

H Y M N T O A M E N - R A.

TRANSLATED BY

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THIS Hymn is inscribed upon an hieratic papyrus, No. 17 in the collection of papyri at the Museum of Boulaq. A facsimile of the papyrus has been published by M. Marriette, *Les Papyrus Egyptiens du Musée de Boulaq*, fo., Paris 1872, pl. 11-13. It is not a very long composition, being contained in eleven pages of moderate size, and consisting of only twenty verses. It has the advantage of being nearly perfect from beginning to end, written in a legible hand, and free from any great difficulties for the translator.

From the handwriting of the papyrus it may be judged to belong to the XIXth dynasty, or about the fourteenth century B.C. It purports to be only a copy, and the composition itself may be very much earlier.

In the original the beginning of each verse is indicated by rubricated letters, each verse is also divided into short phrases by small red points, these are indicated in the translation by colons.

This translation has just been published with exegetical notes in the *Transactions of the Society of Biblical Archaeology*, Vol. II., page 250, since which time a French version has also been given by M. Grébaut *Hymne à l' Amen*, 1875.



HYMN TO AMEN-RA.

- 1 PRAISE to AMEN-RA :
 the Bull in An¹ Chief of all gods :
 the good god beloved :
 giving life to all animated things :
 to all fair cattle :
 Hail to thee AMEN-RA Lord of the thrones of the earth :
 Chief in Aptom² :
 the Bull of his mother in his field :
 turning his feet towards the land of the South :
 Lord of the heathen, Prince of Punt :³
 the Ancient of heaven, the Oldest of the earth :
 Lord of all existences, the Support of things, the Support
 of all things.
- 2 The ONE in his works, (single) among the gods :
 the beautiful Bull of the cycle of gods :
 Chief of all the gods :
 Lord of truth, Father of the gods :
 Maker of men, Creator of beasts :
 Lord of existences, Creator of fruitful things :
 Maker of herbs, Feeder of cattle :
 Good Being begotten of PTAH, Beautiful youth beloved :
 to whom the gods give honour :
 Maker of things below and above, Enlightener of the
 earth :
 sailing in heaven in tranquility :

¹ An or On "the house of the Obelisk," or Heliopolis in Lower Egypt.

² Thebes.

³ Arabia.

- King RA true speaker, Chief of the earth :
 Most glorious one, Lord of terror :
 Chief creator of the whole earth.
- 3 Supporter of affairs above every god :
 in whose goodness the gods rejoice :
 to whom adoration is paid in the great house :
 crowned in the house of flame :
 whose fragrance the gods love :
 when he comes from Arabia :
 Prince of the dew, traversing foreign lands :
 benignly approaching the Holy Land.¹
- 4 The gods attend his feet :
 whilst they acknowledge His Majesty as their Lord :
 Lord of terror most awful :
 greatest of spirits, mighty in²
 bring offerings, make sacrifices :
 salutation to thee, Maker of the gods :
 Supporter of the heavens, Founder of the earth.
- 5 Awake in strength MIN³ AMEN :
 Lord of eternity, Maker everlasting :
 Lord of adoration, Chief in²
 strong with beautiful horns :
 Lord of the crown high plumed :
 of the fair turban (wearing) the white crown :
 the coronet⁴ and the diadem⁵ are the ornaments of his
 face :
 he is invested with *Ami-ha* :⁶
 the double crown is his head-gear, (he wears) the red
 crown :
 benignly he receives the Atef-crown :
 on whose South and on whose North is love :

¹ Ta-neter, Palestine, or Arabia.² Lacunæ.³ The deity Chem or Amen Khem.⁴ *Mahennu*.⁵ *Uati*.⁶ "Like in the palace." S.B.

- the Lord of life receives the sceptre :
 Lord (of the breastplate) armed with the whip.
- 6 Gracious ruler crowned with the white crown :
 Lord of beams, Maker of light :
 to whom the gods give praises :
 who stretches forth his arms at his pleasure :
 consuming his enemies with flame :
 whose eye subdues the wicked :¹
 sending forth its dart to the roof of the firmament :
 sending its (arrows) against NAKA² to consume him.
- 7 Hail to thee RA Lord of truth :
 whose shrine is hidden, Lord of the gods :
 CHEPRA³ in his boat :
 at whose command the gods were made :
 ATUM Maker of men :⁴
 supporting their works, giving them life :
 distinguishing the colour of one from another :
 listening to the poor who is in distress ;
 gentle of heart when one cries unto him.
- 8 Deliverer of the timid man from the violent :
 judging the poor, the poor and the oppressed :
 Lord of wisdom whose precepts are wise :
 at whose pleasure the Nile overflows :
 Lord of mercy most loving :
 at whose coming men live :
 opener of every eye :
 proceeding from the firmament :
 causer of pleasure and light :
 at whose goodness the gods rejoice :
 their hearts revive when they see him.

¹ Frequent allusions are made in the papyri to the production of created things from the eyes of Ra or of Horus. Noxious things were supposed to be produced from the eye of Set or Typhon.

² Form of the Apophis. S.B.

³ The creator,

⁴ Atum, the god of the setting sun.

