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What if They were not Handles?

Inside the Great Pyramid were discovered some ducts (called Ventilation Ducts) of a nearly square section, with sides of about 20cm.

Two of these have their origin in the north and south walls of the King's Chamber. They cross longitudinally the granite blocks that constitute the walls of the chamber and then continue upward.

The southern shaft follows a straight path, while the north, going up, initially curves towards the west (to avoid the intersection with the structure of the Grand Gallery).

The two slopes are not identical, however, due to the asymmetry of the starting point, but the two external exits are located approximately at the same height (the difference is less than one meter) and the surface area of their cross-section about nine times more than the lower one.

To discover these two ducts was not a problem; they open freely into the granite chamber. It was more complicated to identify their exits outside the pyramid.

Two other ducts, similar in size, have also been discovered within the walls of the Queen's Chamber. Strange as it may seem, these two ducts never did open directly inside the chamber. They originated behind two diaphragms of less than 10cm (1p actually) thickness of the wall limestone blocks.

Only in 1872 Wayman Dixon discovered them, after a successful acoustical investigation, and briefly exposed them by breaking down the thin diaphragms with chisel and mallet.

In this case, too, the north duct rises with a curve, and both ducts are aimed upwards as if they were to emerge externally at the same height.

Too bad that in this case it was never possible to discover the upper exits (if they exist).

The shafts of the Queen's Chamber have an additional incomprehensible characteristic. On the occasion of the inspections carried out by tiny robots, one of them built by Rudolph Gantenbrink, it was discovered that both shafts were closed after about 65m by a limestone block, having in a high central position something looking as copper handles.

These two "handles" protrude from each stone (dwg. **I19** – fig.1).

The double sealing, from above and below, of the ducts triggered the curiosity of experts and fans including, of course, myself (photo I 20).

The hopes that these shafts could give access to hidden rooms, or other cavities, have been sharply reduced by the survey carried out in September 2003 by a second robot. After piercing the south side block and inserting a tiny camera in the hole so made, it was possible to see that a few inches behind the first block was a second one, but without handles and poorly shaped (unlike the first one).

I remember my disappointment at the time, but over time I have got an idea, of course debatable, but quite sensible. I offer it here.

Imagine that the genius who designed the whole pyramid (I know the official theory but I do not share it) has decided, for reasons known only to him, that these shafts will, in due course, be concealed in such a way that no one could ever discover their external exits and, consequently guess, on the base of its slope, the location of the secret room.

In this case, he did not conceal the exits only, but also the upper part of the two shafts, filling them with rough blocks.

He also designed the ducts having two parts of different sections along their length. Starting from the Queen's Chamber, each shaft rises with the small section that we know up to a considerable height. But at 65meters from the chamber it suddenly widens, having a square section with sides almost double than before and continues upwards to the exit.

The two shafts are made in the same way of those ones rising from the King's Chamber. (dwg. **I19** – fig.2).

Having to seal them, the first stone to be installed must have a particular shape in order to fit properly at the bottleneck.

It must have the right size to be able to slide along the stretch of the shaft having a modest gap against the walls and the possibility to get a " self-center ", being slightly tapered at the sides.

This stone also has two holes in the center, at a distance of seven or eight centimeters (1p) from each other. A copper bracket will be inserted into, forming an eyelet large enough to accommodate a rope at the upper side. On the other side, the two arms of the copper bracket, extending beyond the block, will be hammered to fold up against the face of the block, giving the familiar appearance we know (dwg. **I19** - fig3).

A double rope will be introduced through the eyelet and the stone descending carefully along the shaft, using the rope as a guide. When it will reach the bottom, where the duct narrows, it will be properly placed juggling the rope, and then the rope withdrawn. The next blocks to complete the filling will be slid down the shaft.

Their size will certainly be smaller than the shaft's, so they can slide easily.

When the first filling block will reach the copper bracket, due to its speed, it will bump with some energy into the copper eyelet.

The eyelet will be pushed downwards and also the bent extremities of the copper bracket at the other side of the stone.

The next stones, going down after that, will contribute to this action by adding their percussive effect; so a hypothetical observer from the other side (where the duct has smaller section) could see a strange stone with two copper handles placed high in a central location... (dwg. **I19** – fig.4).

About these two ducts, just below the second writing published in the same magazine: it is worth to read it too.