

Bentresh stela

Nederhof - English

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Transliteration and translation for the "Bentresh Stela", following the transcription of Kitchen (1979), § 70 (pp. 284-287).

For an older transcription, excluding the lunette, see De Buck (1948), pp. 106-109.

The transliteration throughout follows Hannig (1995). Transcription of proper names not listed in Hannig (1995) follows Lichtheim (1980).

For published translations, see Breasted (1906), pp. 188-195, §§ 429-447; Broze (1989); Kitchen (1996), pp. 113-116, § 70; Lichtheim (1980), pp. 90-94.

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Jmn-R^c nb Nswt-t³wj

psdt nbwt W³st mrj

Amun-Re, lord of the Thrones of the Two Lands and of the Ennead, mistresses of Thebes.

ntr-nfr Jmn s³ mstjw {t} n R^c-Hr-³htj prt ³ht n nb dr {t}

Good god, son of Amun, offspring of Re-Harakhti, glorious seed of the Almighty,

wtt.n K³-mwt=f nsw n kmt ḥq³ dšrt

begotten by Kamutef, king of the Black Land, ruler of the Red Land,

jty ³ | jt pdt-9

sovereign | who seized the Nine Bows,

pr m ḥt sr n=f nḥtw

whom victory was foretold as he came from the womb,

wḏ n=f pr-^c m swḥt

k³ mn-jb hb=f mtwn

whom valor was given while he was in the egg, bull stout-hearted as he enters the arena,

nsw ntr pr hrw nḥtw mj Mntw

divine king going forth on the day of victory like Month

wr pḥtj {t} ⁴ | mj s³ Nwt

one great of strength | like the son of Nut!

js ḥm=f m Nhrn mj nt-^c=f tnw rnpt

When His Majesty was in Naharina according to his annual custom,

wrw n ḥ³st nb jw m ksw m ḥtpw

the princes of every foreign land came bowing in peace

n b³w n ḥm=f š^{3c} pḥww

to the might of His Majesty, from as far as the marshlands.

jnw=sn nbw ḥḏ ḥsbḏ

Their gifts of gold, silver, lapis lazuli,

⁵ | mfk³t ḥ³w nb nw t-ntr ḥr psd=sn

⁵ | turquoise and every kind of herb from the God's Land were on their backs,

w^c nb hr hrp snw=f ḥ^c rdj p³ wr n Bḥtn jn.tw jnw=f
and each one was outdoing his fellow. Then the prince of Bakhtan had his gifts sent

dj.n=f s³t=f wr ḥt jr=w hr sw³šj ḥm=f
and placed his eldest daughter before them, praising His Majesty,

hr dbḥ ḥnh hr=f
and imploring life from him.

6
wn | st nfr(.tj) r ḥ³ wr hr jb n ḥm=f r jht nb
The woman pleased the heart of His Majesty very much, more than anything,

ḥ^c.n wdn nhbt=s n ḥmt-nsw wrt Nfrw-R^c
and her titulary was established as Great Royal Wife Nefrure.

spr.n ḥm=f r Kmt jr.n=s jr^rtj nb ḥmt-nsw
When His Majesty arrived back in Egypt, she did everything that a queen should do.

ḥpr ḥsbt 15 2 šmw sw 22
It happened in year 15¹, second month of the Season of Harvest, day 22,

¹ Lichtheim (1980) and Kitchen (1999), p. 168, argue this should be emended to 23; contra Broze (1989), note 36.

jsk ḥm=f m W³st-nḥt ḥnwt njwwt
while His Majesty was in Thebes-the-victorious, mistress of cities,

hr jrj | ḥsw n jt=f Jmn-R^c
performing | the rites for his father Amun-Re,

nb nst t³wj m ḥb=f nfr n Jpt rst
lord of the throne of the Two Lands, at his beautiful feast of Luxor,

st jb=f nt sp tp jj.tw r dd n ḥm=f
his favourite place since the beginning, that one came to say to His Majesty:

wn jpwt n p³ wr n Bḥtn
'There is a messenger of the prince of Bakhtan

jw hr jnw ḥ³{t} n ḥmt-nsw
who has come with many gifts for the queen.'

