

# حياة الأثر لاتنتهي أبدًا

"رحلة الألف عام، من صعيد مصر إلى المتحف البريطاني"

## An object's life never ends

A Journey of Thousand Years, From Upper Egypt to the British Museum



"الحياة رحلة لا تتوقف عند وجهة واحدة، بل نستكشف عبر سلسلة من المراحل المختلفة."

"**Life** is a journey that never halts at a single destination, but unfolds through a series of evolving phases."





# حياة الأثر لا تنتهي أبدًا "رحلة آلاف الأعوام، من صعيد مصر إلى المتحف البريطاني"



## An object's life never ends A Journey of Thousand Years, From Upper Egypt to the British Museum

### The Museum المنحف

في البداية اعتقد أنني أداة كتابة، ولكن الآن قدمني أمناء المتحف البريطاني بشكل صحيح.

Curators at the British Museum mistakenly identified me as a writing tool! Eventually I was labelled properly.



### Abydos أبيدوس

بدأت رحلتي في مصر حوالي عام ٢٣٠٠ قبل الميلاد. حيث تم صني لمساعدة إيدي في حياته الأخرى، ومكنت في مقبرته في أبيدوس معتقدة أن مهمتي قد انتهت.

My journey began in Egypt c. 2300 BC. I was made to help Idy in his afterlife, and sat in his tomb in Abydos thinking my job was finished.

### The Ambassador السفير

على الرغم من أنني صنعت كأداة تستخدم في الطقوس الجنائزية فقد أصبحت سفيرة للحضارة المصرية. لقد أصبحت رحلتي مع المتحف البريطاني منذ ذلك الحين دولية.

Although I was born a ritual tool, I have become an ambassador for Egyptian culture. My journey with the British Museum has since become international.

### H.Salt هـ. سالت

وبعد ذلك بوقت طويل، بدأت رحلتي مرة أخرى. عندما تولى هنري سالت منصب «القنصل العام البريطاني في مصر» في عام ١٨١٥، قام بتمويل حفائر جديدة وتم العثور علي في مقبرتي.

Much later, my journey began again. Henry Salt, the British Consul General in Egypt in 1815, sponsored new excavations and found me in my tomb.



## Secrets of the Afterlife

Magic, Mummies & Immortality in Ancient Egypt

17 MAY 2013 – 22 SEPTEMBER 2013

### Journey الرحلة

منذ ذلك الحين قمت بالعديد من الرحلات، حيث شاركت في معارض حول العالم، مثل معرض متحف «موري» بطوكيو ومعرض بمتحف استراليا الغربي

I have visited different exhibitions and tours around the world, such as Tokyo's Mori Museum and Australia's Western Museum exhibition.

**How do you think my life would have been different if I had stayed in the tomb of Idy?**

**كيف كانت سنكون  
حياتي لو بقيت داخل  
مقبرة إيدي؟**

### England إنجلترا

تم إرسالني إلى إنجلترا، وفي عام ١٨٣٥ تم بيعي كجزء من مجموعة سالت بواسطة سوثبي إلى المتحف البريطاني.

I was sent to England, and in 1835 I was sold as part of the Salt Collection by Sotheby's to the British Museum.



## "Opening of the Mouth" model

This tablet was made for Idy, a lector priest, for his "Opening of the Mouth" ceremony. This reanimated the deceased or a statue so that Idy could enjoy offerings. The pink limestone 'peseshkef' implement was touched to the deceased's mouth. This is surrounded by vessels for milk (a baby's first source of nourishment), salt water (for cleansing), and fresh water, as well as two small knife blades (one missing), esses in rectangular limestone tablet.

