

TRAVELS OF AN EGYPTIAN,
 IN
 SYRIA, PHENICIA, PALESTINE, ETC.
 IN THE XIVth CENTURY B.C.,
 FROM A PAPYRUS IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM.
 BY
 M. M. CHABAS AND GOODWIN.

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH BY
 S. M. DRACH.

THE *Travels of an Egyptian* has first been translated into English by Mr. C. W. Goodwin, *Cambridge Essays*, 1858, p. 267-269, from an hieratic papyrus in the British Museum, published in facsimile by the Trustees, fo., 1842, pl. 35-61. In 1866, M. F. Chabas, availing himself of the collaboration of Mr. Goodwin, published a full translation of the same in French, *Voyage d'un Égyptien en Syrie, en Phénicie, en Palestine*, etc., 4to., 1866, including a copy of the hieratic text with a double transcription into hieroglyphic and

Coptic types, and a perpetual commentary. Objections were made by Brugsch-Bey, *Revue Critique*, Paris, 1868, *Aout et Septembre*, but M. Chabas strongly vindicated his views in an additional work, *Voyage d'un Égyptien, Réponse à la Critique*, Chalon, 1868, 4to., since which the matter seems to be settled among Egyptologists. The debate was however unimportant in regard to geographical information as it bore merely on the point to ascertain whether the narrative refers to an actual journey really effected by the Egyptian officer named a Mohar, or a model narrative of a supposed voyage drawn from a previous relation of a similar trip extant at the time.



TRAVELS OF AN EGYPTIAN.

SECTION I.

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- 18 . 3 Thy letter which is full of lacunæ and is loaded with pretentious expressions : such is the retribution of those who wish to understand it, it is a charge
- 18 . 4 which thou hast charged at thy will. "I am a scribe, a Mohar,"¹ hast thou repeated : let us respect thy word and set off.
- 18 . 5 Thou hast put horses to the chariots ; thy horses are as swift as jackals : their eyes flash : they are like a hurricane bursting ; thou takest
- 18 . 6 the reins, seizest the bow : we contemplate the deeds of thy hand. I send thee back the Mohar's portrait : and make thee know
- 18 . 7 his actions. Didst thou not then go to the country of the Kheta?² Hast thou not seen the land of Aup? Knowest thou not Khatuma, Ika-
- 18 . 8 tai, likewise? how is it? The Tsor of Sesostris, the city of Khaleb³ in its vicinity?
- 19 . 1 How goes it with its ford? Hast thou not made an expedition to Qodesh and Tubakkhi? Hast thou not gone to the Shasous?⁴
- 19 . 2 with the auxiliary body? Hast thou not trampled the road of Pamakar the sky⁵ was dark on the day when
- 19 . 3 there flourished the cypresses, the oaks and cedars,

¹ Supposed office, or officer, warrior, hero.² Hittites.³ Aleppo.⁴ Nomads, Arabs.⁵ The papyrus is much worn here. The name of the place is perhaps "Pamakar of the sky."

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- which reached up to heaven : there are many lions,
wolves and hyænas
- 19 . 4 which the Shasous¹ track on all sides. Didst thou
not ascend the mountain of Shaoua?² Hast thou not
travelled, thy arms
- 19 . 5 placed on the back of thy car separated from its
harness by the horses drawing it?
- 19 . 6 Oh ! come to . . . ³ barta. Thou hastenest to get
there : thou cross-
- 19 . 7 est its ford. Thou seest a Mohar's trials. Thy car
- 19 . 8 is placed in thy hand : thy strength fails. Thou
arrivest at the night : all thy limbs
- 19 . 9 are knocked up : thy bones are broken, thou fallest
asleep from excess of somnolence : thou wakest up
- 20 . 1 It is the hour when sad night begins : thou art ab-
solutely alone. Comes there not a thief to rob the
- 20 . 2 things left aside : he enters the stable : the horses
are agitated : the thief goes back in the night
- 20 . 3 carrying away thy clothes. Thy servant wakes in
the night ; he perceives the thief's actions : he takes
away the rest,
- 20 . 4 he goes among the bad ones ; and joins the tribes
of the Shasous :¹ and transforms himself to an Asiatic.
- 20 . 5 The enemy comes to plunder, he finds only the
wreck : Thou wakest, dost thou not find them
- 20 . 6 in their flight? They take thy baggage. Thou be-
comest an active and quick-eared Mohar?

SECTION 2.

- 20 . 7 I also describe to thee the holy city, whose name is
Kapaon.⁴ How is it? Of their goddess (we will
speak) another time. Therein

¹ Nomads, Arabs. ² In Palestine. ³ Jacuna. ⁴ Gabail, Byblos.

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- 20 . 8 hast thou not penetrated? Come then to Berytus, to Sidon, to Sarepta. The ford
- 21 . 1 of Nazana,¹ where is it? Aoutou,² how is it? They are neighbours of another city on the sea. Tyre the
- 21 . 2 port is its name: water is carried to it in barks, it is richer in fish than in sands.

