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Study says Cleopatra was part-African

Wed Mar 18, 2009



Facial reconstruction of Cleopatra's younger sister, Arsinoe

A team of Austrian archeologists and forensic experts has found that the last Egyptian Pharaoh, Cleopatra had a part-African heritage.

Researchers, who found the skeletal remains of Cleopatra's younger sister Arsinoe, said that the princess had the characteristics of white Europeans, ancient Egyptians and black Africans, so her Pharaoh sister could also have been of mixed race.

Facial reconstruction and forensic studies showed that the skeleton belonged to a 15- to 18-year-old female of North African descent.

"It has got this long head shape," *Timesonline* quoted forensic anthropologist Caroline Wilkinson as saying. "That's something you see quite frequently in ancient Egyptians and black Africans. It could suggest a mixture of ancestry."

The skeleton, which was found in the Roman city of Ephesus in modern-day Turkey, showed no sign of illness or malnutrition and indicated a sudden death.

Arsinoe was murdered in 41BCE on Cleopatra's orders and her skeleton is the first relic of the Ptolemaic dynasty to have been identified.

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