

ANNALS OF THOTHMES III.

OBELISK OF THE LATERAN.

 TRANSLATED BY

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THIS inscription is engraved on the four sides of a large obelisk of red granite commonly called the Obelisk of St. John Lateran, at present existing on the hill of the Lateran at Rome. It bears the inscriptions of three kings Thothmes III, Thothmes IV of the XVIIIth Dynasty, and Rameses II of the XIXth, who restored and set it up again. It has a certain chronological interest from the mention of 35 years between Thothmes III and Thothmes IV. The translation of those lines which relate to the kings of the XVIIIth Dynasty only is given.

This obelisk appears to have been originally a Theban one, and intended for the granite sanctuary at Karnak. Next to the chronological data one of

the most interesting notices found in the inscription is that of the barge of the god Amen-Ra which was made of cedar cut down in the land of the Rutennu or Syria. These barges each had different names, and that of Thothmes III is mentioned in the inscription of Amenemheb already previously translated. It will be observed that in the reign of Thothmes IV Egypt is mentioned as dominant over foreign nations and not undertaking further campaigns. These obelisks were a kind of triumphal columns erected to perpetuate the record of the national glories.

The text and a translation have been published by Ungarelli, *Interpretatio Obeliscorum* fo. Rom. 1842, tab. I, the text only, by Zoega, *De usu et origine Obeliscorum*, fo. Rom. 1797 and also by Kircher, *Œdipus* iii, 164. The latter part owing to an incorrect joining of the fragments is confused and unintelligible.



OBELISK OF THE LATERAN.

NORTH SIDE.

*Scene on the Pyramidion.*¹ THOTHMES III adoring AMEN-RA, and the inscription,

“The good god RA-MEN-KHEPER like the Sun,”

“AMEN, TUM”²

THOTHMES III kneeling to AMEN-RA seated on his throne.

“The King of the Upper and Lower country RA-MEN-KHEPER, Son of the Sun THOTHMES like the Sun, Immortal”

“AMEN-RA Lord of the seats of the Upper and Lower countries, gives all life stability and power.”

ON THE OBELISK.

Central Line of Hieroglyphs. THOTHMES IV. adoring the hawk of HAR-EM-AKHU.³

The good god RA-MEN-KHEPERU Lord of the World, gives incense that he may be made a giver of life.

Central Line. “The HARMACHIS, the living Sun, the strong Bull beloved of the Sun, Lord of Diadems very terrible in all lands, the Golden Hawk the Very Powerful, the Smiter of the Libyans, the King RA-MEN-KHEPER, the son of AMEN-RA, of his loins, whom his mother MUT gave birth to in Asher, one flesh⁴ with him who created him, the Son of the Sun THOTHMES (III) the Uniter of Creation, beloved of AMEN-RA Lord of the thrones of the Upper and Lower country giver of life like the Sun for ever.

SOUTH SIDE.

Pyramidion, Upper Line. “The King RA-MEN-KHEPERU (THOTHMES IV) giver of life beloved of AMEN-RA Lord of the thrones of the two countries.”

THOTHMES III adoring AMEN-RA

¹ The Apex of the Obelisk.

² Titles of the god Amen-Ra.

³ Harmachis or Sun in the Horizon.

⁴ Or “substance.”

“The Son of the Sun THOTHMES (III) giver of life like the Sun for ever”

THOTHMES III kneeling offering wine to AMEN-RA seated on a throne.

“The King RA-MEN-KHEPER, Son of the Sun THOTHMES (III) giver of life like the Sun for ever”

The goddess Uat¹ gives a good life, AMEN-RA Lord of the seats of the upper and lower country, gives life power and stability

THOTHMES IV seated on a throne adoring the hawk of HARMACHIS.

“The good god RA-MEN-KHEPERU giver of life like the Sun”

AMEN-RA King of the gods (says) “Thou hast received life in thy nostril.”

