

CONTRACT OF MARRIAGE,  
 IN THE REIGN OF PTOLEMY PHILADELPHUS.  
 (XXXIST DYNASTY.)

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TRANSLATED BY  
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THE demotic contract of which I here publish a translation bears the number 2433 of the Egyptian collection in the Louvre. It is not unique of its kind; for there are like ones in the British Museum, the Museum of Turin, and amongst the demotic contracts of Berlin and Leyden. M. Brugsch also has given at the end of his *Grammaire demotique* the facsimile of a marriage contract of the same sort, which he thought was a deed of sale. It may, therefore, be said that the decipherment of this kind of documents is a new fact in science. It must be remarked that the text chosen is part of a collection of documents relating to a single family, the great portion of the deeds being in the Louvre and some in the British Museum. Thus it is known that by virtue of the present marriage settlement, and of the

mortgage there expressly specified, that Taoutem three years afterward, in the year 36 of Philadelphus, acknowledged by letter a debt of 15 shekels repayable in the 33rd year, that is to say 36 months, and that these 15 shekels had then produced 28 (Papyrus No. 2443 of the Louvre). At this date, if he had not paid, the property of the husband would have belonged to the wife. Philadelphus died before having reached the 33rd year of his reign; but the Papyrus No. 2438, dated in the 2nd year of Euergetes, contains in effect the final surrender of his property, which Pchelchons made to his wife Taoutem. This property came to Pchelchons originally by inheritance from his father, who had apparently assigned to his own wife in the Papyrus No. 2428 of the Louvre. He, according to Papyrus 2424 of the same collection and Hay No. 2 of the British Museum, had divided them between Patem and Pana their sons. Patem, in Papyrus No. 2424, makes a reference to the marriage settlement here published, when he speaks of the gift which his mother had made him of the property which belonged to Pchelchons his father.

The Papyrus itself has been published in the *Transactions of the Society of Biblical Archæology*, Vol. VI., p. 1, with a translation in French by the Author.

## CONTRACT OF MARRIAGE.

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THE year 33 χοίαχ of the King PTOLEMY, the god, being AETUS, son of APOLLONIUS, Priest of ALEXANDER and of the gods brothers, being DEMETRIA, daughter of DIONYSIOS, Canephoros before ARSINOE PHILADELPHA, the Pastophore of AMMON API of the Western region of Thebes. PATMA son of PCHELCHONS, whose mother is TAHET, says to the woman TA-OUTEM, daughter of RELOU, whose mother is TANETEM: I have accepted thee for wife, I have given thee one argenteus,<sup>1</sup> in shekels 5, one argenteus in all for thy woman's gift. I must give thee 6 oboli, their half is 3, to-day 6, by the month 3, by the double month 6, 36 for a year: equal to one argenteus and one fifth, in shekels 6, one argenteus and one fifth in all for thy toilet during a year. Lastly, a tenth of an argenteus, in shekels one half, one argenteus one tenth for thy pin<sup>2</sup> money by the month, which makes one argenteus and one fifth, in shekels 6, one argenteus and one fifth for thy pin<sup>2</sup> money for the year. Thy pin<sup>2</sup> money for one year is apart from thy toilet money I must give it to thee each year, and it is thy right to exact the payment of thy toilet money, and thy pin<sup>2</sup> money, which are to be placed to my account. I must give it to thee. Thy eldest son, my eldest son, shall be the heir of all my property, present and future. I will establish thee as wife.

<sup>1</sup> There is scarcely necessity to observe that the context sufficiently proves that an argenteus was worth 5 shekels, and that a shekel was worth 6 oboli. However, for the subject of the money mentioned in demotic texts, to which no one as yet has paid attention, it is necessary to consult my *Chrestomathie demotique*, about to be published by Viewig, 97, Rue de Richelieu, Paris.

<sup>2</sup> Or, "pocket money."

In case I should despise thee, in case I should take another wife than thee, I will give thee 20 argenteus, in shekels 100, 20 argenteus in all. The entire of the property which is mine, and which I shall possess, is security<sup>1</sup> of all the above words, until I have accomplished them according to their tenor. I have no more to allege, any other matter, any other word . . . .<sup>2</sup> with thee. The writings which the woman TAHET, daughter of TEOS, my mother, has made to me concerning one half of the entire of the property which belonged to PCHELCHONS, son of PANA my father,<sup>3</sup> and the rest of the contracts coming from her, and which are in my hand, belong to thee, as well as the rights resulting from it. For thee all that, as well as that which I shall justify in their name. Son, daughter,<sup>4</sup> coming from me, who shall annoy thee on this subject will give thee 20 argenteus, in shekels 100, 20 argenteus in all. He will deliver them up to thee entirely without any opposition, the writer of this act is . . . .<sup>2</sup> the Priest of AMMON HORPNETER, son of SMIN.

<sup>1</sup> **ALIONI.** This specification of the mortgage is very remarkable.

<sup>2</sup> Lacunæ.

<sup>3</sup> See the preface for this point.

<sup>4</sup> Patma had in reality a daughter by another marriage, who in Papyrus No. 2438, expressly agrees to the settlement of all the patrimony made by Patma to his new wife.



# END OF SAMPLE TEXT



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