






Shipwrecked Sailor

Blackman

Created on 2008-08-05 by Mark-Jan Nederhof. Last modified 2015-01-25.

The hieroglyphic of The Shipwrecked Sailor, following the transcription on pp. 41-48 of Blackman (1932). Blackman omitted positions 77 and 110, which we determined by means of De Buck (1948), pp. 100-106, and Golénischeff (1912), pp. 1-10. Further changes are:

- Line 4,  was replaced by . Similarly in lines 37 and 105.
- Line 26, the first sign that looks like  was read as . Similarly in lines 27, 92 and 93.
- Line 27, 

was replaced by , which seems a better fit. Similarly in lines 93 and 121. The sign

seems distinct from other occurrences of  in this text however.

For the relative positioning of signs, the encoding requires further checking against a facsimile.

Bibliography

- A.M. Blackman. *Middle-Egyptian Stories – Part I*. Fondation Égyptologique Reine Élisabeth, Brussels, 1932.
- A. De Buck. *Egyptian Readingbook*. Ares Publishers, Chicago, Illinois, 1948.
- M.W. Golénischeff. *Le Conte du Naufragé*. L'Institut Français d'Archéologie Orientale, Le Caire, 1912.

Nederhof - English

Created on 2006-11-04 by Mark-Jan Nederhof. Last modified 2015-01-24.

Transliteration and translation for The Shipwrecked Sailor, following the transcription on pp. 41-48 of Blackman (1932). Blackman omitted positions 77 and 110, which we determined by means of De Buck (1948), pp. 100-106, and Golénischeff (1912), pp. 1-10.

The transliteration throughout follows Hannig (1995).

For published translations, see Lichtheim (1975), pp. 211-215; Parkinson (1997), pp. 89-101; Simpson (1972), pp. 50-56. Also considered where the examples from Allen (2000), Gardiner (1957), Graefe (1994) and Loprieno (1995).

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- A.M. Blackman. *Middle-Egyptian Stories – Part I*. Fondation Égyptologique Reine Élisabeth, Brussels, 1932.
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- M.W. Golénischeff. *Le Conte du Naufragé*. L'Institut Français d'Archéologie Orientale, Le Caire, 1912.
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- W.K. Simpson (editor). *The Literature of Ancient Egypt: An Anthology of Stories, Instructions, and Poetry*. Yale University Press, 1972.

B1

Ne

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Ne

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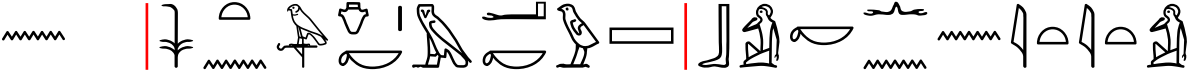
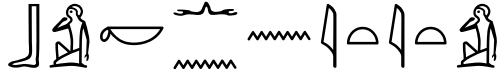
Ne

B1

Ne

Bl  ¹⁵ 

Ne Then you may reply ¹⁵ | when you are addressed,

Bl  ¹⁶  ¹⁷ 

Ne speak to ¹⁶ | the king with self-possession, and answer without stammering!

Bl  ¹⁸  ¹⁹ 



Ne The utterance of a man ¹⁸ | saves him, his speech gains him indulgence.

Bl  ²⁰  ²¹ 

Ne ²⁰ | You do as you wish, it is tiresome to speak to you.

Bl  ²²  ²³ 

Ne I shall recount ²² | to you something similar, which happened to me ²³ | myself.

Bl  ²⁴  ²⁵ 

Ne I had set off for the mining region of the sovereign and I had gone to sea

Bl  ²⁶ 

Ne in a boat ²⁶ | 120 cubits long and 40 cubits wide,

Bl  ²⁷ 

Ne with 120 sailors ²⁸ | of the pick of Egypt.

Bl  ²⁹ 

Ne Whether they looked ²⁹ | at the sky or looked at the land,

Bl ³⁰ ³¹

Ne they were more courageous than lions. They could foretell a gale before it came

Bl ³² ³³

Ne and a thunderstorm before it happened. A gale came up | while we were at sea

Bl ³⁴

Ne before | we had reached land.

Bl ³⁵

Ne The wind rose | and rose again,

Bl ³⁶ ³⁷

Ne and a wave | with it of 8 cubits. It was a beam that broke | it for me.

Bl ³⁸

Ne Then the boat | sank, and of those aboard none remained.

Bl ³⁹

Ne Then I was cast | on an island by a wave of the sea.

