

# 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](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).

[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](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*  
*tw t h<sup>c</sup>.w*  
*dd ns.y(t) mi (I)tm*

*Hr Nb w*  
*ws(r) hpšw dr Pdt 9*

*Nsw Bity Nb T3.wy*  
*Wsr-M<sup>c</sup>3.t-R<sup>c</sup> Stp-(n)-R<sup>c</sup>*

*S3 R<sup>c</sup>*  
*ht=f Mri-Imn R<sup>c</sup>-ms-s(w)*

*Imn-R<sup>c</sup> (2) Nb [?] Psd.t Nb.wt W3s.t*  
*mri ntr nfr Imn*  
*ms.[ti]w R<sup>c</sup>-Hr-3h.ty*  
*pr.w h 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 m sw h.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,  
 Usermaatse Setepenre,

Son of Re,  
 his majesty Meriamun Rameses,

Amun-Re, (2) Lord of [the Thrones?], [of] the Ennead, of the Ladies of Thebes<sup>1</sup>,  
 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 Land<sup>2</sup>, ruler of the Red Land<sup>3</sup>,  
 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*

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] comes [in] might like Montu,  
 Great of strength [playful spelling of dual -ty] [*nfr hr*] (4) like the son of Nut: