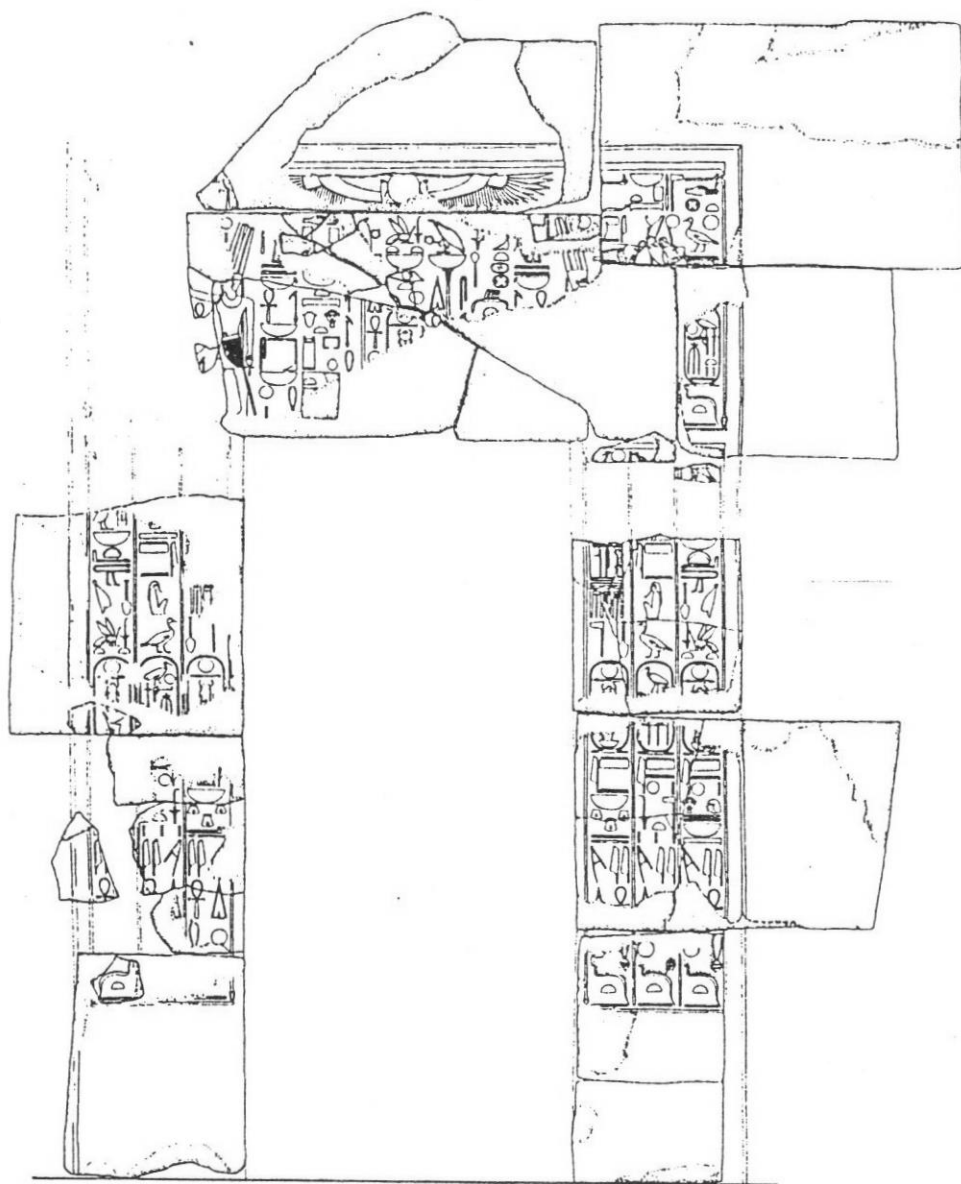
3.2. The great work of the period is the temple of Amon at Karnak⁵. While the name of Thutmose II was attested on many buildings, which were erected during his short reign, it is completed after his death by his royal wife Hatshepsut or by his son Thutmose III.

3.3. These buildings evolved according to a principle of the additive growth, which is so characteristic of the great Egyptian sanctuaries. Karnak, being the best preserved of these, provides the most striking example of such structural accumulation over the centuries.