- 9 O ! RA adored in Aputu :¹
 high-crowned in the house of the obelisk :²
 King (ANI) Lord of the New-moon festival :
 to whom the sixth and seventh days are sacred :
 Sovereign of life health and strength, Lord of all the gods :
 who art visible in the midst of heaven :
 Ruler of men :³
 whose name is hidden from his creatures :
 in his name which is AMEN.⁴
- 10 Hail to thee who art in tranquillity :
 Lord of magnanimity strong in apparel :
 Lord of the crown high plumed :
 of the beautiful turban, of the tall white crown :
 the gods love thy presence :
 when the double crown is set upon thy head :
 thy love pervades the earth :
 thy beams (arise)³ men are cheered by thy rising :
 the beasts shrink from thy beams :
 thy love is over the Southern heaven :
 thy heart is not (unmindful of) the Northern heaven :
 thy goodness³ (all) hearts :
 love subdues (all) hands :
 thy creations are fair overcoming (all) the earth :
 (all) hearts are softened at beholding thee.
- 11 The ONE maker of existences :
 (creator) of³ Maker of beings :
 from whose eyes mankind proceeded :
 of whose mouth are the gods :
 Maker of grass for the cattle (oxen, goats, asses, pigs,
 sheep) :
 fruitful trees for men :
 causing the fish to live in the river :

¹ Thebes.² Heliopolis.³ Lacunæ.⁴ The name Amen means "secret," or "hidden."

- the birds to fill the air :
 giving breath to those in the egg :
 feeding the bird that flies :
 giving food to the bird that perches :
 to the creeping thing and the flying thing equally :
 providing food for the rats in their holes :
 feeding the flying (things) in every tree.
- 12 Hail to thee for all these things :
 the ONE alone with many hands :
 lying awake while all men lie (asleep) :
 to seek out the good of his creatures :
 AMEN sustainer of all things :
 ATUM, HORUS of the horizon :¹
 homage to thee in all their voices :
 salutation to thee for thy mercy unto us :
 protestations to thee who hast created us.
- 13 Hail to thee say all creatures :
 salutation to thee from every land :
 to the height of heaven, to the breadth of earth :
 to the depths of the sea :
 the gods adore Thy Majesty :
 the spirits thou hast created exalt (thee) :
 rejoicing before the feet of their begetter :
 they cry out welcome to thee :
 father of the fathers of all the gods :
 who raises the heavens who fixes the earth.
- 14 Maker of beings, Creator of existences :
 Sovereign of life health and strength, Chief of the gods :
 we worship thy spirit (who alone) hast made us :
 we whom thou hast made (thank thee) that thou hast
 given us birth :
 we give to thee praises on account of thy mercy to us.

¹ Or the deity Harmachis.

- 15 Hail to thee Maker of all beings :
 Lord of truth father of the gods :
 Maker of men creator of beasts :
 Lord of grains :
 making food for the beast of the field :
 AMEN the beautiful Bull :
 beloved in Aptom :¹
 high crowned in the house of the obelisk :²
 twice turbaned in An :
 judge of combatants in the great hall :
 Chief of the great cycle of the gods.
- 16 The ONE alone without peer :
 Chief in Aptom :
 King over his cycle of gods :
 living in truth for ever :
 (Lord) of the horizon, HORUS of the East :
 he who hath created the soil (with) silver and gold :
 the precious lapis lazuli at his pleasure :
 spices and incense various for the peoples :
 fresh odours for thy nostrils :
 benignly come to the nations :
 AMEN-RA Lord of the thrones of the earth :
 Chief in Aptom :
 the Sovereign (on his throne).
- 17 King alone, (single) among the gods :
 of many names, unknown is their number :
 rising in the Eastern horizon setting in the Western
 horizon :
 overthrowing his enemies :
 dawning on (his) children daily and every day :
 THOTH raises his eyes :
 he delights himself with his blessings :

¹ Thebes.² Heliopolis.

- the gods rejoice in his goodness who exalts those (who are lowly) :
- Lord of the boat and the barge :
- they conduct thee through the firmament in peace.
- 18 Thy servants rejoice :
- beholding the overthrow of the wicked :
- his limbs pierced with the (sword)
- fire consumes him :
- his soul and body are annihilated.
- 19 NAKA¹ saves (his feet) :
- the gods rejoice :
- the servants of the Sun are in peace :
- An is joyful :
- the enemies of ATUM are overthrown and Aptom is in peace, An is joyful :
- the giver of life is pleased :
- at the overthrow of the enemies of her Lord :
- the gods of Kher-sa make salutations :
- they of the Adytum prostrate themselves.
- 20 They behold the mighty one in his strength :
- the image of the gods of truth the Lord of Aptom :
- in thy name of Doer of justice :
- Lord of sacrifices, the Bull of offerings :
- in thy name of AMEN the Bull of his mother :
- Maker of men :
- causing all things which are to exist :
- in thy name of ATUM CHEPRA :²
- the great Hawk making (each) body to rejoice :
- benignly making (each) breast to rejoice :
- type of creators high crowned :
- . . (Lord) of the wing :
- Uati³ is on his forehead :

¹ The serpent.² Creator.³ The diadem.

the hearts of men seek him :
when he appears to mortals :
he rejoices the earth with his goings forth :
Hail to thee AMEN-RA Lord of the thrones of the world :
beloved of his city when he shines forth.¹

Finished well as it was found.²

¹ Many of the phrases in this beautiful hymn are ambiguous even where the original text is perfect.

² This note is subscribed in the original papyrus.



END OF SAMPLE TEXT



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