Bentresh stela

Nederhof - English


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.


Bibliography

Hr K3-nht twt-hc w
Dd-nsyt-mj-Jtm

Hr-nbw Wsr-hps dr-pdt-9
Gold Horus: Powerful of arms, who drives away the Nine Bows;

nsbw-bjtj nb twj
Wsr-mjc-t Rc stp.n-Rc
The king of Upper and Lower Egypt, lord of the Two Lands: Usermare-sotpenre;

s3-Rc n htf Rc-msj-sw mrj-Jmn
Son of Re, of his body: Ramesse beloved of Amun, beloved of
Jmn-Rˁ nb Nswt-twj  psḏt nbwt Wˁst mrj
Amun-Re, lord of the Thrones of the Two Lands and of the Ennead, mistresses of Thebes.

ntr-nfr Jmn sˁ smstjw{t} n Rˁ-Hr-hˁjt  prt hˁt n nb ḫr{t}
Good god, son of Amun, offspring of Re-Harakhti, glorious seed of the Almighty,

wt.t n Kˁ-mwt=f  nsw n kmt ḫˁḏ dshrt
begotten by Kamutef, king of the Black Land, ruler of the Red Land,

jty  jḥ pḏt-9
sovereign who seized the Nine Bows,

pr m ḫt sr n=f ḫtw
whom victory was foretold as he came from the womb,

wḥ n=f pr-c m swḥt  kˁ mn-jb hb=f mṯwn
whom valor was given while he was in the egg, bull stout-hearted as he enters the arena,

nsw ntr pr hrw ḫtw mj Mnṯw
divine king going forth on the day of victory like Month

wr pḥtj{t}  mj sˁ Nwt
one great of strength like the son of Nut!

js ḫm=f m Nhrn mj nt-c=f ḫnw rtnpt
When His Majesty was in Naharina according to his annual custom,

wrw n ḫst nb jw m ksw m ḫtpw
the princes of every foreign land came bowing in peace

n bāw n ḫm=f posição pẖww
to the might of His Majesty, from as far as the marshlands.

jnw=sn nbw ḫḏ ḫsbḏ
Their gifts of gold, silver, lapis lazuli,

mfkḏt ḫw nb nw tˁ-ntr ḫr psḏ=sn
turquoise and every kind of herb from the God's Land were on their backs,
while each one was outdoing his fellow. Then the prince of Bakhtan had his gifts sent

and placed his eldest daughter before them, praising His Majesty,

and imploring life from him.

The woman pleased the heart of His Majesty very much, more than anything,

and her titulary was established as Great Royal Wife Nefrure.

When His Majesty arrived back in Egypt, she did everything that a queen should do.

It happened in year 15\(^1\), second month of the Season of Harvest, day 22,

while His Majesty was in Thebes-the-victorious, mistress of cities,

performing the rites for his father Amun-Re,

lord of the throne of the Two Lands, at his beautiful feast of Luxor,

his favourite place since the beginning, that one came to say to His Majesty:

‘There is a messenger of the prince of Bakhtan

who has come with many gifts for the queen.’

\(^1\) Lichtheim (1980) and Kitchen (1999), p. 168, argue this should be emended to 23; contra Broze (1989), note 36.
Then he was brought before His Majesty with his gifts and he said, saluting His Majesty:

\[ jw \quad n=k \quad Rc \quad n \quad p\text{dt}-9 \quad jm \quad (n)=n \quad cnh \quad hr=k \]

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

1 Written as jww.

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

\[ jj=j \quad n=k \quad j\text{ty} \quad nb \quad hr \quad Bntrš \]

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

\[ snwt \quad kt \quad n \quad hmt-nsw \quad Nfr-Rc \quad mn \quad 3b\text{h}(w) \quad m \quad hc\text{w}=s \]

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

\[ jm\{t\} \quad wd \quad hm=k \quad rh-jht \quad r \quad mj=s \quad hc\text{c} \quad dd.n \quad hm=f \]

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

\[ jn \quad n=j \quad tt \quad nt \quad pr-cnh \quad qnbt \quad nt \quad hnw \]

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

\[ s\beta \quad n=f \quad hr-c \quad dd.n \quad hm=f \]

