

TABLET OF AHMÈS.

(No. 4017 Musée du Louvre.)

EPOCH OF DARIUS.

 TRANSLATED BY

PAUL PIERRET.

THIS is one of the Apis Tablets which were discovered with a large number of similar stèle by M. Mariette, on the 22nd of August, 1852, in the sand filling up room No. 2 in the great underground apartments of the Sérapéum or temple of burial of the Bull Apis at Memphis.

On the summit of this tablet is represented the ordinary winged disk adorned with two pendant asps,

with his hieroglyphic name ; *Hut*. Underneath, is a figure of the bull Apis, who, standing near an altar, receives the offerings of Ahmès the Chief of soldiers. The text beneath this scene is worded as follows :—



TABLET OF AHMÈS.

THE Devotee of OSORAPIS, the *smcr-ua*,¹ Chief of Soldiers,
AHMÈS, son of P-SAB-EN-HOR and of the lady TA-AP-EN-HA
saith:

When they had brought this god² for his reunion
with the good region of the West, 5
after all the ceremonies in the sanctuary
had been made to him, and he had been clothed
with his covering (?) . . . when they had brought this god
to his western abode,³ (then) I, thy slave,⁴
I have made the shrouding of thy person, 10
I have watched each day,
I have not slumbered to accomplish all thy ceremonies;
I have established thy veneration
in the hearts of all the men of the country,
as well as of every locality 15
as far as the limit of the district,
by the things that I have done in thy sanctuary.
I have despatched my orders
to the South as to the North
to convoke in thy sanctuary all the Chiefs of Ponds⁵ 20
with the load of their contributions.
Here . . .⁶ . . . O Prophets of the temple of PTAH
is what I say: OSORAPIS! prostration before thee
of him whose respirations are for the accomplishment
of thy ceremonies, of the Chief of soldiers AHMÈS, 25
who hath made thy . . .⁶ . . . who came himself

¹ Great familiar of the King. (?) ² Apis. ³ His tomb.

⁴ By a familiar turn in the Egyptian language, the discourse changes persons, and Ahmès addresses Apis directly.

⁵ Conservators of the Sacred Lakes.

⁶ Lacunæ.

to bring silver, gold, stuffs, royal linen, perfumery,
precious stones and all the good things.

Make him a recompense according to what he hath done
for thee ;

30

prolong his years, perpetuate his person eternally ;
establish for him the duration
of the existence of HORUS in the upper region,
that his name may be remembered for ever.



END OF SAMPLE TEXT



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