

# Astronomy in the city

## Astroculture / Astroturisme

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# ORIENTATION OF THE PYRAMIDS

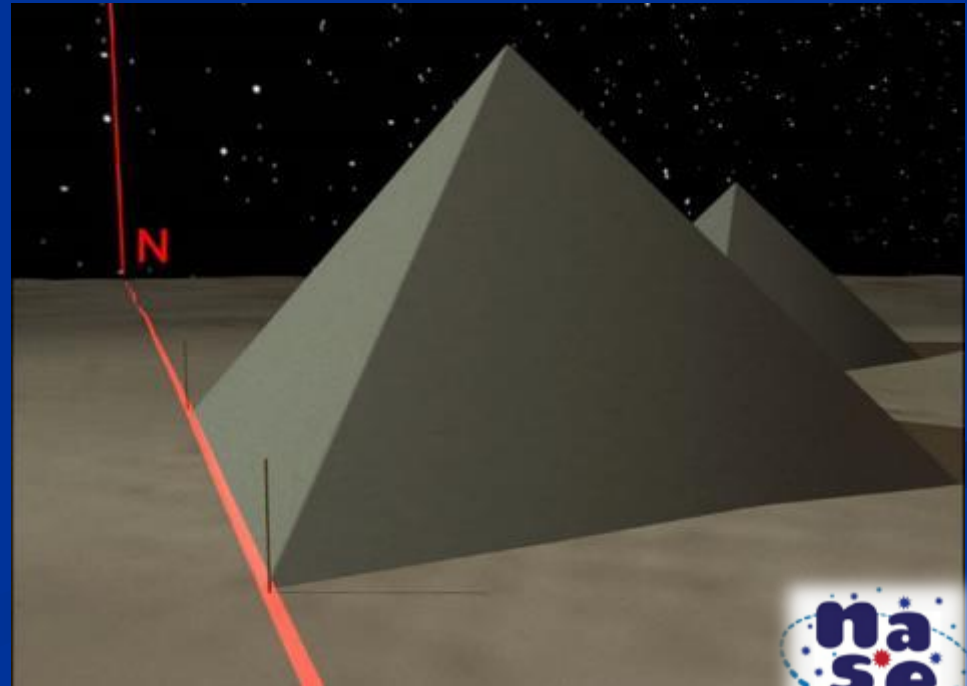
Giza, Egypt, Africa  
2500 BC



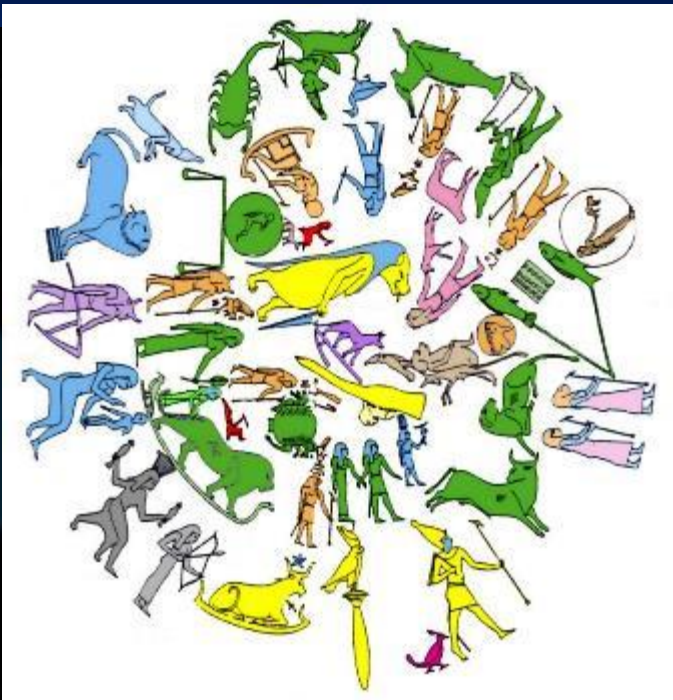
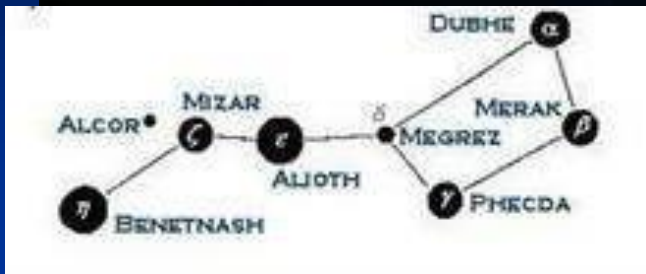
Not all of Egypt's pyramids are correctly oriented; in fact, only a few of the more than sixty well known have a precise orientation.

The pyramids of the pharaohs of dynasty IV in Dahshur and Giza are the best oriented, with errors of 15' or less.

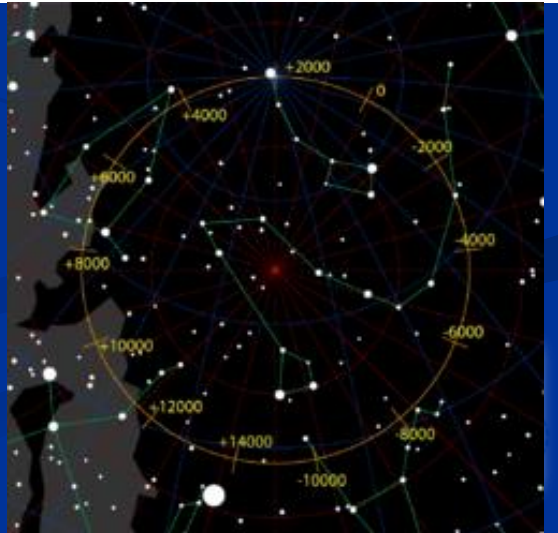
Astronomical alignment of the pyramid of Kefren (around 2545 BC) towards the meridian transit of Megrez and Phecda of the constellation Meskhetyu (The Leg of the Bull), equivalent to Ursa Major partially



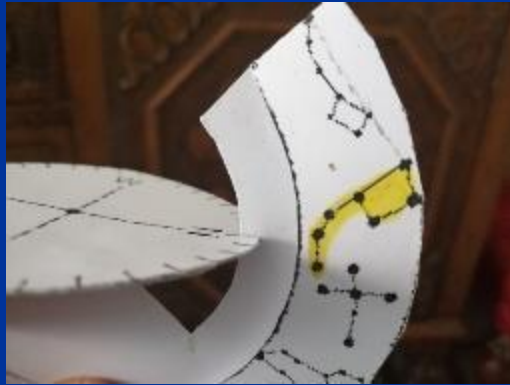
# "Imperishable" constellation of the **Bull's Leg**



Currently Merak and Dubhe indicate the position of the polar at 2° from the pole. Formerly Megrez and Phecda determined the situation of Thuban that in 2787 B.C. which was only 2' from the pole



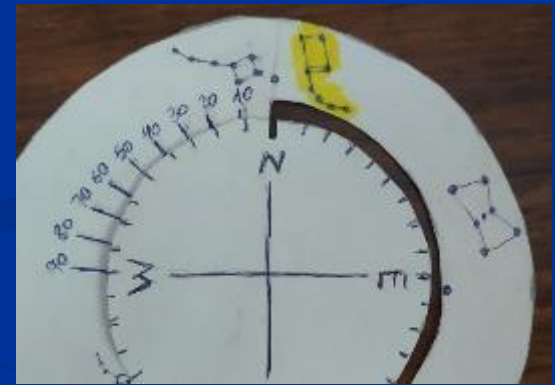
The placement of the pyramids responds to religious motivations. The Egyptians believed that the stars disappeared and reappeared, allowed to transcend death. **"The ducts of the pyramids face north because there were the stars that never disappeared from the sky, the circumpolar stars, which never died"**