Bl ⁴¹

Ne I spent three days alone,

Bl ⁴²

Ne | my heart being my companion,

B1

Ne

B1

Ne

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Ne

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Ne

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Ne

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Ne

B1

Ne

B1


Ne

B1

Ne

Bl 

Ne Then I heard | thunder.

Bl 

Ne I thought it was a wave | of the sea,

Bl 

Ne trees were breaking, | the earth was trembling.

Bl 

Ne When I uncovered | my face, I found it was a serpent coming.

Bl 

Ne He measured | 30 cubits,

Bl 

Ne his beard was bigger | than 2 cubits, his skin was gilded,

Bl 

Ne his eyebrows were of real lapis lazuli. He was bent up.

Bl 

Ne | He opened his mouth to me, while I was | on my belly before him.

Bl 

Ne | He said to me: "Who brought you, who brought you, young man?"

Bl ⁷⁰ | ⁷¹ |

Ne | Who brought you? If you delay telling me who brought you to this island,

Bl ⁷² |

Ne | I will make you know yourself to be ashes,

Bl ⁷³ | ⁷⁴ |

Ne | turned into something that one can't see." "You speak to me

Bl ⁷⁵ |

Ne but I'm not hearing ⁷⁵ | it.

Bl ⁷⁶ |

Ne I am before you ⁷⁶ | and do not know myself."

Bl ⁷⁷ | ⁷⁸ |

Ne Then he put me ⁷⁷ | in his mouth, took me to the place where he lived,

Bl ⁷⁹ |

Ne and set me down without harming me.

Bl ⁸⁰ | ⁸¹ |

Ne I was uninjured, without force applied to me. ⁸¹ | He opened his mouth to me,

Bl ⁸² | ⁸³ |

Ne while I was ⁸² | on my belly before him. ⁸³ | He then said to me:

B1

84

Ne

B1

85

Ne

B1

Ne

87

87

B1

Ne

88

88

B1

Ne

B1

Ne

B1

Ne

B1


Ne

B1

Ne

96
Bl | 

96
Ne | they were more courageous than lions.

97 98
Bl | 


98
Ne They could foretell a gale | before it came

Bl 

Ne and a thunderstorm before it happened.

99 100
Bl | 


99 100
Ne | Each one of them was more courageous | and stronger than his fellow.

Bl 

101
Ne There was not | a fool among them.

102
Bl | 


102
Ne A gale | came up while we were at sea

103 104
Bl | 


103
Ne | before we had reached land. The wind rose and rose again,


105
Bl | 


105
Ne and a wave | with it of 8 cubits.


106
Bl | 


106
Ne It was a beam that broke | it for me. Then the boat sank,

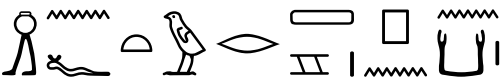
107
Bl |  108
Ne | and of those aboard none remained | except myself


 109
Ne who is here with you. | Then I was brought to this island

110
Bl |  111
Ne | by a wave of the sea." | Then he said to me:

 112
Ne "Fear not, fear not, | young man! Do not turn pale,

113
Bl |  114
Ne | for you have reached me. Look, the god has let | you live

 115
Ne and has brought you to this island of the spirit.


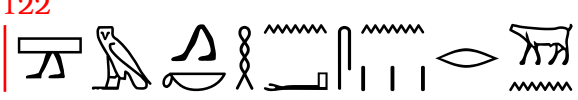
115
Bl |  116
Ne | There is nothing that is not on it | and it is full of all good things.

117
Bl |  118
Ne | You will spend month upon | month

 119
Ne until you have completed four months | on this island.

Bl 

Ne Then | a boat will come from home

Bl  

Ne | with sailors whom you know, | and you will go home with them

Bl 


Ne | and die in your city.

Bl 

Ne | How happy is he who can recount what he has experienced

Bl 

Ne when a painful thing has passed. | I will recount to you something similar,

Bl 

Ne which happened on this island, | where I was with my relatives,

Bl 

Ne including children.

Bl 


Ne We were 75 serpents in all with

Bl 

Ne | my children and my relatives.

Bl  129

Ne I will not mention to you | the youngest daughter,

Bl  130

Ne whom I had obtained by prayer. Then a star | fell,

Bl 

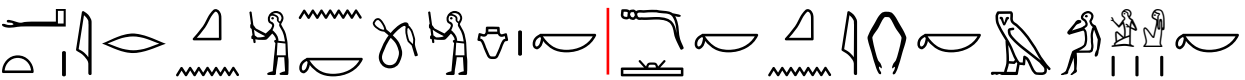
Ne and they went up in flames because of it. It happened when I wasn't there --

Bl  131

Ne | burnt when I wasn't among them! Then I died for them

Bl  132

Ne when I found | them as one heap of corpses.

