

## EGYPTIAN MAGICAL TEXT,

FROM A PAPYRUS IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

---

TRANSLATED BY  
S. BIRCH, LL.D.

---

THE Papyrus of which the following is a translation, is in the British Museum, and came from the collection of Mr. Salt (No. 825). It is very fragile, and of a very dark brown colour, of a softer texture than the material usually employed. Unfortunately the beginning is not complete, so that it is not possible to know the number of pages that are wanting. It still contains twenty pages of hieratic writing of nine lines to the page, and the careful and distinct hand in which it is written shows it to have been part of a book. The text is as yet unpublished, greater interest attaching to the class of historical papyri,

but it resembles in its contents the papyri of Leyden and the Louvre, especially those recently published by M. Maspero, *Memoire sur quelques papyrus du Louvre*, 4to., Paris, 1875. Besides the hieratic text the papyrus contains some vignettes and hieroglyphic inscriptions in the secret or later hieroglyphs, which appear in use as early as the XIXth Dynasty, but the present papyrus appears to have been written between the period of the XXIst and XXVIth Dynasties. It is divided into sections, or chapters, like the *Ritual*, and appears to be one of a magical class. Its chief interest is the esoterical explanations it affords of the growth of plants.



## MAGICAL TEXTS.

## PAGE 1.

- 1 It is said by night not by day, which would bring evil  
 2 on earth. The gods put their hands on their heads the  
 earth is shaken.  
 3 When he goes forth the morn remains, the sky . . .<sup>1</sup> in  
 4 the earth is broken to pieces, the waters are in confusion  
 and are no longer navigable.  
 5 The . . .<sup>1</sup> (gods) listen : mankind complains, the souls weep.  
 6 The goddesses, men, souls, the dead, animals  
 7 complain much,  
 8 . . .<sup>1</sup> the heart . . .<sup>1</sup> they bring . . .<sup>1</sup>

## PAGE 2.

- 1 causes strength to be doubled, and flame renewed. It is  
 the liquid spirit the SUN gave to his son. When HORUS  
 2 weeps, the water that falls from his eyes grows into  
 plants producing a sweet perfume. When BABA<sup>2</sup> lets fall  
 3 blood from his nose, it grows into plants changing to  
 cedars, and produce turpentine instead of the water.  
 4 When SHU and TEFNUT<sup>3</sup> weep much, and water falls from  
 their eyes, it changes into plants that produce incense.  
 5 When the SUN weeps a second time, and lets fall water  
 from his eyes, it is changed into working bees ; they work  
 6 in the flowers of each kind, and honey and wax are  
 produced instead of the water.  
 7 When the SUN becomes weak, he lets fall the perspiration  
 of his members, and this changes to a liquid.  
 8 . . .<sup>1</sup> linen, it has become . . .<sup>1</sup>  
 9 . . . . .<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Lacunæ.<sup>2</sup> Typhon, the Greek Babys or Bebôn.<sup>3</sup> Twin children of the Sun, male and female,

## PAGE 3.

- 1 much, he bleeds, and the blood changes to salt . . .<sup>1</sup>  
 chooses them for remedies, the SUN coming from  
 2 which they give to the divine members. When the SUN is  
 weak he perspires, water falls from his mouth to the earth,  
 and changes to the plants  
 3 of the papyrus. When NEPHTHYS<sup>2</sup> is very weak, her per-  
 spiration flows and is changed to the plant *Tas*.  
 4 The region of Benben and Ai, when the SUN sits there,  
 he perspires  
 5 there. The region of Tami, when PTAH sits there, he  
 perspires. Regions Tatta and Ha-  
 6 tefa, when OSIRIS sits there, his perspiration falls there.  
 The two gorges of Elephantine . . .<sup>1</sup>  
 7 perspires there. SHU and TEFNUT give it to the divine  
 members, they produce them in . . .<sup>1</sup>  
 8 he opens his mouth divine in this day  
 9 by his orders. The gods SHU

## PAGE 4.

- 1 and TEFNUT, SEB, NU, HORUS, ISIS, NEPHTHYS, THOTH,  
 vivify him daily, SHU and TEFNUT  
 2 are full of solicitude for the substance of the heart, they  
 weep much, they place a book  
 3 on him, it is the hair of a scorpion, the great one of the  
 SUN, called the devouring throat  
 4 which swallows the . . .<sup>1</sup> he is on earth and is the  
 strangler.  
 5 He has been called the . . .<sup>1</sup> he who leads the over-  
 thrown, who swallows the wicked ones.  
 6 SHU and TEFNUT place their son HORUS son of ISIS,  
 on the . . .<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Lacuna.<sup>2</sup> Sister of Osiris and Isis.