Now 2000



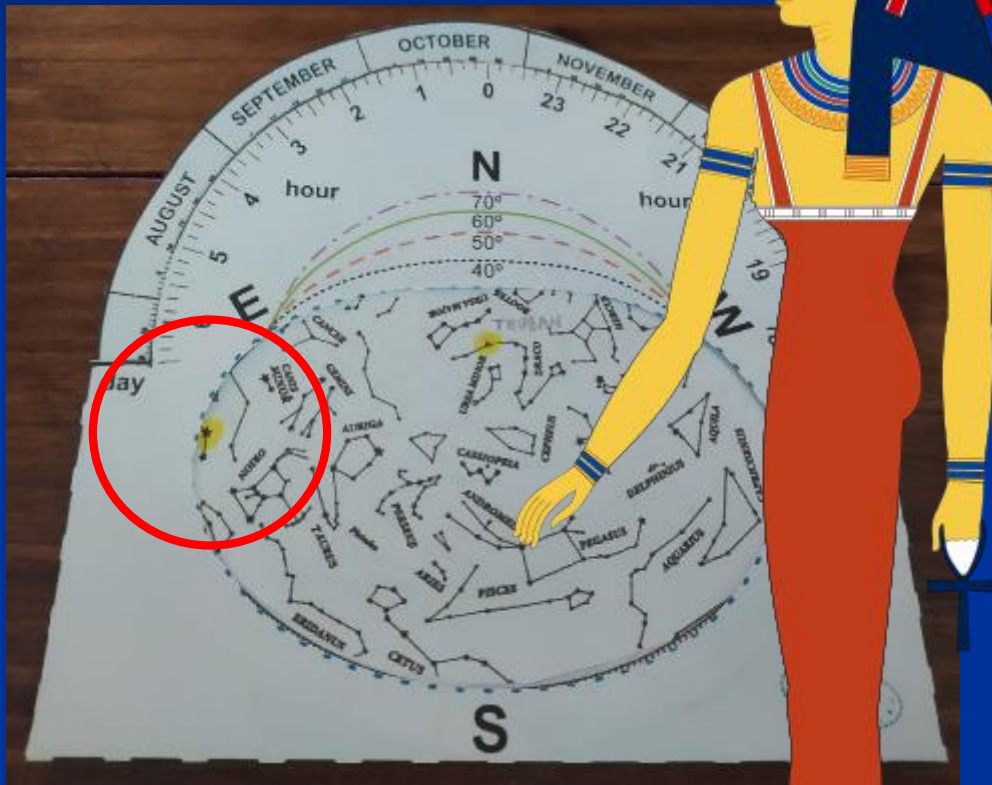
Before 2500 BC



Cairo latitude 30°N

The access corridors were built with a slope such that this would facilitate the king's ascension to the northern skies, domain of the "undying stars".

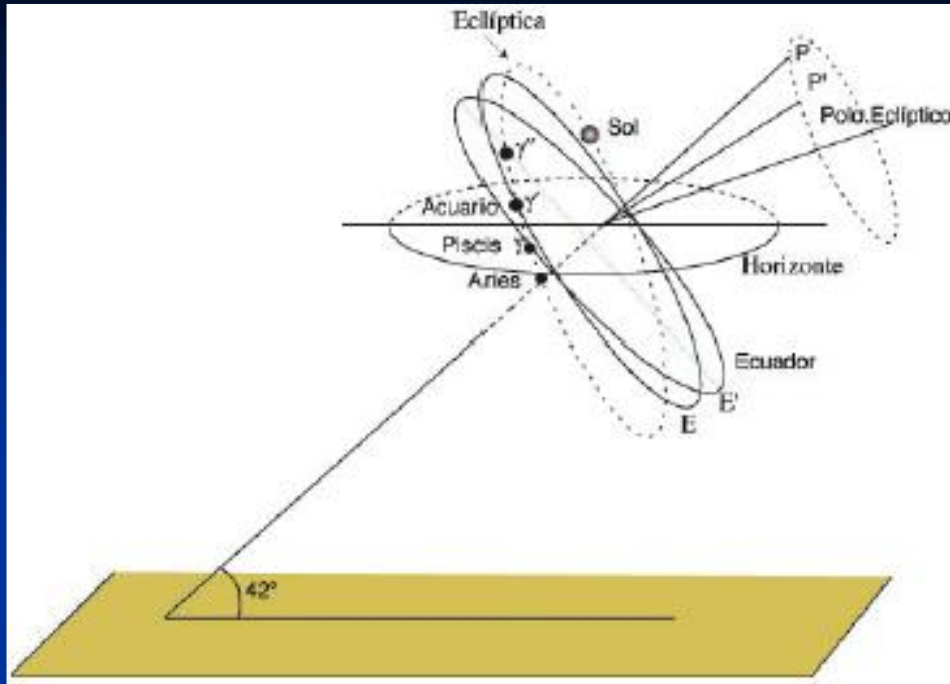
The Sirius star, called Sopdet by the Egyptians, gives rise to one of these singular events: its first annual appearance at dawn, the so-called heliacal rising (the first day it becomes visible to the west at dawn just before sunrise about July 25th) and this moment announced the arrival of the flood of the Nile, of great importance in Egypt.



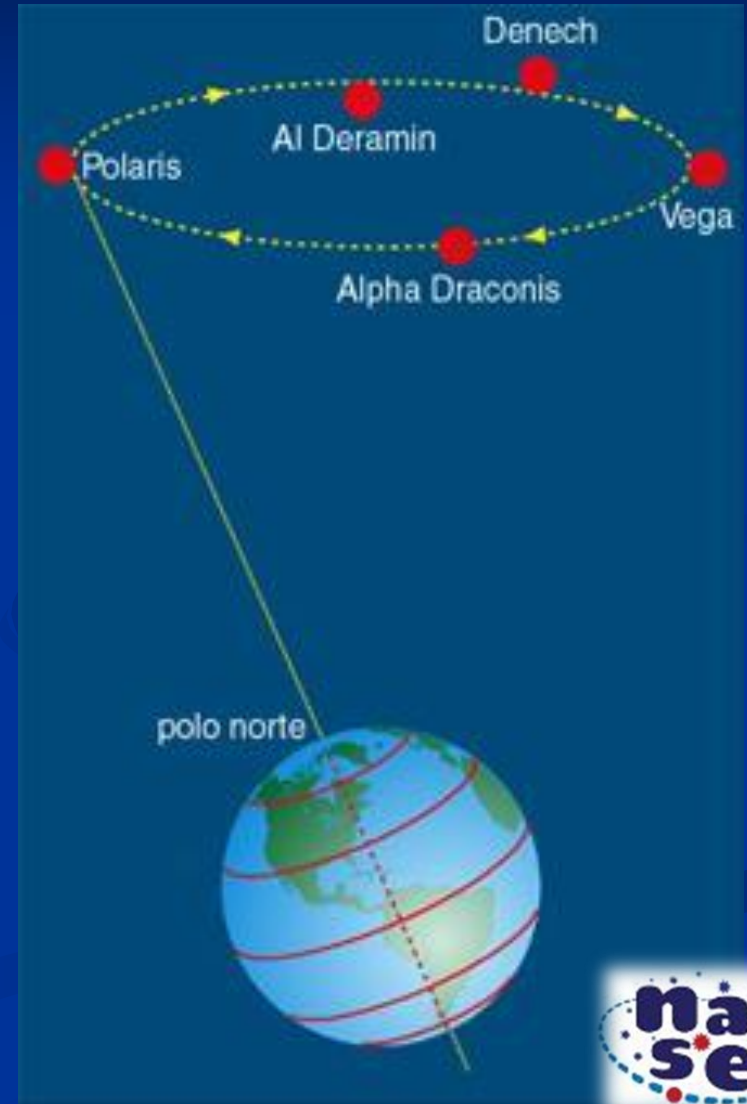
The star Sirius remained invisible for 70 days, the same time as in the mummification process, the bodies were immersed in natron salts to dehydrate them for 70 days and the body was subsequently removed.