Old Kingdom – 6th dynasty, c. 2300 BC  
Limestone, rock crystal, obsidian, schist  
Tomb of Idy, Abydos (Sohag), Egypt  
EA5526



## نموذج أدوات طقوس "فتح الفم"

صُنِعَ هذا اللوح من أجل إيدي، الكاهن المرتل، من أجل طقوس "فتح الفم". وهدفها إحياء المتوفى أو تمثال حتى يتمكن إيدي من الاستمتاع بالقرابين. وكان يتم وضع الأداة التي بالمنتصف المصنوعة من الحجر الجيري الوردي على فم المتوفى. ويحيط بهذه الأداة أوعية للحليب (المصدر الأول لتغذية الطفل)، والماء المالح (للتطهير)، والماء العذب، بالإضافة إلى شفرتين صغيرتين للسكين (واحدة مفقودة)، مثبتتين في اللوح المستطيل المصنوع من الحجر الجيري.

الدولة القديمة - الأسرة السادسة، حوالي ٢٣٠٠ قبل الميلاد  
الحجر الجيري، والبلور الصخري، والأوبسيسديان "السبج"، والشيسيت  
مقبرة إيدي، أبيدوس (سوهاج)، مصر

EA5526



## Station 1: Idy

We start in Abydos, one of the oldest cities of ancient Egypt, and the eighth nome in Upper Egypt. Idy, an Egyptian man who lived and died during the 6<sup>th</sup> Dynasty of Ancient Egypt's Old Kingdom (2345-2181 BC) was buried here. He was a nomarch and held many titles such as Royal Treasurer and Lector Priest, as well as *hrj-h'ḥ* (kheri-hab) 'The carrier of the Book of Ritual'. He was essentially a reciter of spiritual importance, and would recite sacred prayers and spells during various rituals (festivals, temple, funerary, protective, etc.). As all noblemen in ancient Egypt did,



Idy built his tomb to prepare his journey to the afterlife. He filled his tomb with magnificent artefacts that related to his role as Lector Priest.

Discovered among this collection was a very important funerary object, which is related to the Opening of the Mouth ritual.



## The Opening of the Mouth ritual

The **Opening of the Mouth** was an important ritual in ancient Egyptian mortuary practice. The first references to this ritual are from the Old Kingdom, but they continue until the Roman Period. It was designed not only to enable the mouth to speak and eat again, but also the eyes, ears and nose to again carry out their functions.

The ritual begins once the deceased arrives at the tomb after mummification, along with close family members and priests. The ritual involved a series of symbolic actions performed by priests on the mummy or a statue representing the deceased.

These actions included purifying the mummy with water poured from *nmst* and *dshrt* jars, fumigating the mummy by incense and using specific tools to touch body parts like the mouth and eye, such as an adze or a special tool called the *peseshkef*.

It was believed that these actions would enable the deceased to fully enjoy offerings and sustenance provided by their living relatives, and ensure their continued existence in the afterlife.



## Station2: Henry Salt

**Henry Salt**, a British diplomat and collector, was born in Lichfield on June 14, 1780. Initially he trained as a portrait painter before moving to London in 1797 to study under Joseph Farrington, RA, and later under John Hoppner, RA.



Between 1802 and 1806, Salt accompanied George Annesley, Viscount Valentia, as a secretary and draughtsman on a journey across the East, visiting destinations such as India, Ceylon, Abyssinia, and Egypt. During this expedition, he produced numerous drawings for Valentia's publication, 'Voyages and Travels' (1809). Salt was appointed as the British Consul General in Egypt in 1815 and while in Egypt he conducted extensive excavations, acquiring a significant collection of antiquities for both



the British Museum and his personal collection. He hired Belzoni for this work in Thebes and supported Caviglia's excavations around the Pyramids, along with directing d'Athanasi's efforts in Thebes.



### Station3: British Museum

In 1818, he presented his initial collection of antiquities, known as his 'First Collection,' to the British Museum. After a delay, most of these pieces were acquired by the museum for a modest sum of £2000. Some artefacts were later sold to private collectors, including the sarcophagus of Sety I, which was purchased by Sir John Soane. From 1819 to 1824, Salt curated a second collection, his 'Second Collection,' which was reviewed by Champollion and bought by the King of France for £10000. Subsequently, he assembled a final collection, his 'Third Collection,' post-1824. This collection was auctioned at Sotheby's in 1835, fetching a total of £7168 from the sale of 1083 lots, with many items finding their way to the British Museum. Salt was honoured as a Fellow of the Royal Society and passed away in Desuke village, near Alexandria, on October 30<sup>th</sup>, 1827.



