

INSCRIPTION OF KING NASTOSENEN.

(XXXIInd DYNASTY.)

TRANSLATED BY
G. MASPERO.

THIS stele was found at Dongolah by Dr. Lepsius, and by him brought to Berlin, where it is now preserved. It has been published in the *Denkmäler aus Ägypten und Äthiopien*, Abth. V., Bl. 16.

Some parts of the inscription have been summarily analysed by Dr. H. Brugsch, in his *Geographische Inschriften*, T. I., pp. 163, 164.

This translation as it now stands, was published by myself in *Trans. Soc. Bib. Arch.*, Vol. IV., Part 2, 1875.

On this stele king Nastosenen is twice represented; first, accompanied by the

“Royal Sister, Royal Mother, Queen of Kush, PELKHA.”
who

“shakes her sistrum to thee;”

he

“offers two necklaces to his Father,”

the god

“AMEN RA, Lord of the seats of both worlds, residing in Thebes, the giver of life, stability, power all, like unto RA for ever.”

Behind the queen is the legend :

* She has given the crown of Napita,¹”

The god says :

“I give thee all the countries, the foreign lands, the barbarians collected under thy two sandals, like unto RA for ever.”

In the second picture the same king offers two necklaces to

“AMEN of Napata, residing in [*Dû*]-*hab*, the great god in the land Kens, that he may give all life and power for ever.”

The god says :

“I give thee life and power all, all stability, all health, all joy ; I give thee the years of time, the rising upon the seat of HORUS, for ever.”

Behind the king stands

“the Royal Sister, Royal Wife, Queen of Egypt, SEKHEMAKH.”

In both scenes the king is styled

“King of Upper and Lower Regions, RA-KA-ANKH, Son of the Sun, NASTOSENEN.”

¹ Lacuna.



INSCRIPTION OF KING NASTOSENEN.

OBVERSE.

- 1 IN the 8th year, the 9th of the 1st month of Per, under the HORUS, the Powerful bull, the beloved of the cycle of the gods, risen in Napita, Lord of diadems, Son of the Sun, NASTOSENEN; the HORUS, the bull who tramples his foes under his (feet)
- 2 the great lion¹ the thoughtful, the maintainer of the whole earth, the Son of AMEN, (victorious by) his great sword, (the conqueror) who widens his boundaries over all lands,² the (true) issue of gods, the leveller of whatever is high, the worshipped by the (whole) earth,
- 3 Lord of the gods, instructing all beings³ like THOT; coming to build the temples of the whole earth like PET,⁴ the giver of life for all creatures, even like unto AMEN, Son of ISI; crushing whoever affronts the gods,
- 4 the Child, Protector of the world, Son of the Sun, NASTOSENEN, Son of AMEN, praised even in heaven: I bid ye know the King of Upper and Lower countries RA-KA-ANKH, Son of the Sun, Lord of both lands, NASTOSENEN, everliving, that he saith (saying: When) I (was) the Gracious Child⁵ in Be(roua),⁶ he
- 5 summoned me AMEN of Napita, my gracious Father,

¹ An indistinct word.² Two words wanting.³ An unknown sign of uncertain value: the translation of the word is given conjecturally.⁴ Heaven.⁵ A common title for Hereditary Chief, Crown-prince.⁶ The Meroë of classical geography, near Shendy.

- saying : " Come ! I bid them summon the twice gracious King who is in Be(roua)." Then I spake unto them, saying : " Come, (let us go)
- 6 and seek for him amidst us, to show our (zeal)." They spoke unto me, saying : " No, we will not go (seeking for him) amidst us.¹ (For) thou art his Gracious Child whom he loves AMEN of Napita,
- 7 thy gracious Father." I left in the morning (I) reached unto Astamooras.² I put on my kingly garment,³ and they rendered homage to me those who live in Napita ; they said : " He
- 8 is the Judge, Sovereign of all lands." I went away in the morning, I reached Tahch,⁴ which is the great lion, the vineyard planted by King PIANKHI-ALER ; (and) whereas my hand was (stretched out)
- 9 upon the spot to relieve (from its distress) the temple of AMEN,⁵ they went (to the place) which (I was in), the men and the priestess of AMEN of Napita, with the female denizens of the town and all the great men and beings who were there ;
- 10 they spake unto me, saying : " He layeth down before thee the sovereignty of the land (of Kens),⁶ AMEN of Napita thy gracious Father." Said the mouths all : " He shall land at Dongool."⁷
- 11 I spake unto them, saying : " Go down the river, and

¹ Lit., " amidst me."