# Precession of the Equinoxes

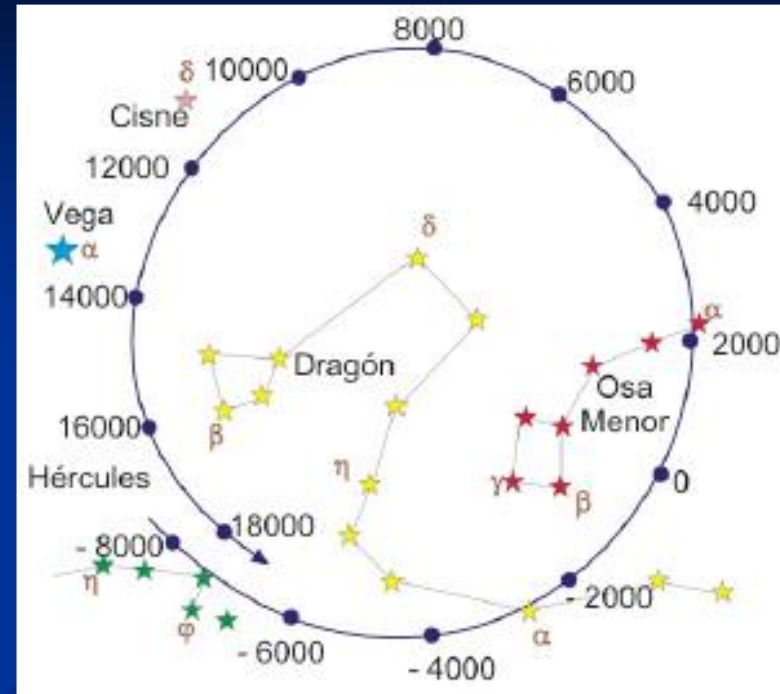


Due to the Precession of the Equinoxes, the point of intersection between the equator and the ecliptic, called the Aries point (because it was in this constellation) has moved to the constellation of Pisces.



# Precession of Equinoxes

Precession is the motion of change of direction of the Earth's axis of rotation describing in 25776 years a circumference (or  $50.29''/\text{year}$ ) like a spinning top. The celestial equator also wobbles and its intersection with the ecliptic varies.



Hipparchus observed it between 147 and 127 BC, (about 2000 years ago). Then this point named Aries point (because it was in that constellation) has moved to the constellation of Pisces and the north pole has changed.

$$50.29'' \times 2000 = 100580'' = \text{approx } 28^\circ \text{ a zodiac sign}$$

For example, now the North Pole is on the Polaris of Ursa Minor and 2000 years ago it was Thuban in the Draco.



