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HIS113 – World Civilization I

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### **Extra Credit 2: Hekanakhte**

1. What were the duties of a ka-priest?

A ka-priest duty is to guard the tombs of his patrons. They do this to protect the dead's soul. Well off people in that society give money and resources to support the priest who is doing the rituals. And "if the ka were not honored with these ceremonial offerings, Egyptians feared that it would die a second death or be annihilated."

2. What do these letters tell us about family relationships in this social class?

Since Hekanakhte was the one who consistently writes letters, and he directs his son about things that they are supposed to do in the household; I am suspecting that patriarchal was followed in this society. The head of the family has the right to impose rules and give rights to a certain member of the family. He is the only one who can establish the levels or position of each member. He has the right to decide how much salary the member of the household will be receiving. And in this social class, the head of the family does not only support his family, but also his relatives and servants as well. Another thing is that the one he appointed to lead the family while he's away is Mersu, his eldest son, the one who bears all weight for the duty he was left to do with. Apparently, it was mentioned that when he died. He left one letter unopened. We can

assume that he loathes his father for making him to do a lot, but still not favoring him as Hekanakhte's favorite child. But it was also mentioned that, "Trust between father and son seems to have been in short supply.", even after all the things he did for the family, he might have felt that he was never enough for his father. Other than that, there are conflicts within the family. Maybe Mersu had enough with his father's decisions. Mersu might have struggled a lot leading the household while his father was away.