

# The Story of Wenamun (P. Moscow 120)

Notes by Minh-Tâm Trinh

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## *Glossing Conventions*

(May not match the conventions in my older notes)

(       )	text omitted by the scribe, but implicitly understood
<       >	addition to fix a scribal error
{       }	deletion to fix a scribal error
[       ]	addition to fix lacuna, or addition uncertain

## *Sources*

[G]                V. “The Misfortunes of Wenamun.” *Late-Egyptian Stories*. Bibliotheca Aegyptiaca 1. Brussels: Fondation Égyptologique Reine Élisabeth (1932), 61–76.

[R]                “P. Moscou 120; Ounamon (= LESt 05).” *Ramses Online*. Accessed starting on 1/12/2025. <http://ramses.ulg.ac.be/text/legacy/188>

## *Other References*

[J]                F. Junge. *Late Egyptian Grammar: An Introduction*. 2nd English Ed. Trans. D. Warburton. Griffith Institute, Oxford (2005).

[L]                *A Dictionary of Late Egyptian*. Ed. L. H. Lesko. Collab. Ed. B. S. Lesko. 2nd Edition. Vol. I. B. C. Scribe Publications (2002).

[Li]                “The Report of Wenamun (1.41): P. Moscow 120.” Trans. M. Lichtheim. In Part Seven of *Ancient Egyptian Literature*, Vol. II: *The New Kingdom*. Berkeley: University of California Press (2006), 224–230.

[Ro]                J. A. Roberson. “A Very Brief Introduction to Hieratic.” Rev. 1.0 (Spring 2018). <https://mqtrinh.github.io/other/egyptian/hieratic/roberson-j-a-very-brief-intro-to-hieratic.pdf>

[TLA]              Thesaurus Linguae Aegyptiae. Version 2.2.0. Union of the German Academies of Sciences and Humanities. <https://tla.digital/home>

[W] “The Report of Wenamon.” Trans. E. Wente. In *The Literature of Ancient Egypt*. Ed. W. K. Simpson. 3rd Ed. New Haven: Yale University Press (2003), 116–124.

Red denotes rubric text in P. Moscow 120.

1/12/25

(1.1) [*hsb.t*] 5 3bd 4 šmw sw 16*hrw n wdy.(t) iir smsm h3y Wn-Imn n Pr Imn* (1.2) [*Nsw.t Nb*] T3wy*r [ini.t t3] t.t n p3 Wi3 ʕ3 Špsy n Imn-Rʕ Nsw.t Ntr.w nty hr tp [...]*

(1.3) [...Imn]-Wsr-H3.t

(1.1) [Regnal year] 5, month 4 of summer, day 16:

Day of the departure that the elder [of the] portal [*idaafa*], Wenamun, made [*relative*] from the house of Amun, (1.2) [Lord of] the Two Lands,

to [bring] the timber for the Great Venerable Bark of Amun-Re, King of the Gods, which is at the head [...]

(1.3) [...Amun]-Userhat:

1/26/25

*hrw n spr iir=i r Dʕn.t r p3* (1.4) [*nty Ns-Sw-B3-Nb*]-Dd Ti-nt-Imn im*iw=i <hr> rdi.t n=w n3 wh3.w n Imn-Rʕ Nsw.t Ntr.w**iw=w* (1.5) <hr> rdi.t ʕš.tw m-b3h=w*iw=w <hr> dd**ir.y sp-sn m p3 dd Imn-Rʕ Nsw.t Ntr.w p3-* (1.6) [-y.n nb]

Day of my departing [“departing that I made”] to Djanet [Tanis], to the (1.4) [place] in which Nesubanebdjed [“He of Banebdjed” = Smendes] [and] Tentamun are.

I am giving [*first present?*] to them the dispatches [L 110] of Amun-Re, King of the Gods.

They (1.5) are causing them to be read [L 78] [*passive*] in front of them.

They say:

Yes [L 37] (said twice), as the speech of Amun-Re, King of the Gods, ou- (1.6) [-r lord.]

2/9/25

*iw=i <hr> iry.<t> <r>-š3<-<r> 3bd 4 šmw*

*iw=i m-hnw D<sup>c</sup>n.t*

*iw Ns-Sw-B3-Nb-Dd (1.7) Ti-nt-Imn [hr] wd.(t)=i irm hr(y)-mnš Mngbt*

*iw=i h3y r (1.8) p3 ym 3 n HBrw n 3bd 1 šmw hrw 1*

*iw=i [hr] spr Dr w<sup>c</sup> dmi n (1.9) tkr*

**I am staying until [TLA r-š3<-r] month 4 of summer**

I was inside Djanet.

Then Nesubanebdjed **(1.7)** [and] Tentamun are sending me with the overseer [of the] ship [L 189] Mengebet.

Then I went down to **(1.8)** the great sea of Kharu [Syria] **on month 1 of summer, day 1.**

Then I was going to Djer [Dor], a village of **(1.9)** fortified gate[s] [L 236].

