

Chapter Five

My plans for the weekend were to read 'the book'. I had breakfast, showered, got dressed into some comfy clothes and went to sit in the outside on a chair to read. I loved sitting outside in the fresh air sometimes. And I had to finish the book before Monday!

'Amunblisk had found out that his forebear, the unnamed king, had a vizier named Baln who oversaw the kingdoms records. Baln had mentioned of a great drought where the water dried up and the people under his care were dying. Why didn't the previous king not find other water sources? Amunblisk had to get sea water and remove the salt so it was drinkable. He also siphoned water from lakes and a river many moons away. Admittedly many years had passed, and new technologies were developed.

Along with the papyrus scroll that spoke of Baln, Amunblisk also found several trinkets, including an obsidian bracelet, and a lamp that was shiny and gold. The lamp looked really worn, tattered and old. As he picked up the lamp, he removed the lid and inside he could see something, but wasn't sure what it was. He tipped the lamp upside down and something fell out and landed squarely on the table in front of him. It was a shiny blue gem. Inside the gem he could see something embedded deep. He wasn't sure what it was. He held the gem in his left hand up towards the sun light and said:

I wish I knew what all this meant. I wish I had some answers. I wish I knew the king's name.

*Then the wind whipped up around him and something remarkable happened. Through the sound of the wind he heard someone saying: *the name of the king is Dariusmous*. And the wind brought him a piece of floating papyrus that fell and landed on the table. Amunblisk picked up the torn and tattered papyrus which read:*

The king was neglectful and an incompetent leader. The king created a city and did not prepare it for what was to come. Dariusmous was not equipped to take his fair and grand city long into the distant future. The future is there for the taking providing you can prepare for any eventuality.

Amunblisk started panicking. He had some answers and the name of the king. But how was all this happening? Why? He did not believe in the supernatural, or the mysterious. How did a piece of single tattered papyrus fall in front of him at that exact moment? How was the name heard on the wisps of the wind? As soon as he held up the blue gem and asked his three questions, he heard the name and the papyrus fell to him. As far as Amunblisk was concerned it was a sign from the gods.

Now Amunblisk had some more answers. Three generations back, a man named Dariusmous had created a vast and wonderous city, but he was not capable of sustaining it given the changing environment and depleting water supplies. Back around 100 years ago the desert must have been lush and greener than it is now. Was this a forewarning of what was to come? Was the desert going to get even drier and hotter and become unliveable for his citizens? Amunblisk felt happy that he had done a fantastic job leading his city even with the sand and dust storms. He was able to be sustainable even when a pervious king wasn't. Was Dariusmous Amunblisk's blood ancestor or was he from a different family?

Amunblisk, with his signs from the gods, went to the library in his small and modest palace to find some answers about his heritage. He had to. He needed to know what happened to Dariusmous' people and if his people are their descendants. In his library was a book of the history of his land. In the back of the book was a small genealogy of his family and he was surprised to discover it only went back to the birth of his father Amunrap. Amunrap was born in a time of drought and he built up a city making use of the desert around him. He was a great and charismatic man. But who came before him? An ancestor marked X! Amunblisk was raised by carers not his parents, and never had much to do with his parents as a child, and he certainly never met his grandparents if he had any.

Amunblisk needed to find more records written by the vizier Baln to see what happened to the people. Where they swallowed up by the sand? He wanted to know why his heritage only went back as far as his father. Surely it went far beyond just two generations? In order to find out, he hired a researcher to go and delve deep into this history of his family records.

Within two weeks his researcher came to him with the saddest news. That the family records really did only go back to his father and prior to that nothing. Nada. Zip. But the researcher did suggest something very important. That he should do some more

excavations to uncover what mysteries lay deep beneath his land as there might be some long-lost forgotten records that were yet to be discovered. The researcher was just as curious as Amunblisk himself.'

I looked up from my reading as the sun began to beat down on to my face. I was excited with the direction the book was taking. How could it be that a great leader of the land didn't even know his ancestry past the birth of his father? God even I knew more about my ancestry than that! I knew my great grandparents. One of my great grandmothers was born in Russia, and my other great grandmother here in Australia. It was something I loved reading about, and I just couldn't believe how it was even remotely possible that someone could not know at least the names of their grandparents and I am surprised Amunblisk's carers never mentioned anything. Maybe they did not know themselves? I was so interested in what was to happen next that I went inside away from the hot sun to read some more in the living room.

'Amunblisk hired experts to excavate at a number of sites surrounding the city. He had done extensive excavations before. And these new sites were both an extension of the previous ones as well as new ones. At one of the new sites, an archaeologist found a tablet buried deep in the sand that depicted images of a battle. The pictures were of stick people throwing spears at each other. However, the archaeologist firmly believed that discovery was from thousands of years prior, not a mere one hundred.'

Another discovery came from deep in the sand too. The remains of an old building. The foundations of an old building started to become visible within a few weeks of digging. The building was large, either a big palace structure or something else. In addition to the building walls, remains of old furniture were revealing themselves, old pieces of wood and an even older fragments of linen. The remains were dated to around 100 years prior. Great thought Amunblisk. Had he found the remains of the old palace? Only time would tell.'

At that point in my reading came a knock at the front door.