SECTION 3.

- 21 . 3 I will speak to thee also of two other small chapters. The entrance of Djaraou,³ and the order thou hast given to set this city in flames. A Mohar's office is a very painful one.
- 21 . 4 Come, set off to return to Pakaïkna.⁴ Where is the road of Aksaph?⁵
- 21 . 5 In the environs of the city; come then to the mountain of Ousor:⁶ its top,
- 21 . 6 how is it? Where is the mountain of Ikama? Who can master it? What way has the Mohar
- 21 . 7 gone to Hazor?⁷ How about its ford? let me go to Hamath,
- 21 . 8 to Takar, to Takar-Aar, the all-assembling place of the Mohars; come
- 22 . 1 then, on the road that leads there. Make me to see Jah.⁸ How has one got to Matamim?
- 22 . 2 Do not repel us by thy teachings; make us to know them.

SECTION 4.

- 22 . 3 I will speak to thee of the towns other than the preceding ones. Wentest thou not to the land of Takhis, to Cofir-Marlon, to Tamena,

¹ Nazala.² Perhaps Avatha.³ Perhaps Palæo-Tyrus.⁴ Perhaps Kana Major.⁵ Achsaph.⁶ Name resembling Asher.⁷ Capital of Canaan.⁸ Mentioned also in the conquests of Rameses III.

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- 22 . 4 to Qodesh, to Dapour,¹ to Adjai, and to Harnemata?
Hast thou not seen Keriath-Anab,² near to
- 22 . 5 Beith-Tuphar? Knowest thou not Odulam and
Tsidphoth? Knowest thou not the name of
- 22 . 6 Khaouretsa, which is in the land of Aup? It is a
bull on his frontier, the place where one sees the battle
- 22 . 7 of the brave ones. Come then to the image of
SINA: let me know Ro-
- 22 . 8 HOB: represent to me BEITH-SHEAL as well as
KERIATHAAL. The fords of the
- 23 . 1 Jordan, how does one cross them? let me know the
passage to enter Mageddo,³ whereof it remains to
speak. Thou art a Mohar,
- 23 . 2 expert in courageous deeds. Is there found a Mohar
like thee to march at the head of the soldiers, a Marina⁴
- 23 . 3 superior to thee to shoot an arrow! Take care of
the gulf in the ravine two thousand cubits deep; full
of rocks and rolling stones.
- 23 . 4 Thou makest a *détour*: seizest thy bow; preparast
the iron in thy left hand; showest thyself to the good
chiefs.
- 23 . 5 Their eye looks down at thy hand: Slave, give
camel for the Mohar to eat. Thou makest thy name
of Mohar known,
- 23 . 6 Master of the Captains of Egypt; thy name becomes
like that of KADJARTI, the Chief of Assur, after his
encounter with
- 23 . 7 the hyenas in the wood, on the defile infected by
the wood-hidden Shasous.⁵
- 23 . 8 Some of these were four cubits from the nose to the
heel: fierce without mildness, not listening to caresses.

¹ Dabir.² City of vines or grapes. Kuryet el eneb, N.W. of Jerusalem.³ Megiddo.⁴ A lord, a chief; Chaldean word.⁵ Nomads.

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- 23 . 9 Thou art alone, no guide with thee, nor troop behind thee. Didst thou not meet the Marmar?¹ He makes thee
- 24 . 1 pass : thou must decide on departing, and knowest not the road. Anxiety seizes thee, thy hair bristles up :
- 24 . 2 thy soul places itself in thy hand : thy way is full of rocks and rolling stones, no practicable passage ; the road is obstructed by
- 24 . 3 hollies, nopals,² aloes and bushes (called) dog-wolf's shoes.³ On one side is the precipice, on the other rises the vertical wall of the mountain.
- 24 . 4 Thou must advance going down. Thy car strikes the wall and thy horses are startled by the rebound :
- 24 . 5 they stop at the bottom of the harness ; thy reins are precipitated and left behind ; all fall down, thou passest on.
- 24 . 6 The horses break the pole and move it out of the path ; you cannot think of refastening them, cannot re-
- 24 . 7 pair them. The seats are precipitated from their places ; the horses refuse to be loaded with them. Thy heart fails thee. Thou beginnest to
- 24 . 8 reel ; the sky is clear : thirst torments thee : the enemy is behind thee, thou beginnest to quake ;
- 25 . 1 a thorny bush hinders thee ; thou placest it aside ; the horses wound themselves.
- 25 . 2 At this moment thou art stretched flat and beholdest the sad satisfaction (of thy state)? Entering Joppa
- 25 . 3 thou seest a verdant inclosure in a ripe state. Thou makest an opening for eating the fruit. Thou findest a pretty
- 25 . 4 young girl who takes care of the gardens : she yields

¹ Or Pamarmar, perhaps the name of a native or ethnic form.² Indian fig.³ *Tut wisan*.

