

Student Handout 6

A History of Egypt (Example... sources underlined)

Life in Egypt was good for some people, but was a burden for others. The Pharaoh was quite wealthy and lived in a prosperous city with gardens, fountains, and plenty of food. His city was supported by resources collected from people who lived along the Nile River. According to documents from Egypt, life was great and the people viewed the pharaoh as a god.

Life was not great for everybody. Workers, or laborers, lived a life of burden. Fathers would try to help their sons by advising them to become scribes. Scribes had more respect than workers. However, to become a scribe you had to go to school and work hard or else nobody would respect you. If you succeeded, you would live a life like the people in the city of the pharaoh with lots of food and comfort.

People in Egypt who were not a scribe or a member of the higher social class had to respect people above them. Children were also taught to respect their parents. According to documents, the one Egyptian said, "opposition to a superior is a painful thing."

Family life was controlled by the husband. They loved their wives but did not let them take control of the household. People in families were not supposed to be envious of each other either. A document about a father giving advice to his son said, "do not be greedy or envious of your own kindred."

For wealthy people from the elite class, life was easy and they enjoyed respect and power. People who were workers did not get that respect and had to obey their superiors. Egyptians had a social hierarchy with pharaohs at the top and workers at the bottom.