



# SOCIÉTÉ DES CULTURES NUBIENNES

## POUR EN SAVOIR PLUS ...

### THE XXV DYNASTY

#### A RETURN TO THE SOURCES

##### **ANNEXE 1**

Some scholars believe that the royal family lived at Meroe since the VIII Century BC. The power vacuum resulting from the weakness of the last Ramessides is filled by the Karnak clergy. Nevertheless, under Takelot II, king of the XXII Libyan Dynasty (850-825 BC), Theban priests flee the civil war and take refuge at Napata, no doubt helping the renaissance of the cult of Amun. It is possible that the representatives of this clergy went, some decades later, to convince the powerful family of Alara to help Egypt to restore its unity. In Egypt, no candidate seems to be powerful enough to re-establish order. It is true that during this, the Third Intermediate Period, the throne of Egypt reveals itself to be a poisoned chalice. The country needed honest men, able to distance themselves from internecine strife, and the South responds generously. We are far from the petty and arrogant local chiefs that would have wanted to seize power for themselves.

##### **ANNEXE 2**

The stela of the year 47 of Thutmose III confirms the right to the throne of a Kushite sovereign. The great king had declared that the 'pure' mountain was the dwelling of the national god Amun and 'the Throne of the Two Lands'. The Amun of Thebes gave kingship over foreign lands while the Amun of Jebel Barkal gave kingship over the two countries, that is to say, Egypt. In confirming the mountain to be 'pure' as the source of the first Egyptian royalty, Thutmose III was perhaps making reference to the original kingdom which, according to the texts, 'had existed at the time of the gods'. Seven hundred years later, the Theban priests took up this belief to convince Kashta of his role as a chosen one.

##### **ANNEXE 3**

One would like to know what happened during the first three years of his reign. Unfortunately, the main text of the stela has disappeared. Was he enthroned at Thebes? Did his sister, Amenirdis, divine worshipper of Amun, prepare for the arrival of her brother in the religious and political capital of Egypt? Piye undertook a campaign against the princes of the North that do not want to submit. After this expedition, he returned to Napata leaving a Kushite contingent at Thebes to protect his supporters. However, the princes of the North formed a coalition under the command of the Saite king Tefnakht. Piye ordered the Kushite contingent of the Thebaid to block the advance of the princes and sent an expeditionary corps to reinforce it. The following year, he defeated the coalition and took the great religious centre of Memphis. The Victory stela relates his qualities as victor and as a great king. Tefnakht fled, the princes of the North 'put themselves on flat stomachs in front of His Majesty'. Piye was magnanimous and confirmed them in their functions. He died after a reign of 31 years.

##### **ANNEXE 4**

The Assyrians had barely left the country when the dynasts appealed to Taharqa, claiming that they had been treated unfairly in relation to the advantages accorded to the town of Sais. The response of Assurbanipal was immediate: he arrested and executed the main chiefs and deported the others to Nineveh. Only Nekau I, king of Sais and his son Psammetichus I were spared and installed at the head of the ancient kingdom of Athribis. When the Saites acceded to the throne of Egypt, around 664 BC, they no longer had many opponents originating from the Delta.