

DR. YOSEF BEN-JOCHANNAN ON IMHOTEP... & more

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Dr. Yosef A. A. Ben-Jochannan

Dr. Yosef A. A. Ben-Jochannan, affectionately known as "Dr. Ben" was born December 31, 1918, to a Puerto Rican mother and an Ethiopian father in what is known as the "Falasha" Hebrew community in Gondar, Ethiopia. Dr. Ben's formal education began in Puerto Rico. His early education continued in The Virgin Islands and in Brazil, where he attended elementary and secondary school. Dr. Ben earned a B.S. degree in Civil Engineering at the university of Puerto Rico, and a Master's degree in Architectural Engineering from the University of Havana, Cuba. He received doctoral degrees in Cultural Anthropology and Moorish History, from the University of Havana and the University of Barcelona

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RBG WHO IS DR.
BEN #1.



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BEN #3



RBG WHO IS DR.
BEN #4



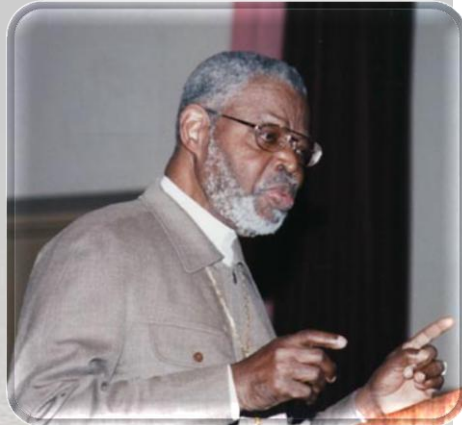
RBG WHO IS DR.
BEN #5



RBG Who Is Dr Ben #
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Spain. Dr. Ben was adjunct professor at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, for over a decade (1976-1987). He has written and published over forty-nine books and papers, revealing much of the information unearthed while he was in Egypt. Two of his better known works include, *Black Man of the Nile* and *His Family and Africa: Mother of Major Western Religions*. In 1939, shortly after receiving his undergraduate degree, Dr. Ben's father sent him to Egypt to study first hand the ancient history of African People. Since 1941, Dr. Ben travels to Egypt at least twice a year. He began leading educational tours to Egypt in 1946. When asked why he began the tours, he replied "because no one knew or cared about Egypt and most believed Egypt was not in Africa." According to Dr. Ben, Egypt is the place to go to learn the fundamentals of living. Over five decades have passed and Dr. Ben, a preeminent scholar and Egyptologist, remains focused on Nile Valley Civilization. Dr. Ben is a 360° Mason of The Craft.



RBG Street Scholars Think Tank December, 2009

**In Pursuit of George G. M. James'
Study of African Origins in "Western Civilization"**



[In Pursuit of George G. M. James Study of African Origins in Western Civilization](#)
by Yosef Ben-Jochannan

by Dr. Yosef A. A. ben-Jochannan

Prelude
Fellows, scholars, students and others assembled, particularly all of us directly involved in the area of "Africana Studies and Research," I have before me in this paper basic evidence on Judaism, Greek Philosophy and European civilization, etc. which was not available to the late African-Guyanese linguist, Egyptologist, theologian, philosopher, historian, scientist, mathematician, and professor - George G. M. James, in whose honour I appear - when he wrote his masterpiece - *Stolen Legacy* - in 1954 C.E. This material ranges from an article in The New York Times, March 1, 1979, page A1 and A16 titled "[Nubian Monarchy Called Oldest](#)," by Boyce Rensberger; one of the earliest pictures of a statue of the most honoured of "Greek Philosophers," Sokrates, in the London Museum of Natural History I extracted

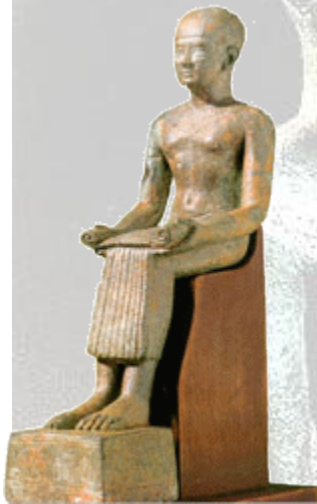
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Imhotep, Doctor, Architect, High Priest, Scribe and Vizier to King Djoser

Text from:

<http://www.touregypt.net/>

by Jimmy Dunn



Of the non royal population of Egypt, probably one man is known better than all others. So successful was Imhotep (Imhetep, Greek Imouthes) that he is one of the world's most famous ancients, and his name, if not his true identity, has been made even more famous by various mummy movies. Today, the world is probably much more familiar with his name than that of his principal king, **Djoser**. Imhotep, who's name means "the one that comes in peace", existed as a mythological figure in the minds of most scholars until the end of the nineteenth century when he was established as a real historical person.