Central Line. “The HAR-EM-AKHU, the living Sun the strong Bull, crowned in Thebes, Lord of diadems, augmenting his kingdom like the Sun in heaven, the Hawk of Gold, the Arranger of Diadems, Very Valiant, the King RA-MEN-KHEPER, approved of the Sun, Son of the Sun, THOTHMES (III) has made his memorial to his father AMEN-RA, Lord of the Seats of the upper and lower countries, has erected an obelisk to him at the gateway of the temple before Thebes, setting up at first an obelisk in Thebes to be made a giver of life”

EAST SIDE.

Pyramidion. THOTHMES III taken in hand by AMEN-RA.

“The good god, RA-MEN-KHEPER, giver of life like the Sun”

THOTHMES III kneeling and offering wine to AMEN-RA seated on a throne.

“The King RA-MEN-KHEPER, Son of the Sun THOTHMES giver of life like the Sun, gives water”

¹ Buto, goddess of Northern Egypt.

“AMEN-RA King of the gods gives life stability and power”
 THOTHMES III standing offering a pyramidal cake to the hawk of HAR-EM-AKHU.¹

“The good god, RA-MEN-KHEPER, giver of life, gives a pyramidal cake of white bread that he may become a giver of life”

Central Line. The HAR-EM-AKHU, the living Sun, beloved of the Sun, having the tall crown of the upper region, the Lord of diadems, celebrating the festivals in Truth, beloved on earth, the Golden Hawk prevailing by strength, the King of the Upper and Lower country, RA-MEN-KHEPER, beloved of the Sun, giving memorials to AMEN in THEBES, augmenting his memorials, making them as they were before, so that each should be as at first; never was the like done in former times for AMEN in the house of his fathers, he made it the Son of the Sun THOTHMES (III) Ruler of An² giver of life.

WEST SIDE.

Pyramidion. THOTHMES III received by AMEN-RA.

“AMEN, TUM”

“The good god, RA-MEN-KHEPER giver of life like the Sun immortal”

THOTHMES III kneeling to AMEN-RA seated on a throne.

“The King RA-MEN-KHEPER, Son of the Sun, THOTHMES (III), like the Sun immortal gives wine.”

“UAT³ gives life duration and health”

“AMEN-RA Lord of the seats of the upper and lower countries, King the of gods, Ruler of An.”

THOTHMES IV offering flowers to the hawk of HAR-EM-AKHU

“The good god, the Lord doing things, RA-MEN-KHEPERU, giver of life like the Sun, gives incense that he may be made a giver of life”

¹ Harmachis or The sun in the Horizon, a title translated by Hermapion “Apollo.”

² Heliopolis,

³ The goddess Buto.

Central Line. "The HAR-EM-AKHU the living Sun, the strong Bull, crowned by Truth, RA-MEN-KHEPER who adores the splendour of AMEN in Thebes, AMEN welcomes him in his heart dilates at the memorials of his Son, increasing his kingdom as he wishes, he gives stability and cycles to his Lord, making millions of festivals of thirty years the Son of the Sun THOTHMES (III) uniting existence (giver of life)"

[Two lateral lines on each side referring to Thothmes IV in connection with the pyramidion already translated.]

NORTH SIDE.

Right Line. "The good god, the Image of diadems, establishing the kingdom like TUM, powerful in force, expeller of the Nine bow foreigners, the King of the Upper and Lower country, RA-MEN-KHEPER, taking by his strength like the Lord of Thebes, very glorious like MENTU,¹ whom AMEN has given strength against all countries; the lands came in numbers, the fear of him was in their bellies, the Son of the Sun, THOTHMES (IV), Diadem of Diadems, beloved of AMEN-RA, the Bull of his mother."

Left Side. "The King of the Upper and Lower country beloved of the gods, adorer of the circle of the gods, welcomed by the Sun in the barge, and by TUM in the ark, the Lord of the Upper and Lower countries, RA-MEN-KHEPERU,² who has ornamented Thebes for ever, making memorials in Thebes, the circle of gods of the house of AMEN delight at what he has done, the son of the god TUM, of his loins, produced on his throne, THOTHMES (IV) Diadem of diadems."