3/2/25

*iw Bdr p3y=f wr <hr> rdi.t ini.tw n=i*

*kw 50 irp msh.t.(1.10) I[?] m3s.t n ih 1*

*iw w<sup>c</sup> rmt n By br.t [hr] w<sup>c</sup>.r*

*iw t3y=f nbw (1.11) [tbw ir.(w) n] dbn 5 hd tbw 4 ir(w) n dbn 20 hd rf dbn 10[?]*

Then Beder, its chief, was causing to be brought to me

50 loaves of bread, a jug [L 206] [of] wine, **(1.10)** [and] one haunch [L 177] of beef.

Then a man of the barge [? boat determinative] fled off [L 95].

Then he seized a bowlful [J 359] **(1.11)** [of gold worth] 5 [*deben*], 4 bowlfuls of silver worth 20 *deben*, 20 sacks of money [silver?] weighing 10 [Ramses: 11?] *deben*.

**3/16/25**

(1.12) [...p3 it3]=f nbw dbn 5 ḥd dbn 31

iw=i <hr> dwn m t3y dw3.w

iw=i <hr> šmi.t r (1.13) [p3] nty p3 wr n im

iw=i dd.n=f

twi t3y.kwi t3y=k n mr hr mntk p3 wr n p3y t3 hr (1.14) mntk p3y=f smty

wh3 p3y=i ḥd

i3 ir p3 ḥd ny-sw Imn-R<sup>c</sup> (1.15) Nsw.t Ntr.w p3 Nb n N3 T3.wy

**(1.12)** [...that stolen by] him: 5 deben of gold, 31 deben of silver.

Then I recovered [L 243] in the morning.

Then I went to [“against”] **(1.13)** the one which [is] that chief [“of”] there.

Then I said to him:

I was robbed [L 224] [stative as passive] in your harbor, and, you are chief of the land, and, **(1.14)** you are its judge [L 45].

Look for my money!

Ah [L 11], as for [L 37] the money that [is] of Amun-Re, **(1.15)** King of the Gods, the Lord of the Two Lands,

**3/30/25**

ny-sw Ny-[S]w-B3-Nb-Dd

ny-sw hr Hri-Hr p3y nb n3 kth.w (1.16) ʿ3y.w n Kmt

mntk sw

ny-sw W3rt

ns-sw.t Mk3m<sup>c</sup>r

ns-sw.t T3k3r-

(1.17) -b<sup>c</sup>r p3 wr n Kpn3

*iw=f dd.n=i*

*[i]n dns=k*

*[i]n mnht=k*

it [is] of Nesubanebdjed.

It [is] of Smendes, my lord, [and] the other [L 179] **(1.16)** great ones of Egypt.

It [is] yours.

It [is] of [why spelled -sw.t?] Mekamar.

It [is] of Takar-

**(1.17)** -bar, the chief of Kepna [Byblos].

Then he said to me:

Are you serious [“heavy”] [L 251]?

[Or] are you joking [L 189]?

#### 4/13/25

*hr ptr bw iri=i (1.18) ʕm n tʒy wšb.t dd=k n=i*

*hn [pʒ] itʒy iw ns-sw pʒy=i tʒ pʒ hʒy (1.19) r tʒy=k br*

*mtw=f tʒy pʒy=k ḥd*

*wn iw=i [r] dbʒ=f n=k m pʒy wdʒ*

*šʕ=w (1.20) gmi.t pʒy=k itʒy*

*yʒ ir pʒ itʒy i-tʒy tw*

*mntk sw ns-sw (1.21) tʒyk br*

but look, I cannot **(1.18)** understand [“to”] this request that you say to me.

If [L 289] the thief [L 53] [were] of my land, that went down **(1.19)** toward your ship [L 136],

and he had stolen your money,

I would replace it for you, of[?] the storehouse [L 121].

until [L 107] **(1.20)** the finding [of] your thief.

[But] truly [L 11], as for [L 37] the thief that robbed [prosthetic *i-* for relative] you, he is of **(1.21)** your ship.

**4/27/25**

*i-ir nhy hrw.w d(y) r kr=i*

*wh3=i sw*

*iw=i <hr> iry.t hrw 9*

*iw=i mni.kwi (1.22) [hr] t3y=f mry.t*

*iw=i <hr> šmi.t r-kr=f*

*iw=i <hr> dd n=f*

*mk bw-pw=k gmy.(t) p3y=i hđ*

*(1.23) [...] =k wi [ir]m [n3y] hr[y.w] mnš irm n3.w šm <r> [ym]*

Spend [prosthetic *i-* for imperative] a few [L 240] days here [L 241] next to [L 155] me.

I will search for him.

[Then] I am spending 9 days;

I am mooring **(1.22)** [in] his harbor;

I am going [around] next to him.

[Then] I am saying to him:

Look, there is no finding by you [of] my money.

**(1.23)** [...] [you...] me with those captains [of] the ships [L 189], with those that go [by] sea.

**5/11/25**

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