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The Architectural Styles of the Egyptian Temples During the Third Intermediate Period

A Thesis Submitted for MA. Degree in Egyptology

By

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Abstract:

The Third Intermediate Period is classified as one of the periods of weakness and decline in ancient Egyptian history, but the architectural activity of the kings of that period indicates a great prosperity in architectural aspects, and the temples of that period are the best witness to that architectural boom, which resulted in many innovative architectural elements. From another perspective, there was a group of imitative architectural elements in the design of the temples of the Third Intermediate Period, but they came with some architectural modifications in the design of the element to keep pace with the spirit of the era in which it was built. The temples of the Third Intermediate Period were built in different geographical environments, from Upper Nubia in the south to San Al-Hagar in the north. These different environments helped to diversify the architectural styles of the temples of that period: The temples of the Twenty-First Dynasty in San Al-Hagar were almost identical to the temples of the New Kingdom, while two architectural styles appeared among the kings of the Twenty-Second Dynasty in Tell Basta and El-Hibeh. During the Twenty-Fifth Dynasty, architectural styles varied, resulting from an inherited Egyptian thought in temple architecture from the Old Kingdom to the end of the New Kingdom, and a local thought that resulted from a change in religious practices, which is evident in the temples of Gebel Barkal and the temples of King Taharqa in Upper and Lower Nubia. During the Third Intermediate Period, a group of distinctive architectural additions became widespread for each dynasty, and the architecture of each dynasty was distinguished from the other, between architectural projects to build new temples, and architectural additions in temples that were previously built, but these architectural additions came in a new architectural style that kept pace with the spirit of the era in which it was built, so the architecture of the temple during the Third Intermediate Period is considered the link between the architecture of the New Kingdom and the Ptolemaic era.

Keywords:

- Architectural styles
- Egyptian temples
- Third Intermediate Period
- San Al-Hagar
- Tell Basta
- El-Hibeh
- Gebel Barkal
- Tabo
- Sanam
- Kawa