- 7 throne of his father, they upset SET,<sup>1</sup> they drag (him)  
to the secret place of punishment in the East.  
8 HORUS kills him in his name, the god strangles  
9 the wicked enemies that are there, the gods and  
goddesses protect this god in his divine being,

## PAGE 5.

- 1 each day upsetting the wicked ones for ever in the land  
of Uasbuasb, of Ab, of Sesu,  
2 of Testes, of Khnem. SET's blood falls in the cities ;  
this is the Eastern palm tree. For the wax . . .<sup>2</sup> all  
made for the wicked ones  
4 to destroy the bad race, and to prevent his soul from  
escaping punishment.  
5 Do not sit down yourself there, enter not there, for it  
is the great region of the benefactor who  
protects the King in his palace ; they therefore bring  
them and place them under  
7 SEKHET, vomiting flames against the wicked ones to  
suffocate them. As to the palm tree of the West,  
8 it belongs to OSIRIS. Oh ! fatal words keeping the  
heart of the Magic Book.  
9 The 20th Thoth is the day to receive the Book of  
Orders. Life  
10 and death proceed from it: the Magic Book was in-  
corporated in that day. This hidden book triumphs

## PAGE 6.

- 1 over enchantments, connects ligatures, prepares ties,  
destroys the lock. Life and death proceed from it.  
Come not beneath its influence.  
2 If any one falls in its power, he dies (as if killed by  
blows) forthwith. Go not very far, for life and death are  
in it; the Scribe of . . .<sup>2</sup> has made it in his name for the  
Treasury.

<sup>1</sup> Typhon, enemy and brother of Osiris.<sup>2</sup> Lacuna.

- 3 The oar of the lake is HORUS who overthrows  
 4 his accusers, he draws them from the region of Eastern  
 Hut. The lake-oar is the tamarisk tree, having seven  
 ells, and two *spithams*,<sup>1</sup> it makes the third.
- 5 A club has been brought from the Eastern region by the  
 SUN, and he overthrows his enemies therewith. It is  
 four *spithams* high. There are four mansions of life  
 6 at Abydos, (each) is built four stories high and is in-  
 ternally wainscoated with palm wood. There are four  
 mansions of life
- 7 OSIRIS is master thereof. The four houses are ISIS,  
 NEPHTHYS, SEB and NU. ISIS is placed in one, NEPHTHYS  
 8 in another, HORUS in one, TAHUTI in another, at the  
 four angles: SEB is above, NU  
 9 is below. The four outer walls are of stone. It has  
 two stories, its foundation is sand
- 10 its exterior is jasper, one is placed to the South, another  
 to the North, another to the West, another to the East.

## PAGE 7.

- 1 It is very hidden, unknown, invisible, nothing save  
 the Solar disk
- 2 sees it. It escapes men that go there. The SUN's  
 Librarians, the Treasure Scribes are within. SHU . . .
- 3 he who causes to retrograde, is HORUS who strikes the  
 enemies of his father OSIRIS. The writer of his divine  
 books is THOTH
- 4 who vivifies it each day, its excellency is neither seen  
 nor heard. The body of water is hidden going
- 5 to plunge the Amu who do not go there: though near,  
 he does not see it. This book
- 6 is that which is therein. The souls of the SUN are  
 around; this great god approaches them to kill his enemies.  
 Those that dwell there are

<sup>1</sup> The Egyptian span.

7 the SUN'S Librarians. The SUN'S servants protect his son  
 OSIRIS daily. SHU and TEFNUT make charms  
 8 to fascinate these wicked conspirators. TEFNUT changes  
 her shape into a club of four *Spithams* (long) inside of  
 9 this place, facing the room wherein the god dwells, she  
 makes a crown of divine flowers round the neck of this god,  
 10 she decorates her own neck, she is like fire against the  
 wicked ones, like the North wind to the nostrils of her  
 son OSIRIS.

