

ETHIOPIAN ANNALS.

THE STELE OF THE DREAM.

TRANSLATED BY

G. MASPERO.

THE *Stèle du Songe* was discovered together with those of *Piankhi*, *Horsiatew*, the *Stèles de l'Intronisation* and *de l'Excommunication*, at Napata, amongst the ruins of the Temple of Amen-Ra, Lord of the seats of both worlds, residing in Dû-uâb, that is on the Sacred Hill, the present Gebel Barkal. It was first analysed by Mariette-Bey in the *Revue Archéologique*, 1865, Tome II, p. 161, and was then published and translated by G. Maspero in the same Review, 1868, Tome I, p. 329. The text is to be found in Mariette's *Monuments Divers* Tome I, pl. 7, 8.

The inscription is surmounted by a picture representing two scenes : in the first of which

“The King of Upper and Lower Countries, Lord of both worlds RABAKA, Son of the Sun, Lord of the diadems NUAT (MEI)AMOUN, beloved by AMEN, ever-living like unto RA,”

accompanied by

“The Royal Sister, Queen of the land Qens (Nubia), QELHATAT,”

offers a great collar to his father

“AMEN-RA Lord of the seats of both worlds residing in Dû-uâb,”

who says :

“I give thee all life and power; I give thee the rising as a King of Upper and Lower Countries upon the seat of HOR of the living, like unto RA for ever.”

The Queen “shakes the sistrum and pours a libation.”

In the second picture, the same king is represented

“giving RA to the father AMEN, that he (the god) may do (for him, the King) the *Du-ankh*.”¹

Behind the king,

“The Royal Sister and Wife, Queen of Egypt, GARARAI, shakes the sistrum and pours a libation ”

“AMEN-RA, Lord of the seats of both worlds, residing in Thebes, saith: I give thee life and power all; I give thee all the lands, all the foreign countries, the barbarians collected under thy two sandals, for ever.”

The king's name is difficult to ascertain owing to the form of one of the signs in it. After a careful inspection of the paper impression in the Louvre, I think that the uncertain sign is the syllable *meri, mei*, a little flattened as is usual in Ethiopian inscriptions. Some have sought to identify Nuat (Mei)amoun with the Urdamani of Assyrian texts, the stepson of Tahraqa.² I hold him to have been a successor of Urdamani and to have conquered Egypt about the time of the Dodecharchy, somewhere between 664 and 654 B.C.

¹ The gods are often represented proffering to kings the sacred *Tau*, symbol of life, saying at the same time *Dû-ni-nak ank*, “I give thee life.” Hence the name of *Dû-ankh* for the ceremony and the idiom *ar dû-ankh*, “do the *Dû-ankh*, the giving of life.”

² Tirhakah of the XXVth dynasty, 2 Kings xix. 9.

STELE OF THE DREAM.

OBVERSE OF THE TABLET.

- 1 The good god, in the day of his appearing he is a TUM for all the beings, the Two-horned one, the Regent of the living men, the Prince who holds the whole earth, the valiant with his sword on a battle-day, the one whose face is terrible in the day of the (con-)
- 2 flict, Lord of strength like unto MENTU, most valiant like unto an awful lion, gentle-hearted like unto KHENT-H'ESERT,¹ good in his ship, after he reached the UAZ-UZ,² He (went again)
- 3 to this land,³ without fight, there being no one to stand his onslaught, the King of Upper and Lower Countries RABAKA, Son of the Sun, NUAT MEI(AMOUN), beloved by AMEN of Napata. The year of his rise (to the dignity) of King, (lo !)
- 4 His Majesty beheld a dream in the night, two snakes one to his right, the other to his left, (and) when His Majesty awoke he found them no more. He said : “(Explain)
- 5 these things to me on the moment,” and lo ! they explained it to him, saying : “Thou wilt have the Southern lands, and seize the Northern, and the two crowns will be put upon thy head, (for) there is given unto thee, the earth in all its width and its breadth (and there will not be)
- 6 another (can compete) with thee in power.” His Majesty having risen upon the seat of HOR this (very)

¹ Thoth.

