

ORIENTATION OF THE PYRAMIDS

Giza,
Egypt, Africa

Juan A. Belmonte, Rosa M. Ros

International Astronomical Union

*Institute Astrophysics Canarias, Spain, Technical University of
Catalonia, Spain,*



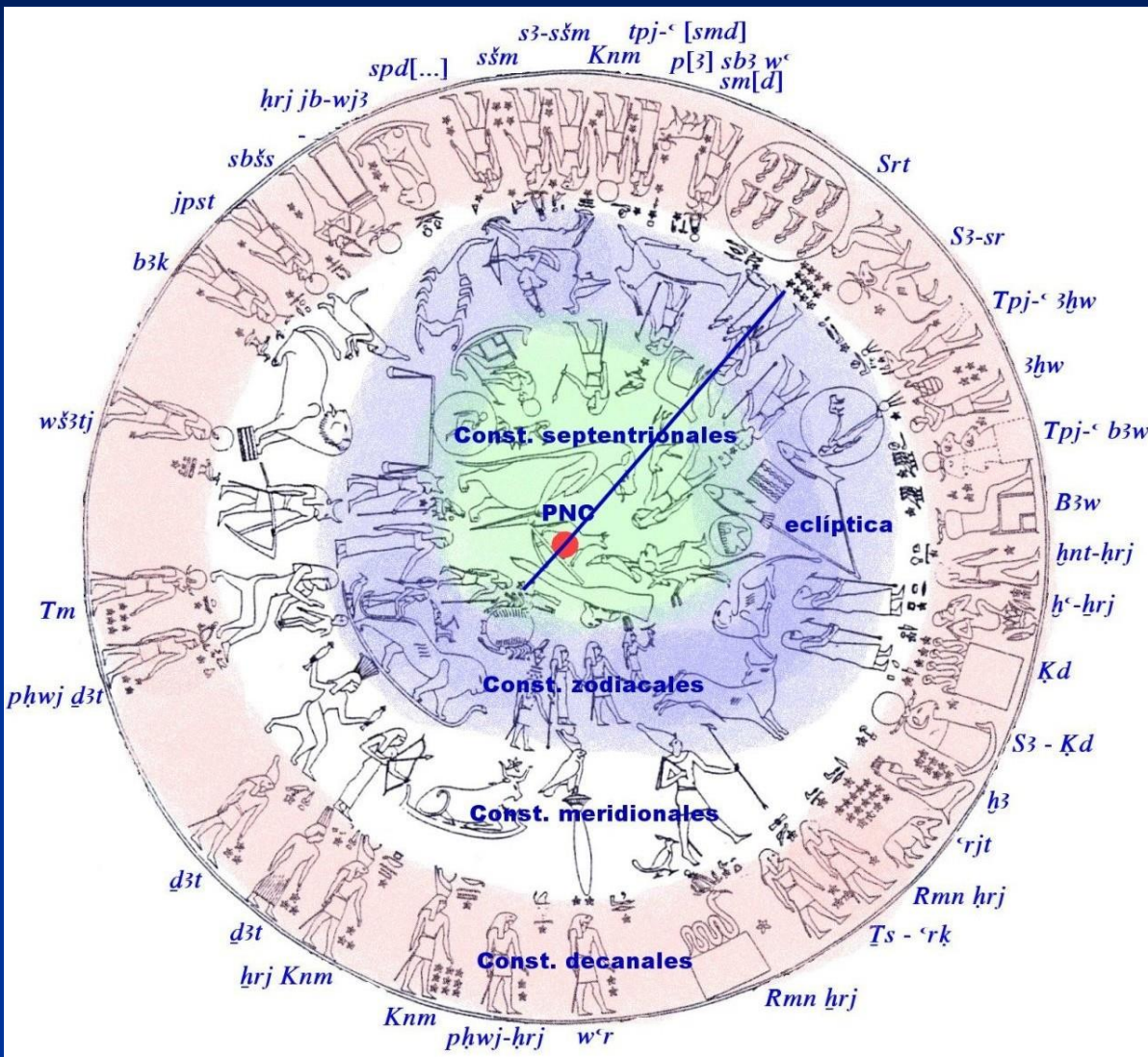
Not all of Egypt's pyramids are correctly oriented;
in fact, only a few of the more than
sixty well known have a precise orientation.

