

# The Tale of Setna I (P. Cairo 30646)

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*

[E]                *Demotische Lesestücke*, Vol. 1: *Literarische Texte mit Glossar und Schrifttafel*. Ed. W. Erichsen. J. C. Hinrichs Verlag. Leipzig (1937).

[G]                *Der Erste Setna-Roman* (P. Kairo 30646). Umschrift, Übersetzung, und Glossar von S. Goldbrunner. In *Der Verblendete Gelehrte*. Demotische Studien, Band 13. Gisela Zauzich Verlag. Sommerhausen (2006).

[R]                *The Literature of Ancient Egypt: An Anthology of Stories, Instructions, Stelae, Autobiographies, and Poetry*. With translations by R. K. Ritner, W. K. Simpson, V. A. Tobin, E. F. Wente, Jr. Ed. W. K. Simpson. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed. Yale University Press. New Haven, CT (2003).

## *Other References*

[J]                J. H. Johnson. *Thus Wrote 'Onchsheshonqy: An Introductory Grammar of Demotic*. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed. Studies in Ancient Oriental Civilization, No. 45. Chicago, IL (2000).

**8/25/24**

[illegible]

(4.1) [...]  $p \underline{h} r = i \ t3 \ p.t$

*p3 t3 t3 tw3.t n3 tww.w n3 ym.w*  
*gm=i n3 nty iw n3*

3pt.w n t3 p.t n3 r'ím.w n p3 mtry irm n3 i3w.w

(4.1) [...] bewitched the sky,

the land, the *duat*, the mountains, the seas.

I have found [IND] that which the

birds of the sky, the fish of the depth[s], and [G, 36] the beasts

**9/1/24**

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*dd n im.w dr.w*  
*ř=i ky (4.2) hp n sh3*  
*nw-i r*

*p3 R<sup>c</sup> iw=f h<sup>c</sup>.w n t3 p.t irm t3y=f Psd.t  
nw=i*

*r p3 Th iw=f wbn irm n3 siw.w n t3 p.t*

$$dr.w \text{ irm } p3y=w \text{ gy}$$

$$nw=i \text{ r } n3 \text{ (4.3) } rim.w \text{ n } p3$$

said, to its limit [“to” + mediated object].

I recite another (4.2) formula of magic.

I have gazed at [IND]

Pre when he appears [1-PRES] in ["at"] the sky with his Ennead.  
I have gazed

at Iah [the Moon] when he arose with the stars in the sky

entire, with their totality [G, 83].  
I have gazed at the (4.3) fish of the

9/15/24

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ⲛⲓ ⲛⲓⲓ ⲛⲓⲓⲛⲓⲓⲛⲓⲓ / ⲛⲓ ⲛⲓⲓ ⲛⲓⲓⲛⲓⲓ ⲛⲓⲓⲛⲓⲓ ⲛⲓⲓ  
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*mtry iw wn mh n ntr 21 n mw t3y.w ri.t hry.t*

*iw bw ury sh wn-n3.w*  
*iw=i dd r N3-Nfr-K3-Pth p3y sn*

*3 nty iw sh nfr rmt rh m-ss p3y*  
*di=f in.w w<sup>c</sup>.t s<sup>c</sup>T.t*

depths, though there were 21 divine cubits of water brought[?] above them.

Even though I cannot write [NEG-AOR],  
I spoke to Naneferkaptah, my elder

brother, who was a good scribe [and] very learned man ["man of knowledge"].  
He said, cause a piece

9/22/24

ⲛⲓ ⲛⲓⲓⲛⲓⲓ / ⲛⲓ ⲛⲓⲓ ⲛⲓⲓⲛⲓⲓ ⲛⲓⲓⲛⲓⲓ ⲛⲓⲓⲛⲓⲓ ⲛⲓⲓⲛⲓⲓ  
ⲛⲓⲓⲛⲓⲓ ⲛⲓⲓⲛⲓⲓ - ⲛⲓⲓⲛⲓⲓ ⲛⲓⲓⲛⲓⲓ ⲛⲓⲓⲛⲓⲓ ⲛⲓⲓⲛⲓⲓ  
ⲛⲓⲓ ⲛⲓⲓⲛⲓⲓ ⲛⲓⲓⲛⲓⲓ ⲛⲓⲓ ⲛⲓⲓ ⲛⲓⲓ ⲛⲓⲓ ⲛⲓⲓ ⲛⲓⲓ

(4.4) *n dm<sup>c</sup> n m3y.t i.ir hr=f*  
*sh=f md nb r wn n3.w hr p3*

*dm<sup>c</sup> i.ir hr=f dr=w*  
*di=f mh[?]=f n st[i].t wty=f*

*s hr mw*  
*rh=f s iw w3h=f wyt swr=f s*  
*rh=f*

(4.4) of fresh papyrus [“papyrus of the new”] to be brought [passive?] before him.  
 He wrote every word, that was [*r wn n3.w* = IMPERF relative converter] upon the

papyrus before him, entire.

