The Marshes in Ancient Egypt
From The End of The old kingdom up to the end of the New kingdom
(civilized &Archaeological study)

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This dissertation thesis is entitled "Marshes in Ancient Egypt since the End of the Old Kingdom until the End of the New Kingdom: An Archeological Civilizational Study." Basically, it aims to employ academic methodological techniques to shed more light on the pivotal role played by marshes in ancient Egyptians' life as well as its remarkable impact on his life from both religious and mundane perspectives due to the continuity of this role after the study limited period in different aspects of ancient Egyptian life in addition to the fact that this respective phase enjoys a clear-cut significance in ancient Egyptian history and that marshes had a fundamental effect during this specific historical period.

The research traces the emerging importance of marshes since the end of the Old Kingdom highlighting its various aspects in ancient Egyptians' life besides its related labels and famous growing plants, especially: papyrus, lotus, reed and other swamp plants. Moreover, the study tackles various towns related to studying marshes indicating relevance to their specific nature and names. Also, it reveals the importance of marshes from religious perspective as a multitude of ancient Egyptian deities and other religious rites were in essence associated with marshes in addition to its importance as a hunting environment, either for catching hippos and fishes or for hunting birds. Furthermore, they played a pivotal role in ancient Egyptian economy via their various products, such as: plants, birds and fishes-the status that clearly continued so throughout different phases of subsequent Egyptian eras.

Methodologically speaking, the research is divided into an introduction, six chapters and a conclusion to be followed by an index for diagrams details and a reference list. The introduction fundamentally focuses on providing a general overview to the research topic, reference to the most important employed references and previous literature as well as the used methods in conducting this research.

The first chapter, entitled "Marshes in Ancient Egyptian Language", dealt with various labels used to refer to marshes during the Old Kingdom age tracing their origins based on used historical sources in addition to studying the new labels that emerged for the first time during both ages of Middle and New Kingdoms. Also, the study
discussed labels of marshes plants-like: papyrus and lotus-and the most important towns associated with marshes, either due to their nature as towns where marshes grow or for linguistic bonds through tracing those towns since their emergence in the Old Kingdom era and their development throughout the study period. Besides, the study tackled those towns through available historical sources and excavations drawing up illustrative maps to the most important towns associated with marshes in both Delta and Upper Egypt.

The second chapter, entitled "Studying the Environment of Marshes", attempts to shed more light on the environments of marshes in light of their indispensable importance in tackling this topic as they included a variety of plants and living creatures. Thus; the researcher highlighted the most important birds, fishes, insects, animals and plants that lived at marshes environments based on available historical sources and excavations; tracing their existence during the Old Kingdom period in addition to investigating other emerging species that appeared during the study phase for the first time. Also, the chapter included a study for several artistic scenes depicting cattle grazing and crossing marshes dating back to the Old Kingdom phase. However, these scenes continued later but in lower rates so that we can conclude that the Old Kingdom is the golden age for these scenes of marshes; the fact I endeavored to highlight via my discussion of their later scenes of the New Kingdom.

As for the third chapter, entitled "Importance of Marshes in Ancient Egyptian Religious Thought", it mainly focused on indicating significance of marshes from a religious perspective through discussing a plethora of relevant religious orgies such as: stabbing hippos at marshes expressing important religious symbolism embodying incessant struggle against evil. Also, marshes-related deities enjoying a great role in shaping ancient Egyptians' religious thought was tackled in addition to rites accompanying cutting off papyrus at marshes where prayers for the Goddesses Hathour were performed. In addition, the researcher conducted an in-depth study for extant papyrus and lotus scenes depicting related sacrifices to various gods due to their major significance in ancient Egyptian civilization and abundance of their respective pictures at ancient tombs. Last but not least, the chapter concluded by discussing other scenes related to marshes dances and
funeral visits as well as ceremonies that were made at different marsh cities. Notably, the study highlighted that several dances were associated with marshes via dancers' famous helmets with papyrus-shaped depictions.

The fourth chapter, entitled "Hunting in Marshes", focused on the most important types of hunting that was carried out in marshes, i.e. hunting birds and fishes, through tackling various used hunting tools and different hunting scenes depicting employed tools such as rods and traps for hunting birds as well as spears and hooks for catching birds illustrating their religious and sexual symbols. Also, the chapter discusses different hunting elements like: boats, weapons, individuals, etc in addition to scenes depicting duels of fishermen (or sailors) at marshes showing they were more related to scenes of catching fish than hunting birds.

Afterwards, the fifth chapter, entitled "Marsh Products and their Role in Ancient Egyptian Economy", focusing on those products, industries and foods of various plants, birds and fishes living in marshes and their significant role in supporting ancient Egyptian economy and people. Therefore; the chapter illustrates the pivotal economic importance of marsh products. For example, it showed that bird and fish products had a great significance as sources of food at the same time they enjoyed a tremendous religious implication as sacrifices presented to different deities. Lastly, the chapter concluded by examining various products of marshes that were depicted on walls of ancient Egyptian tombs in addition to their related historical sources of the period.

The last sixth chapter was entitled "Effect of Marsh Plants on Ancient Egyptian Art". It tackled three basic interconnected that attempted to highlight the effect of march plants ornaments on used architectural artistic units through discussing some architectural elements like: columns and ornaments as other small artistic units such as: amulets, jewelry and cosmetics like: spoons, mirrors, etc. In addition, the study discussed effects of march plants on a variety of other ornaments, like: boats whose fronts and backs were decorated with papyrus whereas their paddles were decorated with lotus flowers, furniture and household utensils, ornaments of double flowers on false doors and ornaments of Osier's imy iwt bottle that was decorated with
papyrus and sometimes with lotus; thus emphasizing the fact that these ornaments had a tremendous effect on ancient Egyptian art in general.

Finally, the research *Conclusion* focused on summarizing the most important results concluded by the researcher that highlight to a great extent the pivotal importance and manifestations enjoyed by marshes at ancient Egyptian civilization in its different linguistic, religious, economic and artistic dimensions. More importantly, the conclusion revealed the continuity of this effective role played by marshes in the life of ancient Egyptians throughout various consecutive historical phases. Then, the study was provided with a final index to present detailed information and precise description for used diagrams, illustrations and tables in the text in addition to a reference list including all primary and secondary sources as well as Internet websites employed to conduct this.