² It is a town near the Astaboras of Grecian writers; perhaps the Primis Major of Ptolemy.

³ *Dût-a-se'am sâ p-a âbâb*. I do not know what sort of garment the *âbâb* is.

⁴ A town, of site unknown, between Napita (Gebel-Barkal) and Dengoor (Dongolah), if not a part of Napita itself.

⁵ The sense is dubious, owing to a lacuna at the end of line 8.

⁶ *n Kens* wanting in the original.

⁷ Dengoor or Dengool, Old Dongolah.

- be zealous in your praises of AMEN of Napita, my gracious Father. Go ye, and going, humble yourselves to do (honour) to A-
- 12 MEN of Napita." I proceeded (by water) to the landing place, before the house of RA. I mounted a great horse, I reached the great temple. They
- 13 lay down before me the great men and Priestess of AMEN: then they shouted for me with all their mouths. I went up, I opened the great door: they did (honour), I did (honour), while
- 14 they were zealous in their praises of me, the Magistrates and great Chiefs who live in the Ap, in the Golden House.¹ I said unto him: "O AMEN of Napita, my gracious Father, the being²
- 15 to me, AMEN of Napita, my mouth.³ May AMEN of Napita, my gracious father, give me the kingdom of the land of Kens, the royal crown of King HOR-SI-ATEF,
- 16 the might of King PIANKHI-ALER." The 3rd month of Sha, on a great day, I caused AMEN of Napita, my gracious Father, to rise:⁴ going out of the great temple, he gave me the kingdom of the land of Kens, Aloa,⁵
- 17 the Barbarians, both shores of the land on both banks of the Nile, the four quarters of earth, saying: "O my gracious creation, like unto RA!" I said unto him, "O AMEN of Napita, the being! Thou hast
- 18 done it for me that all lands, all men, be obedient unto me. Thou summonedst me up in Beroua, and I came to do (honour) unto thee. Grant that the sovereignty of the land Kens be laid down before me." They

¹ That is, in the consecrated ground of the town, in or near the temples.

² Lacuna.

³ One third of a line wanting.

⁴ That is, originated a procession of the deity in his boat.

⁵ The kingdom of 'Aloah, and the town of Sobah.

- 19 did not make him a King that day. The 24th (they) gave me the sovereignty. There were men fighting with men, offering all kinds of offerings on the way, capering for joy in front of
- 20 RA. I reached the spot (of the sacrifice), smote the two bulls, went up (the steps of, and) sat on, the golden throne in the golden Ap, under the shadow of the great royal flabella, that day. Said all men, saying:
- 21 "He will make all beings happy! AMEN of Napita, he gives him the sovereignty, life, health, strength, of the land Kens, (him) the Son of Sun, NASTOSENEN; (he grants him) to go up and sit upon the golden throne under the shadow of the great royal flabella,
- 22 this day, and he will make a King sit in his place in Beroua." The 1st month of Sha, the 12th, I went down the river to do (honour) unto AMEN of Pakem,¹ my Father
- 23 gracious. I caused AMEN of Pakem to rise: coming to me out of the great temple, (he) said, "O my gracious creature even like unto RA." He gave me the kingdom
- 24 of Kens; he gave me both shores of land on both banks of the Nile, Aloa, the Barbarians and his own crushing bow. After he had spoken unto me, speaking unto me, AMEN of Napita, my gracious father, I went up and sat up-
- 25 on the golden throne. I went to do (honour) unto AMEN of Pnoobs:² going out of the great temple, he gave me the sovereignty of the land of Kens
- 26 and his crushing (mace), saying: "O my gracious creature, even like unto RA!" Going up, I sat upon the golden throne. I went up to do (honour) unto AMEN of Napita,

¹ A town on the Nile, site unknown, between Dongolah and Pnoobs.

² Πνοῖβ of Ptolemy, near Wady-Halfâ.

REVERSE.