² The Mediterranean sea.

³ The kingdom of Ethiopia in opposition to the kingdom of Egypt.

year, when His Majesty went out of the spot which he was in, even like HOR goes out of his place of state, when he went out as (a King, he found)

7 thousands and thousands,¹ coming after him, (and) said His Majesty: "Verily it was true what I dreamt! A boon it is for him who acts after god's heart, a plague for him who does not know it!"² When His Majesty went to Napata, there was no one who withstood

8 his march. When His Majesty proceeded to the Temple of AMEN of Napata residing in Dû-ûtab, His Majesty rejoiced in his heart after he saw the father AMEN-RA, Lord of the seats of both worlds, residing in Dû-ûtab, there were brought to him *ânkhi*-flowers of this god;

9 then His Majesty feasted AMEN of (Napa)ta, (and) made to Him great offerings, and set before him . . . thirty-six oxen, twenty barrels of *âsh*-beer, one hundred ostrich-feathers. When His Majesty sailed down to the Northern Land,³ he saw

10 (the god) whose name is more hidden than (all) the gods.⁴ When His Majesty reached Abu,⁵ then His Majesty crossed to Abu. When His Majesty reached the Temple of KHNUM-RA, Lord of Qebeh,⁶

11 he feasted this god, made to him great offerings, gave cakes and beer to the gods of the cataracts, and honoured HAPI⁷ in his shrine. When His Majesty sailed down to the Theban (Temple) of AMEN, when His Majesty

12 (sailed) into Thebes, and entered the Temple of

¹ Lit., "one million and one hundred thousand men."

² *Xet pun ar-n-het-ew saû n khem-s*, lit., "A thing it (*viz.*, a dream) is of the man who acts after his (the god's) heart, a plague for the man who does not know (the meaning of) it."

³ Egypt.

⁴ Khnûm.

⁵ Elephantine.

⁶ The cataract.

⁷ The Nile-god.

- AMEN-RA, Lord of the seats of both worlds, the Priest SENT-UR¹ came to His Majesty with the Hourly Priests of the Temple of AMEN-RA,
- 13 Lord of the seats of both worlds, and they brought him *ânkhi*-flowers of (the god) whose name is hidden. His Majesty rejoiced in his heart, after he saw this temple, he feasted AMEN-RA, Lord of the seats of both worlds, making a great feast in the whole land. When
- 14 His Majesty sailed down to the Northern Land, the West and East rejoiced with great rejoicing, saying: "Go on, in peace! Be thou in peace! Mayest thou vivify both worlds!
- 15 "(Thou) wilt repair the temples which go to ruin, set again their mystic statues upon their pedestals, make offerings to the gods and goddesses, funereal banquets for the dead;
- 16 "thou wilt put the Priest on his place again, to make what is prescribed for the worshipping of gods." Those who had been resolved to fight, became joyous (and peaceful). When His Majesty reached Mennow², and the
- 17 sons of rebellion³ went out to fight with His Majesty, His Majesty made a great slaughter amongst them: there is no knowing the number of the dead. His Majesty took Mennow, entered the Temple of
- 18 PTAH-RES-ANB-EW, made great offerings to PTAH-SOKAR and SEKHE⁴, the great goddess whom he⁴ loves. His Majesty, his heart was full of the great things which

¹ A high sacerdotal title on the Theban clergy of Amen.

² Memphis.

³ *Mesu beden*. The princes who ruled over the Delta and their subjects.

⁴ The god Ptah.

the father AMEN of Napata had done (for him) and sent an order to
 19 (prescribe) that a great hall should be built to him, *since there was no one built¹ in the time of the ancestors; His Majesty made it of stone covered with gold,

REVERSE OF THE TABLET.

