



Ancient Man: The Beginning of Civilizations

By Hendrik Willem Van Loon

Echo Library. Paperback. Condition: New. 88 pages. Dimensions: 7.8in. x 5.0in. x 0.3in. Excerpt: . . . possession of these outlying districts assured the safety of Egypt and they could set to work to turn the valley into a happy home, for as many of the people as could find room there. They built many new dikes and dams and a vast reservoir in the desert which they filled with water from the Nile to be kept and used in case of a prolonged drought. They encouraged people to devote themselves to the study of mathematics and astronomy so that they might determine the time when the floods of the Nile were to be expected. Since for this purpose it was necessary to have a handy method by which time could be measured, they established the year of 365 days, which they divided into twelve months. Contrary to the old tradition which made the Egyptians keep away from all things foreign, they allowed the exchange of Egyptian merchandise for goods which had been carried to their harbors from elsewhere. They traded with the Greeks of Crete and with the Arabs of western Asia and they got spices from the Indies and...

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