

## Shmanners 152: Ancient Egypt

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**Travis:** An episode about Egypt? Sounds like a pyramid scheme to me!

**Teresa:** It's *Shmanners*!

[theme music plays]

**Travis:** Hello, internet! I'm your husband host, Travis McElroy!

**Teresa:** And I'm your wife host, Teresa McElroy!

**Travis:** And you are listening to *Shmanners*!

**Teresa:** It's extraordinary etiquette...

**Travis:** For ordinary occasions! Hello, my dove.

**Teresa:** Hello, dear.

**Travis:** How are you?

**Teresa:** Little phlegmy. [clears throat] Sorry, audience. [laughs]

**Travis:** I'm a little phlegmy, too! Yeah, we've got—oh, it's that—the changing of the seasons, as we move from winter to spring—

**Teresa:** And back to winter. [laughs]

**Travis:** —and back to winter, and fluctuating back and forth and back and forth and back and forth.

**Teresa:** Yeah... the whole fam has a little bit of a post-nasal drip.

**Travis:** Indeed we do. But we're so excited to be here, talking to you now! Living in the moment! What moment is that? It's *this* moment, my friends! But we're talking about the past.

**Teresa:** Yeah! Well, so, a lot of the things that we talk about, I tend to go way, way... way, way back, and talk about how a lot of the, you know, the mannerisms and the etiquette that we use today have roots in other things.

**Travis:** For example, uh, the thing that made me think about this topic last week when we were talking about umbrellas, and we were talking about them in ancient Egypt being used only by the royalty. And I thought, "Man we talk about ancient Egypt a lot."

**Teresa:** We do! So, this episode is gonna be kind of a biography episode, I guess it what we usually call them?

**Travis:** Yeah, that's kind of how we treated it.

**Teresa:** Um, but it's about kind of a day—a day in the life of ancient Egypt.

**Travis:** Okay. So this is a biography of ancient Egypt.

**Teresa:** Yes. Egyptians.

**Travis:** Oh, okay. Not just, like—

**Teresa:** Daily—this is a biography of... the lifestyle of the ancient Egyptians, of the rich and famous.

**Travis:** Mm... well—

**Teresa:** No?

**Travis:** —no... I mean, I don't know. I don't know who you covered.

**Teresa:** Well, I—I covered a little bit of everybody.

**Travis:** Okay! Um, well, then let's get into it!

**Teresa:** First, let's play one of my favorite games.

**Travis:** Twister.

**Teresa:** No.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** How many things can Travis get wrong? [laughs]

**Travis:** Oh, that's not a game!

**Teresa:** Well, I had a really fun time when we played the game with the Puritans, remember?

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** Puritan Christmas. So when you think of ancient Egypt, tell me about what happens in your mind's eye.

**Travis:** Well, the thing is... so, I had, I would say, a wonderful history teacher in middle school who made everything very interactive, and so with ancient Egypt, we acted out the start to finish, like, mummification process.

**Teresa:** Okay.

**Travis:** Like, up—including being judged by the gods and, like, having your heart weighed, and that kind of thing. The problem is, though, now, that's about all I remember, as far as the nitty-gritty goes? So I would imagine—here's what I know about ancient Egypt, and a lot of it also comes from, like, the Bible and Biblical movies.

**Teresa:** Okay.

**Travis:** So, I know that there were slaves who built the pyramids, or it was aliens. I know that there were, like, pharaohs, and the Nile flooded sometimes and was good for crops when that happened, and I know that there... I don't know, were there crocodiles in the Nile, or am I getting into the song "King Tut" by [through laughter] Steve Martin?

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** That they were mummified with their cats... [groans] okay, now I just remember tidbits.

**Teresa:** Well, I would give that presentation a... B-.

**Travis:** Better than I normally get! Okay.

**Teresa:** [laughs] So, let me address a few things. While Hollywood has definitely kind of played up the slavery deal with the pyramids, modern Egyptologists think that that's probably not the case.

**Travis:** Wait, what?

**Teresa:** Uh, there definitely were slaves, in the way of prisoners of war, basically; but there wasn't really, like, a slave trade. Um, there wasn't really one slave race, either. Prisoners of war were definitely treated as slaves, but that doesn't mean that *all* of them were?

