

# Nefertari – First Queen of Ramesses The Great

From childhood I was amazed with Pharaohs and their paintings and pyramids. In primary school I started to gain more and more information about their life and how they created a great civilization. Among that I was charmed with a powerful Queen **Nefertari**, that is classified as one of the best known Egyptian Queens.

## **Nefertari is Not an Ordinary Woman!**

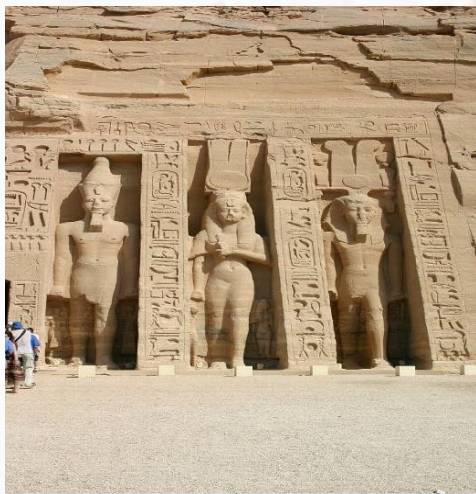
**Nefertari** means beautiful companion. **Nefertari** was known as “Lady of Grace”, “Lady of All Lands”, “Wife of the Strong Bull” and “Great of Praises”. Queen **Nefertari** is considered **iconic women** of Ancient Egypt.<sup>[1]</sup>

**Nefertari** was highly educated and able to both **read and write** hieroglyphs, ancient Egyptian language, which was a very rare skill at that time specially for a woman. She used these skills in her diplomatic work, corresponding with other prominent royals of that time. <sup>[2]</sup>

King **Ramesses** was incredibly devoted to **Nefertari** and was obsessed with her beauty. The story of **Ramesses** and **his admiration for his wife** is considered one of the best interesting ancient Egypt stories, as this inspiring love story is so important to Egyptian history. <sup>[1]</sup>



The goddess Hathor giving an ankh, representing "life", to Nefertari



Nefertari in Abu Simbel temple

**Ramesses** also built amazing **temple in honor** of **Nefertari**, carved from the cliffs at **Abu Simbel** in **Nubia** – located just south of Thebes (at upper Egypt).

The unique part is the two colossal standing **statues** of **Nefertari** in front of the temple are **equal in size** to those of **Ramesses**, So **Nefertari** is the first queen has a statue at the same level of a king, which express an early step to **gender equality**.

<sup>[1]</sup> Dodson, Aidan and Hilton, Dyan. The Complete Royal Families of Ancient Egypt. Thames & Hudson. 2004. ISBN0-500-05128-3

<sup>[2]</sup> Habicht, Michael E.; Bianucci, Raffaella; Buckley, Stephen A.; Fletcher, Joann; Bouwman, Abigail S.; Öhrström, Lena M.; Seiler, Roger; Galassi, Francesco M.; Hajdas, Irka; Vassilika, Eleni; Böni, Thomas; Henneberg, Maciej; Rühli, Frank J. (November 30, 2016). "Queen Nefertari, the Royal Spouse of Pharaoh Ramses II: A Multidisciplinary Investigation of the Mummified Remains Found in Her Tomb QV66".