- 1 my gracious Father. The 2nd month of Per, the 19th,
(rose)
- 2 AMEN of Napita ; going out of the temple twice-great.
(He) said : " O my gracious
- 3 PHRA!" (So) he spake unto me, calling me "gracious
creation," and then AMEN of Pakem, AMEN of Pnoobs,
the gods
- 4 all jumped for joy. Reaching the place of the sacrifice,
(I) smote the two bulls, I went down unto the pyramid,
and lay wrapped there four nights, and made
- 5 all kind of offerings, four days. (Then) going up, he
reached the place of the sacrifice, smote the two bulls,
(and) entering the temple, sat upon the chair of state in
- 6 the House of the Golden Wine. The 24th, I went
up to do (honour) unto BAST of Tel,¹ my gracious
Mother : she gave me life, a long and happy old age, her
breast
- 7 she gave it to me (to suck) in (token) of victory and
happy life ; she gave me her crushing club. I went in
Napita, the 29th, I caused
- 8 AMEN of Napita to rise : he gave me the whole of
heaven, the whole of earth, the Nile all, the men all.
Going up (I) sat on the golden throne ; I caused the
four *qema-s*² to be done unto thee,
- 9 AMEN of Napita, in Napita, and there were thirty-six
men in it. I gave thee three great vessels of brass
(full of) incense, four jugs (full of) honey, three ditto of
essence,
- 10 one image of AMEN of Paqem-Aten in gold, two of

¹ A town on the Nile, near Napita ; also called Ter.

² *Ti-t-a ari-nak pâ qemà rotou*. I cannot imagine what those *qema-s* were in which there were thirty-six men, nine for each *qema*.

HORUS in gold, (the three weighing) three *ten*,¹ three incense vases of electrum, three vials of electrum, seven cups of electrum, making in all thirteen (pieces, and weighing) one hundred thirty and four *ten*;² two great jugs of bronze,

- 11 thirteen basins of bronze to preserve milk, two bronze mugs for (drinking) beer, six bronze vessels, (six) bronze jugs, six scent-bottles in bronze. I offered thee, AMEN-EM-AP,³ in the 1st month of Sha, in a great day, two bullocks
- 12 and two fine bulls, in all four; two milch cows and two heifers, being four in all; one calf fed with herbs and another sucking, being two in all
.⁴ sixteen bronze *khivolteb*, two bronze *tekh tet*, ten bronze *rob*,
- 13 two bronze *bâts*, two bronze *ap*.⁵ Going up like a fleet bull, my bow(men) went to Aloa. They made a great slaughter amongst its (men) all, and took the ship⁶ of the Chief; they smote what there was in all the land,
- 14 all the beasts of burthen and horned cattle which had been spared,⁷ (even) those the towns of Kartep the great and Telooreq⁸ gave (unto me). The town of N ka⁹ sent men: there was slaughter (done) amongst them, and there was sparing of life

¹ After Chabas' valuation, 274'14 grammes.

² 12244'92 gr.

³ Or, Amen of Thebes.

⁴ Six or seven words wanting.

⁵ For the names of these and other metals, see Lepsius, *Die Metalle*, pp. 100, 101.

⁶ A mutilated word.

⁷ The text appears to be corrupt here. I had it corrected after the passages in lines 25, 26, 29, 33.

⁸ Perhaps Kartep and Sâtelooreq. The site of these towns is unknown to me.

⁹ The name of the town has been partially erased.

- 15 done amongst them, and I cut down all the timber.
 The town of Tormenmoo gave me twelve . . . ¹ bulls
 for AMEN of Napita and they were brought to Napita.
 The 4th month
- 16 of Sha, the 26th, on the birth-day of the Son of the
 Sun, NASTOSENEN, the town of Saqsaqdimoo gave six
 out of its bulls for AMEN of Napita, my gracious Father,
 and they were led to Napi-
- 17 ta. The 4th month of Sha, the great day, (being the
 return of) the day on which the crown had been
 given unto the Son of the Sun, NASTOSENEN, people
 offered unto thee, AMEN of Napita, twelve victims with
 flour and garlands of flowers the people of Kalo-
- 18 tep the great and Terooleq; people offered unto thee,
 AMEN of Napita, my gracious Father, a big lamp from
 the town of Taqtat; people brought thee . . . ¹ bulls
 400, horned cattle 300, men 200, (for), O AMEN of Napi-
- 19 ta, thy two thighs are prospering, and thy virtue is
 beneficent; people gave thee, AMEN of Napita, the lands
 Reteq and Aps in offering of the people of Kasooa,²
 together with poultry and
- 20 female slaves for thee,³ 110 in all. And again, I sent
 my bow(men) against the foes in the town of Makhend-
 nen; they smote it and made a great slaughter amongst
 that which was with the
- 21 Chief of Aikhentka; taking all the women prisoners,
 all the beasts of burthen, a deal of gold, bulls 209,659,
 horned cattle 505,349, women

¹ An illegible word.

