

DREAM OF THOTHMES IV.

 TRANSLATED BY
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THIS inscription is found upon a tablet, the lower part of which is much injured, about 14 feet high, placed before the breast of the Great Sphinx at Gizeh. This inscription was first copied by Salt, in 1820, when it was in better condition than the subsequent copies show. His MS. copy is in the British Museum, with other drawings and papers, entitled *Memoirs on the Pyramids and the Great Sphinx*, fo., 1820. Salt's copy was first published by Young, *Hieroglyphics*, fol. Lond., 1828, pl. 80, and a subsequent republication of Salt's copy was given in Vyse, *Appendix to Operations carried on at the Pyramids of Gizeh*, 8vo, Lond. 1842, Vol. III., pl. 6. It was subsequently published by Lepsius, *Denkmäler*, Abth. III., Bl. 38,

and a portion of it by Brugsch-Bey, *Zeitschrift für Aegyptische Sprache*, 1876, se. 89, who first gave a translation of the most important portion of the text relating to the dream. A translation of part of the contents had been given by me in the above cited work of Vyse, p. 114, and following. The present translation is the first given of the whole, and a collation of the different texts has been made for the purpose. It is indeed to be regretted that the monument has been so much injured, as otherwise the wanting portion would have contributed still more to the history of the Sphinx. It would appear, from the inscription, that the Sphinx was a representation of the king Cephren, the successor of Cheops; that the dream of Thothmes IV. happened when the king was still a youth and had not yet mounted the throne, and that in remembrance of the dream, as soon as Thothmes had ascended the throne, he proceeded to fulfil the injunction laid upon him in his dream by the god.

DREAM OF THOTHMES IV.

At the top of the tablet is the Hut, and right and left the Sphinx, on an edifice like the façade of a tomb of the 4th dynasty, adored by Thothmes IV. The inscriptions read :

The King of Upper and Lower Egypt, the Lord of the two countries, MEN KHEPERU RA, TAHUTIMES (THOTHMES), Crown of crowns, Giver of Life, gives incense and water.

Above the Sphinx is

HAREMA χ HU (HARMACHIS) says I give great power to the Lord of the two countries, TAHUTIMES, Crown of crowns.

On the left side Thothmes IV. offers a jar to the Sphinx.

The King of Upper and Lower Egypt,¹ Lord of the two countries, MENKHEPERU-RA, Giver of Life, established and powerful like the Sun.

Over the Sphinx :

HAREMA χ U (HARMACHIS). The speech. I give a strong life to the Lord of the two countries, TAHUTIMES, Crown of crowns.

Between the two scenes is

The speech. I have given to be crowned MEN KHEPERU RA,² on the throne of SEB, TAHUTIMES,³ Crown of crowns in the dignity of TUM.

¹ As of the Upper and Lower orbit of the sun.

² Thothmes IV.

³ Harmachis.

The text then follows—

- 1 The year 1, the 19th of the month Athor, of the sanctity of the HORUS, the Powerful Bull, image of rulers, Lord of diadems, establisher of kingdoms like TUM, Golden hawk, rich in years, destroyer of the Ninebows, King of Upper and Lower Egypt, MEN KHEPERU RA (Son of the Sun of his race, TAHUTIMES, Crown of crowns), beloved of giver of life, stability, and health, like the Sun immortal.
- 2 The living good god, Son of TUM, support of HAREMAΧU, the living Sphinx of the entire Lord, crowns the chief son,¹ made of his substance, formed of KHEPERA, created by KHEPERA in the likeness of his strength,² the image proceeding to the earth in his form as HAREMAΧU, father of the King of Upper and Lower Egypt,³ most beautiful,⁴ agreeable to the circle of the gods, purifying ANNU,⁵
- 3 protecting its peace, protecting the abode of PTAH-[KA],⁶ giving what is due to TUM, carrying it to him who is the South wall,⁷ making memorials in the daily course⁸ to HORUS, making all things, seeking out the glories of the gods of the North and South, building their abodes . . . in making all their substance,⁹ the son of the Sun of his race, TAHUTIMES,¹⁰ Crown of crowns, like the Sun.

¹ The word here is apparently *sa*, "son," perhaps of the sun.