**Travis:** But I'm conf—isn't that the deal with, like, Moses—

**Teresa:** Yes.

**Travis:** —and the pharaoh and...

**Teresa:** The timeline is iffy as far as how exactly that all played out.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** Um, and—but the thing was, the modern study of Egyptology... there's so much skill and craftsmanship that goes into building, say, a pyramid or temple or an obelisk or something, that the likelihood that just kind of any—anybody off the street could do it is really small.

So, what they're probably thinking happened was—had to do with... Egypt was a highly agricultural society. Um, they used their land more for raising crops than for feeding livestock.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** Because, like you mentioned, the Nile—

**Travis:** Nailed it.

**Teresa:** —usually flooded about once a year, but you can't work the fields while the flood is there. What happens is, the flood happens, it leaves a nice deposit of silt, and that's what fertilizes the crops for the next year, but you can't do anything in the field while the water is on it.

**Travis:** That makes sense. That tracks.

**Teresa:** So these farmers and, you know, land workers, had to have something to do, because... all rations—all money was paid in rations from the government.

**Travis:** Now, see, this I know, because I know this, once again, from both Biblical stories and now, a little bit of musicals, too, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat, they have the whole thing about, like, "You'll have seven years of plenty, so save that, 'cause you've gotta give—" like, basically everything that gets, like, grown and raised as far as livestock and food goes, goes to the government, and then they hand it back out?

**Teresa:** Yes. Um, so there weren't really, like, wages, but it was a [chuckles] pyramid—

**Travis:** Ehh?

**Teresa:** —type of social strata. So, the pharaoh at the top and his government officials, which were usually the family—and I say "his" only because, statistically, there were more male pharaohs than female, although there were female pharaohs.

**Travis:** There was one whose name I can't remember who still wore, like, the beard?

**Teresa:** That's Cleopatra.

**Travis:** Cleopatra did that?

**Teresa:** Yeah.

**Travis:** I didn't know that.

**Teresa:** She was—I mean, a lot of them still wore the beard. Anyway—it was a ceremonial thing. Whatever. So, the pharaoh and his government were

responsible for divvying the rations out to everybody. So if you didn't work, you didn't get rations. So what these farmers and land workers would do is go to, you know, the closest kind of building site, whatever the pharaoh was working on—temple, obelisk, pyramid, tomb, thing like that, right?

And same thing goes with the craftsman. If you don't have materials of things to make other materials with, you gotta go earn money—well, they didn't use money. It was a barter system. I'll go back to that—you gotta go earn in order to make, right?

**Travis:** Yes.

**Travis:** So these craftsman would also go to these build sites, they would be put to work, and that's where they would get their rations.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** Um, so the idea of slave labor doing these things really doesn't quite add up.

**Travis:** I mean, there were probably still some slaves doing the menial, like, unskilled labor.

**Teresa:** Like moving stone from one place to another, probably. Probably. But a lot of the actual building was probably done by people who did this every season, so they knew what they were doing.

**Travis:** That makes sense.

**Teresa:** In fact, there have been discoveries on opposing ends of some of these buildings of graffiti marks, kind of like... I mean, they're called, by Egyptologists, gang marks, because these rival gangs would try and out-build each other. And they would tag their whatever it was they were building, so that they could be, you know—they had bragging rights.

**Travis:** So, like, rival gangs... of construction workers.

**Teresa:** Yes.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** [laughs] Okay. So, let me go back and touch on what I touched on for the bartering system. It was really cool doing this research, because really what the Egyptians had... was bitcoin.

**Travis:** Really?

**Teresa:** There was no physical money. There were jewels, there was gold, there was, you know, that kind of stuff, but as far as, like, everyday exchange, it was all kind of just understood, right? They had units, like, bitcoin. [pauses] Like, bitcoin is a unit, but it only worked because everyone agreed how much stuff each unit was worth, usually traded in grain, because the staple diet—other than vegetables and fruits, the diet was bread, beer. You know, and fruits and vegetables.

**Travis:** So basically, like—you would say, like, "Okay. Well, this cow would be worth... I don't know, 14 pounds of grain, and your sheep is worth 7 pounds of grain, so two sheep equals one cow.

