# Dispute of a man with his ba

## Nederhof - English

Created on 2006-11-04 by Mark-Jan Nederhof. Last modified 2009-06-08.

Transliteration and translation for Dialogue of a Man and his Ba, Papyrus Berlin 3024, following the transcription and facsimile in Goedicke (1970). An older transcription can be found in Faulkner (1956) and Barta (1969).

The transliteration throughout follows Hannig (1995).

For published translations, see Barta (1969); Faulkner (1956); Goedicke (1970); Lichtheim (1975), pp. 163-169; Parkinson (1997), pp. 151-165; Simpson (1972), pp. 201-209.

#### **Bibliography**

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### **Nederhof**

Created on 2014-12-11 by Mark-Jan Nederhof. Last modified 2014-12-23.

Transcription of The Debate between a Man and his Soul, using the photographs from Erman (1896), on the basis of transcriptions by Faulkner (1956) and Allen (2011).

Thanks go to Hany Mohamed Ali Rashwan for making an initial MdC encoding available to me. For contentious readings, we follow Allen, pp. 262-311, with the following exceptions:

- Line 17: Transcribed is , the sign that is meant, rather than , the sign that appears to be written.
- Line 26: Transcribed is rather than , as it concerns the word wj3.
- Lines 50, 138: Transcribed is followed by rather than the reversed order.
- Line 53: The fourth sign is transcribed as rather than.
- Line 65: The more conventional transcription is used.

• Lines 66, 87, 89, 91, 93, 96, 98, 99, 101: Transcribed is (generic fish determinative) rather than .

- Line 111: Transcribed is 2 rather than the reversed order.
- Line 141: Transcribed is  $\mathcal{L}$  in front of  $\mathcal{L}$ .

As in Allen's transcription, omitted are all (potential) occurrences of in front of.

#### **Bibliography**

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[...] |=tn r dd [...]  $| n nm^c n[s=sn]$ [...] | you [...] to say: [...] I their tongues were not partial. Ned [i]w r  $\underline{h}$ [=sn nb] |  $\underline{d}$ b]w  $n nm^{c} ns = sn$ Concerning [their] opposing [a briber], their tongues were not partial.' wpl.n=j r3=j n b3=j wšb=j ddt.n=f Ne 1W I opened my mouth to my soul, that I might answer what he had said: l jw n³ wr r=j m mjn Ne I 'This is much against me today, Ne hn<sup>c</sup>=i iw grt wr r cbc n mdw b³=i whereas my soul has not quarrelled I with me before. It is more than exaggeration, Ne chc=f n=i hr=s jw mj wsf=j jm šm b3=j

