

The Stela of King Kamose

1 A wretched report is in your town. You are thrust out (?) in the presence
of your army. Your authority¹ is constricted² by your making me a prince²
while you are the Ruler, so as to invite³ the injury (?) through which you will fall.
Your evil back is seen with my army⁴ after you. The women of Avaris will not
conceive, their hearts will not stir (?) in their bodies when the shout of my army is
heard.

* or 'de' in
the. Unk. II,
501, 3 seems to
be quite different

I landed at Pi-djed-kesen, my heart glad, and I caused⁴ Apophis to see a
miserable moment, (he) the prince of Retjnu, feeble of arms, who plans brave deeds
5 in his heart and they do not happen for him. I arrived at Inyt of upstream, and
I crossed over (the Nile) to address⁴ them. I made the fleet⁸ to be marshalled (?) one
after another, placing prow to steering-oar with my⁶ Braves¹⁰, flying over the river
as it were a falcon, my ship of gold at their head, and the falcon thereof at the
head of them and I making the brave boat tank (?) the land, the after it as it was
..... on the wastes (?) of Avaris. I ~~beheld~~ beheld his wife on his roof-top looking
from his balcony / they [hearing (?) me and looking from the ^{roopholes} thereof
on their walls like the young of within their holes, saying 'Go away!'

10 I see, I am come that the exploit by my own hand might succeed, and my
exploit will be effective. As Amun the brave endures, I will not leave you, I will not
let you tread a field without my being upon you. Your heart is undone, base Asiatic!
See, I will drink of the wine of your vineyards, I pressed out for me by the Asiatics that I
capture, I will raze your dwelling-place and cut down your plantations. I have forced (?)
your women into the ships' holds, I taking away the chariotry. I have not left a (single)
plank (?) belonging to (?) three hundred ships of fresh cedar-wood filled with gold,
lapis lazuli, silver, turquoise, amethyst (?) and weapons innumerable, apart from
15 moringa-oil, incense, fat, honey, oak, ^{cedar-wood} spin-wood, and every precious wood of
theirs, (with) all good produce of Retjnu. I annexed (?) it all, and did not leave

a scrap of Avaris not empty (?), the Asiatic having perished. ¹⁶ Your heart is undone, ²⁸ false Asiatic, ²⁹ who used to say 'I am lord and have none (beside me) from Khentia and ³⁰ Pi-Hathor down to (?) Avaris, ³¹ I ~~two~~ ¹⁷ schesai'. ³² ~~Where~~ I left it stripped, ³³ no people there. I razed their towns and burned their places, they being made into red ruins ¹⁸ for ever on account of the damage which they did in this Egypt, (its people) being made ~~irreparable~~ ³⁴ to serve the Asiatics, and they forsook ³⁵ Egypt, their mistress. I captured ¹⁹ his message ³⁶ on the upland of the Oasis travelling southward to Cush or a written despatch. I found it ²⁰ in writing from the ruler of Avaris: ²⁰ 'Aphaiti' the son of Ra' Apophis greets my son the ruler of Cush. Why did you arise as ruler without letting me know? Have you (not) ²¹ noticed what Egypt has done against me? The prince who is in it, (namely) Kamose, given life, drives me from ³⁵ my soil, and I have not attacked him ³⁷ after the manner of ²² all that he has done to you. He dismembers ³⁹ the Two Lands to their ⁴⁰ ruin; my land and yours, he has devastated them. Come, sail northwards secretly (?); ⁴¹ behold, he is here at my hand, there is no (?). . . . the lord (?), ⁴² in this Egypt. Behold, I will not let him get away until you have arrived; then we will share out ²⁴ the towns of Egypt!'