² *her me hekut f*, uncertain phrase.

³ *su χeb*, or of the Upper and Lower world.

⁴ Perhaps Nebui.

⁵ Heliopolis.

⁶ Memphis.

⁷ Ptah, one of his titles.

⁸ Ameni.

⁹ Paut.

¹⁰ Thothmes IV.

- 4 The substance of HORUS, on his throne, MENKHEPERU-RA, Giver of Life. Then His Majesty was like a young Anepu¹ like a young HORUS, in the Lower country;² his beauties, like the sustainer of his father, seen like a god himself, rejoicing on account of it, the soldiers, the princes, and all the leaders; he was in his strength by his exaltations.
- 5 He doubled the circle of his riches like the Son of Nut. Then he made a hunt for his enjoyment *in* the Hill of the Southern wall,³ in its direction North and South, to shoot at a mark with bronze bolts, to hunt the lions of the gazelle land,⁴ journeying in his chariot, his horses fleet
- 6 than the wind, with two of his followers; they did not perceive any one. Then it was an hour of giving rest⁵ to his servants, at the time HAREMAḲU selects to be with SEKAR in Rusta, Ranen is in Tsammut⁶ above with (*to*) *Isis, Lady of the Wall of the North, Lady of the Wall of the South,*
- 7 SEKHET, resident in Khas,⁷ SET-APEP, the Great Enchantress, in the holy place from the first beginning to the place of the Lords of Kharkar,⁸ the holy road of the gods to the western horizon of Annu.⁹ Then the form of the Sphinx of KHEPERA reposed in this place, the greatest of spirits, worthy in honour, rested upon it, were

¹ Anubis, or youth.

² *χeb.*

³ The Acropolis of Memphis.

⁴ Desert.

⁵ Desert.

⁶ A doubtful phrase. Brugsch reads "grains of corn, with flowers." It is known as *Gemi, Pakemis, or Pasemis.*

⁷ Xoïs.

⁸ Babylon.

⁹ Heliopolis.

- given to it the houses of Ptah-ka¹ and every town which was in its district. Their hands adored its face,
 8 having great offerings for his being.² One of these days it happened a journey was made by the Prince TAHUTIMES³ journeying at the time of noon. A rest it was he made in the shade of this god; it (sleep) fell on him, dreaming in slumber at the moment of the Sun being in the zenith,⁴
 9 he found the sanctity of this noble god speaking with his own mouth, as a father speaks to his son, saying: Look at me! behold me, my son, TAHUTIMES,⁵ I am thy father, HAREMAKHU,⁶ KHEPRA, RA, TUM, will be given to thee my kingdom.
 10 upon my seat dwelling amidst the living. Thou will bear the Upper and Lower crown on the throne of SEB, the heir.⁷ Every land in its length and breadth with (which) the beaming eye of the Lord entire lightens will be thine. Supplies will be thine of the product of the two countries, and the great tribute of every land, the duration of a long time of years. My face is to thee, my heart is to thee.
 11 Consider as if you were encircled by all my special flesh, the sand of the country encroaches on me, on that which is my existence. Answer⁸ me that you will do me what is in my heart. I shall know to say thou art my son, my true helper; come nearer, let me be with you, I am

¹ Memphis.

² *Qa*, "Genius."

³ Thothmes IV. before his accession to the crown.

⁴ The Horus.

⁵ Thothmes IV. before his accession to the crown.

⁶ Harmachis.

⁷ *Repa*, "youth," Brugsch.

⁸ *An-na*, uncertain.

- 12 conducting thee. (When) he had finished this speech, the prince awoke; he listened to these, he recognized the words of that god; he made silence in his own heart. He said, let us go to the temples of the country let us They dedicate offerings to that god,
- 13 give ye tribute to him of cattle bread, beer and incense; we raise our hands to the protector noble
- 14 The KHAFRA, the image made to TUM, HARMACHIS,
- 15 gifts in the festivals (of Egypt),
- 16 in all places numerous were
- 17 of His Majesty, who was at
- 18 of KHEPRA¹ in the western horizon of Annu²
- 19 was done.³

¹ The god, form of Ra.

² Heliopolis.

³ This latter portion is in Salt.





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