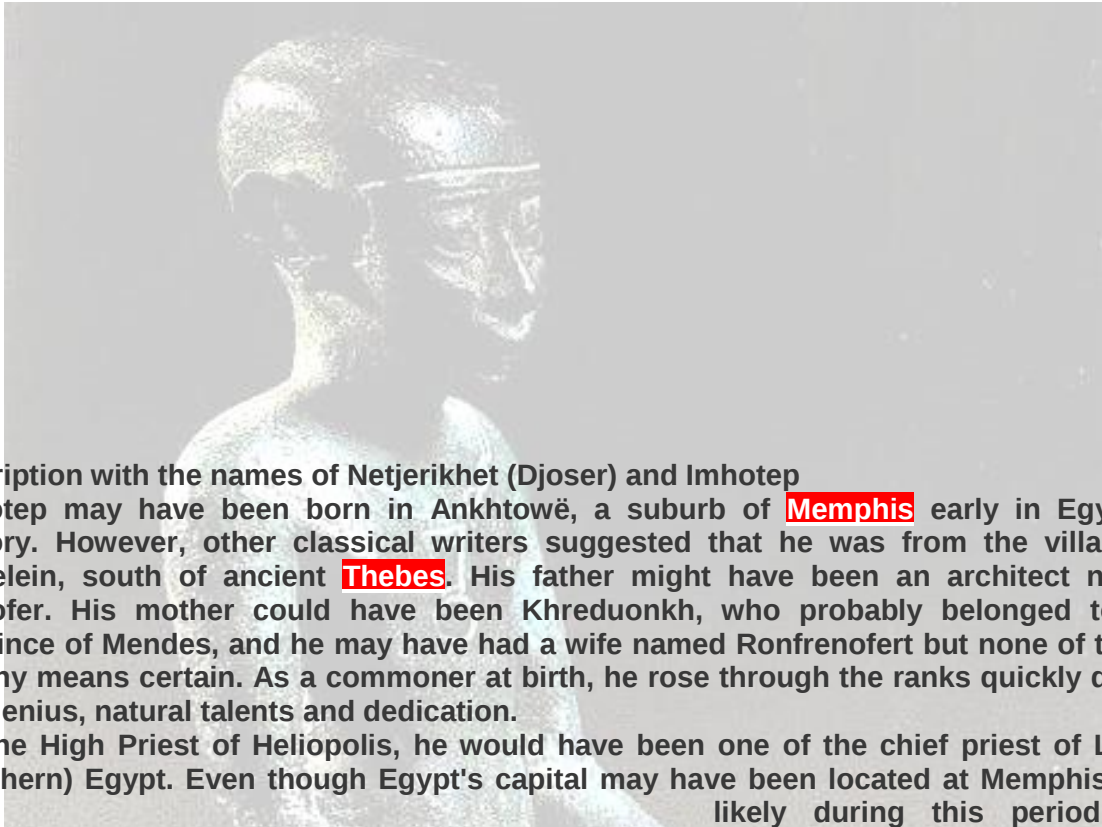
He was the world's first named architect who built Egypt's first pyramid, is often recognized as the world's first **doctor**, a priest, **scribe**, sage, poet, astrologer, and a **vizier** and chief minister, though this role is unclear, to Djoser (reigned 2630–2611 BC), the second king of Egypt's third dynasty. He may have lived under as many as four kings. An inscription on one of that king's statues gives us Imhotep's titles as the "chancellor of the king of lower Egypt", the "first one under the king", the "administrator of the great mansion", the "hereditary Noble", the "high priest of **Heliopolis**", the "chief sculptor", and finally the "chief carpenter".



