

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. 3rd Ed. Yale University Press. New Haven, CT (2003).

Other References

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

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

ⲡ ⲉ ⲛⲉⲧⲁ / ⲉⲓ ⲛⲓⲓ - ⲡ ⲓⲣ - ⲛⲉⲧⲓ ⲛⲓⲓⲛⲓⲓ
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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^c.t s^cT.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
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(4.4) *n dm^c n m3y.t i.ir hr=f*
sh=f md nb r wn n3.w hr p3

dm^c 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.

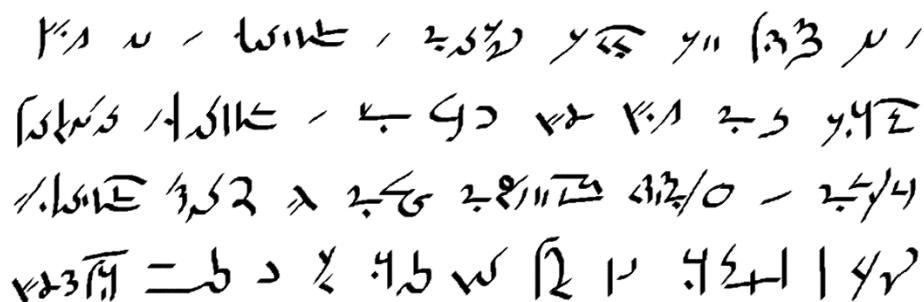
He caused that he burn [? Is *h* or *h* written here?] [it] in fire, [then] doused

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
rḥ p3y ḥp
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 ḥr t3y ḥnb.t

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

n=f
iw=f iir hr=k irm rmt nb nty mtw=f dr=w
wT=w w^c

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 strength-demon 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^c.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,
 [nor] he at all [? G 43] alongside any

man who is with him, whatsoever.

[As] that [“the”] moment happened,
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 ḳḳḳḳḳ ḳḳḳ/ḳ ḳ ḳḳḳ, ḳ ḳ ḳḳ ḳḳ ḳ
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