

STELE OF THE CORONATION.

TRANSLATED BY
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THIS stele was found at Gebel-Barkal and brought to Egypt by order of the Khédive: the inscription was first analysed by Mariette-Bey in the *Revue Archéologique*, 1865, T. III., then translated and commented upon by myself in the *Revue Archéologique*, 1873, T. I. The engraved text in Mariette's *Monuments Divers*, T. I, pl. 9, contains some slight omissions and errors which have been corrected by means of a paper impression in the *Musée du Louvre*.

This tablet rather unexpectedly confirms some statements of Diodorus, Lib. III, 5, about the Egyptian kingdom of Ethiopia; it records at length the ceremonial used at the election and coronation of an Ethiopian king. The cartouches in it have been purposely destroyed; but the rest of the protocol exists, and proves the king to have been Ramerka Aspalut, the son of Queen Nensau. In the upper part of the tablet, King Aspalut is represented as kneeling before Amen-Ra. Behind the god, the goddess

“MUT, Lady of heaven,”
is represented as saying to the king

“ I give thee all life and power, all health, all joy for ever!”

In front of the monarch, Queen Nensau is shaking two sistra, and

- 1 Says the Royal Sister, Royal Mother, Queen of Kush (NENSAU): “ I came to thee AMEN-RA, Lord of the seats of both lands, great god
- 2 (residing) in his shrine, the destroyer, the one who giveth strength unto him who is obedient unto him, that thou mayest establish firmly thy son whom thou lovest,
- 3 (ASPALUT) ever-living, upon the supreme seat of RA, so that he may be greater upon it,
- 4 than all (the gods) and all the goddesses ; multiply thou his years of life upon (earth) like unto ATEN¹ in heaven,
- 5 give thou unto him life and power all from thyself, health all from thyself, all joy from thyself, and the rising upon HOR's seat for ever.”

To which prayer Amen-Ra answers :

- 1 Says AMEN of Napata:² “ My son beloved,
- 2 (ASPALUT)! I give thee the rising
- 3 of RA, his sovereignty upon his seat!
- 4 I set the two crowns firmly upon thy head,
- 5 even as heaven is firm upon (its) four pillars!
- 6 Be living, be prospering, keep renewing thyself and turning young again like RA,
- 7 for ever! May all lands, and all strange countries be collected under
- 8 thy two sandals!”³

¹ The god of the Solar Disk made into an heretical divinity in the time of the XVIIIth dynasty, by Amenhotep IV., who took the name of Khuenaten.

² The Capital of the Ethiopian dynasty.

³ This is a commonly represented subject on the mummy cases of the Egyptian monarchs and officers of state.

STELE OF THE CORONATION.

- 1 THE first year, the second month of Pert, the fifteenth, under the Majesty of the HORUS, splendour of the rising (sun), Lord of Southern and Northern countries, splendour of the rising (sun), the strong-hearted one, King of both lands, Lord of both worlds (RAMERKA), Son of the Sun, Lord of diadems, (ASPALUT), beloved by AMEN-RA, Lord of the seats of both worlds, in Du-âb : Lo ! there was
- 2 the whole host of His Majesty in the town called Dû-âb, —the god who dwells in it, DUDUN KHENTI-NOWERT¹ is the god of Kush,—after the Hawk² had been laid to his
- 3 place ;³ and, lo ! there were officers after the heart of His Majesty's host, six men ; and there were officers after the heart of the Chancellor, six men ; and lo ! there were
- 4 wise men⁴ after the heart (of the Head Wise-man), six men ; and, lo ! there were Magistrates and Chiefs of the Signet-bearers of the Royal House, six men ; and they said unto the whole host : “ Let us go, that we may raise
- 5 a Lord for us who be like unto a young bull whom no men dare to withstand ! ” So this host mourned very much, very much, saying : “ There is a Lord standing amongst us, without our knowing him ! O
- 6 may we know him ! may we go under him !⁵ may we serve unto him, even like both lands served unto HORUS, Son of ISIS, after he sat upon the seat of his father OSIRIS ! may we worship the two uræi

¹ *Dudunen* or *Dudun* residing in the land Nowert, viz., in Middle Nubia.

² The Hawk of Horus, the Emblem of the deity and therefore of sovereignty.

³ After the late king had been buried.

⁴ *Mer ti-t-u*, Literally, “superintendents of books,” the royal magi.

⁵ Literally, “enter under him.”

7 of his crown!" Then said each of them unto his mate: "There is nobody knows him but RA himself, may he keep all evil from him in whatever spot he is in!" Then said

8 each of them unto his mate: "But RA is down in the land Ankhet,¹ and his diadem is in the midst of us." Then said each of them unto his mate: "It is true! since the time

9 heaven was, since the royal crown was, RA decreed² to give it unto his son whom he loves, so that the King be an image of RA amongst the living;³ and has not RA put himself in this land, that this land may be in peace?" Then said

10 each of them unto his mate: "But RA has he not gone away to heaven, and is not his seat empty without a King, together with all the beneficent exertions of his hands, which he uses to give unto his son whom he loves, because RA knows, to wit, that (with their aid) the King makes good laws upon his throne!"

11 So this whole host mourned, saying: "There is a Lord standing amongst us without our knowing him!" Said the host of His Majesty, exclaiming all with one mouth: "Why! there is this god, AMEN-RA, Lord of the seats of both worlds, in Dû-uâb, who is the god of Kush. Let

12 us go to him! Let us not tell a word in ignorance of him, for it is not good the word told in ignorance of him! Let us put the case to the god who is the god of the kingdom of Kush since the time of RA, that he may lead us! For

13 the kingdom of Kush is (a gift) of his hands, which he

¹ *Ankhet*, "The country of life," the West. The phrase signifies only that the king, identified with Ra, is dead and the throne is vacant.