. . . . the good . . . was in joy, (namely) King Wadjkheperu, given life, the ²⁵ suppressor of (ill) deeds. ²⁵ I have placed hills [and plains?] ⁴³ under me, and rivers likewise; no way could be found to circumvent ⁴⁴ (?) me, I was never slack as regards my army; ²⁶ ⁴⁵ I . . . did not ⁴⁶ conquer, ⁴⁷ for he feared me when I came northward, and no-one (?) fought before I had reached him. He saw my fiery breath, he sent ²⁷ as far as Cush ⁴⁸ to seek his helper, but I captured it on the road, I did not let it arrive. I caused it to be returned to him, and it was set down ⁴⁹ further east ²⁸ (than) ²⁸ Ipehu. My strength entered into his heart, his body was disordered, for his envoy had related those things which I had done against ~~the district of~~ ²⁹ the district of Cynopolis (?) which ³⁰ ~~was~~ ^{had been} his property; I had sent a strong troop which travelled overland to devastate Djedjes while I was in Akko in order not to let there be any

30 disaffected³⁰ behind me. I travelled southward as one stout-hearted, my heart glad,
I destroyed³¹ every disaffected person who was on the road.

What a happy³¹ journey southward for the Ruler³¹ with his soldiers in front of him!
They had suffered no loss, no man inquired after his fellow, and no hearts wept.
I moved slowly to Asyut³² at the season of Inundation, and every face was bright,
the land was in superabundance⁵², the river-bank was ~~shone upon~~^{flooded with light(?)}, Thebes was in
festival, women and men came to look³³ at me, every woman embraced her
neighbour, there was no face in tears, the incense of my creator⁵³ (?) was indeed in
the Residence, at the place³⁴ wherein men say: 'Take the good things,' even as he gives
the falchion to the son of Amun - (p. h. - the long-living-king Wadjkheperē,
35 the son of Rē^c Kamose, given life³⁵, who has subdued the Southland, who has
driven back the Northland, who has taken possession of the land by strength³⁵, given
life, prosperity and health permanence^{and}, dominion, that ~~his~~ he may be glad with
his Ra like Rē^c for ever and ever.

³⁶ The command of the [king]⁵⁴ to the Noble and Count, Master of the Secrets of
the Palace, Governor of the entire land, Chancellor, ^{Star of the Two Lands, chief and} one who taught^(?) in the
~~house~~, Overseer of Companions, ^(the became?) Neshi: 'Let all that my Majesty has done⁵⁵ ^{viciously}
be set out ~~boldly~~^(?) upon a stela, the place of which shall rest in Most-Select-
of-Places³⁸ in Thebes for ever and ever'. He said to His Majesty: 'I will perform this
great ~~task to the pleasure of the Count~~^{commission so that I have praise} from the King'.

Notes to Translation

1. lit. 'your mouth is narrow'.
2. Abnormally with a short stick as in l. 11.
3. lit. 'demand for yourself', perhaps in the sense of our slang 'He asked for it'.
4. M-43, i. e. 'pursuing'.
5. The sense is obscure, but if snw is from the 3ae inf. sn 'pass' the form may well be Edel's s'dmw.f, which is used in a future sense after an, see his §521.
6. 𓂏𓂏 𓂏 unknown, at all events in this writing.
7. Or 'greet them' or even 'question them'.
8. 𓂏 certainly in this sense after 𓂏, Urk. IV, 8, 9.
9. Perhaps only a special sense of the word usually written 𓂏 'adorn', Wb. IV, 444, 2 foll.
10. On this collective see JE A 39, 44.
11. 𓂏 𓂏, see Wb. II, 161, 14, but not until Amarna time.
12. L. 𓂏 𓂏 𓂏, but only the words for 'measure' and 'examine (a patient)' seem to be known. It does not seem to help much to read 𓂏 𓂏, but see Wb. III, 231, 9, 10.
13. 𓂏 surely a writing of 𓂏, cf. Coptic ⲙⲟⲩⲩⲧ. But is the last sign a w? Here clearly 'balcony' rather than 'window', since it is on the roof; compare also the 𓂏 𓂏 'Balcony of Appearing' in the palace.
14. Readings here full of difficulties. L's 𓂏 𓂏 𓂏 𓂏 has much in common with the expression at the end of l. 2. The final 𓂏 must surely belong to sdm on account of 𓂏 𓂏 at the beginning of the next line. Among the difficulties is to account for the plural, but I think that Apophis's children must be meant, since they are compared to the young of inhr (an unknown word).
15. 𓂏, lit. 'nostrils', if the det. is correct; the stem seems to mean 'be stopped up', see Wb. IV, 528, 1. ~~'Cancellations' seems a preferable rendering to 'loopholes', since the 𓂏 are 'on' the walls, also it is doubtful if the loophole had yet been invented. It had; cf. the 3-way loopholes of the fortress of Buhan~~
16. An unknown animal.

