

ANNALS OF THOTHMES III.

TABLET OF THOTHMES III.

XVIIIth DYNASTY.

TRANSLATED BY
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THIS tablet was found at Thebes in the Karnak quarter, and it has been published in the *Archæologia*, Vol. XXXVIII., p. 373 and following, and translated by the late Vicomte de Rougé, *Revue Archéologique*, 1861, p. 196 and foll., and Mariette-Bey, *Karnak*, Planches, 1875, pl. II. It consists of a picture representing two scenes; in the first of which Thothmes III accompanied by Sem, the goddess of the West, offers wine and incense to the god Amen-Ra. The goddess Sem or "the West," or perhaps Khaft, holds a bow and arrows, a war axe and the emblem of life. The text of this inscription is in hieroglyphs. In the

second picture Thothmes III is also represented as offering incense. In its literary style these annals are so strongly poetic, that the text may be considered to be a kind of hymn or song¹ recounting the victories of the great monarch Thothmes III, and the allusions to his principal conquests and exploits are in an antithetical strain. Although it does not add any names of conquered places not otherwise found, it helps us to complete the monumental history of the monarch. The tablet was clearly executed towards the latter part of the reign of Thothmes III, after the successful issues of his principal campaigns, and about the time of his magnificent donations to the sanctuary of the god Amen-Ra at Karnak. The merits of the king and his successes are attributed to the Theban god, who says that he conferred the power to effect these conquests upon his son Thothmes III, in the usual style of the speeches often ascribed to the deities on the walls of the temples.

¹ A poetical translation of this monument is also given in the English Edition of Lenormant's *Ancient History of the East*, Vol. I., p. 234.

TABLET OF THOTHMES III.

[The first Scene to the right has the names and title of the god Amen-Ra, and king Thothmes III, with the inscription :]

“AMEN-RA King of the gods Lord of the heaven gives all life like the Sun.

“The Good god, Lord of the Upper and Lower world, Lord of diadems, Giver of life RA-MEN-KHEPER THOTHMES make an offering of liquid

“KHAFT Lady of the country”¹

[The second Scene to the left has the inscription :]

“AMEN-RA King of the gods Lord of the heaven gives all life and joy

“The living Good god, Lord of the Upper and Lower world, and Lord of diadems, RA-MEN-KHEPER, THOTHMES, Giver of life, gives incense to AMEN-RA

“KHAFT Lady of the country.”

- 1 The speech of AMEN-RA, Lord of the seats of the Upper and Lower world “Come to me, rejoice in seeing my perfections, my son, my supporter, RA-MEN-KHEPER, ever living I shine as thou wishest ; my heart
- 2 dilates at thy happy coming to my temple, my hands touch thy limbs behind with delicious life, thou prevailest more than my form ; I am set up
- 3 in my hall, I enrich thee and give thee power and victory over all foreign lands. I have given thy spirits and the terrors of thee in all countries, the fear of thee everywhere to
- 4 the poles of heaven ; I have augmented the terrors of

¹ Or Heaven.

- thee in all bellies ; I have made the roarings of Thy Majesty turn back the Nine bow barbarians.¹ The Chiefs of all countries are clasped together in thy fist.
- 5 I extend my own hands, I tie for thee, I make a bundle of the Annu² by tens of thousands and thousands, the people of the North by hundreds of thousands as captives.
- 6 I have thrown down thy enemies under thy sandals, thou hast laid prostrate crowds of the obstinate. Also I have ordered for thee the earth throughout its length and breadth, the West and the East for thy seat ;
- 7 thou penetratest all lands the heart joyful, none is resisting itself to the orders of Thy Majesty. I ordered thee in thy passage ; thou approachest them, thou hast navigated the waters of the great Sea (and)
- 8 Naharaina³ with power and victory. I ordered thee that they should hear thy roarings in their caverns I deprived their nostrils of the breath of life.
- 9 I made the victories of Thy Majesty turn back their hearts, my diadem was on thy brow, it dazed them, making them depart, taking by the hair the Katesh⁴ foreigners.
- 10 It burnt all those in their settlements with flame decapitating the heads of the Amu⁵ foreigners, their children fell to its power.
- 11 I made thy power encircle all lands my headdress has given light to thy subjects. There is not any rebel to thee in the circle of heaven, they come bearing their tribute on their backs
- 12 beseeching Thy Majesty as I ordered. I made the enemies bend before thee, their hearts withered, their limbs trembled.

