

By sketching the tradition of throwing a dummy into the Nile to appease the furies of nature, an artist accompanying Napoleon on his travels depicted how some ancient ways to cope with disasters evolved. While the ceremonial tradition exists even today (with dummies now placed on camels), 20th century scientific advances have brought new ways to cope with disasters.



"The Sacrifice to the Nile" — Illustration by W. GENTZ in "Egypt: Descriptive, historical and picturesque," Cassel and Co. Ltd. 1887.