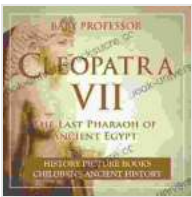


# The Last Pharaoh of Ancient Egypt: Uncovering the Mystery of Nectanebo II

In the twilight of ancient Egypt's glorious reign, a pharaoh emerged from the shadows to take his place as the last native ruler of a civilization that had flourished for millennia. Nectanebo II, a figure shrouded in mystery and intrigue, ascended to the throne in 360 BC, inheriting a kingdom beleaguered by internal strife and external threats.



## Cleopatra VII : The Last Pharaoh of Ancient Egypt - History Picture Books I Children's Ancient History

by Baby Professor

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

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## Early Life and Rise to Power

Nectanebo's origins are shrouded in obscurity. Historians believe he was born around 380 BC to a family of modest means in Sebennytos, a city in the Nile Delta. Little is known about his early life, but his rise to power was marked by both ambition and opportunism.

In 379 BC, Egypt found itself embroiled in a civil war between rival factions. Nectanebo, sensing an opportunity, allied himself with the rebel leader Tachos and played a pivotal role in overthrowing the reigning pharaoh,

Nekhtnebef I. With Nekhtnebef's defeat, Nectanebo emerged as a prominent figure in the Egyptian political landscape.

## **Reign as Pharaoh**

Nectanebo's reign as pharaoh was a period of both prosperity and turmoil. He embarked on ambitious building projects, including the restoration of ancient temples and the construction of new ones. In Mendes, his capital city, he erected a magnificent palace and patronized the arts and sciences.

However, Nectanebo's reign was also marked by external threats. The Persian Empire, under King Artaxerxes III, had long coveted Egypt's wealth and strategic location. In 351 BC, the Persians invaded Egypt, seeking to reassert their control over the land. Nectanebo, determined to defend his kingdom, raised an army and met the Persian forces in battle.

## **The Persian Invasion and Aftermath**

The Persian invasion was a fierce and bloody conflict. Nectanebo, despite his valiant efforts, was unable to repel the invaders. In 343 BC, Memphis, the ancient capital of Egypt, fell to the Persians, and Nectanebo was forced to flee south. He continued to resist the Persian occupation, but his forces were eventually defeated.

With Nectanebo's defeat, the native pharaonic line of Egypt came to an end. The Persians ruled Egypt for the next ten years, until they were overthrown by Alexander the Great in 332 BC. Nectanebo, the last native pharaoh of ancient Egypt, disappeared into obscurity after the Persian invasion. His fate remains unknown, adding to the enigmatic nature of his legacy.

## **Nectanebo II's Legacy**

Despite the tragic end to his reign, Nectanebo II is remembered as a significant figure in ancient Egyptian history. His ambitious building projects left a lasting mark on the landscape of Egypt, and his resistance against the Persian invasion demonstrated his unwavering patriotism.

Nectanebo's legacy is also intertwined with the legends and myths that have been passed down through the centuries. Some believe he escaped to Nubia and continued to rule in exile. Others claim he sought refuge in Greece, where he became a tutor to Alexander the Great. These stories, while lacking historical evidence, speak to the enduring fascination surrounding this enigmatic pharaoh.

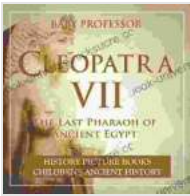
## **Exploration and Rediscovery**

The story of Nectanebo II has continued to captivate historians and archaeologists alike. In the 19th century, excavations at Nectanebo's palace in Mendes uncovered stunning statues, reliefs, and inscriptions that shed light on his reign.

More recent discoveries, such as a royal decree bearing Nectanebo's name found in the temple complex of Karnak, have provided valuable insights into his policies and administrative reforms. These archaeological finds have helped piece together the puzzle of Nectanebo's life and reign.

Nectanebo II, the last pharaoh of ancient Egypt, was a complex and enigmatic figure who ruled during a tumultuous period in Egyptian history. From his humble beginnings to his valiant resistance against the Persian invasion, his story is a testament to the resilience and enduring spirit of ancient Egypt.

Although his reign ended in defeat, Nectanebo's legacy lives on in the monuments he left behind and the legends that have been woven around his name. He remains a symbol of ancient Egypt's final struggle for independence and a reminder of the rich and fascinating history of one of the world's oldest civilizations.



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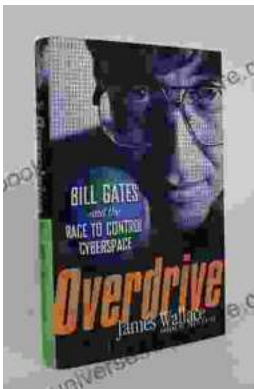
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