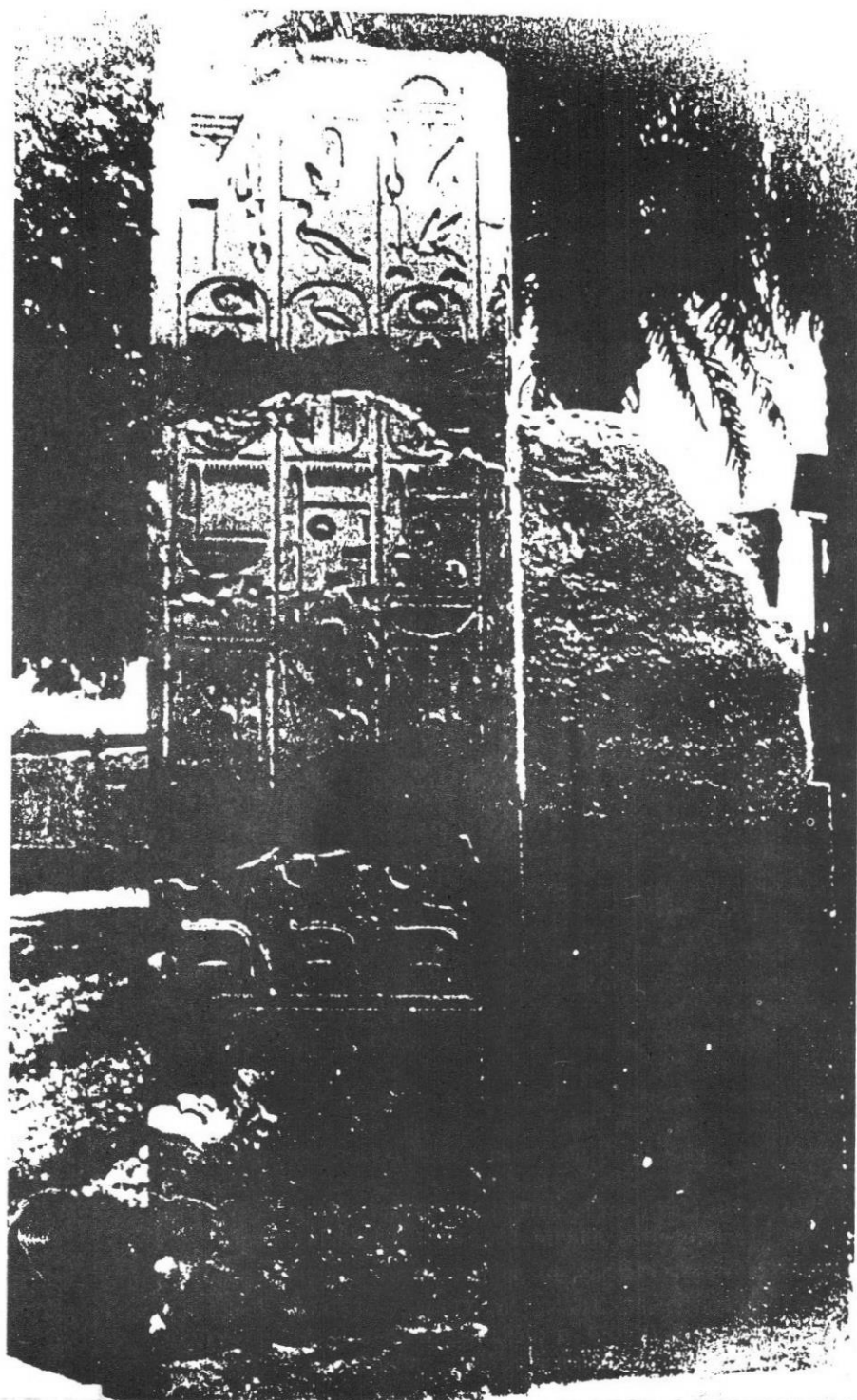
3.4. The two points requiring more elucidation are the exact finding spot of the two documents. and the significant function of the festival hall which our two documents were used. Actually, The inscriptions offer no clue. The blocks of the two gates of the festival hall have been reused in the entire Karnak complex.