DR. YOSEF BEN-JOCHANNAN

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QVlepaDRw2Q>

Of the details of his life, very little has survived though numerous statues and statuettes of him have been found. Some show him as an ordinary man who is dressed in plain attire. Others show him as a sage who is seated on a chair with a roll of papyrus on his knees or under his arm. Later, his statuettes show him with a god like beard, standing, and carrying the ankh and a scepter.



Inscription with the names of Netjerikhet (Djoser) and Imhotep

Imhotep may have been born in Ankhtowë, a suburb of **Memphis** early in Egyptian history. However, other classical writers suggested that he was from the village of Gebelein, south of ancient **Thebes**. His father might have been an architect named Kanofer. His mother could have been Khreduonkh, who probably belonged to the province of Mendes, and he may have had a wife named Ronfrenofert but none of this is by any means certain. As a commoner at birth, he rose through the ranks quickly due to his genius, natural talents and dedication.

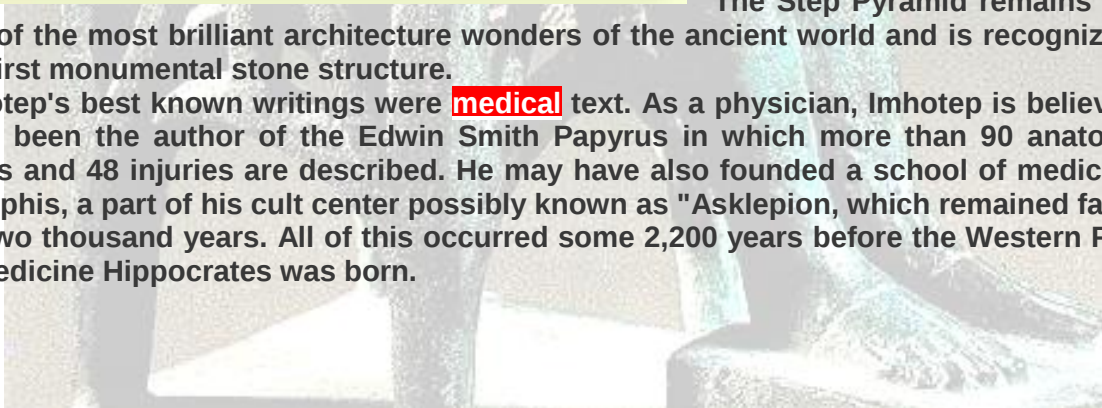
As the High Priest of Heliopolis, he would have been one of the chief priest of Lower (northern) Egypt. Even though Egypt's capital may have been located at Memphis, it is likely during this period that Heliopolis was recognized as the religious capital of Egypt.



As a builder, Imhotep is the first master architects who we know by name. He is not only credited as the first pyramid architect, who built Djoser's **Step Pyramid** complex at **Saqqara**, but he may have had a hand in the building of **Sekhemkhet's unfinished pyramid**, and also possibly with the establishment of the **Edfu Temple**, but that is not certain. The Step Pyramid remains today

one of the most brilliant architecture wonders of the ancient world and is recognized as the first monumental stone structure.

Imhotep's best known writings were **medical** text. As a physician, Imhotep is believed to have been the author of the Edwin Smith Papyrus in which more than 90 anatomical terms and 48 injuries are described. He may have also founded a school of medicine in Memphis, a part of his cult center possibly known as "Asklepion, which remained famous for two thousand years. All of this occurred some 2,200 years before the Western Father of Medicine Hippocrates was born.