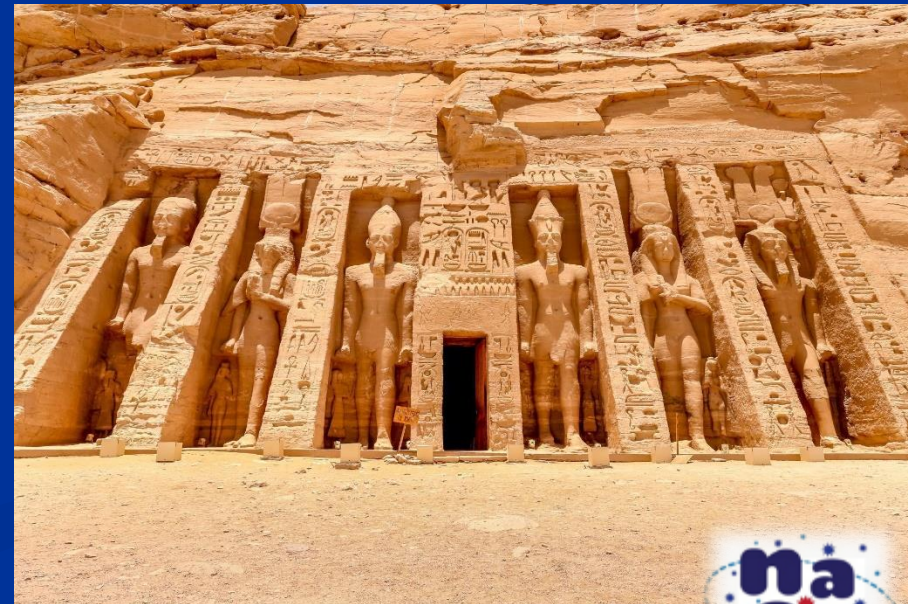
**ABU SIMBEL**

**Egypt, Africa**

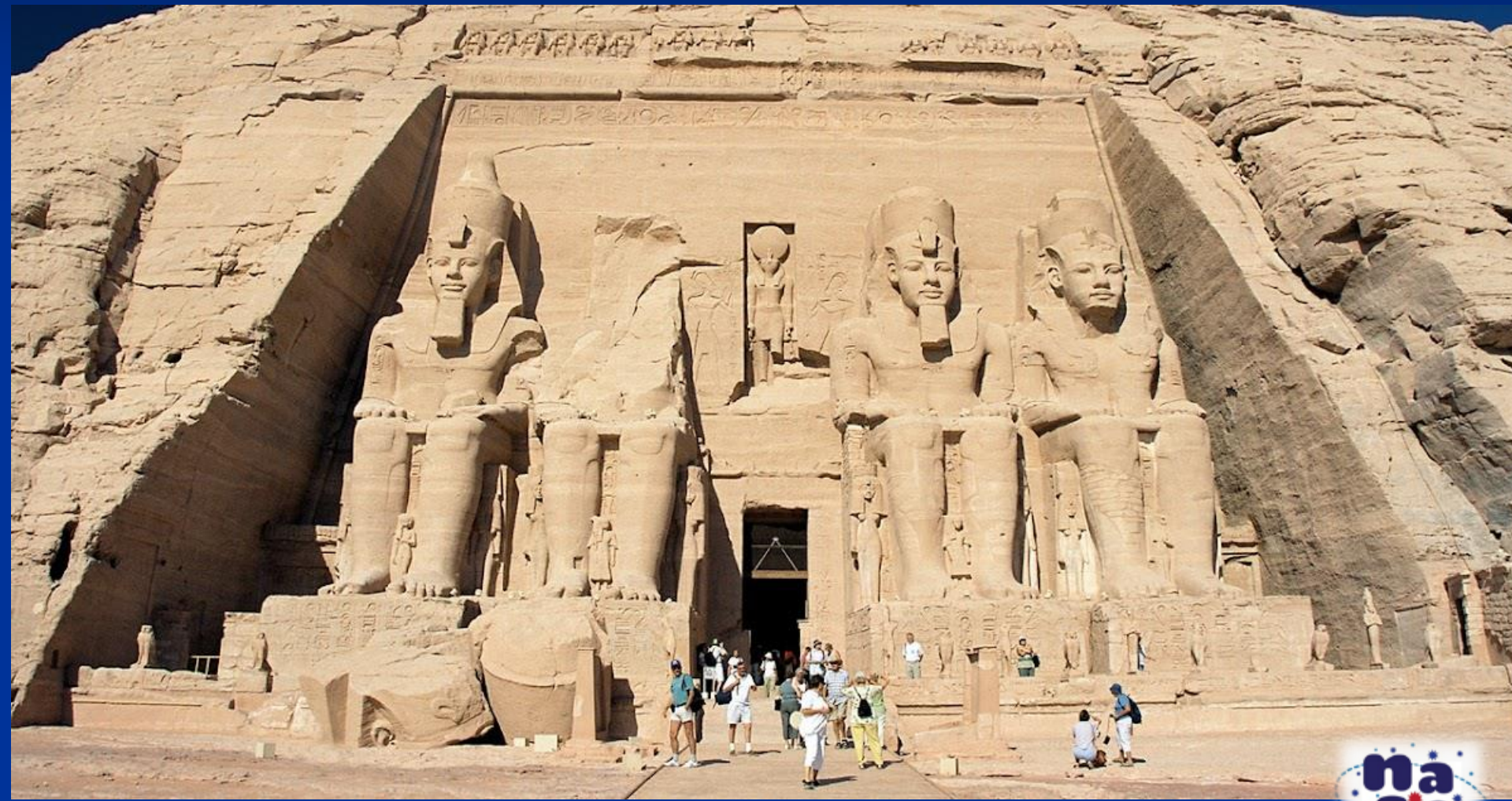
**1284- 1264 BC**



Abu Simbel was built by Ramses II to commemorate his victory at the Battle of Qadesh (ca. 1274 BC). It is dedicated to the great deities of Ancient Egypt, Amun, Ra and Ptah. These three gods were represented in the main temple with Ramses is represented as the fourth great god of Egypt.



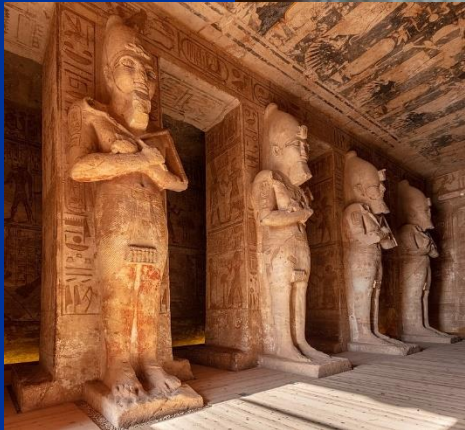
The construction of the Abu Simbel began approximately in 1284 a. C. and lasted about twenty years, until 1264 a. C.



The construction of the Aswan Dam it was dangerous for Abu Simbel because it could disappear under the water.

The rescue of the Abu Simbel temples was initiated in 1964 by UNESCO. Between 1964 and 1968, the entire site was carefully broken into large blocks dismantled, raised, and reassembled at a new location 65 meters higher and 200 meters further from the river.





The temple was built with such an orientation that the sun's rays penetrate to the sanctuary, located at the bottom of the temple (after Hypostyle sale)...



The orientation was such that during the days of October 21 and February 21 the sun's rays illuminate three of the four seated statues, except the statue of the god Ptah, the god related to the underworld, who always remained in the dark.



Phat, Amon(the sun god), Ramses, Ra Horakhti (the sun rising on the horizon).



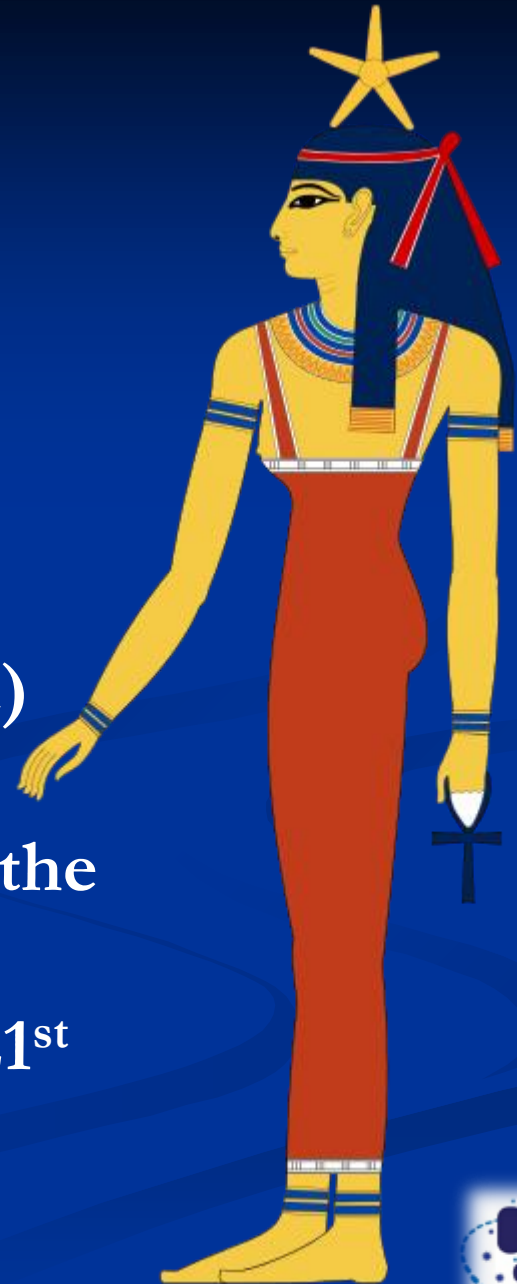
These dates could correspond the seasons

