

# 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.  
<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).

[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](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 Nsw.t 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 [*cf. G 627 and TLA 26200*] [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>,

1 *W3s.t* = Waset = “The Scepter”.

2 *Km.t* = Kemet.

3 *Dšr.wt* = Deshru.

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-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 s3ε <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  
 ‘hε 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 ε3 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 presence,

[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 presence's heart, than any thing [else].

## 1/4/26

*ḥ̣.n wdn(.w) nḥb(.t)=s Nsw.t Wr.t Nfr.w-R*

*spr hm=f r Km.t*

*ir.n=s irty nb hm.t-nsw*

*hpr hsb.t 15 šmw (2) sw 22*

*isk hm=f m W3s.t Nh.t ḥm.t Niw.wt*

*hr ir{y}<.t> (7) hs(ty) n (i)t=f Imn-R Nb Nsw.t T3.wy*

*m hb=f nfr n Ip(.t) s.t ib=f nt sp tp*

*ii.tw r dd n hm=f*

*wn wp.(wt) ii.n p3 wr n Bhtn iw hr in.w š(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 presence [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 Luxor<sup>4</sup> [F 16], his heart's place [direct genitive] since [“from”] the beginning of time [“foremost time”], [when] one came to say to his presence: 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

*ḥ̣.n ms=f*

Then

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4 *Ip(.t)* = Ipet = “The Adyton”.