



Egyptian Cosmetics

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What cosmetics have become today is in great part due to the ancient Egyptians' fixation with it. Back in the days, the Egyptians' saw cosmetics as a means to beauty, tradition and magical powers.

The complexity of a person's make-up was an indication of his/her social rank. Cleanliness was also an essential aspect and high priests were required to bathe several times during the day.

The typical 'almond eyes' was created 4000 years ago, using Kohl, where they usually used black or green colors. Which were created from the Galena and Malachite minerals. They believed that kohl had disinfectant qualities and shielded the eyes against the sun. They also believed that green Kohl induced or evoked the eye of Horus and mothers applied it to their newborns believing it will strengthen and shield them against the evil eye.

Egyptians also used Henna to color their hair and nails, as it was an indication of a person's social status, and they also believed it had cleansing and cooling powers for the skin.

Henna was also a very important part of mummification.

Perfumes were an essential aspect of cleanliness, and they perfected them to the extent that Egyptian perfumes became famous throughout the Mediterranean. They were mostly created from mixing oils with flowers, plants or seeds.

Egyptians believed that cosmetics are a vital element to a blessed access to the afterlife; they had to apply cosmetics in a very specific manner to be presentable before the gods during their final judgment.

Regardless of all of these strict traditions in applying their cosmetics, the ancient Egyptians' believed that nothing made one more beautiful than love:

'Like eyepaint is my desire. When I see you, it makes my eyes sparkle'. From an ancient Egyptian love poem.

1- <http://www.reshafim.org.il/ad/egypt/timelines/topics/cosmetics.htm>

2- <http://www.king-tut.org.uk/ancient-egyptians/egyptian-make-up.htm>

3- <http://www.levity.com/alchemy/islam23.html>