**Tablet for seven oils**, EA6123: an oil tablet engraved with the names of the seven sacred oils used for embalming and funereal rituals like the Opening of the Mouth.

**Copper model** of an altar with funerary equipment, EA5315.



**Model of equipment** for the Opening of the Mouth, EA5526.



### Station4: The Journey

After that, the object moved across many countries, and acted as an ambassador of Egyptian civilization in many exhibitions such as:

- "Book of the Dead" exhibition **British Museum** – November 2010/March 2011.
- "Journey through the afterlife: ancient Egyptian Book of the Dead" exhibition – **British Museum** – July–September 2012.
- "The Book of the Dead" exhibition – **Fukuoka Museum of Art** – October–November 2012.
- "The Book of the Dead" exhibition – **Western Australian Museum** – May–September 2013.



**The voyage  
continues onward.**



The British  
Museum

### **An object's life never ends**

**A journey of a thousand years, from Upper Egypt to the British Museum**

Our journey has included many stops and many characters, join us across this remarkable trip









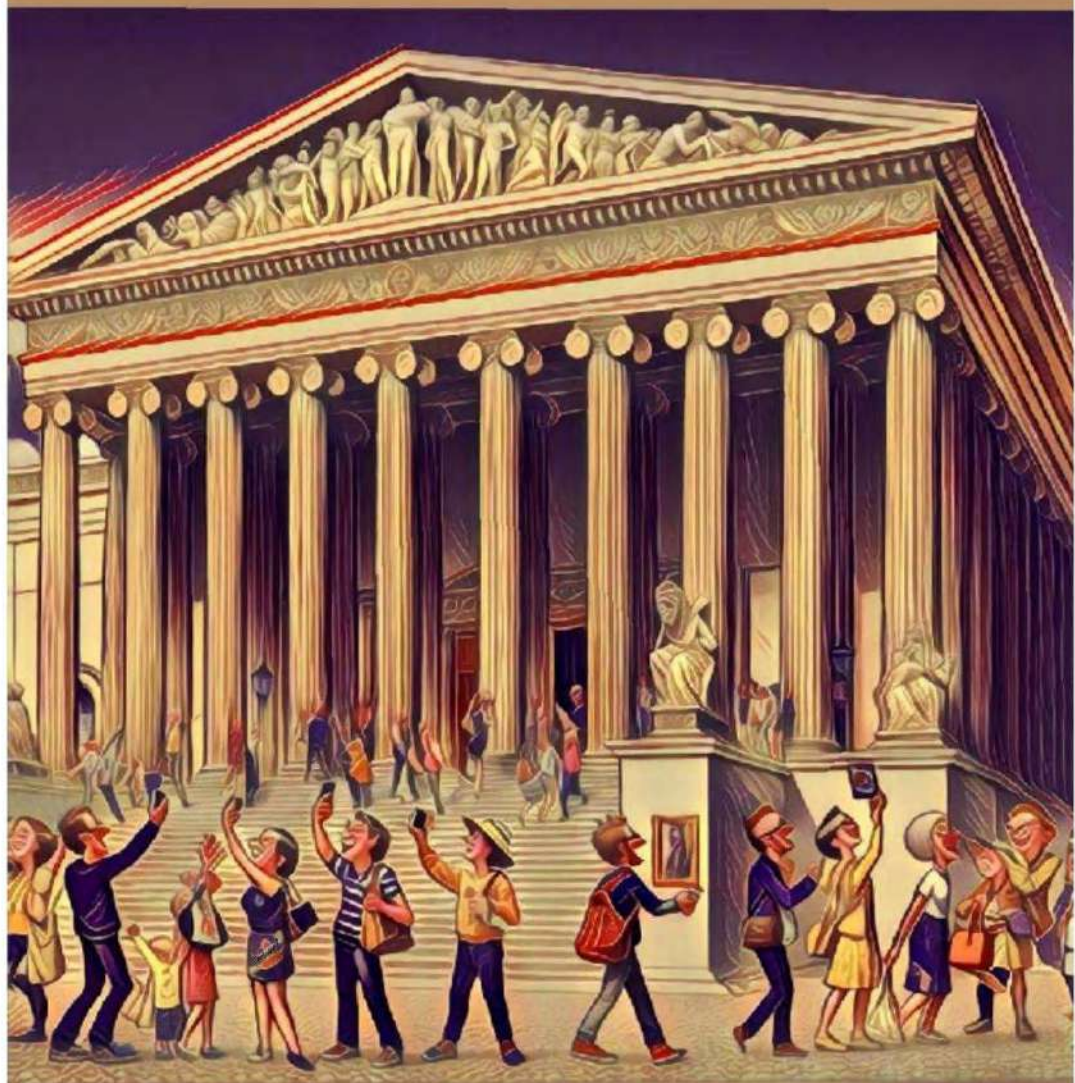
LONG, LONG AGO, IN THE LAND OF EGYPT DURING A TIME CALLED THE OLD KINGDOM, AROUND 2300 BC, A SPECIAL OBJECT WAS CREATED TO HELP A PERSON NAMED IDY ON HIS JOURNEY AFTER LIFE. IT WAS PLACED IN HIS TOMB IN ABYDOS, EGYPT, BELIEVING THAT ITS STORY HAD ENDED THERE.





