After the time of Egyptian new kingdom there was a political and artistic decline and Egypt entered one of the obscure periods of its history, the weakening of Egyptian authority in Nubia allow the Nubian to take control of their land and set up an independent regime this was Napata kingdom The Napatan kings extended their control through entire Egypt till the Mediterranean sea and became the 25th dynasty in the history of Egypt (reigned about 747-716 BC). It was the ambition of Piye and his successors to restore Egypt to greatness. Unfortunately, their intervention in political affairs in Palestine brought Egypt to the attention of the Assyrian empire.
The early Kushite kings adopted all Egyptian customs and beliefs. Kings were buried on beds placed on stone platforms within their pyramids. These structures were based on the pyramidia of Egyptian private tombs of the New Kingdom. But the burials were entirely Kushite.
• Taharqa the greatest king who ruled Egypt introduced more Egyptian elements to the burial, such as mummification, coffins and sarcophagi of Egyptian origin, as well as the provision of *shabti* figures. Shabtis is small statues which replace in the tomb with body as a servant to perform work on behalf of the dead body.
Ba Statue

• An other element was the so-called Ba statues
• Egyptians believed that a person’s soul was composed of several elements. These became separated at death. The ba was one of the elements of the spirit, which encompassed the personality and emotions. It stayed close to the body of the deceased and was eventually reunited with other elements, to live eternally in the Afterlife.
In Egyptian art, the *ba* is chiefly represented on funerary papyri. These representations were intended to enable the deceased's entry into the Afterlife.

In a funerary context, the *ba* in its form of a human-headed bird was retained in the Kushite period.

This example shows the *ba* in a female human form, wearing a long dress, but with wings instead of arms. The emphasis on the eyes is typical of later Meroitic sculpture,
• However, the style, the material used, and the location of representations was entirely different from the Egyptian depictions. A stone statue like this one would have been placed outside the tomb chapel of a wealthy individual,
The offering tables

Another elements is the offering tables. The kushites believed that the spirits could receive the offering of food and drinks were replace on the offering tables. These table usually made of stone with curved images of food and drinks.
Meroitic offering tables tend to be roughly square in shape, with a central depression for holding liquids. Some examples bear illustrations of offerings, while this one shows a goddess, Nephthys, on the left and Anubis on the right pouring water on behalf of the deceased. Around the outside is Meroitic inscription.
Some examples, such as this, bear representations of the food and drinks which would be placed on the table, while others have figured decoration. Around the outside is an inscription which names of the owner and gives his parentage.
Beside the offering tables bowls, cups and jars were often placed in Meroitic graves, to be used by the deceased in the Afterlife. Like the fragile fine ware vessels,
This Amphora decorated with vine leaves and ducks in black and white. The decorative motifs are derived from those of Ptolemaic and early Roman, The combination of geometric, floral and animal motifs is typical of pottery of this period. It shows the influence of the Mediterranean world,
The body of the deceased was adorned with beads and jewelers, as well as amulets they were believed to confer protection to the body against harm or danger.
Thank you