



SECRETS OF THE SPHINX

Imagic's team of Egyptologists has deciphered the papyrus scrolls recently discovered in the Valley of the Kings. The answers are now yours after a delay of a mere 22 centuries. We appreciate your patience. The next voice you hear will be that of a common scribe to the Royal Court of Egypt.

"Son of Thoth, witless scribe to Pharaoh's court, may tell now what before has not been known. These secrets of the Valley of the Kings have been revealed to me in a most curious fashion.

"The Royal Astrologer, greatest magician in the land, slipped into a deep trance. He shook his wizened head violently. He waved his arms. The sky grew dark. Water in his goblet boiled. Cats howled.

"Still in a trance, the Royal Astrologer grew quiet. He opened his eyes; they glittered. In a strange voice, he began to speak:

'Young Prince of Wiles, hear me! The answers to my clever clues I must give you, risking disfavor with the gods. Still, you must know!

*Offer a key at each of the three pyramids. You will receive a magical tablet.

*Offer the scroll to the flaming Phoenix. The Phoenix will bestow a key upon you. Should your way still be blocked, offer next the tannis leaf.

*At the Temple of Isis, receive a key when you offer a crown. If Isis detains you, offer next the jug. Forge ahead.

*Even Anubis gives a gift. Gingerly offer the ankh at his temple. He will grudgingly give you a key. He may yet block your path. Offer the shield. Pass on!

*The inscrutable Sphinx will accept one of the three magical tablets you can have received at each of the 3 pyramids. You must offer the correct tablet. If not, the Sphinx may not allow you to proceed.

'Son of Pharaoh, will you have found that companion you rely and lean upon yet never think to call friend?'

"The Royal Astrologer sighed as deep as all the Ages. He continued."

'Supple warrior, Egypt's Hope—remember the staff! Only the staff earns Ra's delight. Offer the staff and Ra will accept your treasures as ample tribute.

'But where does the staff of Ra lie hidden, you wonder? Youth has much to learn! Not all journeys follow the shortest course. When your trek begins, move not forward but backward, away from your destination. An oasis will appear. Drink deeply there. When you touch the oasis, the staff of Ra will be yours. Guard it well. Guard it well. Guard it . . .'

"The Royal Astrologer's chin dropped to his chest. He slept deeply. He snored, and fell off his stool. I have left him there, and scribble these words like a man possessed. Will they ever be found? Will the secrets of the Valley of the Kings remain eternally chaste? Such knowledge yields great power. I must practice caution. Wait! Someone approaches . . ."

The hieroglyphics go no farther. They end abruptly, followed only by a small cypher, penned by another hand.

It is the sign of Anubis.

Guard these secrets well!