IN THE 1820s, A NEW ADVENTURE BEGAN. A MAN NAMED SIR  
HENRY SALT, WHO WORKED FOR THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IN  
EGYPT, FOUND THIS MAGICAL OBJECT AND WANTED TO SEND IT  
IN ENGLAND





EVEN AFTER HENRY SALT PASSED AWAY IN EGYPT IN 1827,  
THE OBJECT WAS SENT TO ENGLAND. IN 1835, THE BRITISH  
MUSEUM ACQUIRED IT FROM A COLLECTION AND BEGAN TO  
DISPLAY IT.





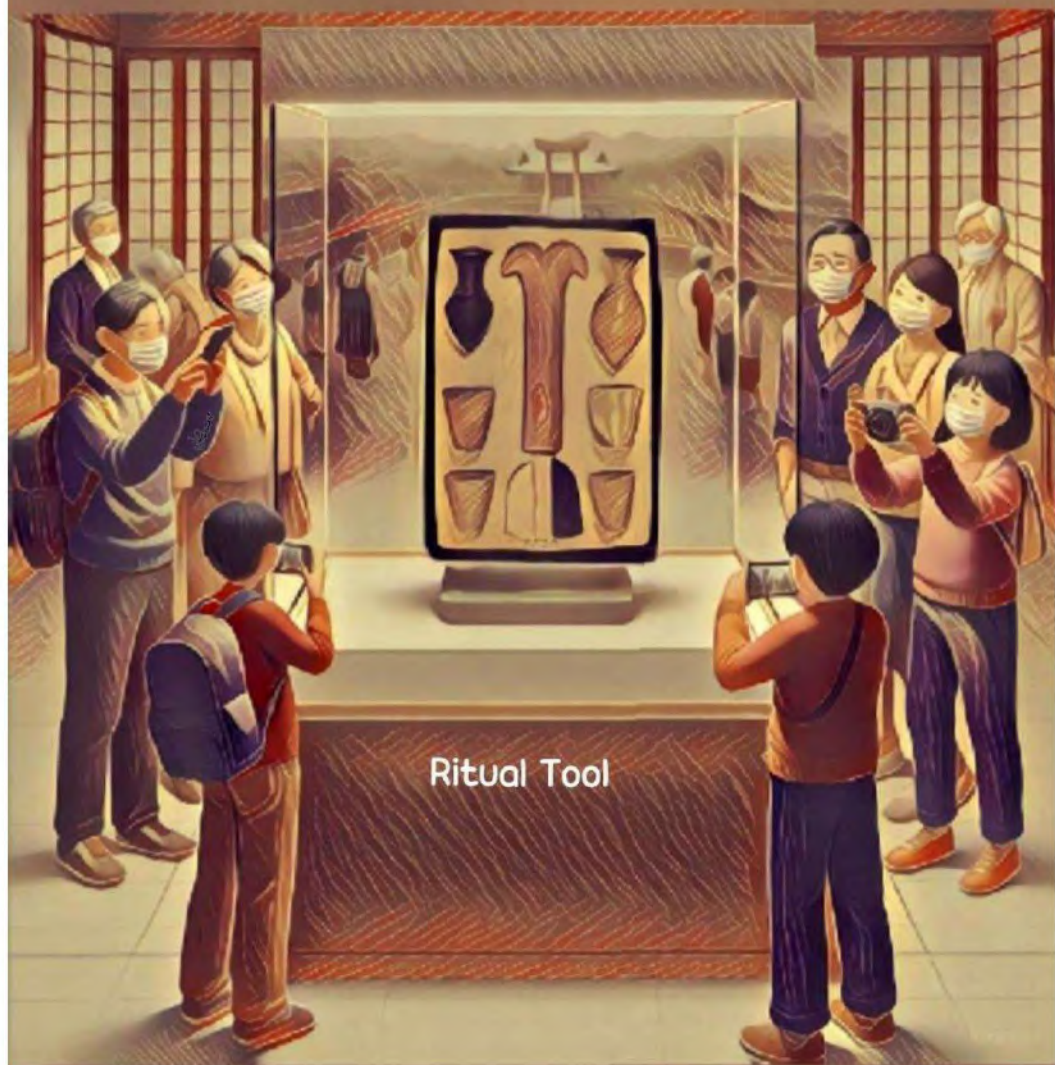
AT FIRST, PEOPLE THOUGHT IT WAS JUST A  
WRITING TOOL, BUT OVER TIME ITS TRUE  
IDENTITY WAS REVEALED.





THIS MAGICAL OBJECT, BORN AS A TOOL FOR RITUALS, BECAME A  
SYMBOL OF EGYPTIAN CIVILIZATION AND BELIEFS.





Ritual Tool

IT TRAVELED TO DIFFERENT PLACES WITH  
THE BRITISH MUSEUM, BEING SHOWCASED  
IN EXHIBITIONS AROUND THE WORLD.





"LIFE IS A JOURNEY THAT NEVER HALTS AT A SINGLE DESTINATION, BUT UNFOLDS THROUGH A SERIES OF EVOLVING PHASES." WHAT DO YOU THINK MY LIFE HAVE BEEN IF I STAYED IN THE TOMB OF IDY ?



The British  
Museum

## An object's life never ends

A Journey of Thousand Years, From Upper Egypt  
to the British Museum



SCAN ME





Have you ever owned a special object from another country?

What is that object? Is it a part of the country's heritage that you have visited?

Did that object have an effect on you?







The British Museum



# THE OBJECT'S LIFE NEVER ENDS

A Journey of Thousand Years, From Upper Egypt to the British Museum

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What is that object? Is it a part of the country's heritage that you have visited?