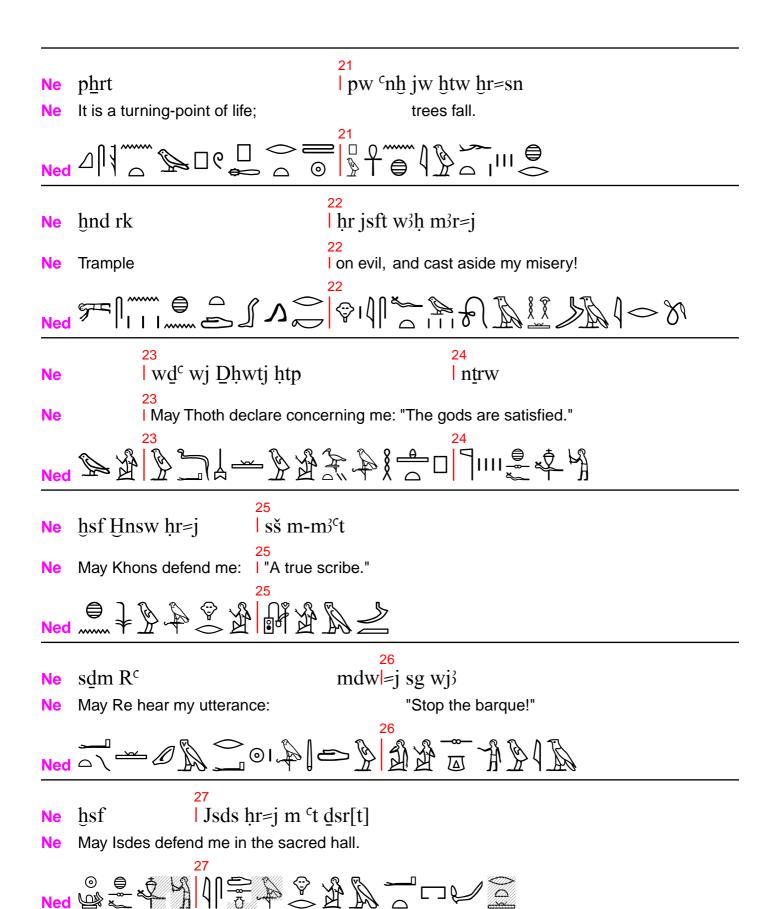
it is like I am ignored. May my soul not depart, may it attend to me in this!

```
| [...] = f nn ^c d\beta = f
Ne
        | [...]
              He will not be guilty
Ne
   |[w]| = f m \underline{h}t = j
                                    m šnw nwh
   I that he [will distance himself] from my body, from a net of cord,
Ne
            Ned
   nn | hpr m^{-c}=f
                           rwj=f hr[w qsnt]
Ne
   and it will not happen due to him that he flees on the day [of suffering].
       Ned
   mtn b3=j hr tht=j
                            n sdm.n=i
                                                 n=f
                                                 12
   I Look, my soul is disobeying me, while I do not listen
                                                 I to him,
    hr st€i r mwt
                         n iit(=i) n=f
   is dragging me toward death, before I have come to it,
   | hr h^{c}(=j) hr ht r s^{c}mt=j
Ne
   I and is throwing me on the fire to burn me up,
Ne
    [jw]tt mnt=f [jm]
                           [...] s<sup>3</sup> [...]
Ne
   [without] him suffering [therein]. [...]
Ne
```

[jw] = f tkn=f jm=j hrw qsnt He will stay close to me on the day of suffering. Ned chc=f m pf gs mj jr nhnw Ne I He should stand on yonder side, like a praise singer does: Ne p³ js pw prr in.n=f sw rf Ne I "This is one who goes forth, as he has brought himself!" <sup>1</sup> Appearance as b³|=j wh³(.w) r sdh ³h hr <sup>c</sup>nh My soul is ignorant about easing the misery that is due to life, n jit=i n=f jhm wj r mwt and restrains I me from death before I have come to it. l n=j jmnt jn-jw qsnt pw sndm Ne

The west gives me pleasure.

Is it suffering?



```
[hr] ntt s3r=j wdn(.w)
Ne
   I For my need is heavy
Ne
       Ned
                        29
                       Iß nf n=j
   [r]
Ne
                        I to weigh it on my behalf.
Ne
   [to]
   ntrw št3w ht=i
   ndm hsf
Ne
   It is pleasant that the gods should eliminate the concealment of my body.'
  ddt.n n=j \mid b = j
                  n ntk is s
                                           cnh.ti
                              iw=k tr
   What my soul said to me: 'Are you not a man? You
                                           are alive!
          Ned
                mhy=k hr cnh
                                   mj nb chcw
   ptr km=k
                                   like a possessor of wealth?'
   What do you achieve if you are concerned about life
  | jr nf3 r t3
   dd=j n šm=j
   'I would say to someone who is about to go: I "As to that burial,
   窓口 経り上の
```

```
35
              nhm.nj tw hr tfyt
                                                                                                                                                                 | nwt=k
                                                                                                                              nn
              you are taken away from leaping around. Without
                                                                                                                                                                 I your taking care,
                                                   | jw=j r jtt=k jw grt=k mwt(.tj)
              hnr nb hr dd
Ne
              every criminal will say:
                                                                                                     I 'I will take you!' When you are dead,
Ne
| cnh(.w) st nf3 nt hnt
             rn=k
Ne
              but your name
                                                                                      I still lives, that is a resting-place
Ne
Ned ~ $\frac{1}{2} \tag{ \tag}
                                                                 Int jb
              <sup>c</sup>fd
                                                                                                        dmj pw jmnt
                                                                  I to the heart. The west is a harbour,
              attractive
                                      s[...] hr jr sdm n=j b3=j
              hnt n
Ne
              a voyage [...]."
                                                                                                      If my soul listens to me,
Ne
                              twt ib=f hn<sup>c</sup>=i
              [s]n = i[b]t
                                                                                                                                                                              iw=f | r m<sup>c</sup>r
              my [neglectful] [brother], with his heart in accord with mine, he
                                                                                                                                                                                                     | will prosper.
Ne
```