## PAGE 8.

1 SHU takes the shape of an eagle's wing; he makes a lock  
 or tress of sheep's wool to go round this god's neck; it is  
 2 placed on the throat of (OSIRIS). SHU gives breath to the  
 nostrils of his son OSIRIS to repel his enemies, they are  
 repulsed  
 3 from his members. He makes this body protected, he  
 watches over the King in his palace.  
 4 SHU says: O thou shut in the Solar disk, hidden in thy  
 house! O you enemies who retain the breath far from him  
 turn  
 5 your faces. A lock of hair has been made to suffocate  
 your souls. I am SHU who destroys your bodies. TEFNUT  
 says  
 6 O thou; hidden by the roof; hidden by the door  
 lock, the cowards are upset by thy blows! I am  
 7 TEFNUT, thundering against those who are kept on the  
 earth, who are annihilated for ever. SEB says  
 [Here follow some secret hieroglyphs.]  
 8 NU says: the god NU is hidden in the divine mystery.  
 SEB is hidden

## PAGE 9.

1 in his shape, ISIS protects him, NEPHTHYS watches over  
 him, as protectors of the lock of the fiery lake of the  
 sea proceeding in its course.

- 2 The accusers live and die ! your souls are annihilated,  
your bodies are not preserved, your souls are annihilated,  
you are no longer on this earth.
- 3 . . . .<sup>1</sup> drags their enemies before the King. Retrograde  
ye damned, the son of TEFNUT resists, he prevails against  
the wicked ones
- 4 by the hair of a cow, passing yesterday, carrying to day  
the blood of the mystic eye, the skin of the head of a  
*uræus* serpent, the eye
- 5 of a dwarf, "Lord of the waters, rejoicing, raising  
and lowering the gate of heaven soul of souls, creation of  
creation, only one created"<sup>2</sup> in the South and in the  
North, very hidden
- 6 in his members, hidden in his greatness, thou the type  
who lives by thy life.
- 7 O ye wicked ones, the flames of AMEN-RA are in his  
members, they cannot be extinguished at all,
- 8 ever devouring your bones. His shape is hidden, his  
type is hidden
- 9 his name is unknown, he repels the children emanating  
from him he gives the flame
- 10 to you, ye are consumed.

[Then are depicted four regions or amulets.]

- 1 A circle of a green herb, a drop of well-water. The  
following objects must be placed therein : the heart of a  
jackal, the nostril of a pig, the urine of an ape. This is  
followed by
- 2 a plate of beaten gold wherein an eagle's wing is to be  
figured.
- 3 An heart-formed object ; opposite which is written  
hieratically: "Thou triumphest over thy enemies." In the  
interior are secret hieroglyphics or unintelligible anaglyphs.
- 4 A crocodile carrying a feather on its head, sitting on a

<sup>1</sup> Lacuna.

<sup>2</sup> The words between inverted commas are in the secret writing.



particular shaped wheel; inside the wheel is an *uræus* serpent; a legend relative to a crocodile calls it: "The turner of destruction crocodile, that which nurtured by impurity, the great truth, burning its enemies by the entire revolution of the hole."<sup>1</sup> The *Uræus* legend calls it "The great mother, mistress of the burning hole, burning with its figure, mistress of shade, nurtured with blood, mistress of the unfaithful she, nourished by him." It is said of the region "this region is detestable, it sees the . . .<sup>2</sup> of a father by his son, it cannot be seen or heard."

## PAGE 11.

- 1 The burning brasier<sup>3</sup>
- 2 The great fire-basin
- 3 prepared by him who affrights
- 4 the overthrown: he that is headless
- 5 the place of death, the place
- 6 of life: the great rock
- 7 throwing fire against SET and his companions.

## PAGE 12.

- 1 The fire coming from the mouth against the wicked ones (name of first ape).<sup>4</sup>
- 2 The Mistress of flame burning the accusers (name of second ape). Living off the
- 3 blood of the overthrown (name of third ape) Mistress of death who lives
- 4 by seizing (name of fourth ape). The one is made for the throat band
- 5 of him who hides his name; the other is made
- 6 for the throat band of the SUN, another
- 7 is made for the throat band of PTAH.

<sup>1</sup> *Karrt*, "hole" or "lock," it is applied to the abodes of the damned in Hades.

<sup>2</sup> Lacuna.

<sup>3</sup> *Aχu*, "brasier" or "censer."

<sup>4</sup> Perhaps the names of the apes and braziers, cap. cxxvi. of the *Ritual*.

8 another is made for the throat band of OSIRIS,

[Below in a square is painted an Asiatic man, bearded, kneeling and tied at the elbows to the god Nub, with an animal's head and ears cut off; these two images are back to back. On the side of Nub are read:]

The accusers have failed, the vile SET with his companions.

[On the Asiatic's side are read:]

The vile hardened hearts.

[Below this scene are four adoring apes to which the aforesaid legends refer.]

PAGE 13.