3.5. Regarding the finding spot, they certainly come from the debris of the third pylon erected by Amenhotep III as it was stated by M. A. Abdul Qader.³¹

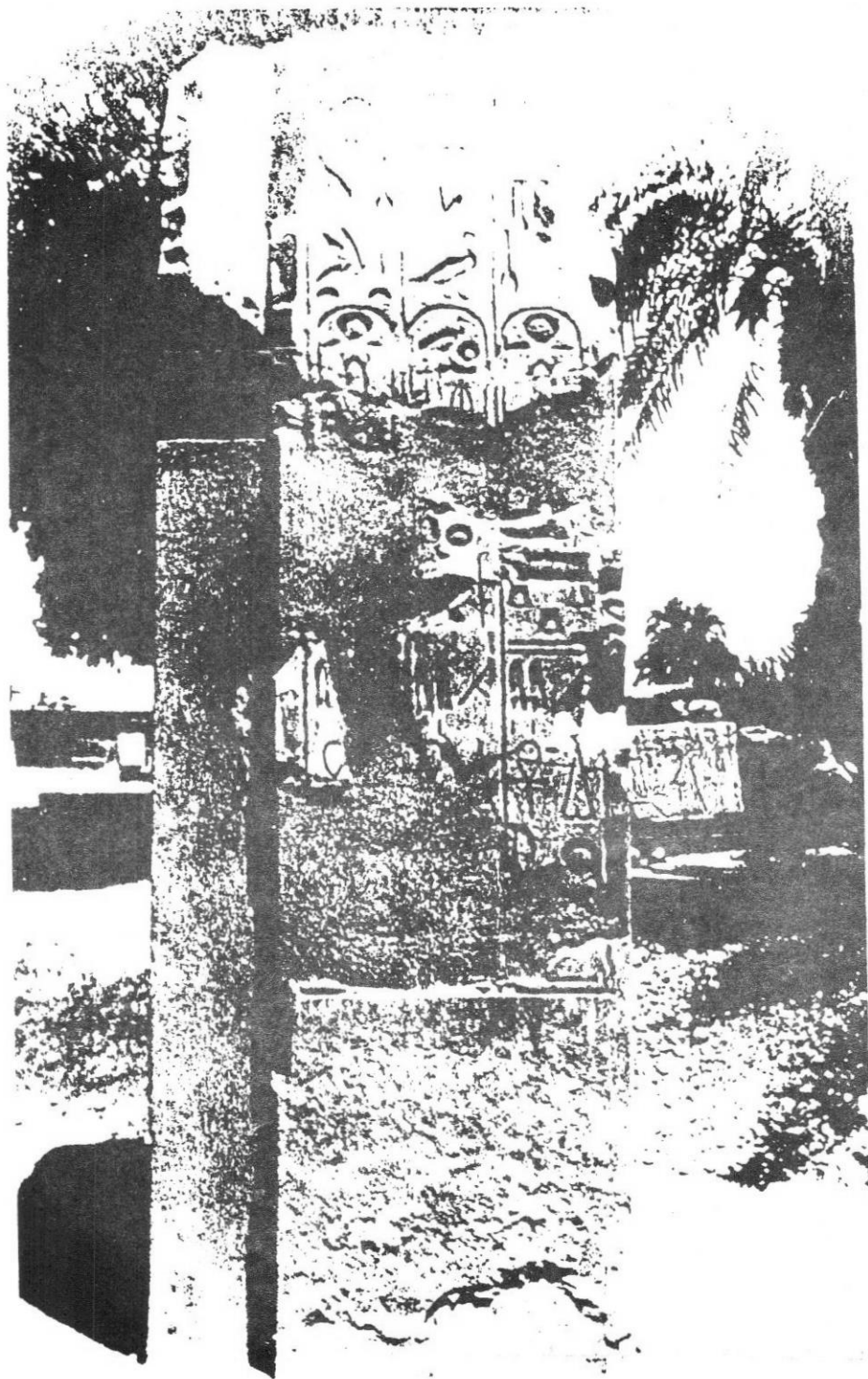
³¹ Abdul Qader Muhammad, *op.cit.*, 145, pls. VII-VIII, X-XVII.