Ned

rdj=j ph=f jmnt ntj m mr=f mj I will make him reach the west, like I someone in his pyramid, chc.n hrj-t3 hr | qrs=f to whose burial a survivor has attended. Ne jw=j r jrt nj3j [hr] l h³t=k I will create a breeze [over] your corpse, m nnw jw=j r jrt nj3j sddm=k ky b3 and you will make another soul in weariness envious. I will create a breeze, ○監查日底の二十二個一個四三個 jh tm=f hsw I it will not be freezing, Ne so that sddm=k ky b3 ntj tł.w Ne and you will make another soul who is hot envious:

48 swr=j mw hr l b3b3t tsy=i šwy 'I will drink water at I the watering-place.' I will heap up hay, | sddm=k<sup>1</sup> ky b<sup>3</sup> ntj hqr(.w) Ne I and you will make another soul who is hungry envious. Ne <sup>1</sup> Written sdm=k. jhm = k wj r mwt m p3 qj 1r But if you restrain I me from a death in this form, gm=k hnt=k hr=s m jmnt Ne nn you will not find a place on which you can rest in the west. jb=k b³=j sn=j w³[h] r hprt Ne Be favourable, my soul, my brother, to what will happen! JW<sup>C</sup>W drp.tj=fj who will make offerings An heir

```
54
  chc.ti=fi hr h3t hrw
                              s3ry=f hnkyt
                        qrs
  and stand at the tomb shaft on the day of burial will wish a bier
  n hrt-ntr
                       iw wp.n n=i bi=i ri=f
Ne
            I at the necropolis.' My soul opened his mouth to me
Ne
  wš|b=f ddt.n=i
                        ir sh3=k ars
Ne
Ne
   that he might answer what I had said: 'If you would call burial to mind,
  nlht-jb pw jnt rmyt pw
                                       silnd s
  it is heartache, it is bringing of tears, making a man sad,
    h^{3}(.w) hr
                                q33 nn pr.n=k r hrw
  šdt s pw m pr=f
  it is taking a man from his house, left on
                                l a hill. You cannot come up
Ne
  60
                         l r<sup>c</sup>
  m³=k
Ne
                         60
Ne
  to see
                         I the sun.
```

61 qdw m jnr n m³t Those who built in granite, Ned III O III D II 62 ∣k³t nfrt hws qn mr nfrw m who constructed and completed beautiful pyramids, in I perfect realization, Intrw bw jrj wš(.w) hpr sqdw m when the builders became I gods, their altars were bare, l mwt.w hr mryt mj nnw I who are dead on a riverbank like those of weary ones | jt.n nwy ph=fj n g3w hrj-t3 for lack of a survivor. After the water has taken its toll, Ne m-mjtt-jrj 3hw Ne and sunlight I as well,

spt n mw. sdm rk n=j mdw n=sn rmw the fish of the waterside speak to them. Listen to me, mk nfr sdm n rmt šms hrw nfr smh mh as it is good to listen to people! I Have a good time and forget worries! Ne sk=f šdw=f jw nds A commoner cultivates his plot, iw=fitp=f šmw |=f r-hnw dpt he loads his harvest into a boat, sqd|wt hb=f tkn(.w) st = fNe and tows the transport, as his feast is near Ne m3n=f prt whist nt mhyt rs=f n dpt and he sees the darkness of a north wind arise. He waits for a boat | r<sup>c</sup> hr <sup>c</sup>q prt Ne I as the sun sets and rises, Ne 

```
hnc hmt=f
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        msw=f
                                  and meanwhile his wife
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       and his children
grh hr-mryt
                                 \beta q(.w) tp \S \Sn m
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    I night by crocodiles.
                                  perish in a pond surrounded at
Ne
\mathsf{Ned} \overset{\mathsf{L}}{\sim} \mathbb{A} \mathcal{A} \overset{\mathsf{L}}{\sim} \mathfrak{Q} \mathsf{I} = \mathsf{I} \times \mathbb{A} 
                                 dr.jn=f hms(.w)
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     psš=f m hrw hr dd
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      I and argues<sup>1</sup>:
                                 At last he sits down,
                                  <sup>1</sup> Exact meaning is unclear.
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               n tß mst
                                  n rm=j
Ne
                                   "I do not weep
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               I for that mother,
                                 r kt hr t3
                                 nn n=s prt m jmnt
                                  for whom there is no escape from the west I for another term on earth.
                                mhy=i hr msw=s
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              sd.w m swht
                                  But I will grieve for her children, I who were crushed in the egg,
Ne
```

