

Theft from tomb wakens mummy of all curses.....

Source: <http://sci.tech--archive.net/Archive/sci.archaeology/2007-08/msg00687.html>

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 - *Date:* Mon, 27 Aug 2007 16:24:02 +1000
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Berlin
August 26, 2007

LEGEND has it that the royal tombs of ancient Egypt were sealed with monstrous curses against all who trespassed into the domain of the afterlife.

In the tomb of Pharaoh Tutankhamun, hieroglyphs were said to have spelled out a dreadful end for all who entered. Howard Carter, the archaeologist who opened the tomb in 1923, wrote that "all sane people should dismiss such inventions with contempt".

But a German man has decided the curse of the mummies is definitely not a myth ? and has returned a plundered ancient carving he says has fatally cursed his family. The relic was stolen three years ago from the Valley of Kings, home to the tombs of dozens of pharaohs and nobles who were buried 3000 years ago.

The unnamed man decided to take it home to Germany with him as a souvenir of his trip. Trouble began on his return, according to an anonymous note that accompanied the carving when it was recently returned to the Egyptian embassy in Berlin.

The thief was struck down with inexplicable fatigue and fever, paralysis, and ultimately death. The stolen piece was returned by his stepson, who believed the curse would not end with his relative's death.

Egypt's Supreme Council for Antiquities said

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that by returning the carving, the stepson hoped his relative's soul could rest in peace. The apparent curse is the latest in a long series of bedevilments to have struck explorers and plunderers. King Tut's "curse" is the most famous of those attached to the pharaohs. The team that excavated his tomb is said to have suffered a series of unexplained deaths.

DAILY TELEGRAPH