**Teresa:** Exactly!

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** Exactly, and it was, you know—the system worked because everyone believed in the worth of the things, not because they had physical currency to exchange.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** I thought that was super cool.

**Travis:** So you couldn't roll up and be like, "Actually, this sheep is worth 15 pounds of grain, so—"

And you'd be like, "No, no, no. That's not—we all know that that's not true, Jerry! Come on."

**Teresa:** [laughs] Right. Um, and then one of the other things that I wanted to touch on... something that was kind of the pervasive thing of everyday life—and you said it. Again, B-. Travis gets lots of it right.

**Travis:** Okay, you don't have to—okay, the more you bring it up, the less good it sounds like?

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** It's really—I know that B- is better than, say, like, a C+, but having the word "minus" in there really makes it *feel*... [groans]

**Teresa:** How about we call it a C++?

**Travis:** No! That—now that sounds like double speak from, like, 1984.

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** How about just, like, a C.2? C.5?

**Teresa:** Okay. C.5.

**Travis:** No, B.5! That's what I meant.

**Teresa:** B.5, okay. Anyway, uh, you mentioned mummification.

**Travis:** I did, yes.

**Teresa:** And the reason—I mean, other than just the prolific amount of mummies that have been discovered, some taken care of and some not—

**Travis:** Yeah, there's a whole episode, I think, of *Sawbones*, where they talk about mummies, and that there was a period of time where people... [high pitched voice] ate them?

**Teresa:** Yeah...

**Travis:** Yeah. For their healing properties or whatever. [shudders]

**Teresa:** So... it felt, to me, while I was researching this, that kind of... the mummification was a necessity for the ancient Egyptians, because of the way they lived their lives.



**Travis:** How do you mean?

**Teresa:** Well, one of the pervasive kind of, uh, thought processes, was the idea of magic.

**Travis:** Uh-huh?

**Teresa:** And magic supplied by the creation of the universe, magic supplied by, you know, beings, by gods, by things like that, right? And the society was structured, like I said, like a pyramid, and the reason for that was, quote, "Because the gods deemed it the most perfect way of living."

**Travis:** I mean, that's the thing, right? I also know this, that when you talk about, like, pharaohs and the royal family, it's not that different from a lot of, like, European kings and stuff, where the idea of, like, it's—chosen by God.

This person is king because they were chosen by God, except that I believe, if I'm not mistaken and I'm not assuming things that aren't actually true, I believe that when it comes to, like, pharaoh, pharaoh actually *was* considered to be God in the form of man on Earth.

**Teresa:** So he was—pharaoh was considered to be the living bridge between the gods—the afterlife, also—and life today. So, what the ancient Egyptians built their entire day around was this magic, this way of putting out into the universe, and it's kind of hard to describe, because according to my research, everything had magic? It's almost like... have you ever heard of, uh, Shinto?

**Travis:** No?

**Teresa:** It is an Eastern philosophy that has come to light a lot from Marie Kondo, right? Um, because she thanks the house, right? If you haven't seen it, she is a organizer from Japan who—one of the things that she advocates in her method is thanking your possessions for their service to you. Even if you no longer have need of them, you used them, they served a purpose at one point, so you thank them.

**Travis:** So is this—'cause I was going to compare it to, um, another touchpoint I have—touchstone? Whatever. Is that, like with ancient Greek and ancient Roman, the idea of, like, just about everything had a god.

**Teresa:** Sure.

**Travis:** That there was a god of, you know, the household. There was a god of the sun, there was a god of the land, there was a god of the trees, there was a god—you know what I mean?

And a lot of, like, major gods that we know of now—for example, the one that always springs to mind is, like, Hades was of course the god of the underworld, but also the god of, like, thieves, and the god of wealth, and the god of—and so all of these gods wore multiple hats, but there was, like, a god for everything.

**Teresa:** Right. It seems very similar. And so the entire day—the entire *life*, actually, revolved around creating this kind of perfect lifestyle, this utopia—[clears throat] excuse me. That's the phlegm. Um, like you said—

**Travis:** The god of phlegm.

**Teresa:** —like you said, for their heart to be weighed, right? And what you wanted was a heart that was lighter than the feather.