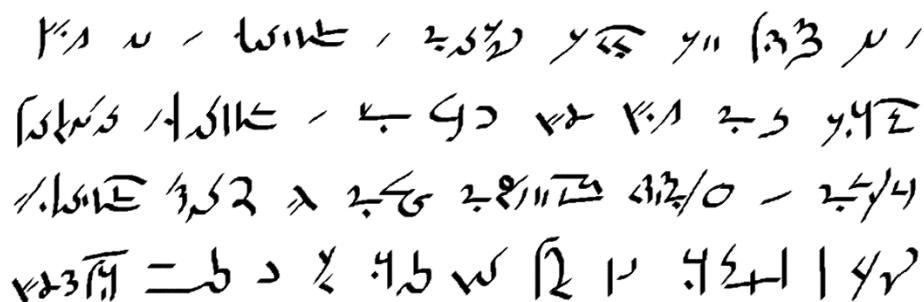
He caused that he burn [? Is *h* or *h* written here?] [it] in fire, [then] doused

it in [“upon”] water.

That he [might] learn it, he dissolved and drank it,

[then] he knew

10/6/24



*r p3y wn-n3.w iw=f n im=f*  
 (4.5) *st3T=n r KbT n p3 hrw*

*n rn=f*  
*ir n hrw nfr m b3h Is n KbT Hr-p3-hrd.T*

*l=n r mr.t*  
*hty=n ph=n pr mh.T n KbT n*

*3r I*  
*s[?] w3h Dhwti gm md nb <i>ir hpr n (4.6) N3-Nfr-*

of that which [“it”] was within it.

(4.5) We returned to Koptos on the named

day [“the day of its name”].

We observed [“made”] the holiday of Isis-of-Koptos and Harpocrates.

We came onboard.

We went down to north of Koptos,

[“at”] 1 *ar* away.

[But look], it happened [PERF] that Thoṯ found [out] all things made [participle, following G, 12] to happen to (4.6) Nanefer-

10/20/24

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-K3-Pth r-dḥ3 p3 dḥ  
 bn-pw Dhwtj ḥrr smi=f m-b3ḥ

p3 Rḥ dd  
 rh p3y hp  
 t3y wpi.t irm N3-Nfr-K3-

-Pth p3 šri n Pr-3 Mr-Nb-Pth  
 šmi=f r p3y pr-ḥd

-kaptah because of the book.

Thoṯ did not hesitate [G, 66], but [he] reported before

Pre, saying:

Decide [G, footnote 16] my case.

My dispute with Naneferka-

-ptah, the son of Pharaoh Merneḥptah.

He went to my storehouse,

11/3/24

ḥḥ ḥḥ ḥḥ ḥḥ ḥḥ ḥḥ ḥḥ ḥḥ ḥḥ ḥḥ ḥḥ ḥḥ ḥḥ  
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(4.7) ḥl=f s t3i=f t3y tb.t hr t3y ḥnb.t

ḥdb=f p3y=y mnTy r-wn-n3.w ḥrh r-ir=f  
 dd.w

*n=f*  
*iw=f iir hr=k irm rmt nb nty mtw=f dr=w*  
*wT=w w<sup>c</sup>*

*nht.T n ntr r hry (4.8) n t3 p.t*  
*dd m-ir*

(4.7) [and] robbed [G, 69] it, took my chest [G, 84] with my scroll [G, 81],

killed [G, 72] my doorman [G, 49] who was keeping guard [G, 66] over it [*pr-hd*, the storehouse, since the object must be a masculine noun].

They said

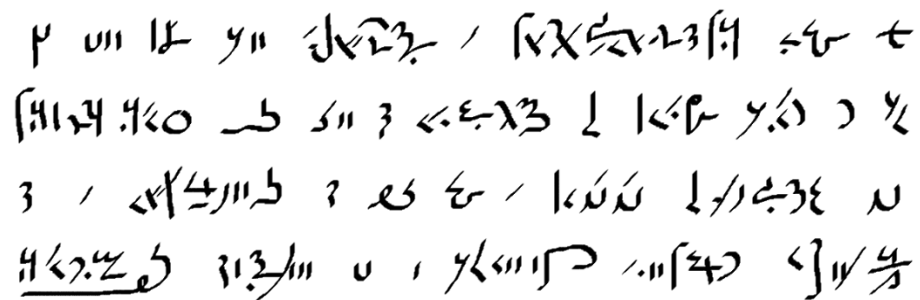
to him:

He is before you, with every person who was belonging to [preposition] him, in their entirety.

They [then] brought a

divine power [“strength”] down (4.8) from the sky,  
 saying, Do not

11/17/24



*di.t šmi N3-Nfr-K3-Pth r Mn-Nfr*  
*iw=f wd3 irm rmt*

*nb nty mtw=f dr.w*  
*w<sup>c</sup>.t wn.wt t3 i-ir hpr Mr-Ib-Pth*

*p3 Hm-hl iw r bnr hr t3 hjb.t n t3*

*shr.et (4.9)*  
*ir-3 hi=f r p3 ir ir=f hs[?]*

let Naneferkaptah go to Memphis,  
 while he [is] safe [G, 43] among any

man who is with him, whatsoever.

One hour from when this happened [“from this happening”] [nominalized past participle: see J, §90],  
there appeared Meribptah,

the boy [G, 68], who [came] forth [G, 44] from under the shade [G, 70] of the  
barque [G, 75].

12/1/24

Ḳḳḳ ḳḳḳḳ ḳḳḳ/ḳ ḳ ḳḳḳ, ḳ ḳ ḳḳ ḳḳ ḳ  
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