The pyramids of the pharaohs of dynasty IV
in Dahshur and Giza are the best oriented,
with errors that are around 15'.

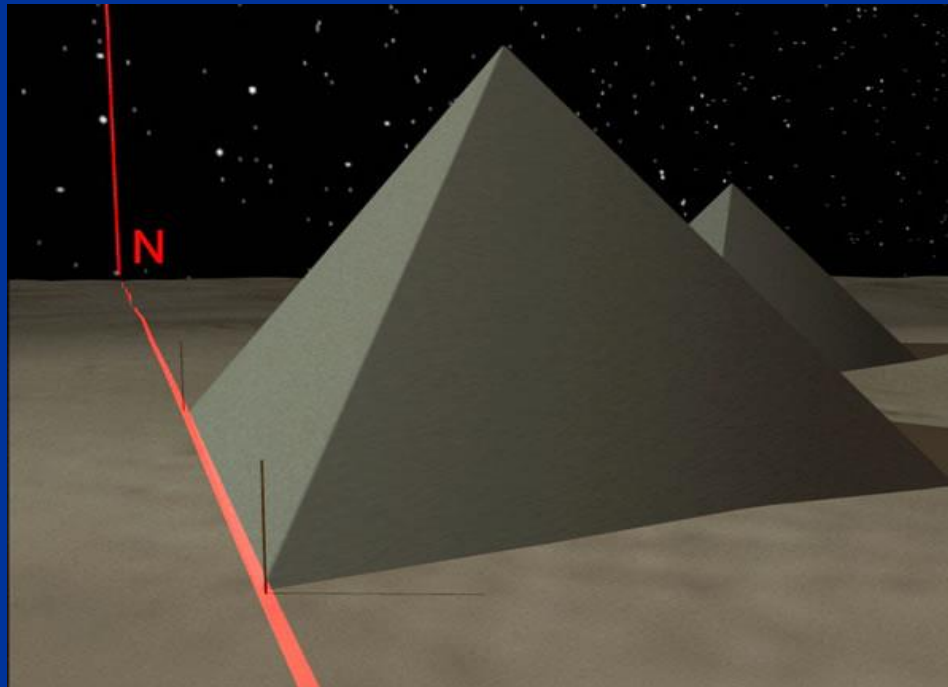
In some, such as those of Cheops and Kefrén,
the error is even less.



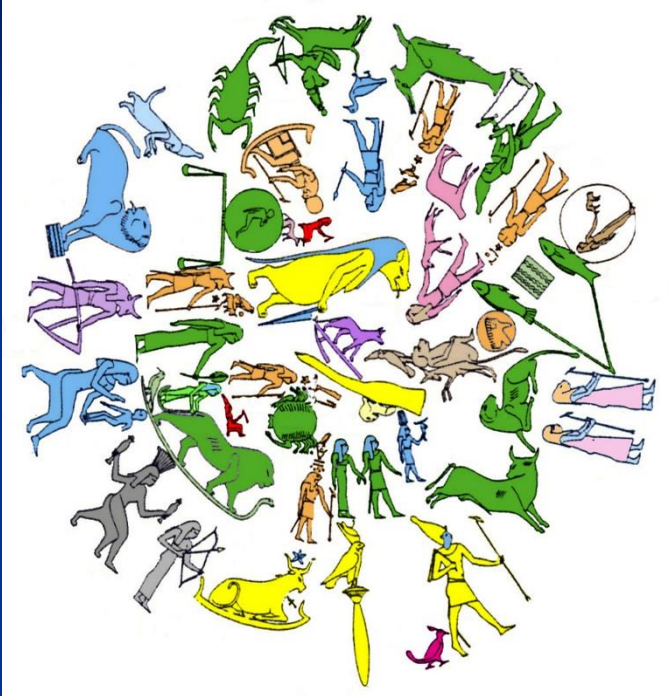
A circumpolar star must be selected, observed in its night movement and the positions of its ascent and descent marked on the horizon, whose bisector accurately indicates the north-south meridian line.