SOUTH SIDE.

Right Line. "The Son of the Sun, THOTHMES (IV), Diadem of Diadems, set it up in Thebes he capped it with gold, its

¹ A form of Ra or the Sun an Egyptian Mars.

² Prenomen of Thothmes IV.

beauty illuminates Thebes ; sculptured in the name of his father the good god RA-MEN-KHEPER (THOTHMES III), the King of the Upper and Lower country, Lord of the two countries, RA-MEN-KHEPERU (THOTHMES IV) did it wishing that the name of his father should remain fixed in the house of AMEN. The Son of the Sun, THOTHMES (IV) giver of life did it."

Left Line. "The King of the Upper and Lower country, the Lord doing things, RA-MEN-KHEPERU, made by the Sun, beloved of AMEN. His Majesty ordered that a very great obelisk should be completed which had been brought by his father RA-MEN-KHEPER (THOTHMES III) after His Majesty died. This obelisk remained 35 years and upwards in its place in the hands of the workmen at the Southern quarters of Thebes. My father ordered it should be set up. I his son seconded him."

EAST SIDE.

Right Line. "RA-MEN-KHEPERU (THOTHMES IV) multiplying memorials in Thebes of gold, lapis lazuli, and jewellery, and the great barge on the river (named) AMEN-USER-TA, hewn out of cedarwood which His Majesty cut down in the land of Ruten¹ inlaid with gold throughout, and all the decorations renewed, to receive the beauty of his father AMEN-RA (when) he is conducted along the river. The Son of the Sun THOTHMES (IV) Diadem of Diadems did it."

Left Line. "The good god, the powerful blade, the Prince taking captive by his power, who strikes terror into the Mena² whose roarings are in the Anu.³ His father AMEN brought him up, making his rule extended, the Chiefs of all countries are attentive to the spirits of His Majesty, to the words of his mouth, the acts of his hands, all that has been ordered has been done. The King of the Upper and Lower

¹ Syria.

² Asiatic Shepherds.

³ Or Petti, Libyans.

country RA-MEN-KHEPERU, whose name is established in Thebes giver of life."

WEST SIDE.

Right Line. "The King of the Upper and Lower country, the Lord of the upper and lower world, RA MEN KHEPERU son it making peaceful years, Lord of the gods, who knew how to frame his plans and bring them to a good end, who subdued the Nine bow foreigners under his sandals, the King of the Upper and Lower country watched to beautify the monuments, the King himself gave directions for the work like him who is Southern rampart,¹ he set it up, it remained for a while, his heart wished to create it, the Son of the Sun THOTHMES (IV), Diadem of diadems."

Left Line. "The King of the Upper and Lower countries RA-MEN-KHEPERU (THOTHMES IV) approved of AMEN, dwelling amongst the Chiefs, born in him than every King, rejoicing at seeing the beauty of his greatness: his heart desired to place it. He gave him the North and South submissive to his spirits, he made his monuments to his father AMEN-RA, he set up a great obelisk to him at the upper gate of Thebes facing Western Thebes. The Son of the Sun whom he loves (THOTHMES IV) Diadem of Diadems, giver of life did it."

At the base is a scene, Ra seated.

"AMEN-RA, HOR; Lord of heaven

"RA-USER-MA, approved of the Sun, RAMESES (II) beloved of AMEN giver of life like the Sun "

The winged disk HUT, RA again

"AMEN-RA, Lord of the seats of the upper and lower countries, HAR-EM-AKHU, great god, Lord of the heaven"

"The King of Upper and Lower Egypt, Lord of the two countries, RA-USER-MA, approved of the Sun RAMESES (II) beloved of AMEN."

¹ Title of the god Ptah or Vulcan the eponymous deity of Memphis.

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