ḥ^c.n ms=f ⁸ | m-b³ḥ ḥm=f ḥn^c jnw=f ḏd=f m sw³šj ḥm=f

Then he was brought ⁸ | before His Majesty with his gifts and he said, saluting His Majesty:

j³w¹ n=k R^c n p^ḏt-9 jm (n)=n ḥn^c ḥr=k

'Hail to you, Re of the Nine Bows! Give us life from you!'

¹ Written as jww.

ḥ^c.n ḏd=f sn-t³ m-b³ḥ ḥm=f wḥm=f ḏd ḥr ḥm=f

Then he payed tribute to His Majesty, and he went on to say to His Majesty:

jj=j n=k j⁹ly nb ḥr Bntrš

'I have come to you, sovereign, lord, on account of Bentresh,

snwt kt n ḥmt-nsw Nfr-R^c mn ³bḥ(.w) m ḥ^cw=s

the younger sister of queen Nefrure. An illness has seized her body.

jm {t} w^ḏ ḥm=k rh-jḥt r m³=s ḥ^c ḏd.n ḥm=f

May Your Majesty send a learned man to see her.' And His Majesty said:

jn n=j tt nt pr-ḥn^c qnbt ¹⁰ | nt ḥnw

'Bring me personnel of the academy and the council ¹⁰ | of the residence.'

s^ḏ n=f ḥr-^c ḏd.n ḥm=f

And they were ushered in to him immediately. Then His Majesty said:

m^ṯn rdj.tw ḥ^c{t}.tw n ṯn r s^ḏm=ṯn mdt ṯn jsk jn n=j ḥmwt m jb=f

'Look, you have been summoned to hear this matter. Now, bring me a learned man

sš (jqr) m ḏb^cw=f m-q³b=ṯn

and excellent scribe from among you.'

jj pw (jr).n sš nsw ¹¹ | ḏḥwtj-m-ḥb m-b³ḥ ḥm=f

Then the royal scribe Thothemheb came before His Majesty,

w^ḏ.n ḥm=f šmj=f r Bḥtn ḥn^c jpwt pn

and His Majesty ordered him to go to Bakhtan with this messenger.

spr pw jr.n rh-jḥt r Bḥtn gm.n=f Bntrš m shr ḥr ³ḥ {tj}

The learned man then arrived in Bakhtan and found Bentresh possessed by a spirit;

gm.n=f | ¹²sw ḥry n ḥḥ ḥn^c=f

he found | ¹²him an enemy whom one could fight.

wn wr n Bḥtn wḥm=f ḥḥb m-bḥḥ ḥm=f m-dd

Then the prince of Bakhtan went on to report to His Majesty, saying:

jty nb=j jm wd {t} ḥm=f rdj.tw jn.tw ntr [...]

'Sovereign, my lord, may Your Majesty command that a god be brought [...].'

[...] | ¹³r ḥm=f n rnpt-sp 26 ḥbd 1 šmw

[...] | ¹³His Majesty in year 26, first month of the Season of Harvest,

sw jfd ḥb Jmn jw ḥm=f m-ḥnw Wḥst

day 4, during the feast of Amun, while His Majesty was in Thebes.

ḥ^c.n wḥm.n ḥm=f m-bḥḥ Ḥnsw-m-Wḥst Nfr-ḥtp m-dd

His Majesty then reported to Khons-in-Thebes-Neferhotep, saying:

pḥ nb nfr jr=j wḥm m-bḥḥ=k ḥr sḥt n pḥ wr n Bḥ^ltn ¹⁴

'Good lord, I report to you concerning the daughter of the prince of Bakhtan.'

ḥ^c.n sḥ.n Ḥnsw-m-Wḥst Nfr-ḥtp r Ḥnsw-pḥ-jr-sḥr

Then Khons-in-Thebes-Neferhotep proceeded to Khons-the-Provider,

ntr ḥ³ sḥr šmḥy

the great god who expels disease demons.

