



Axum was the queen of Sheba's capital the 10th century B.C. The Axumite kingdom was one of the most powerful empires in the ancient world when, the Queen's army and fleet controlled the whole of the Red Sea area for over a thousand years. The colossal stelae and ruins where the magnificent palaces once stood date from this period.

The people who erected these giant monuments were pre-Christian, following a cult of the sun and moon goddess. This is the birthplace of Ethiopian civilization.

By the 1st century Axum was a major trading centre for exotic goods from and to Egypt, Rome, Nubia, Greece, Syria, China and India via the Red Sea...

Legend has it that the Ark of the Covenant was brought here by the destruction of the Temple, Axum was reputed to be the second Jerusalem. The Church of St. Mary of Zion is said to be the final resting place of the original Ark or



covenant.

Axum is also famous for its inspiring great stelae and stone monoliths which have much to tell of the architectural superiority of the builders of the Axumite Empire. They produced towers of superb proportions thrusting to heaven, stairways for the soul of the dead. The soul may have departed, but the spirit of the past is still very much alive in Axum.