- 1 Mistress of place of punishment, or mistress of fire, by which she prevails (name of first serpent).
- 2 Very terrible in battle (name of second serpent). Mistress of tears
- 3 who lives off them (name of third serpent). She whose sparks subdue (name of fourth serpent). They are
- 4 the words of the books or chapters, to overthrow enemies.
- 5 The Book to place Enemies in the Fire, the one to Drive away the Foe:
- 6 That to Destroy Enemies.

[Below a vignette with four *urxi* serpents.]

PAGE 14.

- 1 The four brasiers are
- 2 The mistress of theft living by it:
- 3 she whose figure is red against the profane:
- 4 the groaning figure:
- 5 living off the living.
- 6 These are the titles of the four books: the Old
- 7 Book; the Book to Destroy
- 8 Men; the Great Book;
- 9 the Book to be as God.

## PAGE 15.

[The vignette of this page represents the house of Osiris whereof the preceding pages speak in detail. The house is square, the god stands in the interior on a pedestal cubit-shaped emblem of Truth. Below is an oval bearing the name of the goddess, Neith and the Nine Bows, emblems of foreign nations. Before the house is hieratically written :]

O thou daily hidden one

[The house has a door at each cardinal point; in an interior angle is the emblem of life. At the exterior angles are the names of Horus, Thoth, Isis, and Nephthys. In the middle of the sides is written :]

Very hidden, very reserved.

## PAGE 16.

- 1 Chapter to Open the Gate of this House: "I have opened heaven I have opened earth I enter. O ye Western and Eastern doors
- 2 let me enter; I am the wind passing by you.
- 3 Chapter to Open the Place of the Chapel of Seat of NEITH. I am the seat of NEITH, hidden
- 4 in the hidden, concealed in the concealed, shut up in the shut up, unknown I am knowledge.
- 5 I am the lion of the ape, I am the hidden in flame, which never ceases, heaven
- 6 is closed, the waters are shut up; where waters are terrible flame is quiet. SEB the goddess of NU and the god NU come to-
- 7 gether, they are detained. The disk is wanting above. Your protection . . . <sup>1</sup> the dwelling of NEITH
- 8 is the (gorge)<sup>2</sup> of ENHUR,<sup>3</sup> god of Tenu<sup>4</sup> the mystical. He is hidden in the way of the (gorge);<sup>2</sup>
- 9 it is the mystery of magic, and the salvation of some one. The words of SHU, when he made his son triumph, and placed his enemies
- 10 under him: he placed the talisman at the throat and

<sup>1</sup> Lacuna.    <sup>2</sup> Throat.    <sup>3</sup> Onouris or Mars.    <sup>4</sup> Tenu, Silsilis.

saved him (from his enemy). He made him safe thereby.

SHU wept

11 when he was beaten by him. He gives life to Kami<sup>1</sup> in a moment, by the breath of his mouth giving motion to OSIRIS. The words of

12 SHU after placing the talisman to his throat, I am the daily hidden genius who hides himself beneath life, burning

PAGE 17.

1 in his hole, protected by the talisman

2 which masters every foreigner, country South, North, West, East, who oppose

3 dead or living ones subject to this god. The palm tree

4 becomes like OSIRIS in Niti.

5 THOTH took it to bind OSIRIS to the great crown.

6 The palm . . .<sup>2</sup> by order of the seventeenth and nineteenth, twenty-fourth and twenty-fifth days of the month Thoth

[The amulet is against the *Pet-ma*, Brugsch, *Geographie*, l. 49, Nos. 282-5, at the end of the 7th line after the master of Silsilis is with *Ta* or *At s'ta feka*, mystic passage of "The Eradicator." Now come in secret characters the ingredients to be mingled for magical results.]

PAGE 17.

[1st line shows a marine monster like a dolphin with four feet and a tail ending in a serpent's head. *San-nu Hut-ur*, "Plunger of the Sea," followed by the Nile god.]

1 The plunger of the Sea.<sup>3</sup>

2 A jar of sand.

3 Divine incense.

4 Incense of SHU and TEFNUT.

5 A jar of wine for AMEN-RA.

6 Nile water mixed with a jar of wine.

7 Take a jar of oil, foam of the liquid called *shot*,<sup>4</sup> and wine, wash it making thereof a *nefer*.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Egypt.

<sup>2</sup> Lacuna.

<sup>3</sup> A dolphin.

<sup>4</sup> "Spirits of Wine," or "Effervescing Wine."

<sup>5</sup> "A compound," or "good compound."