ḥ^c.n dd.n ḥm=f m-bḥḥ Ḥnsw-m-Wḥst Nfr-ḥtp

Then His Majesty said to Khons-in-Thebes-Neferhotep:

pḥ nb nfr jn¹ jr dj=k ḥr=k r Ḥnsw-¹⁵pḥ-jr-sḥr

'Good lord, will you turn your face to Khons-¹⁵the-Provider,

¹ Following Kitchen (1999), p. 168, § 265.

ntr ḥ³ sḥr šmḥy

rdjt šm=f r Bḥtn

the great god who expels disease demons, making him go to Bakhtan?'

hn wr sp 2 ḥ^c.n dd.n ḥm=f jm sḥ=k ḥn^c=f

A very strongly approving nod. Then His Majesty said: 'Give your magical protection to him,

ḏj=j šm ḥm=f r Bḥtn r nḥm sʔt n wr n Bḥtn

and I will let His Majesty go to Bakhtan to save the daughter of the prince of Bakhtan.'

16

| hn tp wr sp 2

n Ḥnsw-m-Wʔst Nfr-ḥtp

16

| A very strongly approving nod of the head from Khons-in-Thebes-Neferhotep.

ḥ^c jr.n=f sʔ n Ḥnsw-pʔ-jr-shr-m-Wʔst

sp 4

Then he created magical protection for Khons-the-Provider-in-Thebes four times.

wḏ.n ḥm=f rdj.tw wḏḅ Ḥnsw-pʔ-jr-shr-m-Wʔst

His Majesty ordered that Khons-the-Provider-in-Thebes be made to proceed

r wjʔ ʕ qʔqʔ {t} 5 wrrt

17

| smsmw ʕʔt jmntt jʔbtt

17

to the great barque, (with) five boats, a chariot | and many horses on the right and left.

spr nṯr pn r Bḥtn n km rnpt 1 ʔbd 5

This god arrived in Bakhtan at the end of one year and five months,

ḥ^c.n j.jn wr n Bḥtn ḥn^c mš^c=f srw=f¹

r-ḥʔt n Ḥnsw-pʔ-jr-shr

and the prince of Bakhtan came with his army and his officials before Khons-the-Provider.

¹ Uncertain.

rdj.n=f sw

18

| ḥr ḥt=f m-dd jw=k n=n ḥtp=k n=n

18

He placed himself | on his belly, saying: 'You have come to us to be merciful to us,

m wḏt.n nsw-bjtj Wrs-mʔt-R^c stp.n-R^c

as the king of Upper and Lower Egypt Usermare-sotpenre has commanded!

ḥ^c.n šm.n nṯr pn r bw {t} ntj jw Bntrš jm

This god then went to the place where Bentresh was,

ḥ^c jr.n=f sʔ n sʔt n pʔ wr n Bḥtn

and created magical protection for the daughter of the prince of Bakhtan,

nfr

19

| sj ḥr-^c

19

and she became well | instantly.

ḥ^c.n ḏḏ.n ʔḥ {t} pn ntj ḥn^c=s m-bʔḥ Ḥnsw-pʔ-jr-shr-m-Wʔst jj.tj m ḥtp

Then this spirit who was with her said to Khons-the-Provider-in-Thebes: 'Welcome in peace,

nṯr ʕ šḥr šmȳ

dmj=k pw Bḥtn ḥmw=k pw rmt=f

great god who expels disease demons. Bakhtan is your home, its people are your servants

jnk pw ḥm=k ²⁰
| jw=j r šm r bw {t} jw=j jm

and I am your servant. ²⁰ | I shall return to the place I came from,

r rdj ḥtp jb=k ḥr jw=k ḥr=s

so as to set your heart at rest about what you came for.

jm¹ wd {t} ḥm=k r jr hrw nfr

May Your Majesty command to spend a day of celebration

¹ Following Kitchen (1979), p. 286, note 8b.

ḥn^c=j ḥn^c pȳ wr n Bḥtn

with me and the prince of Bakhtan!

ḥ^c.n {n} hn.n nṯr pn r pȳ=f ḥm-nṯr m-dd

Then this god nodded approvingly to his prophet, saying:

²¹
| jm jr pȳ wr n Bḥtn ʕbt ʕt m-bȳḥ ȳḥ {t} pw

²¹
| 'Let the prince of Bakhtan make a great offering before this spirit.'

jr wnn nn n jr Ḥnsw-pȳ-jr-šḥr-m-Wȳst ḥn^c pȳȳḥ {t}

During this that Khons-the-Provider-in-Thebes and the spirit did,

jw pȳ wr n Bḥtn ḥ^c(.w) ḥn^c mš^c=f jw=f snd(.w) r ʕ wr

the prince of Bakhtan stood by with his army and was very frightened.

