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Megaliths of Nabta Playa and their Significances

MA Thesis in Prehistory

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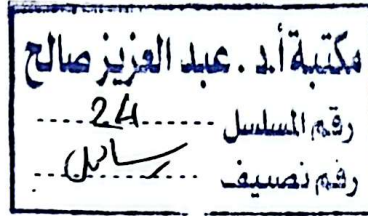
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2012- 1434



Summary:

This thesis concentrates on the megaliths of Nabta Playa, which located south of the Western Desert of Egypt and dated to the Neolithic period, their comparison to similar structures in Africa and Europe, and their possible connection to the ancient Egyptian beliefs, as expressed in the extensive early tomb stelae of the Nile Valley. Since the megaliths at Nabta Playa are older than any yet found in Africa, were they in the same way precursor to the Ancient Egyptian Culture.

Although the main subject of the thesis deals with a specific case study –the Megaliths of Nabta Playa- it was important to know about Nabta Playa, its location, paleo-environment and paleo-climates, and the most important archaeological sites that have been excavated there since the basin was discovered in 1973, highlighting their main features and chronology.

The megalithic structures of Nabta Playa includes four groups of collapsed sandstone stelae, megalithic alignments of originally upright stelae, and complex megalithic structures that exist in the western and southwestern parts of the Playa. Several megalithic structures have been found in both Africa and Europe. Because there are many different types of megaliths that are found in varying geological and cultural context, hence a limitation on discussing the ones most similar to those found at Nabta Playa.

The study deals as well with the extending of the megalithic idea during the contemporary and following Predynastic and Early Dynastic periods in the Nile Valley in Egypt, the belief systems, and exploring the inferred belief system of Nabta Playa in the Late and Final Neolithic as it may relate to those found in Early Dynastic Egypt.

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