¹ A common phrase for the Western foreigners.

² Or Petti, the Libyans.

³ Mesopotamia.

⁴ Kadytis.

⁵ An Asiatic people.

- 13 I have come I have given thee to smite the Chiefs of the land of Taha,² I have placed them under thy sandals; turning back their countries I have let them see Thy Majesty, as a Lord of Sunbeams thou shinest in their faces like my image.
- 14 I have come, I have given thee to strike those who belong to the land of Sat,³ thou hast taken captive the heads of the Amu of Rutennu⁴ they see Thy Majesty equipped with thy decorations, thou takest arms combatting in a war chariot.
- 15 I have come, I have given thee to smite the East thou hast marched in the borders of the land of Taneter⁵ they see Thy Majesty like the star Sesht⁶ which gives warmth by its fire and gives forth its dew.
- 16 I have come, I have given thee to smite the land of the West, Kefa,⁷ Asi⁸ are under the terror of thee, I let them see Thy Majesty like a young bull bold in heart with pointed horns which nothing can resist.
- 17 I have come, I have given thee to smite those who are in the seats of the land of Maten,⁹ they tremble through fear of thee, I let them see Thy Majesty like the devouring crocodile Lord of Terrors in the waters who is inapproachable.
- 18 I have come, I have given thee to smite those who belong to the Isles in the midst of the great sea with thy roarings, I let them see Thy Majesty as a slaughterer who rises on the back of his victim.
- 19 I have come, I have given thee to smite the Tahennu,¹⁰ the isles of the Tena¹¹ are prevailed over by thy spirits,

¹ Here commences the passage poetized by Lenormant.

² Northern coast of Syria.

³ The Eastern foreigners or Arabians.

⁴ Syria.

⁵ The Holy Land, Northern Arabia.

⁶ A comet.

⁷ Phœnicia.

⁸ Asia, Assos.

⁹ Asia Minor.

¹⁰ Libyans.

¹¹ Or Uten, Danai or Dauni.

I let them see Thy Majesty like a raging lion laying on the bodies and mastering their hills.

- 20 I have come, I have given thee to smite the extremities of the waters, the circuit of the great sea is grasped in thy fist, I let them see Thy Majesty as a swooping hawk which takes at his glance what he chooses.
- 21 I have come, I have given thee to smite those who are in (the) estuaries and bind those who are in the sands (of the desert)¹ as living captives, I let them see Thy Majesty as a Southern² jackal, Lord of conducting and exploring, Hunter of the Upper and Lower Country.
- 22 I have come I have given thee to smite the Anu of Kens,³ and Remenen⁴ is in thy grasp, I let them see Thy Majesty like thy two brothers.

I have laid their hands on thee to give thee power.

- 23 Thy two sisters, I have placed them behind thy head, the arms of my Majesty are over (thy) face to repulse evil. I grant protection to thee oh my beloved son, HORUS, Powerful Bull⁵ crowned in the Thebaid I have begotten thee in⁶ (says the Lord of the Upper and Lower world)
- 24 THOTHMES ever living, I have performed all the desires of my existence I have set thee up a hall of eternal construction longer and broader than ever was, a great gateway⁶
- 25 to celebrate the beauties AMEN-RA greater than the monuments of all the Kings who were, I ordered to thee its making, I am pleased with it, I am placed upon the throne of HORUS for millions of years, thy living image for ever and ever.

¹ Herusha, Bedouins.

² Or "howling."

³ Nubia.

⁴ Armenia.

⁵ An Egyptian phrase applied to the king in his divine character.

⁶ Lacunæ.

END OF SAMPLE TEXT



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