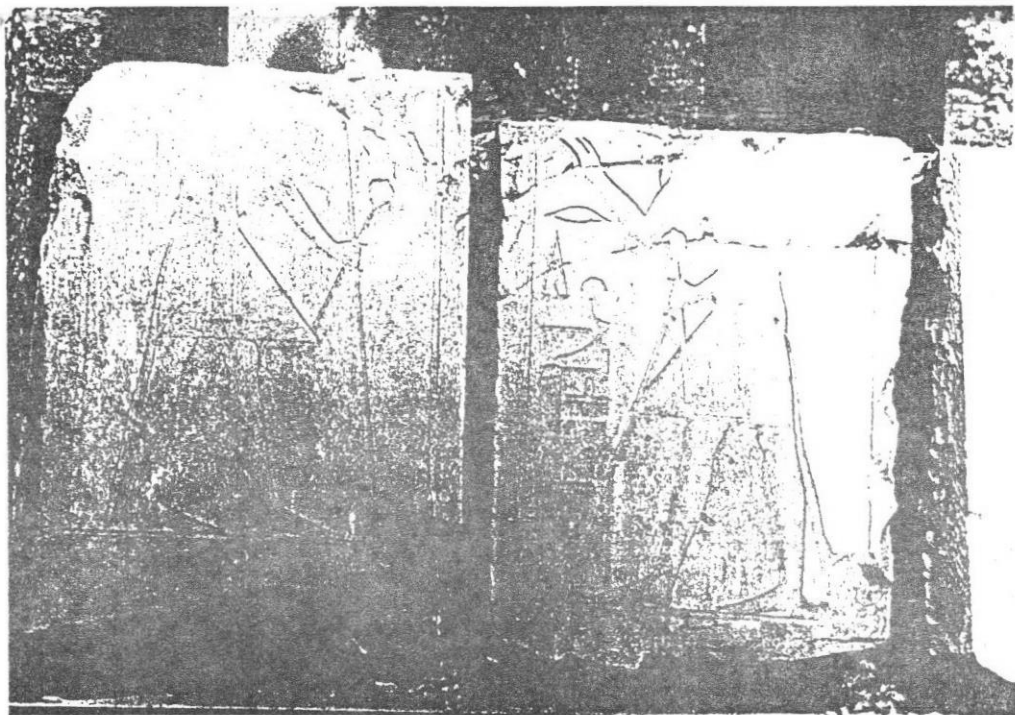
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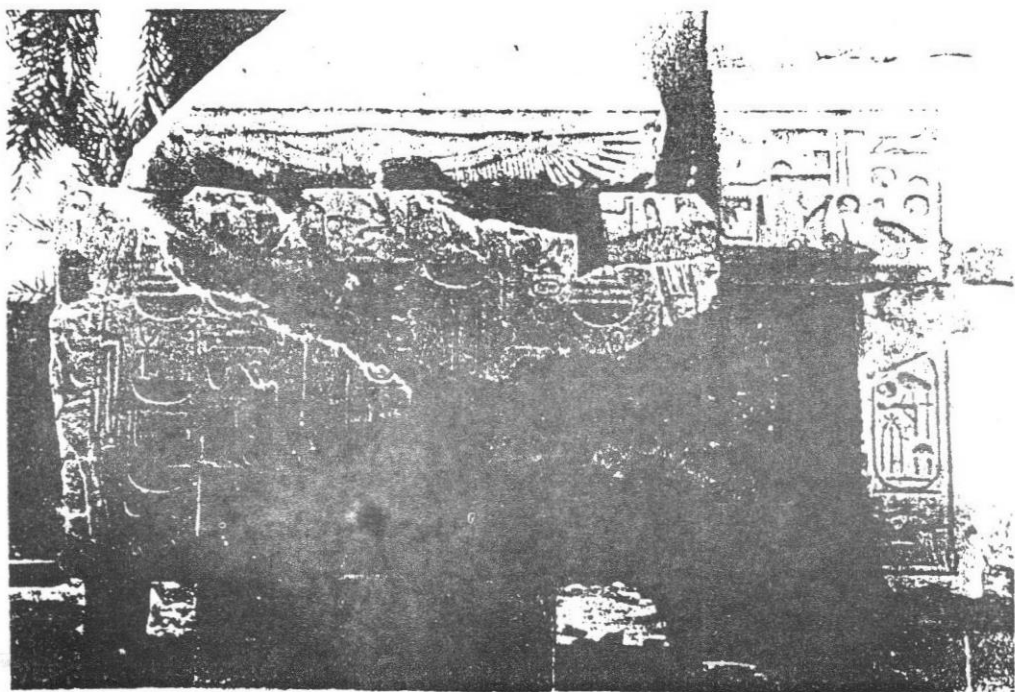
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