**Initial astronomical alignment of the pyramid of Kefren
(around 2545 BC) towards the meridian transit of two of
the stars Megrez and Phecda
of the constellation Meskhetyu (The Leg of the Bull),
equivalent to Ursa Major partially**

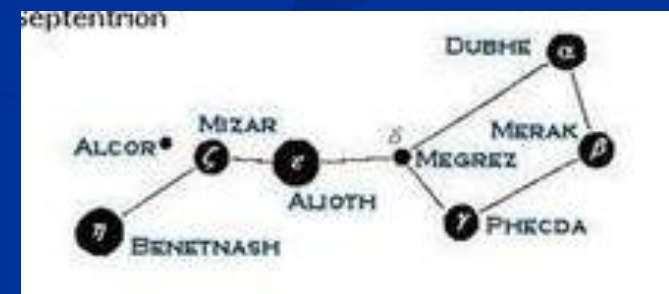


"Imperishable" constellation of the **Bull's Leg**

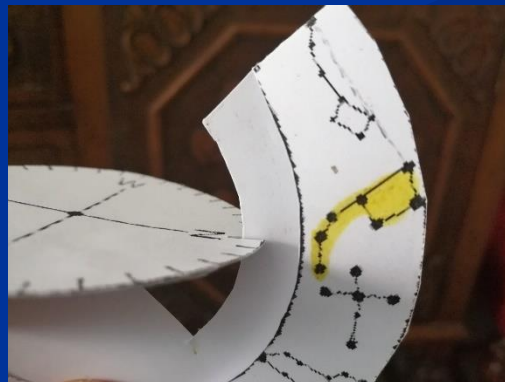
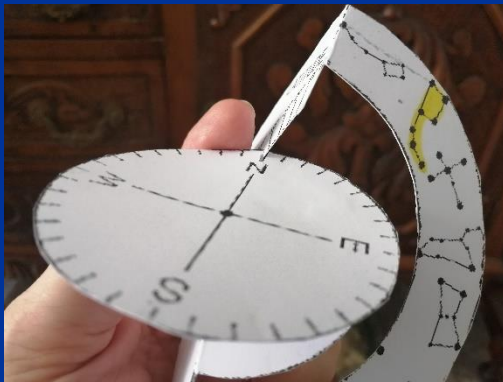


Currently Merak and Dubhe indicate the position of the polar at 2° from the pole.

Formerly Megrez and Phecda determined the situation of Thuban that in 2787 B.C. which was only $2'$ from the pole



The placement of the pyramids responds to religious motivations. The Egyptians believed that the stars disappeared and reappeared, allowed to transcend death. This explains, for example, the geographical placement of many pyramids: "The ducts of the pyramids face north because there were the stars that never disappeared from the sky, the circumpolar stars, which never died."