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- herself to thee as a companion ; and yields to thee her secret charms.
- 25 . 5 Thou art perceived : thou art subjected to an interrogatory ; thou art recognised as a Mohar. Thy tie of
- 25 . 6 sweet servitude, is settled by a compromise. Each night thou liest down ; a rug of hair
- 25 . 7 is on thee : thou imprudently fallest asleep, a robber takes away thy bow, thy dagger,
- 25 . 8 and thy quiver : thy reins are cut in the night, and thy horses run away. Thy valet takes a sliding path : the road mounts before him, he breaks
- 26 . 1 thy car in pieces . . . thy armour-pieces fall on the ground.
- 26 . 2 They sink in the sand. Thou must have recourse to prayers, and thou gettest puzzled in thy address. Give me victuals and water, and I
- 26 . 3 shall reach my safety. They pretend to be deaf, they do not listen : they do not consent. Thou orderest :
- 26 . 4 “ Pass to the forge ! Pass through the workshops ! Workmen in wood and metals, and workmen in leather come before thee : they do
- 26 . 5 all thou wishest. They repair thy car, leaving aside all unserviceable pieces : they nail on again
- 26 . 6 a new pole : they replace the fittings : they replace the leathers of the harness, and at the back
- 26 . 7 they consolidate thy yoke : they replace the metallic ornaments : they incrust the marquetry :
- 26 . 8 they put on the handle of thy whip and arrange the thongs. Thou leavest very hastily
- 26 . 9 to fight at the perilous post ; to perform valiant deeds.

Lacuna.

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SECTION 5.

- 27 . 1 Mapou,¹ O chosen scribe ! Mohar, who knows his hand, Conductor of the Arunas, Chief of Tsebaou, Explorer of the most distant limits of the land of Pa² thou dost not
- 27 . 2 answer me any how : thou givest me no account ; come let me tell all that happened to thee at the end of thy road. I begin
- 27 . 3 for thee at the dwelling of SESTSOU :³ hast thou not forced thy way therein. Hast thou not eaten fishes of² ?
- 27 . 4 Hast thou not bathed therein ? O come, let us describe Atsion to thee : where is its fortress ?
- 27 . 5 Come to the house of OUATI ;⁴ to Sestsou-em-paif-nakhtou-ousormara ;⁵ to Sats² aal,
- 27 . 6 also to Aksakaba ? I have pictured to you Atinini. Knowest thou not its customs ? Nekhai,
- 27 . 7 and Rehobroth, hast thou not seen them since thy birth, O eminent Mohar ? Raphia,
- 27 . 8 how about its entrenchment ? It covers the space of an *aour* going towards Gaza.
- 27 . 9 Answer quickly, and speak to me of what I have said of a Mohar concerning thee. I have thunderstruck
- 28 . 1 the strangers at thy name of Marina :⁶ I have told them of thy fierce humour, according to which word thou saidst, "I am fit for all works ; I have been taught by my father, who had verified his judgment millions of times. I
- 28 . 2 can hold the reins, and also am skilful in action.

¹ A title of honour or manhood.² Lacuna.³ Sesostris, Rameses II.⁴ Buto, also the city of that name.⁵ *Sestsou-em-paif-nakhtou Ousormara* is the name of a fortress built by Ramses II., in Syria or Palestina, and different from Ouati. The name means: "Ramses II. in his victories."⁶ Lord, chief.

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Courage never forsakes my limbs, I am of the race
MENTOU." ¹

All that issues from thy tongue is very thwarting :
thy phrases

28 . 3 are very puzzling : thou comest to me enveloped in
difficulties, charged with recrimination. Thou cuttest
off the discourse of those who come in thy presence ;
thou dost not disgust thyself with fumbling, and

28 . 4 with a stern face sayest, "Hasten ye : and desist
not ! How to do not to be able to succeed in it, and
how to do to succeed in it ?" ² No ! I stop not, for I
arrive, let thy preoccupation get calmed :

28 . 5 tranquillize thy heart : prepare not privations for
him who offerest himself to eat. I have mutilated the
end of thy book, and I send it to thee back, as thou
didst request ; thy orders accumulate on my tongue,
they rest on my lips :

28 . 6 but they are difficult to understand ; an unskilful
man could not distinguish them ; they are like the
words of a man of Athou with a man of Abou. Yet
thou art a scribe of PHARAOH ; whose goodness re-
veals the essence of the universe.

28 . 7 Be gracious' when seeing this work, and say not
"Thou hast made my name repugnant to the rabble,
to all men." See I have made for thee the portrait
of the Mohar : I have travelled for thee through
foreign provinces. I have collected

28 . 8 for thee nations and cities after their customs. Be
gracious to us : behold them calmly : find words to
speak of them when thou wilt be with the Prince
OUAH.

¹ As Solar god, the Egyptian Mars.

² The order is quite contradictory. How can it be disobeyed, and how obeyed ?

END OF SAMPLE TEXT



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