² Kasooa appears to be the *Kasov* of Axumitan inscriptions, erroneously printed *Kasov* in Salt's *Travels* and Bœckh's *Corpus*, (T. III., p. 515), the Khasas of Maçoudi (Quatremère, *Mémoires sur l'Égypte*, T. II., p. 155) between Souâkin and the Tacazzé; to-day, Gash or Khas.

³ Lit., "with thy poultry and thy women."

- 22 2236, *aqit*¹ belonging to the town of Katoldi, 3229. I obliged (the Chief) PEKAK to give it all unto me. After I had smitten all lands, I caused a lamp to be made unto thee, AMEN of Napita, with Katoldi-
- 23 di twelve of its *aqit*; I made thee two big bronze censers, which I caused to be set up in the Theban temple, AMEN of Napita, my gracious Father; I offered thee six victims from amongst (the spoils of) Katoldi;
- 24 I opened the house of the Golden bull (to put in) the *aqit* belonging to AMEN of Napita, my gracious Father. And once more again I sent my bow(men) against the hostile lands of Robal and Aka-
- 25 Ikar. I made a great slaughter amongst that which was with the Chief of the land of Lobarden; all the gold he had, which was considerable (and even) more than could be counted, bulls 203,246, horned cattle 603,108, all the women whom
- 26 they spared from the rest, the Chief gave it to me, (for), O AMEN of Napita, my gracious Father, thy *khopesh*² is crushing and thy counsel is beneficent. And once more again, I sent the multitude
- 27 (of my soldiers) against the hostile lands of Arrosa. I made a great slaughter, I made, amongst those who were with the Chief of the town of Mesha in the land Abeskhent, taking all women prisoners, all the beasts of burthen, *ten* of gold 1,212,³ bulls 22,110,
- 28 all the women, horned cattle 45,200; the Chief gave it (all) to me, which was all he possessed, (for), O AMEN of Napita, my gracious Father, thy name is right gracious and thy virtue is beneficent. And once more again, I
- 29 sent my bow(men) against the hostile land of Makhis-

¹ I do not know what these *aqit* are.

² A kind of curved sword.

³ 10975256 grains.

- herkhert. I made a great slaughter, and the Chief gave me from what was his whatever had been spared, all (the men), all the women. He gave it unto me, and I
- 30 took bulls 203,146, horned cattle 33,400, (for), O AMEN of Napita, my gracious Father, thy *khopesh* is crushing, and whatever thou dost for me is greatly magnificent. Once more a-
- 31 gain, I sent the multitude of my soldiers against the hostile land of Mikhentka. The foe made a stand against me in the town of Nehàsarsar. I struck a blow against it, I made a great slaughter :
- 32 I made (the same) against those who were with the Chief of Tamakhi. I took all their wives, all their horses, gold (to the value of) *ten* 2,000,¹ bulls 35,330, horned cattle 55,5
- 33 26, whatever was spared amongst them ; for, AMEN of Napita, my gracious Father, giveth me all the lands ; his *khopesh* is crushing, his virtue is beneficent,
- 34 his names are greatly beneficent, and he caused me to act, AMEN of Napita, my gracious Father. And once more again, they upset the things of AMEN residing in Paqem-A-
- 35 ten. I sent the multitude of my soldiers² the prowess of King, life, health, strength, ASPALUT² (I sent my bowmen) against the hostile land of Madi,³ and it gave to them
- 36 (all) its things. My great prowess which my gracious father AMEN of Napita had given unto me, my gracious father AMEN of Paqem-aten gave it unto me ;
- 37 he said unto me, my gracious Father AMEN of Paqem-Aten, saying, "I give thee my bow and the strength which

¹ 182740 grains.² Lacunæ.³ The so-called Maddi of the Horsiatef inscription.

- is in it, and my valiance. I give thee all hostile lands in captivity,
- 38 under thy two sandals." And once more again, the foes of Madi robbed the things of the estates of BAST residing in Ter, (which had been conquered) by the prowess of King
- 39 ASPALUT. My prowess came: she granted it to me, BAST residing in Ter, my gracious Mother; she gave me her¹ greatly gracious, a happy old age, the light
- 40 of her excellent virtues, for, Thy Majesty it is, thy great splendour it is that made me, O AMEN of Napita, my gracious Father, that
- 41 made my prowess excellent, and my *khopesh*² crushing, truly, O AMEN of Napita, my gracious Father, the being that
- 42¹

¹ Lacunæ.² Lit., "his *khopesh*."

END OF SAMPLE TEXT



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