

Bentresh Stela (Louvre C 284)

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

References

[C 284] Stèle de Bakhtan [CM 463 ; BN 50 ; E 13481 ; C 284]. Département des Antiquités égyptiennes. Louvre site des collections.
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[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.

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[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).

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[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*
tw t h^c.w
dd ns.y(t) mi (I)tm

Hr Nb w
ws(r) hpšw dr Pdt 9

Nsw Bity Nb T3.wy
Wsr-M^c3.t-R^c Stp-(n)-R^c

S3 R^c
ht=f Mri-Imn R^c-ms-s(w)

Imn-R^c (2) Nb Nsw.t Psd.t Nb.wt W3s.t
mri ntr nfr Imn
ms.[tī]w R^c-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 c 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 presence [F 200], Meriamun Rameses,

Amun-Re, (2) Lord of the Thrones [*cf.* G 627 and TLA 26200] [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,

1 *W3s.t* = Waset = “The Scepter”.

2 *Km.t* = Kemet.

3 *Dšr.wt* = Deshrut.

sovereign **(3)** [who] seized the Nine Bows,
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-^c=f tnw rnp.t
wr.w n h3s.t nb iw<=sn> m ks.w m htp.w n b3.w n hm=f š3^c <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 majesty [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 majesty, as far as the far north [F 92, last variant spelling].

12/21/25

inw=sn nbw hsb(5) mfk3.t h3.w nb t3-ntr hr psd=sn
w^c nb hr hrp snw=f
h^c rdi{.t} p3 wr n Bhtn in.tw in.w=f
di.n=f s3.t=f wr.t h3t ir.w[?]
hr sw3š{y} hm=f
hr dbh [nh] hr=f
wn (6) st nfr(.ti?) r 3 wr hr ib hm=f r ht nb

[As for] their tribute [F 22]: gold, lapis lazuli, **(5)** turquoise [F 106], every herb [F 183] from the gods’ land [were] upon their back[s].
Each one was outdoing [F 196, “getting ahead of”] his companion.
Then the chief of Bakhtan caused that his tribute be brought.
[and] put his eldest daughter in front of [?],
[and] was praising [F 216] his majesty,
[and] was pleading [F 311] [for] [life] from [“upon”] him.

[*wn* as preterite converter? TLA 550129] The **(6)** woman had been pleasing [stative?] to the utmost greatness upon his majesty's heart, than any thing [else].

1/4/26

ḥ^c.n wdn(.w) nhb(.t)=s Nsw.t Wr.t Nfr.w-R^c
 spr ḥm=f r Km.t
 ir.n=s irty nb ḥm.t-nsw

hpr ḥsb.t 15 šmw (2) sw 22
 isk ḥm=f m W3s.t Nh.t Hm.t Niw.wt
 hr ir{y}<.t> **(7)** ḥs(ty) n (i)t=f Imn-R^c Nb Nsw.t T3.wy
 m hb=f nfr n Ip(.t) s.t ib=f nt sp tp
 ii.tw r dd n ḥm=f
 wn wp.(wt) ii.n p3 wr n Bhtn iw hr in.w ḥs(3){t} n nsw.t

Then her titulary [F 138] was recorded [F 73] [past passive]: Great Queen Neferure.
 As the king returned [second tense?] to the Black Land,
 so she did every doing [which noun form?] of a king's wife [direct genitive].

It happened in regnal year 15, month 2 [playful spelling], day 22,
 lo ["non-enclitic" particle, TLA 31760; see also F 30], his majesty [was] in Mighty
 Thebes, Wife of the Cities,
 [and] was doing **(7)** the rites [F 177] for his father [*f* for both *it* and =*f*?], Amun-Re,
 Lord of Thrones of the Two Lands [TLA 26200],
 in his fine feast of Luxor⁴ [F 16], his heart's place [direct genitive] since ["from"] the
 beginning of time ["foremost time"],
 [when] one came to say to his majesty:
 There was [preterite converter? TLA 550129] a messenger [F 17, 60] of the chief of
 Bakhtan that came, with[?] numerous [F 49] presents have come for the queen.

1/18/26

ḥ^c.n ms(.w)[?]=f **(8)** m-b3ḥ ḥm=f ḥn^c in.w=f
 dd=f m sw3š ḥm=f
 iw n=k R^c n Pdt 9 imi nn ḥnh hr=k
 ḥ^c.n dd=f sn-t3 m-b3ḥ ḥm=f whm=f dd hr ḥm=f
 ii=i n=k it- **(9)** -y nb hr Bntrš snw.t kt n ḥm.t-nsw Nfr.w-R^c
 mn 3bḥ(.w) m ḥ^cw=s

Then he was brought [F 116] **(8)** before ["into the potency of"] his majesty, with his
 gifts,
 [and] he said, in praising [F 216] his majesty,

4 *Ip(.t)* = Ipet = "The Adyton".

Hail to you, Re of the Nine Bows! Give us life from you!
 Then he spoke [tribute], kissing the earth [TLA 888530] [typo for *t3* in De Buck?]
 before his majesty, [and] he continued, saying to his majesty:
 I have come to you, sovereign, lord, on [account of] Bentresh, the younger [“other”]
 daughter of the king’s wife Neferure.
 Illness has seized [F 2] her body.

2/1/26

im{t}[?] wd hm=k rh-(i)h.t r m3=s
h^c dd.n hm=f
in n=i tt(iw) nt pr-^cnh knb.(w)t (10) nt tnw

O [that] your majesty [would] command a wise man [missing determinative? F 151]
 to inspect [F 100] her.
 Then his majesty spoke:
 Bring to me the staff [TLA 177470] of the temple [“house of life”], the councils [F
 280] **(10)** of the residence.

2/15/26

3

A