## PAGE 18.

*First Formula:* In the place where one makes the image of OSIRIS, who dwells in the West, flowers of the sea water 4 jars;  $4\frac{1}{2}$  jars of sand or sea weed;  $2\frac{1}{2}$  jars of essence of cedar oil;  $2\frac{1}{2}$  jars of liquid *shot*, put in a mystic pot of earthenware firm in his hands, and 10 *uræi* serpents shaped like the white crown on the head. Do not consider the work unknown. One grain of incense, one smoke or fumigation, 2 jars of bitumen, 2 wax candles,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  jars of foam of (*tas*).

Thou hast done all he has done, he will make the breath return, he embalms the work, he is unknown.

*Second Formula:* 2 grains of incense, 2 fumigations, 2 jars of cedar oil, 2 jars of *tas*, 2 jars of wine, 2 jars of liquid *shot*. At the place of thy heart, they embalm strongly. Thou art protected (against accidents) of life; thou art protected against a violent death; thou art protected against fire, thou escapest in heaven, and thou art not ruined on earth. He has been saved from (death) and has not been consumed by the gods.

## PAGE 19.

- 1 If one proceeds under it, one dies in that time, the mystery is very great.
- 2 The Sun is OSIRIS. Make him . . .<sup>1</sup> with thy own hand and with thy smallest finger.
- 3 He is placed as a mummy of the tree *amam* and sycamore . . .<sup>1</sup> 2 cubits 1 digit high;
- 4 his side being in a sheep, and the hind part
- 5 being of reed. Behind is a sanctuary of fine gold of
- 6 8 cubits 2 digits high, the . . .<sup>1</sup> of the sanctuary of cedars 10 cubits 2 digits high;
- 7 his lower part made *s'ent*<sup>2</sup> wood of Sesou 3 cubits broad the

<sup>1</sup> Lacuna.<sup>2</sup> Acacia, or *sont* wood.

8 . . . .<sup>1</sup> of reeds in the interior. Put this behind the vase.

PAGE 20.

[Vignette containing Osiris standing at the right, holding a sceptre with his two hands; behind the god is the figure of the goddess Pasht, with this inscription :]

Thy mother TEFNUT vivified thee.

[Before Osiris is a standing lioness carrying the crown *atf*, and vomiting fire. Behind Tefnut is Nephthys and behind Pasht is Isis. After this scene, one sees a square surmounted by a lioness, crowned with the *atf*; one side the square is a sheepskin stretched, in the behind of which is Osiris standing, turning to the right. This object has analogous legends with the names of the gods Amen-Ra and Ptah, the title of Osiris; "He who Dwells in the West," and the following explanations :]

SHU is thy father, he vivifies thee; thy father is SET thy mother is NU, they vivify thee.

[On the right one sees a lioness couchant carrying the crown *atf*; her mouth exhales fire; she is called "MENTI," name of a lion-headed goddess:]

Who breathes fire at night.

[Below this lioness are four *urwi* serpents each wearing a head ornament in symbol. The first wears the *hut* or white crown, probably represents Sati, the *Egyptian Juno*. The second wears the red crown *teshr* of Neith, the *Egyptian Minerva*, the third wears a solar disk and represents a goddess attached to the Sun-god's pure disk. The fourth wears the lunar disk, ordinarily only worn by the ibis, cynocephali, and the emblem of the Moon's masculine type; but as Thoth has a feminine type, so may the Moon have one too. The two ends of the vignette are terminated by two gods each wearing four feathers. Their heads are in shape a rolled object, ending behind with a feather or something analogous. "He gives the North wind to thy nostrils." The other legend is solely the word "wind." Seem to be the types of Shu.]

<sup>1</sup> Lacuna.

# END OF SAMPLE TEXT



The Complete Text can be found on our CD:  
**Primary Literary Sources For Ancient Literature**  
which can be purchased on our Website :  
[www.Brainfly.net](http://www.Brainfly.net)

or

by sending **\$64.95** in check or money order to :  
**Brainfly Inc.**  
**5100 Garfield Ave. #46**  
**Sacramento CA 95841-3839**

## **TEACHER'S DISCOUNT:**

If you are a **TEACHER** you can take advantage of our teacher's discount. Click on **Teachers Discount** on our website ([www.Brainfly.net](http://www.Brainfly.net)) or **Send us \$55.95** and we will send you a full copy of *Primary Literary Sources For Ancient Literature* **AND** our *5000 Classics CD (a collection of over 5000 classic works of literature in electronic format (.txt))* plus our *Wholesale price list*.

If you have any suggestions such as books you would like to see added to the collection or if you would like our wholesale prices list please send us an email to:

[webcomments@brainfly.net](mailto:webcomments@brainfly.net)