

## **Abstract**

The dissertation at hand deals with the subject of "Magical Bricks" in Ancient Egypt: a study of Funerary rituals through the book of the dead". The four molds of "Magical Bricks" range in date from the reign of Thutmose III, the fifth king of the New Kingdom, to the reign of Nectanebo I in the 30th Dynasty. The four of "Magical Bricks" were placed in four niches carved in the walls of the burial chamber. The origins of these niches date back to the first dynasty where they found traces of one of the niches in the southwest corner of the Great lower chamber of king Djet's tomb. The accompanying scene of chapter 151 in the Book of the Dead depicts one of the measures that have been taken by the ancient Egyptians so as to keep the sacredness of the deceased, where we could see the burial chamber and what it contains of funerary furniture to save the body of the deceased.

The sorcery text of chapter 151 deals with the position of four types of "Magical Bricks" lined up in the burial chamber inside the four niches that has been carved in the walls of the tomb. These molds have different amuletic forms, placed on their stated way from the four corners of the burial chamber, in a way that helped to get the evil spirits out and protect the tomb's owner from the danger that threatens his life and to guarantee his safety across the other world.

This dissertation aims to trace the history of "Magical Bricks" with the main focus on their functional role at the tomb and their symbolic role in both mundane life and religious beliefs. The study thus proceeds to examine the various elements that show the abstract and concrete value of the presence / absence of the "Magical Bricks" inside the tomb, the thing that helps to identify the economic and social status of the tomb's owner. More to the point, the dissertation seeks to know how important it is to have "Magical Bricks" during the burial process and its effects as well.