

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

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[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

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[L] *A Dictionary of Late Egyptian*. Ed. L. H. Lesko. Collab. Ed. B. S. Lesko. 2nd Edition. Vols. I–II. 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.

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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 I.110] of Amun-Re, King of the Gods.

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

They say:

Yes [L I.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^cn.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^c 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 I.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 II.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^c rmt n By br.t (hr) w^c.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 I.206] [of] wine, **(1.10)** [and] one haunch [L I.177] of beef.

Then a man of the barge [? boat determinative] was fleeing [L I.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

tw it3y.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^c (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 II.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 I.224] [stative as passive] in your harbor, and, you are chief of the land, and, **(1.14)** you are its judge [L II.45].

Look for my money!

Ah [L I.11], as for [L I.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) 3y.w n Kmt

mntk sw

ny-sw W3rt

ns-sw.t Mk3m^cr

ns-sw.t T3k3r-

(1.17) -b^cr 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 I.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 II.251]?

[Or] are you joking [L I.189]?

4/13/25

hr ptr bw iri=i (1.18) ^cm n t³y wšb.t dd=k n=i

hn [p³] it³y iw ns-sw p³y=i t³ p³ h³y (1.19) r t³y=k br

mtw=f t³y p³y=k h^cd

wn iw=i [r] db³=f n=k m p³y wd³

š³=w (1.20) gmi.t p³y=k it³y

y³ ir p³ it³y i-t³y tw

mntk sw ns-sw (1.21) t³yk br

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

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

and he had stolen your money,

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

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

[But] truly [L I.11], as for [L I.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.tw (1.22) [hr] t3y=f mr

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 I.240] days here [L II.241] next to [L II.155] me.

I will seek him.

[Then] I am spending 9 days;

I am mooring [*tw* as stative marker] **(1.22)** [in] his harbor [L II.192; not *mry.t* on L I.193];

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 I.189], with those that go [by] sea.

5/18/25

iw=f(hr) dd n=i

gr [tw] (1.24) [...] [sd]m p3 [...] [sd]m t3[y=i md.t]

[...]i dd=i n=k

iw m ir[i...] (1.25) [...] [p3] nty.iw=k i[m]

iw=k (r) [mh m n]3y.w kr[...-.w] mtw=k mh mi [...]

(1.26) š^{cc}.w šmi.t (r) wh3 p3y.w it3y i-t3i (sn) [...]

[Then] he is saying to me:

You [be] quiet! **(1.24)** [...] [hea]r the [...] [hea]r the[se words of mine].

[...] I am saying to you:

Do not d[o...] **(1.25)** [...] [that] where you are [“which you are therein”].

You (will) [seize in th]eir boa[ts] and seize like[?] [...]

(1.26) They began to go [to] seek their thief, which took [...] [*many lacunae*]

6/1/25

(1.30) [b]r.t

iw=i (hr) gmy hđ dbn 30 im=s

iw=i (hr) mh im[.w ...]

(1.31) p3y.tn hđ

iw=f w3h m-di=i (r)-sh3 [r] i-iri.t tn gmy.t p3 [...] (1.32) it3y sw

bw-pw it3[y] tn

iw=i r it3=f wpw mntn iw [...w]=i[?] r [...]

(1.33) iw=w (hr) šmi.t n=w

iw=i (hr) hb.t n=i [...] im3w [hr] sp.t [n] p3 ym [m] t3 mry.t n Kpny

iw [...] (1.34) [...] Imn-t3-Mi.t

iw=i (hr) rdi.t h.wt=f m-hnw=f

iw p3 wr n Kpny h3b n=i r dd

i-rwi tw=k m (1.35) t3y mry.t

iw=i (hr) h3b n=f r dd

i-i[r] [...] tnw [...] [n ...]=i[?] (hr) šm[i.t]

(1.36) [...] ir [...] r hni(=i) tw

imi t3y(=i) (1.37) tw r Km[.t ʿn]

iw=i (hr) iri.t hr.w 29 n t3y=f mry.t

[iw] i-ir=f nw (hr) h3b n=i m-mnt r dd

i-rwi (1.38) tw=k [m] t3y=i mry.t

hr-ir sw (hr) wdn [n] n3y=f ntr.w

iw p3 ntr (hr) t3y.t wʿ ʿdd ʿ3 [m] n3y=f (1.39) ʿdd.w ʿ3.w

iw=f (hr) rdi.t=f [m] h3w.t

iw=f (hr) dd.n=f

in p3 ntr r-hry

in p3 wpwty nty hr=f

[*skipping ahead:*] **(1.30)** [...b]arge.

Then I am finding 30 *deben* of silver in it.

Then I am grasping the[m] [...]

(1.31) my money,

then he stays at my side, until [prosthetic *-i* for relative] making the finding of the [...] **(1.32)** thief, him[?].

You weren't robbed ["There was not robbing of you"].

I would[?] seize him but [L I.99] you [...] I [...]

(1.33) Then they were going to them.

Then I am holding celebration [L I.307] for myself [...] pavilion [L I.29], [on] the coastline [“border”, “rim”] [L II.31] [of] the sea of Byblos.

Then [...] **(1.34)** Amun-of-the-Road.

I am placing his goods in its interior.

Then the chief of Byblos is writing [L I.286] to me, saying:

Banish [prosthetic *-i* for imperative] [L I.267] yourself **(1.35)** from[?] my harbor!

Then I am writing to him:

Do [prosthetic *-i* for imperative?] [...] where [...] [to...] I[?] am goi[ng].

(1.36) [...] do [...] will I be rowed [L I.382].

Cause [L I.26] that I be taken [L II.224] **(1.37)** to Eg[ypt, now!]

Then I am spending 29 days in his harbor,

in which he spends [prosthetic *-i* for relative] [the] time in writing to me, daily, saying:

Banish **(1.38)** yourself from my harbor!

Then[?] he is making offerings [to] his gods.

Then the god was taking a grown youth [from] among his **(1.39)** grown youths.

Then he was working himself [into] fits.

Then he was saying to him:

Bring up the god!

Bring up the messenger who is overseeing [“upon”] it.

6/15/25