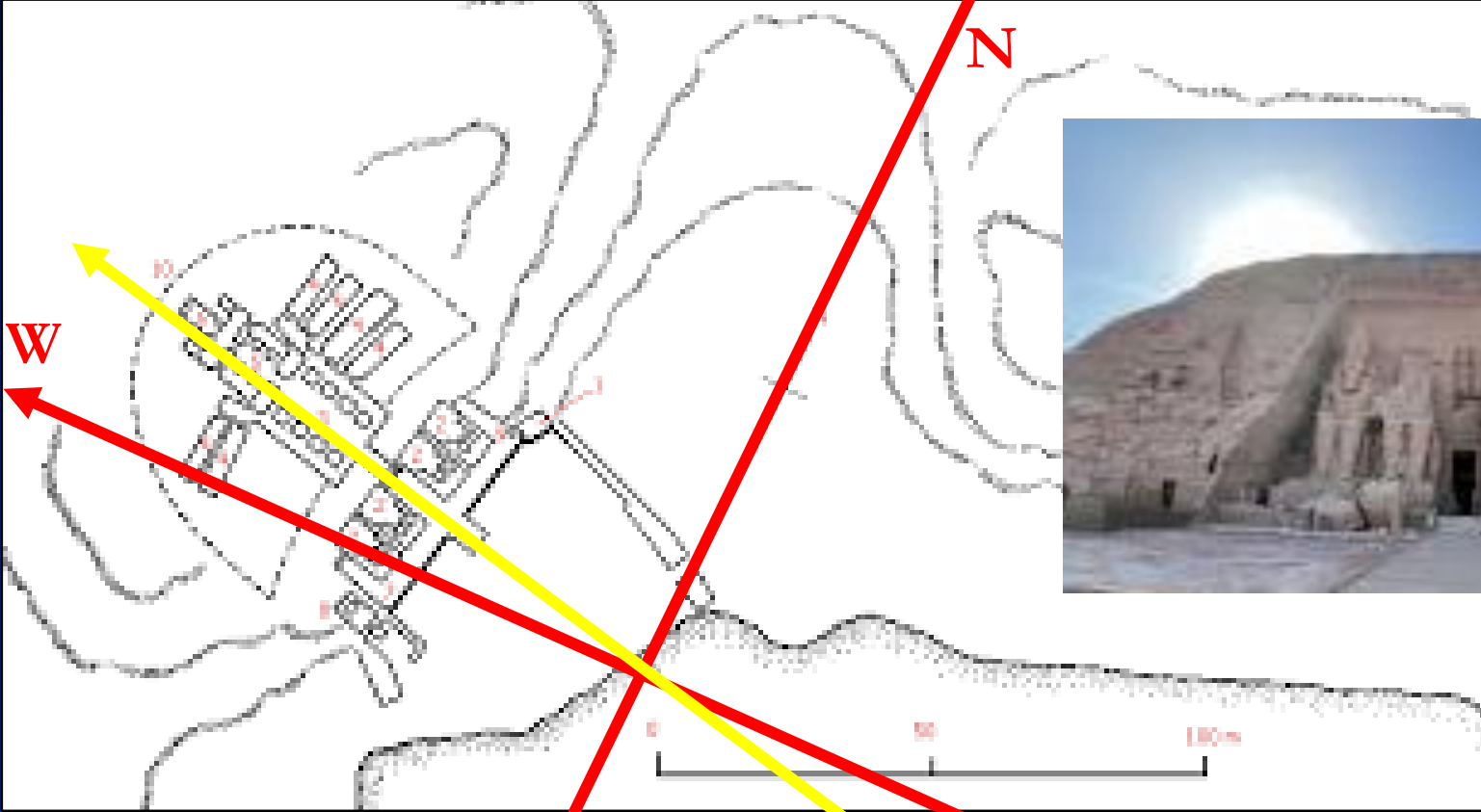
The year had 3 seasons:

The first was Akhet, the flood of the Nile at mid-July when Sirius (Sopdet) reappears

The second was Peret, the planting (the water leave) at 21th October approx.

The last was Chemu the harvest, at 21<sup>st</sup> February approx.





Sunrise on Feb.21<sup>st</sup> or Oct. 21<sup>st</sup> ???

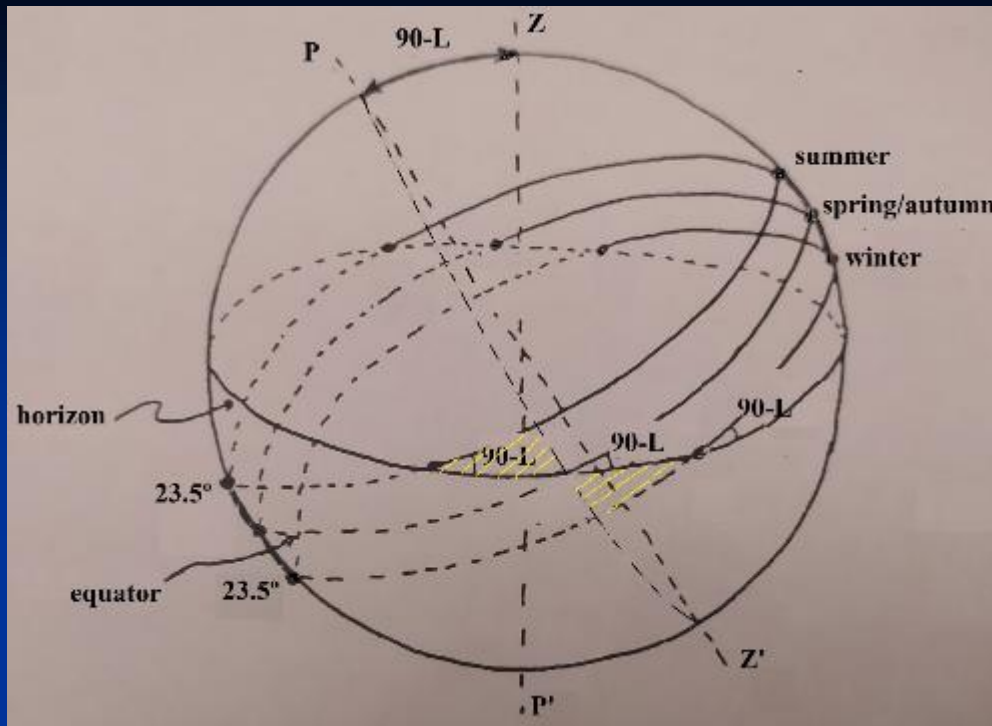


Tabla de declinación solar anual en grados, minutos y segundos.