- 1 Its panelling of cedar-wood
- 2 rubbed over with the perfumes of *Pount*,² its doors overlaid with *electrum*, the
- 3 hinges being of lead. He built another court behind (the temple) for the milk
- 4 of the god³ and for his cattle which is multiplying by myriads, (thousands), hundreds and tens: there is no knowing the number of the young calves
- 5 with their mothers. After that His Majesty having sailed to fight with the Chiefs of the North,
- 6 they entered their walled towns, (so that there was no reaching) their retreats. His Majesty spent a great many days before them, but no one of them
- 7 went out to fight with His Majesty. His Majesty having sailed up again to the White Wall⁴ sat in his palace thinking in
- 8 his (heart), how to cause his soldiers to reach them (and His Majesty was about to) say (unto his people: "Go!") when one came to report to him, saying: "The great Chiefs are come to the spot

¹ Lit., "there was no one found in the time of the ancestors."

² The Yemen or the *Cinnamomifera regio* of ancient writers.

³ *Hät n per*, "a hall for going out for his milk."

⁴ The Greek *Leukon teichos* (Λευκὸν τεῖχος), a name of Memphis.

- 9 where His Majesty is (to salute the King) our Lord.”
 Said His Majesty: “Do they come to fight, (or) do
 they come to serve me? (If the last), let them live
 instantly!” They said
- 10 to His Majesty: “They come to serve the King our
 Lord.” Said His Majesty: “Truly, my Lord this
 venerable god, AMEN-RA, Lord of the seats of both
 worlds, residing in Dû-ûab, the great god, who benefits
 him who knows his name, watchful
- 11 over whom he loves, giving strength to him who obeys
 him,¹ for there is no injuring the man who follows his
 resolutions, no driving back whom he leads, truly, what
 he said unto me in the night,
- 12 I see it in the day!” Said His Majesty: “(Where
 are they) now?” They said before His Majesty: “They
 are outside standing before the gate” When His Majesty
 went out
- 13 of his (palace, like unto this god) RA (when he is) on
 the horizon, he found them stretched on their bellies,
 smelling (the) earth to his face. Said His Majesty: “It
 was true what he bade
- 14 me to do Lo, the event happens, the decree
 of this venerable god is fulfilled. By my life, by the love
 I have for RA, by my worshipping AMEN in his temple,
 by my having been oarsman to this venerable god AMEN
- 15 of Napata, residing in Dû-ûab behold! He
 said unto me ‘I will lead thy march on all roads. Thou
 shalt not even have to say O! that I may get that!’”

- 16² Then they answered to him saying
 “Truly, this venerable god,

¹ Lit., “who is over his water!”

² A very much mutilated phrase.

- 17 He has (given) thee
¹ Never (fails) the word issued from out his mouth,
 O King, our Lord!" After the hereditary Prince of
 Pa-supti, PAQRUR, had risen to speak, he said :
- 18 "Thou smitest whom thou likest to, thou causest to
 live whom thou likest to :¹" Then they answered
 him (all) at once saying : "Grant us all the breath of
 life ; there is no living of the man who
 19 does not know him. Let us serve him, like people
 subjected to him, even as thou hast said, the first time,
 the day thou becamest a King!" The heart of His
 Majesty was rejoiced after he heard this speech, he
 20 gave them bread, beer, all kind of good things. A
 great many days after that¹ they said : "Why
 do we remain here, O King, our Lord?" Said
 21 His Majesty, saying : "Why?" They said before His
 Majesty : "Let us go to our towns ; let us order our
 men, that (we may bring) our tributes to (thy town)!"
 His Majesty sent them
 22 to their towns with life safe;² the men of the South
 went down (the river), the men of the North sailed up to
 the spot where His Majesty was, with all kind of good
 things of the Southern Lands, and all the produces
 23 of the Northern Lands, to soften the heart of His
 Majesty being the King of Upper and Lower Countries
 RABAKA, SON of the SUN NUAT (MEI)AMOUN, L. h. s.,³
 rising upon the seat of HOR for ever.

¹ Lacuna.

² Lit., "they were in the number of living men."

³ L. h. s. is the usual abbreviation for the royal formula, *Ankh, Uzà, Sènb*, "Life! health! strength!"

END OF SAMPLE TEXT



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