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

\[ mtn \quad rdj.tw \quad cs\{t\}.tw \quad n \quad tn \quad r \quad sd\text{m}=tn \quad m\text{dt} \quad tn \quad jsk \quad jn \quad n=j \quad hmwt \quad m \quad jb=f \]

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

\[ ss \quad (jqr) \quad m \quad db\text{c}w=f \quad m-q\text{b}=tn \]

and excellent scribe from among you.'

\[ jj \quad pw \quad (jr).n \quad ss \quad nsw \quad D\text{hw}tj-m-hb \quad m-b\text{h} \quad hm=f \]

Then the royal scribe Thothemheb came before His Majesty,

\[ wd.n \quad hm=f \quad smj=f \quad r \quad B\text{htn} \quad hn\text{c} \quad jpwt \quad pn \]

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

\[ spr \quad pw \quad jr.n \quad rh-jht \quad r \quad B\text{htn} \quad gm.n=f \quad Bntrš \quad m \quad shr \quad hr \quad 3h\{tj\} \]

The learned man then arrived in Bakhtan and found Bentresh possessed by a spirit;
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he found him an enemy whom one could fight.

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

jty nb=j jm wd{t} hm=f rdj.tw jn.tw ntr [...] 'Sovereign, my lord, may Your Majesty command that a god be brought [...].'

His Majesty in year 26, first month of the Season of Harvest,

sw jfd ḫb Jmn jw hm=f m-ḥnw W3st
day 4, during the feast of Amun, while His Majesty was in Thebes.

ẖc.n wḥm.n hm=f m-biḥ Hnsw-m-W3st Nfr-ḥtp m-dd
His Majesty then reported to Khons-in-Thebes-Nefherhotep, saying:

p3 nb nfr jr=j wḥm m-biḥ=k ḫr sīt n p3 wr n Bḥtn 'Good lord, I report to you concerning the daughter of the prince of Bakhtan.'

ẖc.n stb.n Hnsw-m-W3st Nfr-ḥtp r Hnsw-p3-jr-ḥsr
Then Khons-in-Thebes-Nefherhotep proceeded to Khons-the-Provider,

ntr cḥ śḥr ṣmḥ
the great god who expels disease demons.

ẖc.n dd.n hm=f m-biḥ Hnsw-m-W3st Nfr-ḥtp
Then His Majesty said to Khons-in-Thebes-Nefherhotep:

p3 nb nfr jn1 jr dj=k ḫr=k r Hnsw-p3-jr-ḥsr 'Good lord, will you turn your face to Khons-the-Provider,


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

hm wr sp 2 ḫc.n dd.n hm=f jm sī=k ḫn=f
A very strongly approving nod. Then His Majesty said: 'Give your magical protection to him,
Dj=j Sm ḫm=f r Bḥtn r ḫm sšt n wr n Bḥtn
and I will let His Majesty go to Bakhtan to save the daughter of the prince of Bakhtan.'

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

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

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

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

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

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

Uncertain.

He placed himself on his belly, saying: 'You have come to us to be merciful to us,
as the king of Upper and Lower Egypt Usermare-sotpenre has commanded!'

This god then went to the place where Bentresh was,

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

and she became well instantly.

Then this spirit who was with her said to Khons-the-Provider-in-Thebes: 'Welcome in peace,
Great god who expels disease demons. Bakhtan is your home, its people are your servants.

and I am your servant. I shall return to the place I came from, so as to set your heart at rest about what you came for.

May Your Majesty command to spend a day of celebration


Then this god nodded approvingly to his prophet, saying:

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

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

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

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

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

Then the spirit went in peace to where he wished, as Khons-the-Provider-in-Thebes had commanded.
The prince of Bakhtan rejoiced very greatly, together with everyone in Bakhtan.

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

I will not let him go back to Egypt.'

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

Then, as the prince of Bakhtan was asleep on his bed, he saw this god come out of his chapel.

He was a falcon of gold and flew to the sky toward Egypt. He then awoke in fear and said to the prophet of Khons-the-Provider-in-Thebes:

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

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


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

They arrived safely in Thebes and Khons-the-Provider-in-Thebes went to the house of Khons-in-Thebes-Neferhotep,
and placed the gifts that the prince of Bakhtan had given him of every good thing

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

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

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

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

May he be given life like Re, eternally!