Cairo latitude 30°N



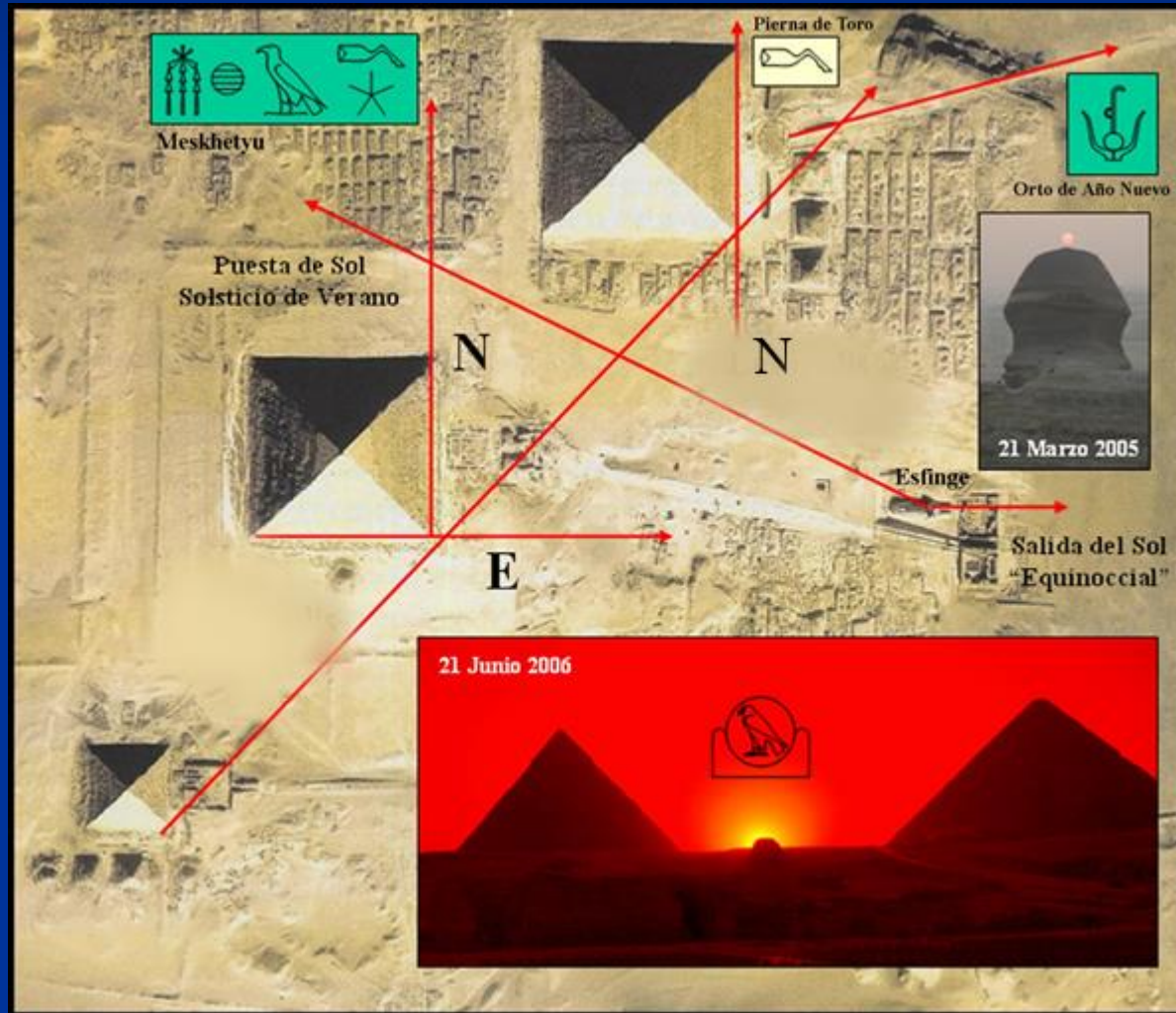
The two pyramids of Dahshur are almost perfectly oriented to the north and their access corridors were built with a slope such that this would facilitate the king's ascension to the northern skies, domain of the "undying stars", one of the favorite destinations of the soul of the deceased king according to the Texts of the Pyramids. ”



