

In the days of Moses the people were not nearly as ignorant as it is easy for us to imagine them to have been. We read in the New Testament that Moses was learned in all wisdom of the Egyptians. This ~~was~~ wisdom was in many ways very extensive. Some of the scientific processes of the ~~Egyptians~~ ^{ancient} have not yet been duplicated. The Egyptian commerce travelled regularly across the desert to the Palestine and Mesopotamia. Occasionally ~~the~~ ^{merchants} ~~Egyptians~~ travelled between Mesopotamia and China. Before the time of Christ ~~and~~ the Egyptians made observations of the sun and from them they reckoned the circumference of the earth, and came surprisingly near to our present figure ~~we~~ ^{when} consider the comparatively poor quality of the instruments that they were able to use. The average person then now knew comparatively little about the geography, and practically nothing of cosmology. ~~Now~~ Doubtless, most people those days thought of ... in those days most people seemed to have thought of the sun as something that moved around the earth every 24 hours. Beyond it were planets and beyond them stars. A considerable amount of study was made of the heavenly bodies and a great deal learned about the ~~compositions~~ ^{positions} of the planets and of the stars. This was vital in Egypt ~~where~~ where the Nile would wipe ~~out~~ out the marks when the overflow... where the overflow of the Nile would wipe out marks of the ownership every year, and it was necessary to establish new, precise size of the field after the waters receded.

Actually it was within the last century that our knowledge of the ^{very} universe has expanded greatly, and most of the expansion has come ~~recently~~ recently. Copernicus suggested that the earth went around the sun instead of the sun going around the earth, and on the basis of the _____ simplicity of understanding of the motion of the planets recommended that the idea adopted that the , earth and other planets went around the sun, reintroducing the old system of Aristarchus