m3.w hr n Hntj | n cnht=sn who saw the face of Khenty | before they had lived." jw hmt=f dd=s n=f iw nds dbh=f mšr wt A commoner asks for dinner. His wife says to him: | jw=f pr=f r<sup>1</sup> hntw r sst<sup>2</sup> jw r msyt I He goes outside "It will be supper." <sup>1</sup> Erroneously omitted in the transcription by Goedicke (1970). <sup>2</sup> Unknown causative verb. Barta (1969), note 65 on p. 35, suggests this verb may be related to  $\overline{wst}$ . Goedicke (1970), p. 141, suggests a connection to, amongst others, s3t. onn=f sw r pr=f r3t until the moment I that he returns to his house. iw=f mi ky  $hmt=f \mid hr s \vec{s} \vec{s} n=f$ n sdm.n=f n=s He is like another man. His wife I pleads with him but he can't hear her, wš(.w) jb n wpwtjw st.n=fI incapable of communication.' after he has [???], 

<sup>1</sup> Unknown verb, likely the simplex of the verb in line 82.

<sup>13</sup> 

```
iw wp.n=i \mid r = i n b = i
                         wšb=i ddt.n=f
   I opened
           I my mouth to my soul, that I might answer what he had said:
           l b<sup>c</sup>ḥ rn=j m-<sup>c</sup>=k r st³sw
                                              l m hrww šmw
   mk
   'My name reeks through you more than the smell of bird droppings I on summer days
Ne
         b<sup>c</sup>h rn=j m-<sup>c</sup>=k šsp sbnw
   pt t.tj
                mk
Ne
   when the sky is hot. My name reeks through you,
                                          a haul of catfish
m hrw rsf
                         pt t3.ti
Ne
                I on a fishing day when the sky is hot.
Ne
   Bpdw<sup>1</sup>
   | mk b^{c}h rn=j m-c=k |
Ne
Ne
   I My name reeks through you, more than the smell
                                        of ducks,
      <sup>1</sup> Written 3psw.
                               93
   r bwit nt twr
                               hr msyt
                               I full of fowl.
   more than a covert of reeds
```

mk bch rn=j m-<sup>c</sup>=k r st h3mw I through you, more than the smell of fishermen, My name reeks l nw sšw h3m.n=sn r h³sw more than the creeks I of marshes they have fished. Ne  $b^{c}h rn=i m-c=k$ mk Ne My name reeks through you, Ne r st mshw Ne more than the smell of crocodiles, Ne r hmst hr sp3t1 hr-mryt  $b^{c}h rn=i m-c=k$ mk I more than sitting on sandbanks<sup>2</sup> of crocodiles. My name reeks through you Ne 

<sup>1</sup> Uncertain.