**Travis:** Yes.

**Teresa:** That the god had at the gate.

**Travis:** That Anubis weighed your heart. That was my favorite—I got to play Anubis—

**Teresa:** Oh!

**Travis:** —in the thing we did, so I got to pull the heart out of the person's chest, and it was, like, a foam heart that they had tucked under their, uh, armpit—

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** —and I got to reach through [through gritted teeth] their chest and pull out the heart, [normally] and then weigh it. It was great.

**Teresa:** That's—that's amazing. Good for you.

**Travis:** Very exciting. And you know what? We're gonna talk about more stuff in a day in the life of ancient Egypt, but first, how about a thank you note for some of our sponsors?

[theme music plays]

**Travis:** Hello. I would like to say thank you for Squarespace, for a lot of things. One, for being one of the sponsors of this episode, but also for making building a website so easy that anyone can do it, including me, who knows nothing about website building.

**Teresa:** Well, but you—you do *now*—

**Travis:** Well, that's the thing—

**Teresa:** —because of the wonderful tutorials also available to help you make your Squarespace your own!

**Travis:** —when I started, I didn't know what I was doing, and now I sort of know what I'm doing.

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** If you go to [buttercupisaverygoodgirl.com](http://buttercupisaverygoodgirl.com), you can see a website I made dedicated to my dog, Buttercup. She is great, and we love her very much, and I did it in, like, an hour and a half, two hours?

And that's the thing, if you have work you'd like to showcase, or maybe products you'd like to sell, or just whatever you could use a website for, make a website for that on Squarespace.

You don't need to know anything, because they have 24/7 award winning customer support, they have tutorials, there's tons of videos you can watch about it on YouTube. Um, and they have a new way to buy domains and choose from over 200 extensions. They have beautiful, customizable templates created by world-class designers. It's so easy to build a website.

**Teresa:** It's a one stop website shop!

**Travis:** That is correct. So, make it stand out. Stand out with a beautiful website from Squarespace! Check out [Squarespace.com/shmanners](https://www.squarespace.com/shmanners) for a free trial, and when you're ready to launch use the offer code "shmanners" to save 10% off your first purchase of a website or domain.

**Teresa:** We'd also like to say thank you this week to Quip for sponsoring *Shmanners* in part. And Quip is designed to make brushing your teeth more simple, more affordable, and even more enjoyable. So, we have some Quips. Let me tell you about the thing I love about the Quips.

I like that it is very slim, easy to transport. I like that it is an electric toothbrush, which is recommended by my dental hygienist, and I like that as you push the button, it keeps count of your brushing time. It's got that timer in there, and a pulse every 30 seconds, because... I gotta tell you. I—I tend to space out a little bit [through laughter] when I brush my teeth. Just kinda staring there, goin' back and forth.

That little pulse help me know I need to switch. It's got pulses that add up in time to two minutes, which is the recommended amount of time, and before Quip, I gotta say, I probably *never* brushed for up to two minutes. Um, so that's for on my end, but on the Quip side of things—[laughs] get it?

**Travis:** Oh?

**Teresa:** Yeah. Uh, they automatically deliver your brush heads every three months for just \$5, and it comes with a multi-use cover. Uh, so you can either mount it to your mirror, or you can bring the whole thing with you and use it as a travel cover.

**Travis:** It's super great. We're a big fan of our Quips, and I think you will be too! So you should go check it out.

**Teresa:** Uh, Quip is backed by over 20,000 dental professionals, so they're pretty big of a fan of Quip, and it starts at \$25 if you go to [getquip.com/shmanners](https://getquip.com/shmanners) right now, and you can get your first refill pack for free with your Quip electric toothbrush! That's right: get your first refill pack free at [getquip.com/shmanners](https://getquip.com/shmanners).

**Travis:** We also have a Jumbotron this week from Maple, to Donovan. And Maple says:

"Hi, baby. You make me the happiest person in the world, so I spent \$100 to have the man whose beard you aspire to grow read that out loud. Just remember, I might fight with our kitty over who loves you the most, but Greg loves to lick plastic bags more than anything else, so I win!"

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** "Love Maple."