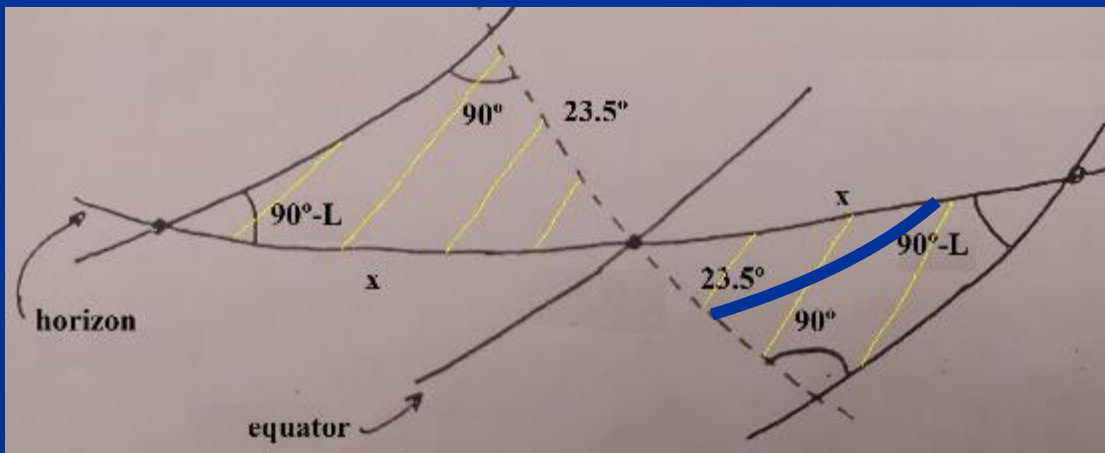
	<u>Enero</u>	<u>Febrero</u>	<u>Marzo</u>	<u>Abril</u>	<u>Mayo</u>	<u>Junio</u>	<u>Julio</u>	<u>Agosto</u>	<u>Septiem</u>	<u>Octubr</u>	<u>Noviem</u>	<u>Diciemb</u>
1	-23 03 09	-17 17 10	-07 50 19	+04 16 57	+14 52 25	+21 57 37	+23 08 56	+18 10 51	+08 31 15	-02 55 32	-14 12 39	-21 41 35
2	-22 58 17	-17 00 09	-07 27 33	+04 40 07	+15 10 36	+22 05 50	+23 04 58	+17 55 49	+08 09 31	-03 18 49	-14 31 54	-21 50 59
3	-22 52 58	-16 42 51	-07 04 40	+05 03 11	+15 28 32	+22 13 39	+23 00 36	+17 40 28	+07 47 40	-03 42 03	-14 50 56	-21 59 58
4	-22 47 11	-16 25 14	-06 41 41	+05 26 11	+15 46 13	+22 21 05	+22 55 50	+17 24 51	+07 25 41	-04 05 15	-15 09 43	-22 08 32
5	-22 40 57	-16 07 21	-06 18 37	+05 49 04	+16 03 38	+22 28 08	+22 50 39	+17 08 56	+07 03 34	-04 28 24	-15 28 15	-22 16 40
6	-22 34 16	-15 49 11	-05 55 27	+06 11 52	+16 20 48	+22 34 47	+22 45 05	+16 52 45	+06 41 21	-04 51 30	-15 46 32	-22 24 23
7	-22 27 08	-15 30 44	-05 32 13	+06 34 33	+16 37 41	+22 41 02	+22 39 08	+16 36 17	+06 19 01	-05 14 33	-16 04 34	-22 31 39
8	-22 19 34	-15 12 02	-05 08 53	+06 57 08	+16 54 17	+22 46 54	+22 32 46	+16 19 33	+05 56 34	-05 37 31	-16 22 19	-22 38 28
9	-22 11 33	-14 53 04	-04 45 30	+07 19 35	+17 10 37	+22 52 21	+22 26 01	+16 02 34	+05 34 02	-06 00 25	-16 39 48	-22 44 52
10	-22 03 06	-14 33 51	-04 22 03	+07 41 55	+17 26 39	+22 57 25	+22 18 53	+15 45 19	+05 11 24	-06 23 15	-16 56 60	-22 50 48
11	-21 54 14	-14 14 23	-03 58 33	+08 04 08	+17 42 24	+23 02 04	+22 11 22	+15 27 48	+04 48 40	-06 45 59	-17 13 55	-22 56 17
12	-21 44 55	-13 54 42	-03 34 59	+08 26 12	+17 57 51	+23 06 19	+22 03 28	+15 10 03	+04 25 52	-07 08 38	-17 30 32	-23 01 19
13	-21 35 12	-13 34 46	-03 11 23	+08 48 08	+18 13 01	+23 10 09	+21 55 11	+14 52 04	+04 02 59	-07 31 12	-17 46 51	-23 05 54
14	-21 25 03	-13 14 37	-02 47 45	+09 09 56	+18 27 51	+23 13 35	+21 46 32	+14 33 50	+03 40 02	-07 53 39	-18 02 51	-23 10 02
15	-21 14 29	-12 54 14	-02 24 05	+09 31 34	+18 42 24	+23 16 37	+21 37 30	+14 15 22	+03 17 01	-08 15 59	-18 18 32	-23 13 41
16	-21 03 31	-12 33 40	-02 00 23	+09 53 03	+18 56 37	+23 19 14	+21 28 07	+13 56 41	+02 53 57	-08 38 13	-18 33 55	-23 16 53
17	-20 52 09	-12 12 53	-01 36 40	+10 14 22	+19 10 31	+23 21 26	+21 18 21	+13 37 46	+02 30 49	-09 00 19	-18 48 57	-23 19 37
18	-20 40 23	-11 51 54	-01 12 56	+10 35 31	+19 24 06	+23 23 13	+21 08 14	+13 18 39	+02 07 38	-09 22 17	-19 03 39	-23 21 53
19	-20 28 13	-11 30 45	-00 49 13	+10 56 29	+19 37 21	+23 24 36	+20 57 45	+12 59 19	+01 44 25	-09 44 07	-19 18 01	-23 23 40
20	-20 15 41	-11 09 24	-00 25 29	+11 17 17	+19 50 16	+23 25 34	+20 46 55	+12 39 46	+01 21 09	-10 05 10	-19 32 02	-23 24 60
21	-20 02 41	-10 47 53	-00 01 45	+11 37 53	+20 02 50	+23 26 07	+20 35 44	+12 20 02	+00 57 52	-10 27 21	-19 45 41	-23 25 51
22	-19 49 27	-10 26 12	-00 21 57	+11 58 18	+20 15 04	+23 26 15	+20 24 12	+12 00 06	+00 34 33	-10 48 44	-19 58 59	-23 26 14
23	-19 35 47	-10 04 21	+00 45 39	+12 18 31	+20 26 57	+23 25 58	+20 12 20	+11 39 -59	+00 11 13	-11 09 58	-20 11 55	-23 26 09
24	-19 21 45	-09 42 21	+01 09 19	+12 38 31	+20 38 29	+23 25 17	+20 00 08	+11 19 40	-00 12 08	-11 31 01	-20 24 29	-23 25 36
25	-19 07 21	-09 20 13	+01 32 57	+12 58 19	+20 49 39	+23 24 11	+19 47 35	+10 59 11	-00 35 30	-11 51 54	-20 36 40	-23 24 34
26	-18 52 37	-08 57 56	+01 56 32	+13 17 54	+21 00 28	+23 22 40	+19 34 43	+10 38 32	-00 58 51	-12 12 36	-20 48 28	-23 23 04
27	-18 37 32	-08 35 31	+02 20 05	+13 37 16	+21 10 55	+23 20 44	+19 21 32	+10 17 43	-01 22 13	-12 33 06	-20 59 54	-23 21 06
28	-18 22 06	-08 12 58	+02 43 35	+13 56 24	+21 21 01	+23 18 24	+19 08 01	+09 56 44	-01 45 34	-12 53 26	-21 10 55	-23 18 40
29	-18 06 21		+03 07 01	+14 15 19	+21 30 43	+23 15 39	+18 54 11	+09 35 35	-02 08 55	-13 13 33	-21 21 33	-23 15 46
30	-17 50 16		+03 30 24	+14 33 59	+21 40 04	+23 12 30	+18 40 03	+09 14 17	-02 32 14	-13 33 28	-21 31 46	-23 12 24
31	-17 33 52		+03 53 43		+21 49 02		+18 25 36	+08 52 50		-13 53 10		-23 08 34

\* El signo + significa que el sol está por encima del ecuador, y el signo - que está por debajo.





