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REDACTION
Wojciech Blajer

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EN COUVERTURE
Trois figurines d'ivoire de site prédynastique de Tell el-Farkha

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Mikołaj Budzanowski

The cult niches on the upper court of the temple of Hatshepsut in Deir el-Bahari.

Royal cult aspects in the Temple of Millions of Years Djoser- Djoseru during the reign of Queen Hatshepsut¹

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The thesis is thoroughly concerned with the royal cult in the period of Dynasty 18 basing on the reign of Queen Hatshepsut. The author aims at the definition of the role and position of a king in the liturgy of the Temple of the Millions of Years in Deir el-Bahari. He studies the specificity of the Queen Hatshepsut cult seen from the angle of decoration and function of the niches, the way of emanation and expression of divine kingship and its consolidation thanks to ritual efforts. The research were based on an up-to-date unpublished complex of 30 cult chapels (popularly called niches) meant for statues of Queen Hatshepsut situated on the upper court of the temple in Deir el-Bahari.

In the direct reference to the niches the study focuses on three crucial issues:

– genesis of the architectural form, its evolution and impact on younger buildings,

– rituals connected to the niches' function and the course of holiday celebrations the niches were taking part in,

– analysis of the inner niche furnishing, what is especially important and based on earlier analyses since not a single piece of their furnishing or filling was preserved.

The most interesting result of the research is the observation of four processional ways' presence, which statues from the niches were carried along. The presence of such cult ways is attested by a deep relation among iconographic representations in particular niche complexes (the barque chapel, the festival court, the solar cult complex). The author calls the ways the royal route with a complex spatial structure. The aim of processional ways was to ritually legitimize the right for being a king and also to make the royal Ka a member of the Great Ennead. In consequence, Egyptian theologians meant the temple in Deir el-Bahari a place

¹ Dissertation defences in 2004

of the deified Queen Hatshepsut cult and of divine kingship revival.

Results of the study enable to shift the beginning of divine royalty cult of Dynasty 18 from the reign of Amenophis III to the times of Queen Hatshepsut (the

first half of the XVth century BC). The political theology of Queen Hatshepsut made way for the first monotheism brought by the religious revolution from the reign of Akhenaten in the XIVth century BC.