

E X T R A C T  
 FROM THE  
 T A B L E T O F N E F E R - H O T E P .

TRANSLATED BY  
 PAUL PIERRET.

CONTAINING  
*The Egyptian account of a scene of investiture with the  
 Chain of honour.<sup>1</sup>*

I N the year III of His Holiness, King HORUS,<sup>2</sup>  
 behold, His Holiness appeared like unto the Sun,  
 in his palace (of the placid-life,<sup>3</sup>)  
 after having there consecrated loaves to his father AMEN,  
 5 as he left the (Chamber of gold<sup>3</sup>) cries of joy  
 and acclamations circulated all over the world  
 and their clamour reached even to Heaven.  
 The Divine Father of AMEN,<sup>4</sup> NEFER-HOTEP,  
 was called to receive recompenses  
 10 coming from the King of millions of years,  
 and which consisted of all sorts of things,  
 in silver, gold, perfumed garments, bread, beverages,  
 meat, cakes, in virtue of this order of my Lord AMEN :  
 "Let them give my favours before witnesses to the  
*Kher-heb.*<sup>5</sup>  
 15 Repose-of-the-heart-of-Amen, NEFER-HOTEP,"

<sup>1</sup> Comp. Gen. xli. 41, 42. This text has been published by J. Dümichen  
*Hist. Inscrip.* ii., 40 e, and partly by H. Brugsch, *Mouum.*, pl. 37.

<sup>2</sup> King of the XVIIIth dynasty. <sup>3</sup> Epithet names of the Royal Palace.

<sup>4</sup> Sacerdotal title.

<sup>5</sup> *Idem.*

who says (replies): "Numerous are the things  
 which the god, who is the King of gods,  
 giveth to him who knoweth him,  
 he doth recompense him who serveth him  
 20 and he protecteth him who doth follow him, (him)  
 of whom the Sun is the body,  
 and whom the solar-disk doth for ever accompany."

Underneath this legend Nefer-hotep is represented receiving the chain of gold, which is, however, not mentioned in the text. This leads me to believe that the representation of the investiture of the chain has not always the precise meaning attributed to it, but had oftentimes no other object than to picture to the eye the totality of the favours by which exceptional services were rewarded.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The xlii. pl. of Dümichen, *Hist. Insc.* (2nd part) also represents an investiture of the Chain which is not mentioned in the text which accompanies it.



# END OF SAMPLE TEXT



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