- 17. With simple initial ē, cf. P. Ram.
- 18. Lit. 'that I might be successful of exploit by my hand', ~~now~~ reading mcr.ē as sdm.f
- 19. W3h in this sense, according to Wb. I, 256, top, only from NTK, but see too below, l. 15.
- 20. Wb. T, 501, see my Wilbour Commentary, II, 48, n. 14. Both Faulkner and I thought we could read hā in the photo, but L. has a strange hā mh3, an unknown word.
- 21. So again below, l. 16, in the same expression.
- 22. For the probable tense, see notes, p. (3)
- ~~23. hā 'under'~~
- ~~24. Minbas, lit. 'axe'.~~
- 23. grm.n.i, a sdm.n.f form, and accordingly probably past. L. reads gr3, not grm; Gunn gives one ex. of Swpm (828b), apparently to be rendered 'seize'.
- 24. Phy, Wb. I, 543, 10. This word seems known as the 'deck' of a boat, but this makes no sense. Perhaps 'plank' as possibly Anast. II, 14, 8; if so, the sense might be that he has destroyed the boats while capturing their contents.
- 25. Lit. 'under'.
- 26. Minbas, lit. 'axe'.
- 27. hā, an unknown verb, hardly to be equated with hā 'press out'.
- 28. The delta seems to have nw3s, I hesitatingly suggest n sw3s
- 29. The same phrase above, l. 11.
- 30. Pi-Hathōn must be another name for Nefrusy here, that place being probably a little north of Khmin-Demopolis.
- 31. Reading obscure.
- 32. ~~2222~~ Hardly 'of the two Rivers', which makes poor sense. It is difficult to see how this measure fits in, but it may be meant to imply that the land now left in the control of Apophis amounts only to a radius of 2 it from Avaris.
- 33. W33 probably an exceptional writing of w3, Wb. I, 368, 6 ff.; for the added 3 cf. wh3 above and ht3 below, ~~l. n. 35~~.

34. Adm i3A as verb, Wb. IV, 390, 6.7; JEA 34, 21, 2.3

35. Bt3 clearly identical with the verb written 𐎧𐎠𐎢𐎠 Wb. I, 485, 9.10; 𐎧𐎠𐎢𐎠 'run' is similarly written 𐎧𐎠𐎢𐎠.

36. Not to be understood as iparty of 'his messenger', see hfc. m. i sy, l. 27.

37. Affirmative in the original, but the English rendering demands a rhetorical negative.

38. Or 'deprives me of', according to whether 𐎧𐎠𐎢𐎠 or 𐎧𐎠𐎢𐎠 is to be read.

39. For stf 'dismember', cf. JEA 32, 54 (5).

~~40. 𐎧𐎠𐎢𐎠 for 𐎧𐎠𐎢𐎠~~

40. 𐎧 for 𐎧𐎠

41. 𐎧𐎠𐎢𐎠 for 𐎧𐎠𐎢𐎠?

42. lit. 'I will not give him a road'. An alternative rendering could be 'I will not let him pass'.

43. Restore 𐎧𐎠 in the lacuna? etc., (Jint, 11.19, 28; Jm R141; Pg. 1236)

44. Cf. snb 'overstep' a boundary (though this verb does not seem to occur elsewhere with direct object of the person. The preceding m is quite obscure.

45. 𐎧𐎠𐎢𐎠 is quite obscure, except that the suffix in snb. m. f ^{following} indicates that in some way it refers to Apophis.

46. Read probably h(3)t (w).

47. Reading h(3)t 'send', not ht 'travel'.

48. I.e. the letter (st), cf. l. 19.

49. Construction of gramm. § 374, end.

50. Bahriyah Oasis.

51. Read sk with 𐎧 instead of 𐎧.

52. R-of, cf. P. ch. Beatty I, vs. 63.

53. Hardly 'of Amun' with 𐎧. Perhaps the rare verb imn 'create', Pg. 1095; de Buck, Reading-book 114, 5, as a participle with possessive suffix. The suffix in mi dd. of in l. 34 seems to refer back to this imn, and here also the context tends against considering this word to refer to Amun mean simply 'Amun'.