Is Greg your cat? 'Cause Greg is a great name for a cat.

**Teresa:** It really is.

**Travis:** "This is Greg, our roommate. And cat."

**Teresa:** [laughs] Cats are kind of like roommates.

**Sean:** Unless you wish you could trade in your own family for the Pearsons, *Inside Pop* is definitely not for you.

**Amita:** Sean, that's a little extreme! And also not *quite* true.

**Sean:** Okay, Amita. How about, *Inside Pop* is the podcast for people who love and appreciate the best pop culture has to offer?

**Amita:** Oh, much better.

**Sean:** In every episode, we interview the people who create the culture you crave.

**Amita:** Past interviews include the production designer for *Fargo* and Tony Ducray from the DreamWorks story department.

**Sean:** You'll also get the very best pop culture recommendations in our big sell segment.

**Amita:** Plus the opinions of two TV producers who are pop culture obsessives, and actually *do* wish Sterling K. Brown was our cousin.

**Sean:** Kissing cousins, that is!

**Amita:** [through laughter] Listen to *Inside Pop* every other Wednesday on the Maximum Fun Podcast Network!

[music plays]

**Speaker One:** Ah, there's nothing quite like sailing in the calm international waters on my ship, the SS Biopic.

**Speaker Two:** Avast! It's actually pronounced "Bio-pick."

**Speaker One:** No, ya dingus! It's "Bi-ah-pick!"

**Speaker Two:** Who the hell says that? It's "Bio-pick," it comes from the words "biology" and—

**Speaker One:** It's the words for biography and picture!

**Speaker Two:** If you—

**Dave:** All right, that is enough. Ahoy, I'm Dave Holmes. I'm the host of a newly rebooted podcast, formerly known as International Waters, designed to resolve petty but persistent arguments like this. How? By pitting two teams of opinionated comedians against each other with trivia and improv games, of course! Winner takes home the right to be right.

**Speaker One:** What podcast be this?

**Dave:** It's called Troubled Waters, where we disagree to disagree!

**Travis:** Okay. So, what else do we need to know about a day in the life of ancient Egypt?

**Teresa:** Okay. Well, I thought that I would get down a little further into the details of this pyramid I keep talking about.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** So, at the bottom are the farmers and slaves, right? And then above that would be the craftsmen, because they know a trade. Above that would be the merchants—

**Travis:** And then—can I guess? After that, clergy? Priests?

**Teresa:** Almost.

**Travis:** Ugh.

**Teresa:** Scribes.

**Travis:** Really?

**Teresa:** Yeah! Then priests—oh, sorry. Scribes, then soldiers. Kind of—there wasn't really a full Egyptian army until much later in ancient Egypt. Mostly it was, like, militias and stuff. So soldiers just kind of slid in there in between scribes and priests, which were also the government officials and the nobles.

**Travis:** Okay. Priests were? Priests were also government officials and nobles?

**Teresa:** A lot of the time, yeah. They were also scribes. So, um, priests had a pretty big part of society. They had a lot of responsibility, even though there weren't as many of them. But every temple had its own set of priests, and they could all read or write, because, I mean, they had to be able to in order to carry out their duties. Um, and they were, you know, so respected in the community they were given government titles.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** And sometimes land, which made them noblemen.

**Travis:** Got it. Okay.

**Teresa:** And then the pharaoh and their family up at the top, which also started out as government officials, but as history wore on—

**Travis:** They didn't wanna have jobs anymore?

**Teresa:** [laughs] Yeah... [laughs]

**Travis:** 'Cause that's the thing. Let me be—I'll tell y'all: if I were a royal... I wouldn't work.

**Teresa:** [laughs] I mean, I would work at charity stuff.

**Travis:** I would not! I would do—I would have a giant room full of pillows and swings and video games... and food. And I would, uh, just go... I don't know, whatever wild is? But I'd basically just sleep 18 hours a day. That's the dream!

