

The Story of Wenamun (P. Moscow 120)

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

Sources

[G] V. “The Misfortunes of Wenamun.” *Late-Egyptian Stories*. Bibliotheca Aegyptiaca 1. Brussels: Fondation Égyptologique Reine Élisabeth (1932), 61–76.

[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

[J] F. Junge. *Late Egyptian Grammar: An Introduction*. 2nd English Ed. Trans. D. Warburton. Griffith Institute, Oxford (2005).

[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.

[Ro] J. A. Roberson. “A Very Brief Introduction to Hieratic.” Rev. 1.0 (Spring 2018). <https://mqtrinh.github.io/other/egyptian/hieratic/roberson-j-a-very-brief-intro-to-hieratic.pdf>

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

[W] “The Report of Wenamon.” Trans. E. Wente. In *The Literature of Ancient Egypt*. Ed. W. K. Simpson. 3rd Ed. New Haven: Yale University Press (2003), 116–124.

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 h³d

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

[*skipping ahead:*] (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, already!] [L, I.68]

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] trances.

Then he was saying to him:

Bring up the god!

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

6/15/25

(1.40) n 'Imn i-wd sw

mntf i-di iw=f

iw i-iri p3 h3w h3w m p3y grh

iw gm.- (1.41) -i w^c br.t

iw hr=s r Km.t

iw 3tp=i p3y=i ink nb r s.t

iw i-ir=i nw (1.42) r p3 kkw r-dd

h3y=f 3tp=i p3 ntr r tm di.t ptr sw k.t i-ir.t

(1.40) on behalf of [L I.223?] Amun that sent for [prosthetic *-i* for relative] him.

He was the one who caused [prosthetic *-i* for relative] that he comes,

Then it was during the night that the one who does trances [prosthetic *-i* for second tense?] was entranced.

that I fou- **(1.41)** -nd a boat

which faced [“while its face was”] toward Egypt,

[onto] which I loaded all my own [L I.36].

[and in] which I spent looking [L I.223] **(1.42)** toward the darkness, saying:

Lower him, my cargo, the god, to cause that no other eye see [L I.159] him.

6/29/25

iw p3 (1.43) (i)m(y)-r mr (hr) iy.t n=i r-dd

smn tw (r)-š3^c-(r) dw3w

hr=f n p3 wr

iw=i (hr) dd.n=f

in mntk p3 nty i- (1.44) -iri=f nw (hr) iy.t n=i m-mn.t r-dd

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

in i-ir=k dd smn tw m p3 [grh]

(1.45) rdi.t wdi B br.t gmi=i

mtw=k iy.t dd i-hn n=k ʿn

Then the **(1.43)** overseer of the harbor came to me, saying:

“Stay [imperative] [L II.41] [“yourself”?] until [L, II.107] morning”,

said by the chief.

Then I am saying to him:

[Is it] [interrogative] you, the one which [“he”] **(1.44)** is spending [prosthetic -i for relative] time to come to me every day,

in order to say: “Banish yourself from my harbor” [compare to 1.37–1.38]?

[Is it] [interrogative] that you do [prosthetic -i for relative] saying: “Stay [“yourself”] through [“in”] the [night],

(1.45) to cause to commandeer the boat that I found [prosthetic -i for relative]

and that you come to say, “Depart [prosthetic -i for imperative] [L, II.316] [‘of yourself’], already [compare to 1.36]”?

7/13/25

iw=f šmi(.t)

iw=f (hr) dd.tw=f n (1.46) p3 wr

iw p3 wr (hr) h3b n p3 hr(y)-mnš n t3 br.t r-dd

smn.tw r-š3^c-r dw3.w

hr=f (1.47) p3 wr

iw dw3.w hpr.w

iw=f (hr) h3b

iw=f (hr) it3=i r-hry

iw p3 ntr htp.w m p3 [im3w] (1.48) nty sw im=f (hr) sp.t (n) p3 ym

iw=i (hr) gmi.t=f hms(w) (m) t3y=f^crr(y).t

iw h3^c i3.t= (1.49) =f r w^c ššd

iw i-ir n(3) hnw.w n p3 ym 3 n H3rw r mk{h3}- (1.50) -[h3]=f

iw=i (hr) dd n=f

sf^cImn

He left.

Then he is saying to **(1.46)** the chief:

The chief is sending [smudged w?] [for the ship-captain [L I.189] [“of the ship”], saying:

Stay [“yourself”] until morning.

[So] says **(1.47)** the chief.

Morning passed.

He is sending [for me].

he is taking me upon it,

while the god is resting [stative] in the [pavilion] **(1.48)** which [“it”] is on the coastline of the sea.

Then I am finding him seated [L I.314] [stative?] in his entrance [L I.73],

while his back [L I.11] is **(1.49)** turned [L I.346] toward a window [L II.83],

while waves [L I.289] of the great sea of Kharu beat [“formed”] [“against”] the back **(1.50)** of his head [L I.211].

I am saying to him:

Amoon is merciful [L II.35].