

Debod Temple

3.- A Ptolemaic temple

After defeating the rebels in Southern Egypt, Ptolemy VI and his successor Ptolemy VII took control of Lower Nubia again. These monarchs expanded the primitive sanctuary built by Adijamani in Debod, adding new chapels, a terrace and one pylon. The simple chapel of earlier times thus became a small but whole Egyptian temple. Ptolemy VIII erected a monolithic sanctuary to keep a statue of the goddess Isis, which was later completed with another one built by Ptolemy XII and devoted to Amun. Only the chapel of the latter sanctuary has survived, since the rest was lost in the 19th century.



Ptolemy VIII



Emperor Augustus

Rome conquered Egypt in 30 B.C. after the future Emperor Augustus defeated Mark Anthony and Queen Cleopatra. In the South, Roman legions continued the fight against the Kingdom of Meroë for 10 years, until a peace treaty was signed to define a permanent border between both kingdoms. Few years later, the vestibule and main façade of Debod Temple were decorated with scenes depicting Augustus. The third pylon, the processional way and the pier were also built in the

Roman Period, as well as a chapel that is considered to be a mammisi, or the place where rituals for the birth of the child god were held.

In the year 635 pagan cult was forbidden in the temples at Philae. The small temples of Lower Nubia, including Debod, were closed and abandoned. The Western world ignored Egypt and Nubia for more than 1,000 years until the 19th century, when European travellers and adventurers rediscovered their ancient monuments.