²²
{ḥ^c} | ḥ^c.n {n} jr.n=f ʕbt ʕt m-bȳḥ Ḥnsw-pȳ-jr-šḥr-m-Wȳst ḥn^c ȳḥ {t} {n}

²²
Then | he made a great offering before Khons-the-Provider-in-Thebes and the spirit,

pȳ wr n Bḥtn ḥr jr hrw nfr ḥr=w

and the prince of Bakhtan organized a day of celebration for them.

ḥ^c šm.n=f pȳȳḥ {t} m ḥtp r bw {t} mr=f

Then the spirit went in peace to where he wished,

m wd.t.n Ḥnsw-pȳ-jr-šḥr-m-Wȳst

as Khons-the-Provider-in-Thebes had commanded.

23

| wn p3 wr n Bḥtn ḥr nhm r ʕ3 wr ḥnᶜ s nb ntj m Bḥtn

23

| The prince of Bakhtan rejoiced very greatly, together with everyone in Bakhtan.

ḥᶜ.n w3w3j=f ḥnᶜ jb=f m-dd jw rdj=j ḥpr ntr pn dy n Bḥtn

Then he took counsel with his heart, saying: 'I will let this god stay here in Bakhtan.'

bn=j rdj šm=f r Kmt

I will not let him go back to Egypt.'

24

ḥᶜ.n | {n} sb.n ntr pn rnpt 3 3bd 9 n Bḥtn

24

So | this god spent three years and nine months in Bakhtan.

ḥᶜ.n p3 wr n Bḥtn sdr(.w) ḥr sm3=f

Then, as the prince of Bakhtan was asleep on his bed,

m3=f ntr pn jj.n=f r rwtj ḥd=f

he saw this god come out of his chapel.

jw=f m bjk m nbw ḥyj=f r ḥrt r Kmt

25

nḥs pw jr.n=f m ḥnh

He was a falcon of gold and flew to the sky toward Egypt. He then awoke in fear

ḥᶜ.n dd=f n p3 ḥm-ntr n Ḥnsw-p3-jr-shr-m-W3st

and said to the prophet of Khons-the-Provider-in-Thebes:

ntr pn wnn=f dj ḥnᶜ=n šm=f r Kmt

'This god is here with us, whereas he should go back to Egypt.'

jm¹ šm wrt=f r Kmt

26

| ḥᶜ.n rdj.n p3 wr n Bḥtn wd3 ntr pn r Kmt

Let his chariot go back to Egypt! | Then the prince of Bakhtan let this god proceed to Egypt,

¹ Following Kitchen (1979), p. 286, note 15a.

dj n=f jnw ʕš3t wr n jḥt nb nfr

mšᶜ smsmw ʕš3 wr

and gave him very many gifts of every good thing and very many soldiers and horses.

spr=sn m ḥtp r W3st

ḥᶜ.n šm.n Ḥnsw-{(m-)W3st-}p3-jr-shr-m-W3st²⁷

They arrived safely in Thebes and Khons-the-Provider-in-Thebes went

r pr n Ḥnsw-m-W3st Nfr-ḥtp

to the house of Khons-in-Thebes-Neferhotep,

rdj.n=f jnw r rdj n=f p3 wr n Bhtn m jht nb nfr

and placed the gifts that the prince of Bakhtan had given him of every good thing

m-b3h Hnsw-m-W3st Nfr-htp nn rdjt=f jht nb jm=f r pr=f

before Khons-in-Thebes-Neferhotep, without him giving anything thereof to his own house.

spr Hnsw-p3-jr-shr-m-W3st ²⁸ | r pr=f m htp

Khons-the-Provider-in-Thebes arrived ²⁸ | safely at his house

n rnpt-sp 23 3bd 2 prt sw 19

in year 23, second month of the Season of Growing, day 19,

n nsw-bjtj Wsr-m3ct-Rc stp.n-Rc

of the king of Upper and Lower Egypt Usermare-sotpenre.

jr n=f dj cnh mj Rc dt

May he be given life like Re, eternally!
