Postcards from the Middle Kingdom

The Middle Kingdom is the period in Ancient Egyptian history between the First Intermediate Period and the Second Intermediate Period. It is said to have lasted between the years 2000 and 1786 (B.C.E.).

In a newspaper editorial, a reader writes that in the “Dark” Ages, the Middle Kingdom referred to women’s genitals.

But these postcards are from another Middle Kingdom not found in history books or newspapers. Here, it refers to the place we inhabit when we leave our homeland, and settle in another land. This place is not outlined on a map, although it resonates with geography, history and physiology. It’s the cartography of genealogies.

This Middle Kingdom renders us strangers in our distant homelands, and distanced in the lands we cannot call home. In this Middle Kingdom, “home” is an impossibility.

References