Ne  $r s \underline{t} h m t$   $\underline{d} d$   $g r | g r = s n \underline{t} y$ 

Ne more than the smell of a wife about whom a lie has been told involving a man.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Following Faulkner (1956).

rn=i m-c=k r hrd qn mk b<sup>c</sup>h My name reeks through you more than a diligent child dd r = f jw = f  $\{jw = f\}$  n msdw=f about whom is said "He belongs to his rival."1 1 I.e. "he is an illegitimate child". 102  $m^{-c}=k$ mk bch rn=j Ne My name reeks I through you, dmj n jty šnn bštw | m33 s3 = fcity of a sovereign that conspires to rebel I when his back is turned. 監には風風を見るの回し、 Manux Man dd=j n-m mjn snw bjn(.w) Ne Whom can I talk to today? Brothers are evil 104 105 hnmsw nw mjn n mr.nj n-m mjn dd=i Ne I and friends of today don't love each other. Whom can I talk to today? Ne

| jht snnw=f <sup>c</sup>wn ibw s nb hr itt Hearts are greedy and every man is stealing I things from his fellow. Ne Ned 108  $\lim sf3q(.w)$ nht-hr h3.w n bw-lnb Ne I Kindness has vanished and rudeness has descended upon Ne everyone. dd=i n-m min htp hr bin Ne Whom can I talk to today? One is contented with evil 110 rdj rf¹ bw-nfr r t3 m st nbt dd=i n-m Ne min 110 I and goodness is cast on the ground everywhere. Whom can I talk to I today? <sup>1</sup> I see no grammatical justification for the reading rdi.t.f of Goedicke (1970), on p. 161. Hence I adopt here the transcription by Faulkner (1956). sh<sup>c</sup>r s m sp=f bin Ne Who should enrage a man by his ill deed 

