

Bentresh Stela (Louvre C 284)

Notes by Minh-Tâm Trinh

I warmly thank Mary Becker, Galen Goldsmith, Dieter Hoffmann, Rachel McEnroe, Foy Scalf, Dawn Schreiner, and Eric Whitacre for their input.

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

References

[C 284] Stèle de Bakhtan [CM 463 ; BN 50 ; E 13481 ; C 284]. Département des Antiquités égyptiennes. Louvre site des collections.
<https://collections.louvre.fr/en/ark:/53355/cl010029573>

[B] M. Broze. *La princesse de Bakhtan : Essai d'analyse stylistique*. Monographies Reine Élisabeth. Fondation gÉgyptologique Reine Élisabeth. Bruxelles (1989).

[D] A. Dollinger. “The Bentresh Stela.” Egyptian Texts of the Late and Ptolemaic Periods, §3.1. *Attalus*. Last updated August 1, 2020. Accessed October 18, 2025. https://www.attalus.org/egypt/bentresh_stela.html

[DB] A story designed to make propaganda for the cult of Khonsu (The Bentresh-Stela...). In *Egyptian Reading Book, Vol. I: Exercises and Middle Egyptian Texts*. Ed. A. De Buck. Nederlandsch Archaeologisch-Philologisch Instituut. Leyden (1948). 106–109.

[F] R. O. Faulkner. *A Concise Dictionary of Middle Egyptian*. Griffith Institute, Ashmolean Museum, Oxford. Reprinted at the University Press, Oxford (1981).

[G] A. Gardiner. *Egyptian Grammar: Being an Introduction to the Study of Hieroglyphs*. 3rd Edition, Revised. Griffith Institute, Ashmolean Museum, Oxford. Printed at the University Press, Cambridge (2007).

[H] J. E. Hoch. *Middle Egyptian Grammar*. Benben Publications. Mississauga (1997).

[L] III. Two Pseudepigrapha: The Bentresh Stela. In *Ancient Egyptian Literature, Vol. III: The Late Period.* Trans. M. Lichtheim. University of California Press. Berkeley (1980). 90–93.

[N] M.-J. Nederhof. “Bentresh Stela.” Last updated November 4, 2006.
https://mqtrinh.github.io/other/egyptian/middle-egyptian/bentresh-stela_trans-nederhof.pdf

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

11/17/25

(1) *Hr K3 Nht*

twt ḥ.w

dd ns.y(t) mi (I)tm

Hr Nbw

ws(r) hpšw dr Pdt 9

Nsw Bity Nb T3.wy

Wsr-Ṃ3.t-Ṛ Stp-(n)-Ṛ

S3 Ṛ

ht=f Mri-Imn Ṛ-ms-s(w)

Imn-Ṛ (2) Nb [?] Psd.t Nb.wt W3s.t

mri ntr nfr Imn

ms.[ti]w Ṛ-Hr-3h.ty

pr.w ḥ n Nb Dr.(t)

wtt n K3-Mwt=f

nsw.t n Km.t hk3 Dšr.wt

ity (3) it Pdt 9

pri m ht

sr(w) n=f nh.tw

wd n=f pri ḥ m swh.t

(1) Horus, Mighty Bull,

perfect [F 295] of appearance [F 185] [*nfr hr*],

enduring of kingship [*nfr hr*], like Atum,

Golden Horus,

strong [F 68] of arm [*nfr hr*] [who] drives away the Nine Bows [*pd.t psd.t*],

Dual King, Lord of the Two Lands,

Usermaatre Setepenre,

Son of Re,

his majesty Meriamun Rameses,

Amun-Re, (2) Lord of [the Thrones?], [of] the Ennead, of the Ladies of Thebes¹,
beloved of the good god, Amun,

bo[r]n of Re-Horakhty,

seed [F 91] of the *akh* of the Lord of Ancestors[? F 324],

begotten of Kamutef,

king of the Black Land², ruler of the Red Land³,

sovereign (3) [who] seized the Nine Bows,

1 *W3s.t* = “Waset”.

2 *Km.t* = “Kemet”.

3 *Dšr.wt* = “Deshrut”.

that when he came forth from the womb [second tense?],
 victories [F 139] were foretold [passive] [F 235] of him,
 command [F 73–74] [given] to him [while] active [F 91] in the egg,

12/7/25

*k3 mn ib hb=f mtwn
 nsw.t n ntr pri nh.t mi Mnt(w)
 wr ph.ty (4) mi s3 Nw.t*

*is hm=f m Nhrn mi n(y)t-ε=f tnw rnp.t
 wr.w n h3s.t nb iw<=sn> m ks.w m htp.w n b3.w n hm=f š3ε <r> phw.w*

Bull firm [F 106] of heart [*nfr hr*], when he trots [circumstantial?] [F 158] [into] the arena [variant spelling, F 121],
 divine king [indirect genitive] [who] came [no gemination, so perfect participle] [in] might like Montu,
 Great of strength [playful spelling of dual -ty] [leopard heads?] [*nfr hr*] (4) like the son of Nut:

So, his presence [was] in Naharina like [that] of his custom [*cf.* H 248] each [F 305] year.

[As for] the princes of every foreign land [F 185], they came in prostrations [F 287], in peace [“peaces”], to the might [*b3.w* = mass noun?] of his presence, as far as the far north [F 92, last variant spelling].

12/21/25

*inw=sn nbw hsbd (5) mfk3.t h3.w nb t3-ntr hr psd=sn
 wε nb hr hrp snw=f*

[As for] their tribute [F 22]: gold, lapis lazuli, (5) turquoise [F 106], every herb [F 183] from the gods’ land upon their back[s].

Each one was outdoing [F 196, “getting ahead of”] his companion.