I Want my Mummy!



Let me introduce myself. My name is Anubis and I am the ancient Egyptian god of mummification. I hear you wish to become an apprentice to the High Priest. A worthy goal indeed! But be warned my friend...succeed and the gods will smile upon you with generosity, fail and their curse will hang around your neck for all eternity.

After washing and shaving your master, you are ready to begin making your mummy.

First, take an iron hook and scrape out the brain through one of the nostrils. After doing this, make a small cut on the left hand side of the corpse so that you can remove the lungs, liver, stomach and intestines. Place these to one side for later use.

With the corpse now empty, place the body into an embalming bath and pack inside and out with natron – a salt-like powder found in the desert. Do the same with the internal organs removed from the body.

Having waited forty days, remove the now dried-out body from the bath and rinse off the natron with water. Pat dry and rub the flesh with oil and wine perfumed with spices. In order to keep its shape, the body will now need re-packing with a combination of linen, sawdust and bundles of surplus natron. This process will also need to be applied to the internal organs. * Please

not to mix them up!

To make your mummy appear more life-like, first fill the nostrils with beeswax and paint a face on to the skin itself. A golden mask can be placed on top if wanted. Remember, glass eyes make beautiful replacements, as do gold-tipped finger and toe nails.

The embalming process now over, you can complete your mummy by gently wrapping him in the finest linen: first individual fingers and toes, before wrapping each limb and then finally the entire body.

It may have taken you seventy days of hard (and sometimes messy) work but your job is now done and your master is ready to be sent into the next world with the honour and the glory he deserves.