111

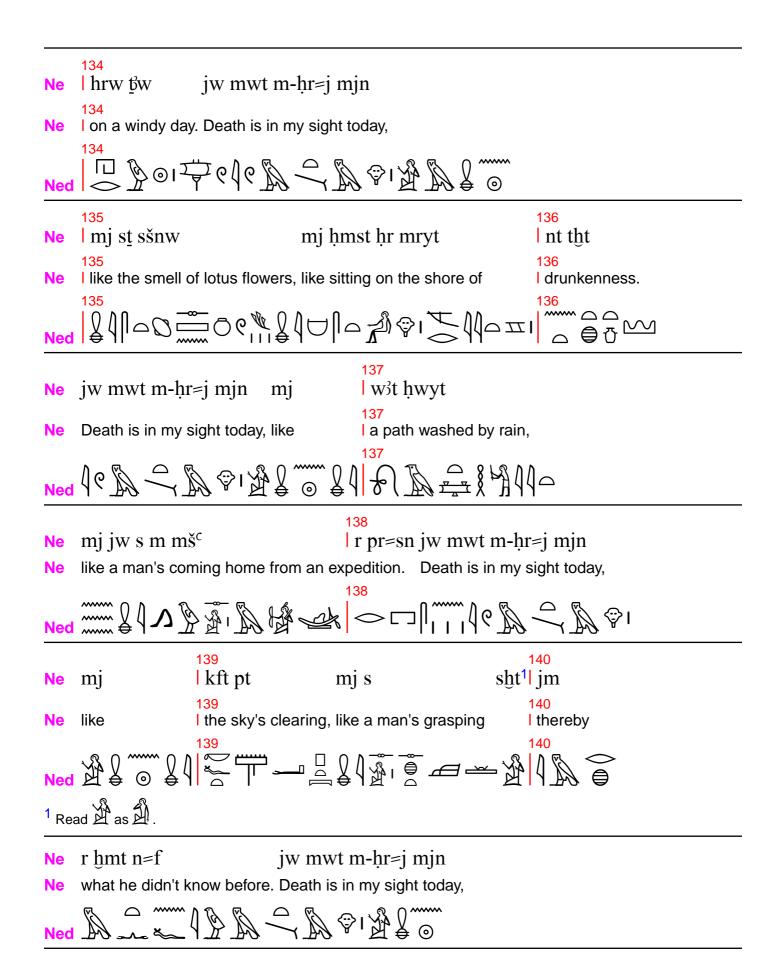
ve ssbt∣=f bw-nb jw=f dw

Ne makes everyone laugh by his evil wrongdoing.

```
dd=j n-m
                      min jw h<sup>c</sup>d3.tw
                      I today? One steals,
   Whom can I talk to
  113
   s nb hr jtt
                       snnw = f dd=j n-m mjn
Ne
   every man is robbing his fellow.
                             Whom can I talk to today?
Ne
   cq-jb
                              sn jrr hn<sup>c</sup>=f
Ne
   btw m
Ne
   The villain is
                   I an intimate friend and the brother with whom one dealt
   dd=j n-m mjn
   hpr(.w) | m hft
                                 n sh3.tw sf
   has become an enemy. Whom can I talk to today? Yesterday is not remembered,
         Ned
   l n jr.tw n jr m t³³t
                              dd=i n-m min
Ne
   I one does not help now who has given help. Whom can I talk to today?
Ne
    Ned
   snw bjn(.w) jnn.tw m drdrw
                                           Ir mtt nt jb
Ne
                                           118
   I Brothers are evil and one turns to strangers
                                           I for honesty.
Ne
```

dd=i n-m min htm(.w) hrw Whom can I talk to today? Faces I are blank, 120 s nb m hr m hrw r snw=f 120 every man has his face downcast concerning Ne his brothers. 121 ibw cwn(.w) dd=j n-m mjn nn wn jb n s Whom can I talk to today? Hearts have become greedy I and there is no man's heart dd=i n-lm min rhn.tw hr=f nn m³ctjw on which one may rely. Whom can I talk to today? None are righteous Ned mm a c a man | jrw jsft dd=j n-m mjn  $t \sin(w) n$ and the land is left to evildoers. Whom can I talk to today? Ne m cq-jb jnn.tw m hmm An intimate friend is lacking and one turns to a stranger

```
125
           dd=i n-m min
  r srht n=f
                                  hr jb pß
Ne
                           nn
  I to complain to. Whom can I talk to today? None is content there,
   wn(.w) dd=j n-m mjn
   šm hn<sup>c</sup>=f
                    nn sw
Ne
   and he with whom one walked is no more.
                                  Whom can I talk to today?
Ne
  3tp=k|w hr m3r n g3w cq-jb
  I'm laden with misery
                  for lack of an intimate friend.
   l dd=j n-m mjn
                  nf hw t3
                                    l nn wn phwj=fj
  I Whom can I talk to today? The evil that scourges the earth I is without end.
   jw mwt m-hr=j m mjn snb
                                         mi prt r hntw
                                mr
  Death is in my sight today, a cure
                                I of a sick man, like going outside
Ne
     jhmlt
                              jw mwt m-hr=j mjn
  r-si
Ne
                      confinement. Death is in my sight today,
  after
Ne
   <sup>c</sup>nltjw mj hmst hr ht3w
  mj st
  like the smell of
               myrrh, like sitting under a sail
```



jr.n=f rnpwt cšit mj 3bb s m33 pr=sn Ne I like a man's longing to see home after he has spent many years Ne m ndrt wnn ms ntj jm m ntr <sup>c</sup>nh(.w) jt(.w) in captivity. But, who is there is a god who lives, Ne 143 hr hsf jw n jrr sw Ne I because of punishing the evil of one who does it. Ne 145 wnn ms | ntj jm cḥc(.w) m wj3 hr rdjt dj.tw stpt jm But, who is there stands in a barque, because of letting its 1 choice offerings be given Ned 1 It is unclear what this refers back to. 146 n r³w-prw wnn ms ntj jm m rh-liht n hsf.n.tw=f to the temples. But, who is there is a wise man who cannot be turned away, 148  $| R^c \text{ hft mdw} = f$  ddt.n n=j hr spr n | b3(=j) Ne because of appealing to I Re following his word.' What my soul said to me: Ne

jm rk nhwt hr h33 nj-s|w=j pn sn=j 'Put whining on a peg, o my comrade, my brother! wdn=k hr <sup>c</sup>h |rm<sup>c</sup>h3=k hr <sup>c</sup>nh mj dd=k May you give offerings upon a brazier, I in order to reach for a life as you described. Ne Sign should represent a brazier. 151 win n=k imnt mr wj Desire me I here and dismiss the west! Ne  $sh h^c w = k t$ | ph=k jmnt mr hm Ne But desire I to reach the west when your body is buried. Ne ∣jḫ jr=n dmj n sp hny=i r-s3 wrd=k I I will alight when you become weary, I and then we'll make harbour together.' jw=f pw | hit=f r ph=fj mj gmyt m sš This was copied I from start to finish as found in writing. Ne