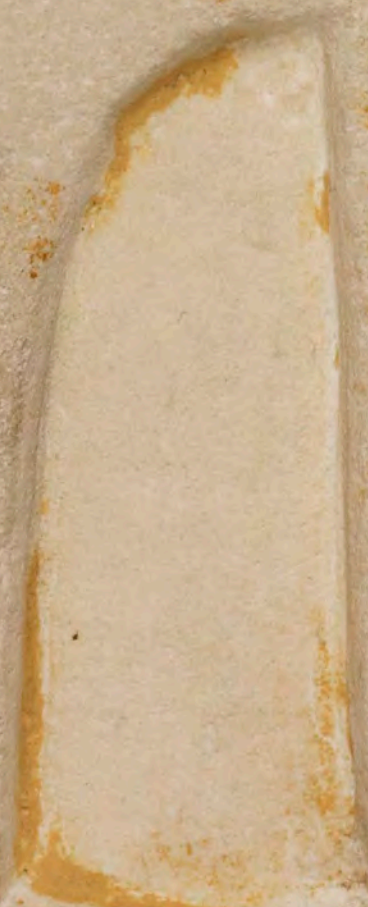
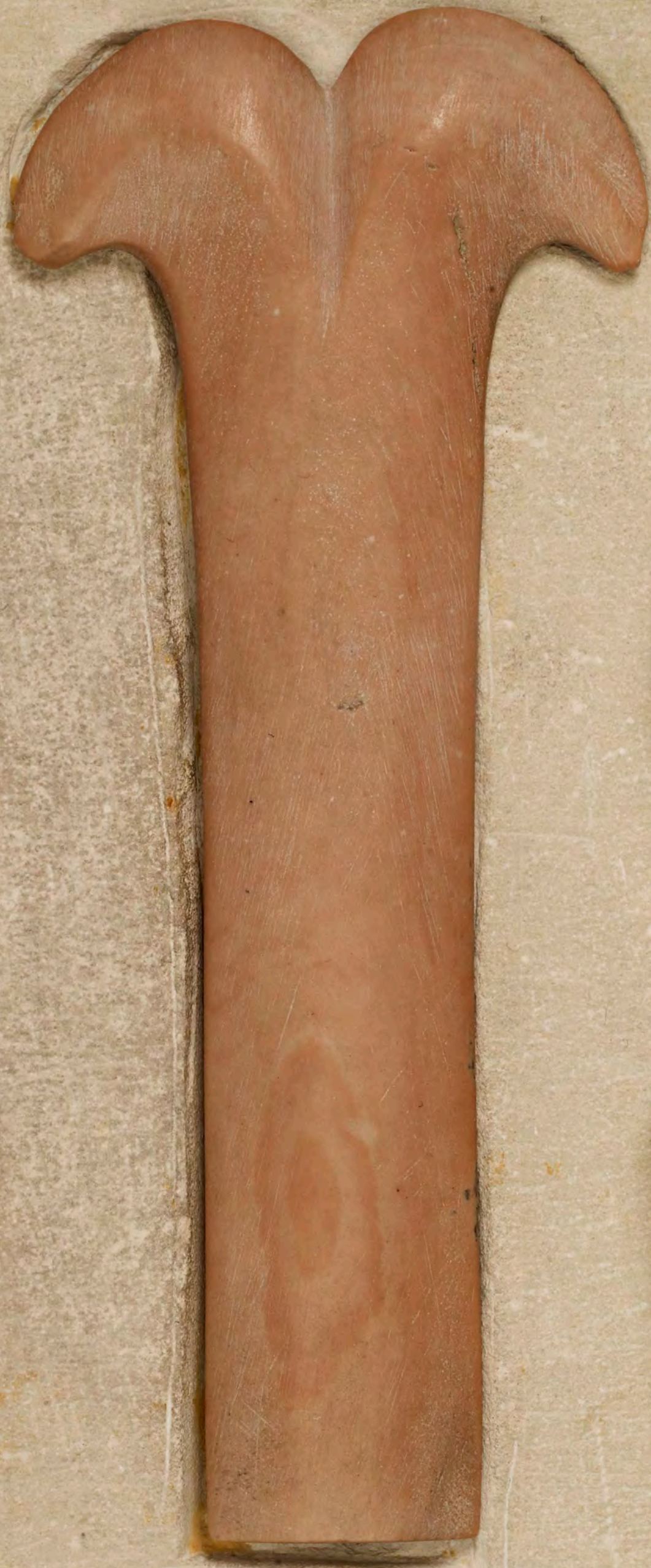
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Did that object have an effect on you?

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