² Literally, "A decree of Ra it is, since heaven was, since the royal crown was, to give it, etc.

³ Literally, "So that he be an image of Ra the king amongst the living."

giveth unto his son whom he loveth. Let us make adorations to his face, throw ourselves upon our bellies, and say to his face: We come to thee, AMEN, give us our Lord to vivify us, to build temples for the gods and goddesses all of the Southern and Northern lands, to make

14 offerings to them. We tell not a word in ignorance of thee; but thou art our lead, and may not a word be told in ignorance of thee!" Then said this host, the whole of it: "A good word it is, in faith!" a million of times. When the Generals of His Majesty,

15 together with the *Friends of the Royal House*,¹ reached the temple of AMEN, they found the Prophets and High-Priests standing at the door of the temple. They said unto them: "(We) come to the god AMEN-RA in Dû-uâb, that he may give us our Lord to vivify us, to build temples

16 for the gods and goddesses all of Southern and Northern lands, to make offerings to them. We tell not a word in ignorance of this god, for he is our leader." When the Prophets and High-Priests entered the temple they did all what was required to purify it, they poured libations of water, wine and perfumes unto it. When the Generals of His Majesty entered the temple

17 together with the officers of the Royal House, they threw themselves upon their bellies before this god saying: "We come to thee, AMEN-RA, Lord of the seats of both worlds, in Dû-uâb, that thou mayest give us a Lord to vivify us, to build temples for the gods of Southern and Northern lands, to make offerings, and all the munificent

18 exertions of thy hands, which thou givest unto thy son

¹ *Semerti-u nu fa-suten*. The "friends of the Royal House" are probably the φίλοι τοῦ βασιλέως of which Diodorus speaks (Lib. III., c. 7).

- whom thou lovest!" Then they put the Royal Brothers before this god, without his selecting one of them, but when they put a second time the Royal Brother, son of AMEN, accepted as an infant by MUT, Lady of Heaven, the son of RA (ASPALUT), ever-living, then, said this god
- 19 AMEN-RA, Lord of the seats of both worlds: "He is the King your Lord, to vivify you. He is the builder of all temples in Southern and Northern lands! He is the maker of offerings for them! His father was the Son of RA¹ deceased, his mother, the Royal Sister, Royal Mother, Queen of Kush,
- 20 Daughter of RA (NENSAU) ever-living, whose mother was the Royal Sister, Divine Star of AMEN-RA, King of the gods of Thebes,¹ deceased, whose mother was the Royal Sister¹ deceased, whose mother was the Royal Sister¹ deceased, whose mother was the Royal Sister¹ deceased, whose mother was the Royal Sister¹ deceased, whose mother was the Royal Sister¹ deceased, whose mother was the Royal Sister, Queen of Kush,¹ deceased.² He is your Lord." Then the Generals of His Majesty, together with the officers of the Royal House, threw themselves upon their bellies before this god, and smelt the earth³ very much, very much, and made acclamations to this god for
- 22 the power he gave unto his son whom he loves, the King of Upper and Lower countries, (ASPALUT) ever-living. When His Majesty went in to appear before his August father, AMEN-RA, Lord of the seats of both worlds, he found all the crowns of the Kings of Kush

¹ Lacuna.

² All the names have been erased.

³ To smelt the earth, *sen-to*, is an Egyptian idiom signifying "to make obeisance to," "to respect," "to congratulate." (Birch, *Dictionary of Hieroglyphics*, p. 497, b.)

with all their sceptres put before this god. Said His Majesty before this god :

23 "Come to me, AMEN-RA, Lord of the seats of both worlds in Dû-uâb ; give me all the beneficent virtues which are not in my heart, that I may love thee. Give me the crown that I may love thee, together with the sceptre." Said the god : "There is for thee the crown of the Royal Brother, Lord of Upper and Lower countries¹ deceased.

24 His diadem stands upon thy head as firmly as stands upon thy head, and his sceptre is in thy grasp overthrowing all thy foes." Then His Majesty rose (before AMEN, put his crown upon his head), seized the sceptre with his fist ; His Majesty threw himself upon his belly before this god,

25 and smelt the earth very much, very much, saying :² "Come to me, AMEN-RA, Lord of the seats of both worlds, in Dû-uâb¹ "Grant me life, stability and power all, health and joy all, even like unto RA, for ever : a good old age,

26 may he give it unto me¹

[The end of the royal speech is lost. The king asked to be victorious over all his foes :]

"(Grant me) that they (may come to me) bowing. Grant that I may be loved throughout the land of Kush."

[To which prayer the god answered :]

27 "(I give thee) all the strange lands, the whole of them. Thou shalt even not have to say : 'O! that I may get that!' for ever and ever."

28 When (His Majesty) went out (of) the temple to his

¹ Lacuna.

² The common form of emphatic comparison in hieroglyphic writing.

host, like a (destroyer), his whole host rejoiced very much, very much, shouting (and exulting, for) their heart (was) happy for his sake, and they worshipped him, saying :

29 "Come and put all strange countries (before us).
.....

[To commemorate his coronation, king Aspalut founded annual feasts, the description of which filled the last two lines. After various items of loaves and offerings, he granted Amen or his priests]

"one hundred and forty barrels of beer."



END OF SAMPLE TEXT



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