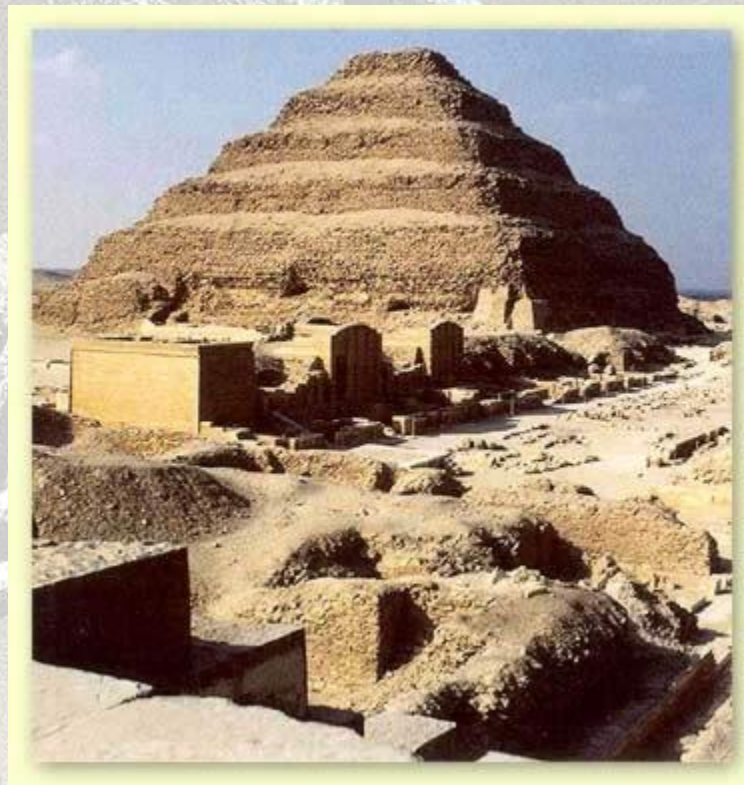


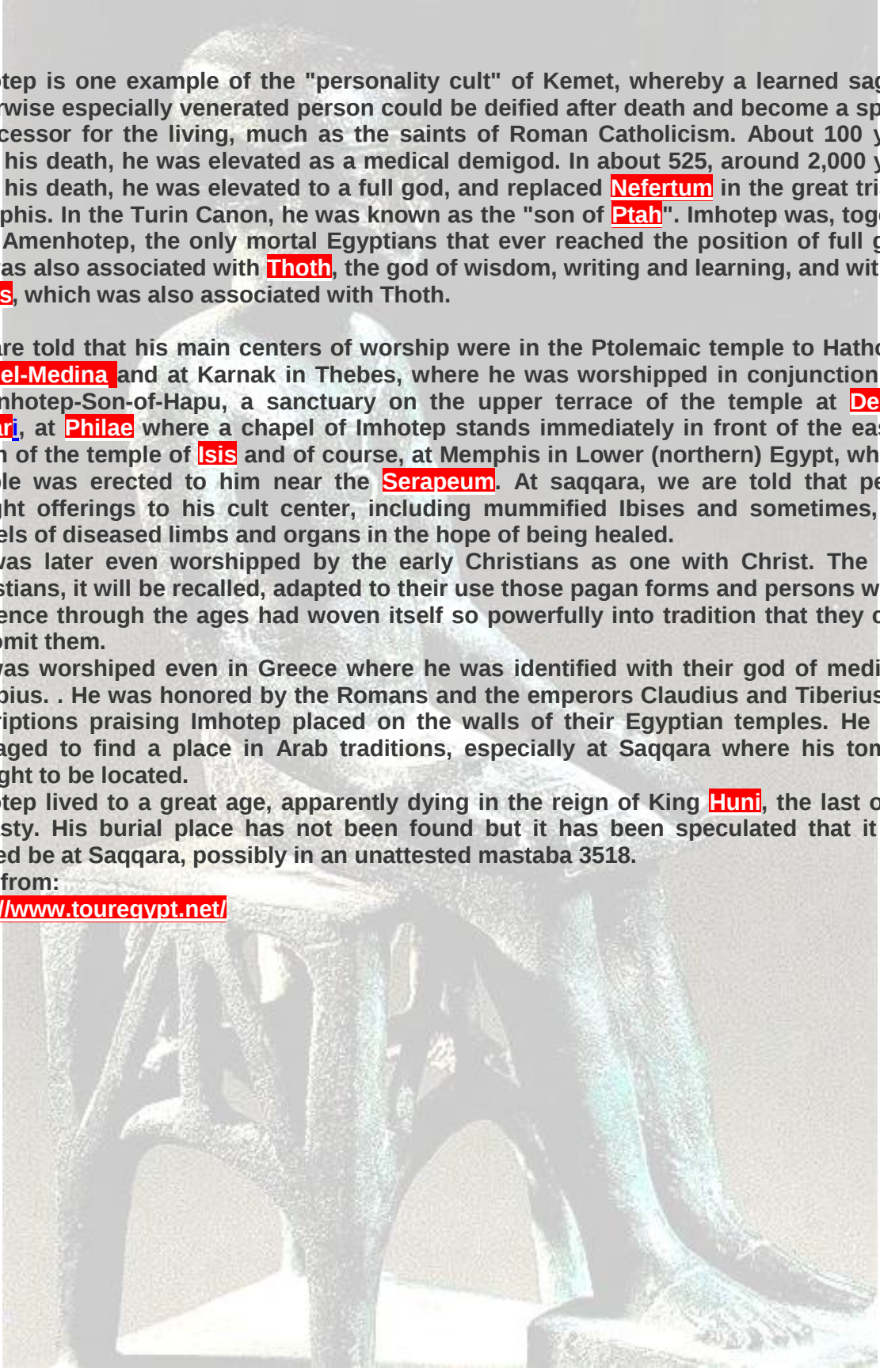
Sir William Osler tells us that Imhotep was the:

"..first figure of a physician to stand out clearly from the mists of antiquity." Imhotep diagnosed and treated over 200 diseases, 15 diseases of the abdomen, 11 of the bladder, 10 of the rectum, 29 of the eyes, and 18 of the skin, hair, nails and tongue. Imhotep treated tuberculosis, gallstones, appendicitis, gout and arthritis. He also performed surgery and practiced some dentistry. Imhotep extracted medicine from plants. He also knew the position and function of the vital organs and circulation of the blood system. The Encyclopedia Britannica says, "The evidence afforded by Egyptian and Greek texts support the view that Imhotep's reputation was very respected in early times. His prestige increased with the lapse of centuries and his temples in Greek times were the centers of medical teachings."

Along with medicine, he was also a patron of architects, knowledge and scribes. James Henry Breasted says of Imhotep:

"In priestly wisdom, in magic, in the formulation of wise proverbs; in medicine and architecture; this remarkable figure of Zoser's reign left so notable a reputation that his name was never forgotten. He was the patron spirit of the later scribes, to whom they regularly poured out a libation from the water-jug of their writing outfit before beginning their work."





Imhotep is one example of the "personality cult" of Kemet, whereby a learned sage or otherwise especially venerated person could be deified after death and become a special intercessor for the living, much as the saints of Roman Catholicism. About 100 years after his death, he was elevated as a medical demigod. In about 525, around 2,000 years after his death, he was elevated to a full god, and replaced **Nefertum** in the great triad at Memphis. In the Turin Canon, he was known as the "son of **Ptah**". Imhotep was, together with Amenhotep, the only mortal Egyptians that ever reached the position of full gods. He was also associated with **Thoth**, the god of wisdom, writing and learning, and with the **Ibises**, which was also associated with Thoth.

We are told that his main centers of worship were in the Ptolemaic temple to Hathor at **Dier el-Medina** and at Karnak in Thebes, where he was worshipped in conjunction with Amenhotep-Son-of-Hapu, a sanctuary on the upper terrace of the temple at **Deir el-Bahari**, at **Philae** where a chapel of Imhotep stands immediately in front of the eastern pylon of the temple of **Isis** and of course, at Memphis in Lower (northern) Egypt, where a temple was erected to him near the **Serapeum**. At Saqqara, we are told that people bought offerings to his cult center, including mummified Ibises and sometimes, clay models of diseased limbs and organs in the hope of being healed.

He was later even worshipped by the early Christians as one with Christ. The early Christians, it will be recalled, adapted to their use those pagan forms and persons whose influence through the ages had woven itself so powerfully into tradition that they could not omit them.

He was worshiped even in Greece where he was identified with their god of medicine, Asclepius. . He was honored by the Romans and the emperors Claudius and Tiberius had inscriptions praising Imhotep placed on the walls of their Egyptian temples. He even managed to find a place in Arab traditions, especially at Saqqara where his tomb is thought to be located.

Imhotep lived to a great age, apparently dying in the reign of King **Huni**, the last of the dynasty. His burial place has not been found but it has been speculated that it may indeed be at Saqqara, possibly in an unattested mastaba 3518.

Text from:

<http://www.touregypt.net/>



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- [Dr. Ben, Dr. Clarke and Dr. Van Sertima on Our Holocaust and A Maafa Timeline](#)
- [Dr. Molefi Kete Asante: Foundations of Afrikan Pedagogy](#)
- [Afrikan History and Culture Lessons: Our Scholars, Historians and Educators Teach](#)
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