

**METEORIC JEWELRY IN EGYPT SHEDDING LIGHT ON THE SOPHISTICATION OF
PREHISTORIC MANKIND.**

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Introduction: Prior to the Iron Age, metal were used minimally as their usefulness had not yet been discovered, and iron in general was for the most part unheard of. An exception to this pattern can be found in jewelry and ceremonial daggers in Egypt, which were fashioned out of meteorites. While roughly 90% of meteorites which fall to earth are comprised primarily of stone, a small percentage of this debris consists of iron, with certain levels of nickel and crystal interlaced within. This was the only type of iron that existed for the prehistoric Egyptians, and while rare it could easily be discovered by its contrast to the sandy desert and the astonishing sights which would accompany its fall to earth. For such a rare material, the complex items listed above should be much too sophisticated for the early Egyptians who were still relying on flint for their tools. With meteorites falling from the heavens in a spectacular fashion, a religious connection would have been clear to those who witnessed it, and so this would have inspired them to create valuable and precious items from these divine stones.

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