# The Tale of Setna I (P. Cairo 30646)

## 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*

[E] *Demotische Lesestücke*, Vol. 1: *Literarische Texte mit Glossar und Schrifttafel.* Ed. W. Erichsen. J. C. Hinrichs Verlag. Leipzig (1937).

[G] *Der Erste Setna-Roman* (P. Kairo 30646). Umschrift, Übersetzung, und Glossar von S. Goldbrunner. In *Der Verblendete Gelehrte*. DemotischeStudien, Band 13*.* Gisela Zauzich Verlag. Sommerhausen (2006).

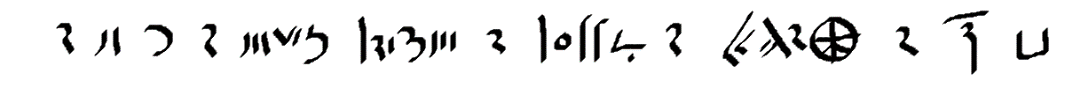
[R] *The Literature of Ancient Egypt: An Anthology of Stories, Instructions, Stelae, Autobiographies, and Poetry.* With translations by R. K. Ritner, W. K. Simpson, V. A. Tobin, E. F. Wente, Jr. Ed. W. K. Simpson. 3rd Ed. Yale University Press. New Haven, CT (2003).

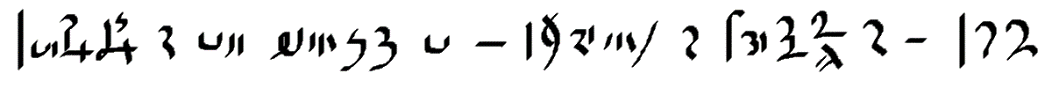
*Other References*

[J] J. H. Johnson. *Thus Wrote ‘Onchsheshonqy: An Introductory Grammar of Demotic*. 3rd Ed. Studies in Ancient Oriental Civilization, No. 45. Chicago, IL (2000).

**8/25/24**

****

****

****

4.1 […] pXr=i tA p.t

pA tA tA twA.t nA tww.w nA ym.w gm=i nA nty iw nA

Apt.w n tA p.t nA rim.w n pA mtry irm nA iAw.w

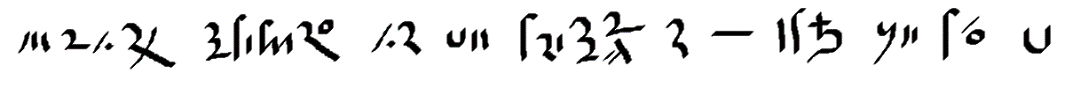
4.1 […] bewitched the sky,

the land, the *duat*, the mountains, the seas. I have found [IND] that which the

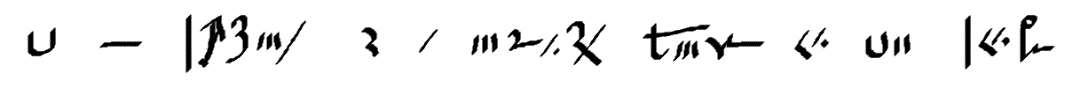
birds of the sky, the fish of the depth[s], and [G, 36] the beasts

**9/1/24**









Dd n im.w dr.w aS=i ky

4.2 hp n sXA nw-i r

pA Ra iw=f xa.w n tA p.t irm tAy=f PsD.t nw=i

r pA IaH iw=f wbn irm nA siw.w n tA p.t

dr.w irm pAy=w gy nw=i r nA

4.3 rim.w n pA

said, to its limit [“to” + mediated object]. I recite another

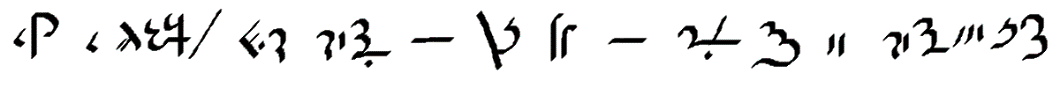
4.2 formula of magic. I have gazed at [IND] Pre when he appears [1-PRES] in [“at”] the sky with his Ennead. I have gazed at

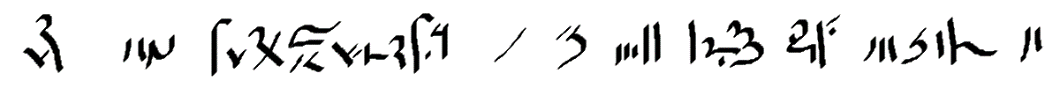
Iah [the Moon] when he arose with the stars in the sky

entire, with their totality [G, 83]. I have gazed at the

4.3 fish of the

**9/15/24**







mtry iw wn mx n ntr 21 n mw tAy.w ri.t Hry.t

iw bw iry sX wn nA.w iw=i Dd r NA-Nfr-KA-PtH pAy sn

aA nty iw sX nfr rm.t rx m-Ss pAy

di=f in.w wa.t Sat.t

depths, though there were 21 divine cubits of water brought[?] above them.

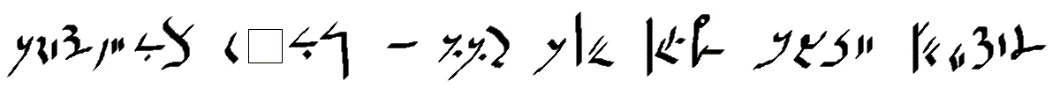
Even though I cannot write [NEG-AOR], I spoke to Naneferkaptah, my elder

brother, who was a good scribe [and] very learned man [“man of knowledge”].

He said, cause a piece

**9/22/24**

****

****

****

4.4 n Dma n mAy.t i.ir Hr=f

sX=f md nb r wn nA.w Hr pA

Dma i.ir Hr=f dr=w

di=f mX[?]=f n st[i].t

wty=f

s Hr mw

rx=f s iw wAH=f wyt swr=f s

rx=f

4.4 of fresh papyrus [“papyrus of the new”] to be brought [passive?] before him.

He wrote every word, that was [r wn nA.w = IMPERF relative converter] upon the

papyrus before him, entire.

He caused that he burn [? Is H or X written here?] [it] in fire, [then]

doused

it in [“upon”] water.

That he [might] learn it, he dissolved and drank it,

[then] he knew

**10/6/24**

r pAy wn nA.w iw=f n im=f

4.5

of that which [“it”] was within it.

4.5