**Teresa:** That's the dream. Okay. So, now that we have this kind of social construct, I want to paint a more detailed picture of what an everyday life might be like.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** And I would like to focus, at this juncture, as we did a little bit of focusing on the farmers and the craftsmen, I'd like to focus on the scribes.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** So, the scribes are the people that wrote everything down. Um, and so a lot of the—of the [holding back laughter] manuscripts that we have about them talks about how the scribes are the best, and everyone else sucks. [laughs]

**Travis:** I get that, yeah. I would do that, yeah.

**Teresa:** Um, so in order to become a scribe, you had to, you know, go through a lot of schooling. Uh, you also most likely had to have a father who was a scribe, because a lot of jobs in this time period were hereditary. Which... makes sense, you go into the family business, right?

**Travis:** Sure.

**Teresa:** Um, even priesthood was hereditary. Uh, again, family business. So, in order to become a scribe you probably—your father was a scribe, you went through schooling and apprenticeship. A lot of the time, scribes also became doctors, because of the amount of learning they acquired in order to become a scribe. Um—



**Travis:** Yeah, and it seems like—'cause I think we've picked this up from listening to *Sawbones*, too—is that when it comes to being a doctor, there was, like, a huge period of time where, like, having education of *any* kind—like, you knew more than most people? Qualified you to, like, treat people. Like, it wasn't a specialization. You didn't train specially to be a doctor. You just were educated, and so you could be a doctor if you wanted to.

**Teresa:** Right. Um, and the thing about the scribes is, there's a lot of detail that we find basically from tombs in the, uh—the kind of, like, games that everybody played. So we know that, um... the scribe level of society did actually have leisure time, which is amazing, right?

Like, we were talking about the Industrial Revolution giving kind of the Western world this leisure time, but so far back as ancient Egypt, this kind of middle class of people had leisure time! They loved to play games. There's board games that have been discovered from the period. Um, they loved to do [holding back laughter] what was kind of described as "boat jousting?"

**Travis:** What?!

**Teresa:** Well, I mean, according to things left over, the pictures and the models, you sit in a boat... and there's an opponent opposing you, and you each have kind of, like, sticks or lances, right? And you're supposed to kind of... sail, or row—

**Travis:** Yes, I'm here for this. This is great.

**Teresa:** —at each other, and knock each other out of your boats! [laughs]

**Travis:** Yes, okay! Yes, I am here for this!

**Teresa:** With your sticks!

**Travis:** Let's do this!

**Teresa:** Yeah! It's pretty cool! Um, so this leisure time is the thing that I really found so interesting. It's... I think that one of the reasons why this leisure time culture was cultivated is going back to the religion, right? Because afterlife wasn't supposed to be different from regular life. There was just kind of—you died, and that was, like, the bridge to—

**Travis:** And then you went somewhere else.

**Teresa:** —the eternal life, which was supposed to be an absolute reflection of your regular life. Um, that's—

**Travis:** This is the thing, too. We'll have to talk about—if we have an—I don't think we did ancient Greece, but—

**Teresa:** Not yet.

**Travis:** —this is another thing that, like, we had—so, when we think about, like, the underworld, right? You talk about Hades being god of the underworld—a lot of people mistake that for, like, hell. The idea of, like, punishment. But also, both, like, the underworld—and the Elysian Fields were also in the underworld.

It was just, like, no, you died and you went to the underworld. Like, Hades was the god of the afterlife. And so, from what I remember, there was no separation of, like, you either go up or go down. Like, no, you go to a place, and depending on, that's how that all was reflected.

**Teresa:** Right. So, the life of ancient Egyptians was all culminated toward this utopia level that they wanted to see in the afterlife. Um, so it really made sense that Egyptians helped each other out, that they, in their lives, were striving to be a kind society, because that's what they wanted to see of themselves.

I think that that is really cool, especially since there really wasn't any upward societal mobility... really ever. Um, because, like I said, everything in this life was mirrored exactly in the afterlife. So if you were a farmer, you were gonna be a farmer in the afterlife. Like, that was your thing.