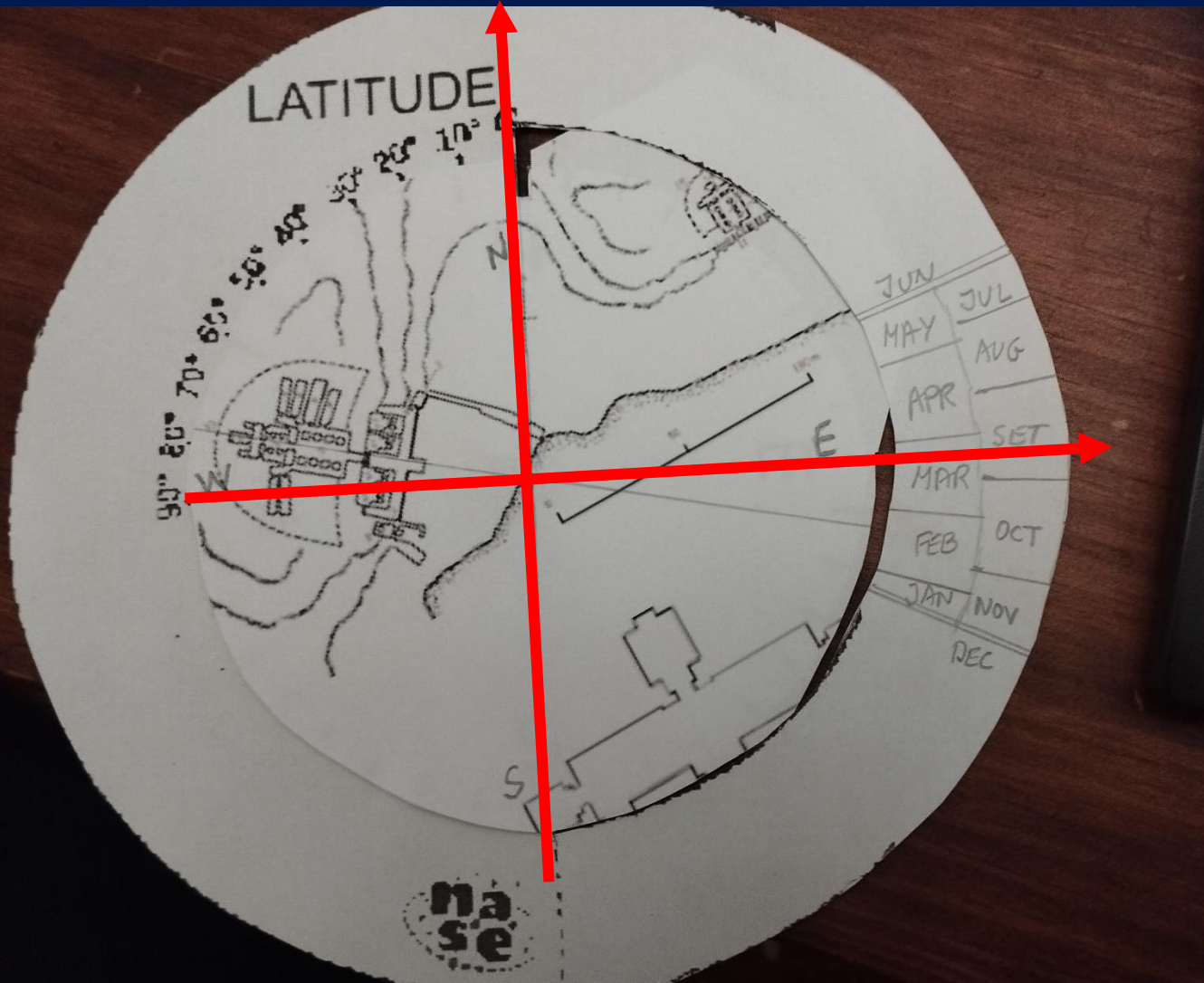
Abu Simbel Latitude 22°  
 $\sin x = \sin 11^\circ / \cos 22^\circ$   
 $x = 12^\circ$



Latitude L	X°
0°	23,5°
10°	24°
20°	25°
30°	27°
40°	32°
50°	40°
60°	53°

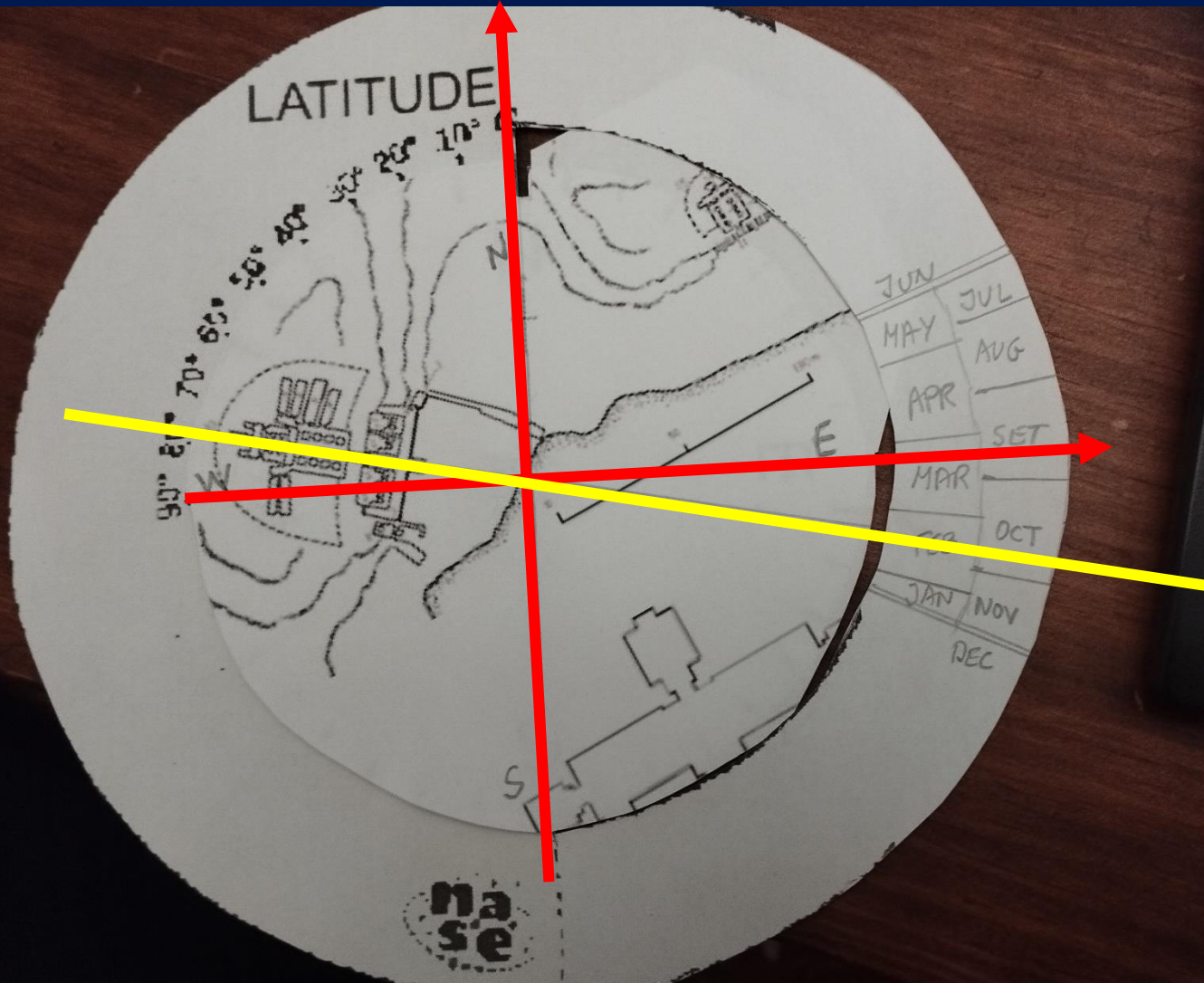
$$\sin x / \sin 90^\circ = \sin 11^\circ / \sin (90^\circ - 22^\circ)$$