Bl  133


Ne If you are brave, be stout-hearted, | and you will embrace your children,

Bl  134


Ne kiss | your wife, and see your house. This is better than anything.


Bl  135 136


Ne | You will reach home and remain there | among your relatives."


Bl  137


Ne I was | stretched out on my belly,


Bl  138
Ne and touched | the ground before him. I said to him:

Bl  139
Ne | "I shall recount your might to the sovereign,


Bl  140
Ne I shall make him aware | of your greatness,


Bl  141
Ne I shall have them bring you ladanum, malabathrum,

Bl  142
Ne | terebinth¹, balsam, processed incense
¹ Following Parkinson (1997).

Bl  143
Ne | with which every god is pleased. I shall recount what has happened | to me,

Bl  144
Ne what I have seen of your might. One will thank the god for you

Bl  145
Ne | in the city before the council of the entire land.

Bl  146
Ne I shall slaughter | bulls for you as burnt offering, and strangle fowl for you.

146
Bl

Ne I shall have boats brought for you

147
Bl

Ne laden | with all wealth of Egypt,

148
Bl

Ne as done for a god who loves | mankind

Bl

Ne in a distant land that people do not know."

149
Bl

Ne | Then he laughed at me, at what I had said, which was wrong to his heart.

150
Bl

Ne | He said to me: "You don't have much myrrh, or any form of incense.

151
Bl

Ne | But I am the ruler of Punt, myrrh is mine.

152
Bl

Ne | That malabathrum that you said would be brought,

Bl

Ne a large quantity is from this island.

153
Bl

153
Ne | Once it happens that you have left this place,

154
Bl

Ne you will never see this island again, which will have become water."

155
Bl

155
Ne Then that boat | came, as he had foretold previously. Then I went

156
Bl

156
Ne | and put myself up a tall tree

157
Bl

157
Ne and I recognized those who were aboard. | Then I went to report this

158
Bl

158
Ne and found that he knew it. | Then he said to me:

159
Bl

159
Ne "Fare well, fare well, young man, to your house, and see | your children!

160
Bl

Ne Let my name be good in your city. This is my due from you."

161
Bl

161
Ne | Then I placed myself on my belly, my arms bent before him.

162
Bl  | 

Ne | Then he gave me a cargo of myrrh, malabathrum,

163
Bl  | 

Ne terebinth¹, | balsam, camphor,

¹ Following Parkinson (1997).

164
Bl  | 

Ne š³csh-plants, black eye-paint, giraffe tails, a great lump of incense,

Bl 

Ne elephant tusks, hounds, guenons, apes, and all kinds of riches.

165
Bl 

166
Bl 

Ne | Then I loaded this onto the boat,

Bl 


Ne and it happened that I placed myself on my belly


167
Bl 


Ne | to thank the god for him. Then he said to me:

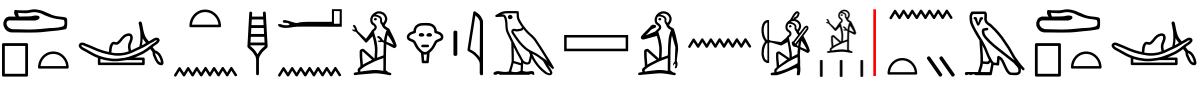
168
Bl  | 


Ne "You will reach home | within two months,


Bl  ¹⁶⁹
Ne you will embrace your children, you will become rejuvenated | at home,

Bl 
Ne and will be buried."

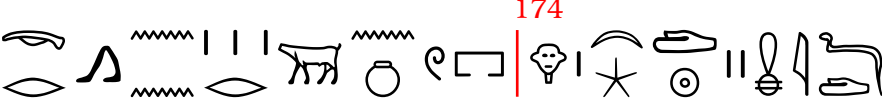
Bl  ¹⁷⁰
Ne Then I went down to the shore | near this boat.

Bl  ¹⁷¹
Ne Then I called to the expedition | that was on this boat.

Bl 
Ne I gave praise on the shore to the lord of this island,

Bl  ¹⁷²
Ne | and those who were aboard did the same. Then we sailed north

Bl  ¹⁷³
Ne | to the residence of the sovereign,

Bl  ¹⁷⁴
Ne and reached the residence | within two months,

Bl 
Ne like everything he had said. Then I entered before the sovereign,

B1

Ne

B1

Ne

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Ne

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Ne

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Ne

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Ne

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Ne

B1

Ne

B1

Ne

¹ Transcriptions following Parkinson.

18