**Travis:** But maybe a farmer of a great farm.

**Teresa:** Maybe.

**Travis:** A topnotch farm.

**Teresa:** Right. Well—so you were always striving for that topnotch quality, because that's what you wanted over there, right? Um, and another really interesting thing about the life in real life that you cultivated, uh, women had a lot of autonomy. They could own property, they could institute divorce, they had

access to healthcare—there wasn't really, like, voting or anything, but they could hold positions in governments and priesthoods, and they could—

**Travis:** Be pharaoh.

**Teresa:** —be pharaoh, that's right! And go to school and learn things, and, um—the institute of marriage is another kind of offshoot of this cultivating utopia. Marriage was not recognized by the state, or the religion. It's just not a thing. Because—

**Travis:** So you were just married?

**Teresa:** —marriage was a social contract.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** —and because the state and religion stayed out of marriage, divorce also was a social contract. You didn't have any—

**Travis:** So it's just like you were dating, and then we were dating forever, but then maybe we broke up!

**Teresa:** Yeah! Um, and the way that property was divided when people got married to each other, basically just, you know, merged their properties, should there be a divorce, it was completely understood that each person would take their own property back with them, and sometimes, if there was a nasty divorce, maybe because of infidelity or, I guess, thievery or something? Um, the local magistrates—everything was done locally at this point. Um, the local magistrates might say, "Hey! You did a bad job, so now the other person gets to take some of your stuff with them."

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** Up to, like, two thirds of somebody's things could be awarded to the other person as, you know, damages.

**Travis:** Interesting.

**Teresa:** Right. Uh, so this—the social hierarchy paints a picture of this kind of, like, everyone does what they're expected to do, and that's a lot of what manners and society we do today, except the social mobility thing, right?

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Teresa:** Um, and not to say that everything was all, like, peace and love and flowers. Um, your social status and pretty much where you lived, too, contributed to your life expectancy. If you were down at the bottom of this pyramid, you probably would get married once, you know, puberty set in, and then you would do your job and, for the hardworking class, life expectancy was, like, mid-30s.

But, if you, I guess, were blessed enough? Lucky enough? Had enough magic to be born into a higher class, then you could live onto—there are mummies that have been dated to 90 years old.

**Travis:** Oh, wow.

**Teresa:** Very old. Um, because the life was easier for people higher up the pyramid.

**Travis:** And I'm so glad that's changed today.

**Teresa:** Mm-hmm...

**Travis:** Um, so that's gonna do it for us, I think. Thank you all for joining us for another episode of *Shmanners*. Wanna remind you, if you have ideas for topic, you can email us, [shmannerstcast@gmail.com](mailto:shmannerstcast@gmail.com), or you can tweet at us @shmannerstcast. Um, and we know what next week's gonna be, so I can go ahead and tell you so you can—

**Teresa:** [imitates air horn]

**Travis:** —start thinkin' about your questions. We're gonna be talkin' about, like, wallets and billfolds, that kind of thing—

**Teresa:** And purses.

**Travis:** —and purses. Um, so we'll put a tweet out probably Tuesday, calling for your questions, so look for that, and then you can send those questions to us via

the Twitter, @shmannerscast. Also, *Shmanners* is going to be going with *My Brother, My Brother, and Me* and *The Adventure Zone* to San Jose and Salt Lake City, in, uh... when is that?

**Teresa:** April.

**Travis:** In April! That's right. Right there at the beginning of April, I believe the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup>, we're going to be in San Jose and Salt Lake City. If you wanna find out more about that and get your tickets, you can go to [mcelroy.family](http://mcelroy.family) and click on "tours" there at the top.

**Teresa:** And while you're there, click on our merch! See that there's some cool new stuff bein' dropped all the time.

**Travis:** That's right! And we've got a couple new things comin' out, including some new *Shmanners* merch that I'm very excited about that I can't wait for you to see.

**Teresa:** It is, uh, super cute.

**Travis:** It's very cute. Um, so go check that out. Uh, let's see. What am I forgetting, Teresa?

**Teresa:** Well, we always give a thank you to Brent "brentalfloss" Black for writing out theme music, which is available as a ringtone where those are found. Thank you to Kayla M. Wasil for our Twitter thumbnail art, and to Keely Weis Photography for our cover banner of the fan-run Facebook group, *Shmanners Fanners*, which you should join! There are a lot of like-minded people giving and getting great advice.

**Travis:** Uh, and that's gonna do it for us, so join us again next week!

**Teresa:** No RSVP required.

**Travis:** You've been listening to *Shmanners*...

**Teresa:** Manners, *Shmanners*. You get it!

[theme music plays]

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