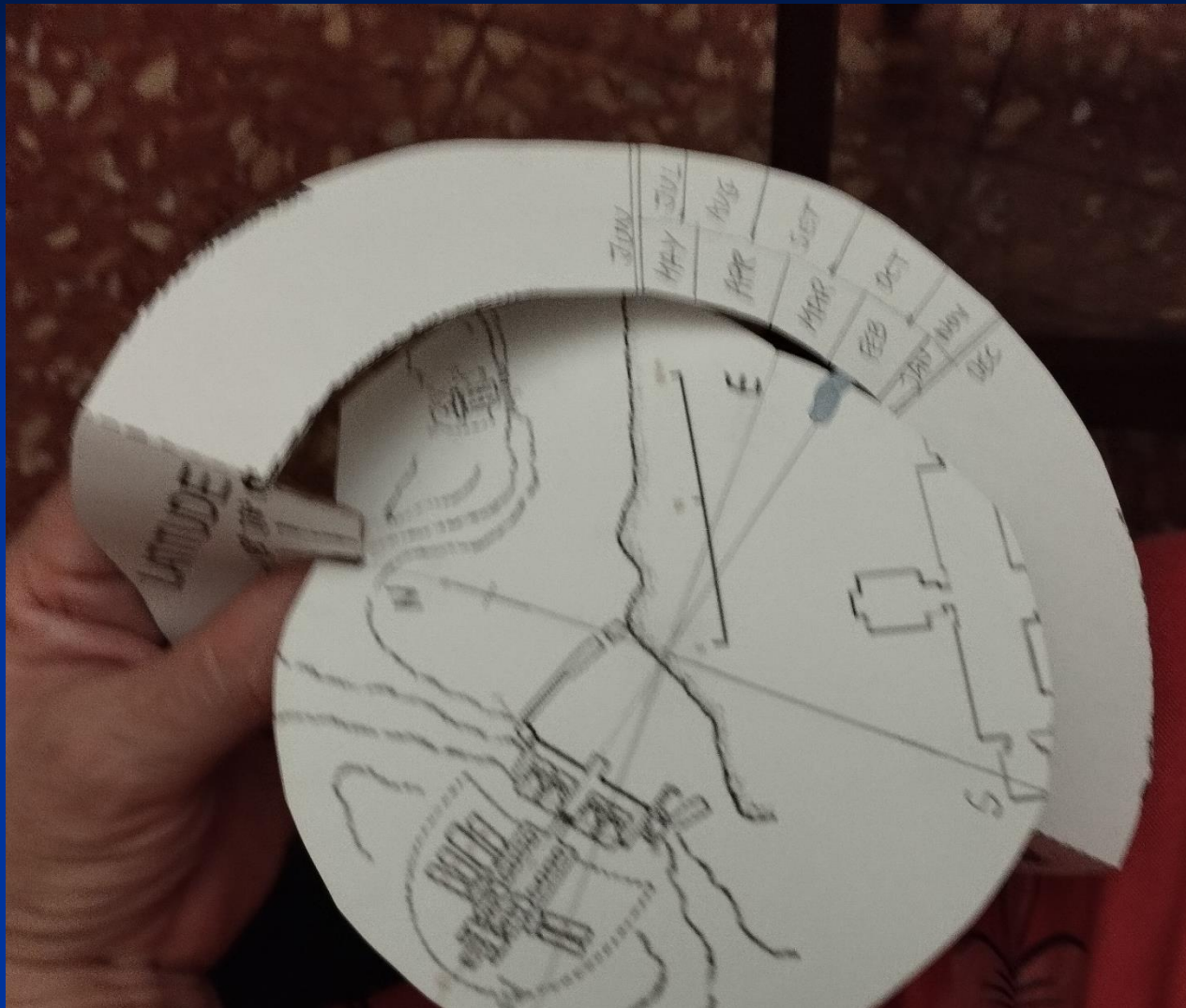


Abu Simbel  
map on the  
demonstrator  
well oriented



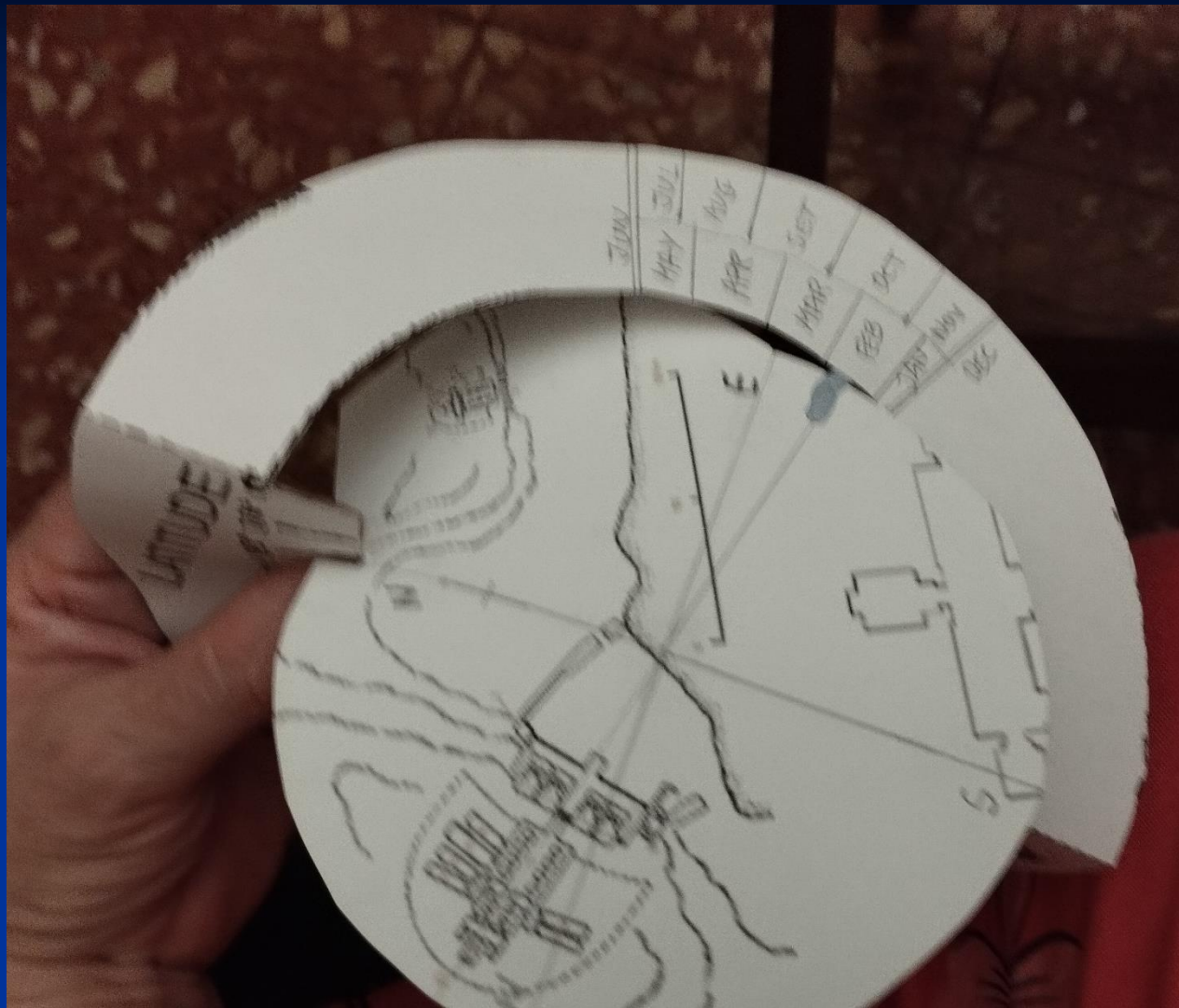


Sun direction  
that arrive to  
the sanctuary



**Latitud 22°**

**Sun direction in  
the position of  
Feb 21<sup>st</sup> or Oct 21<sup>st</sup>**



Finally we take the measurement of the angle between E-W line and Sun direction in the position of Feb 21<sup>st</sup> or Oct 21<sup>st</sup>

This angle is  $x=12^\circ$

**Many Thanks  
for your attention !**