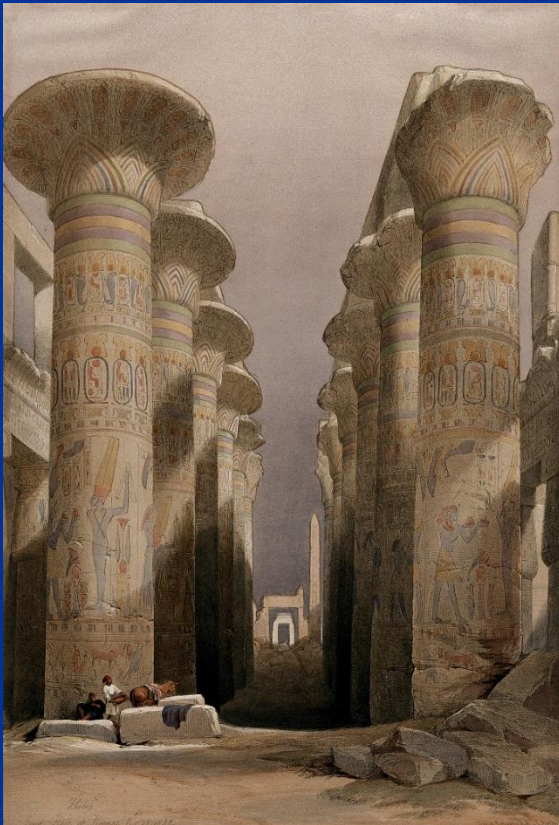
The two pyramids, the Bent and the Red, would be the manifestation of the Upper and Lower Egypt by symbolic imitation of the white and red crowns respectively.



Proposed hypothesis that the general arrangement of most of the Giza complex, including the Sphinx and the two major pyramids, would be an original design for the reign of Cheops



Previously, pyramids and temples were believed to be astronomically oriented and to function as observatories. Now the orientation of the temples is considered parallel to the Nile and/or for religious reasons are according to 3 types:



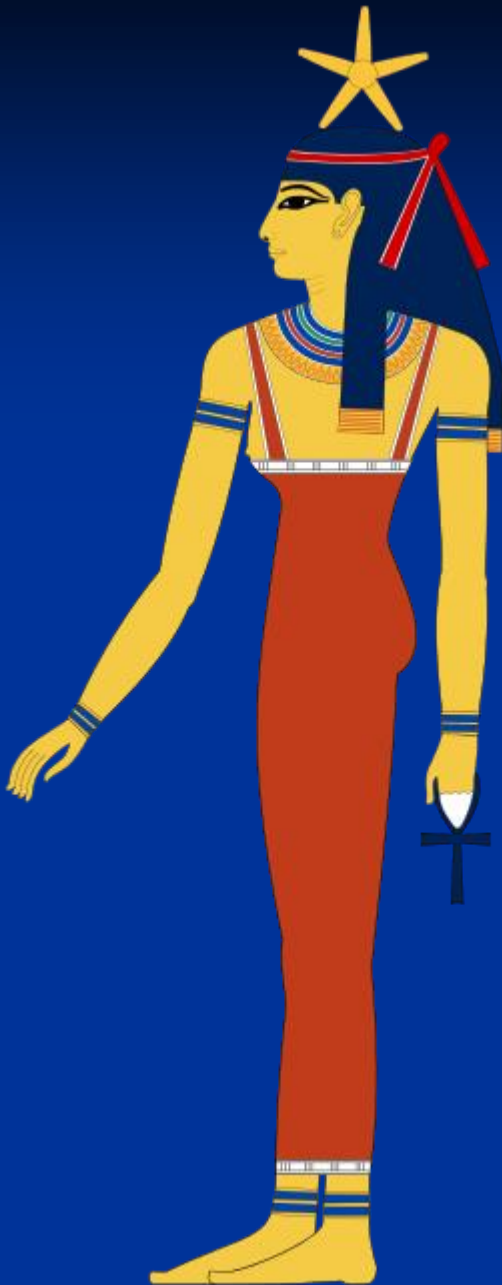
1) to the meridian line, to the **N**orth.

2) to a purely solar character.

3) to the brightest stars Sirius and Canopus

**The astronomical orientation
of temples is a constant in
ancient civilizations.**





The Sirius star, called Sopdet by the Egyptians, gives rise to one of these singular events: its first annual appearance at dawn, the so-called heliacal rising (the first day it becomes visible to the west at dawn just before sunrise) and this moment announced the arrival of the flood of the Nile, of great importance in Egypt.

The star Sirius remained invisible for 70 days, the same time as in the mummification process, the bodies were immersed in natron salts to dehydrate them for 70 days and the body was subsequently removed.

