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

The king of Upper and Lower Egypt, lord of the Two Lands: Usermare-sotpenre;

Son of Re, of his body: Ramesse beloved of Amun, given life like Re, eternally.

All protection for life with him. Burning incense for his father, Khons-in-Thebes.

The name of the prophet and priest of Khons-the-Provider-in-Thebes:

The great god who expels disease demons, beloved and given life like Re.

Horus: Mighty bull, perfect of appearance; (Two Ladies:) Abiding in kingship like Atum;

Gold Horus: Powerful of arms, who drives away the Nine Bows;

The king of Upper and Lower Egypt, lord of the Two Lands: Usermare-sotpenre;

Son of Re, of his body: Ramesse beloved of Amun, beloved of
Jmn-Rc nb Nswt-ōwj    psqt nbwt W3st mrj
Amun-Re, lord of the Thrones of the Two Lands and of the Ennead, mistresses of Thebes.

nṯr-nfr Jmn s3 mstjw\{t\} n Rc-Hr-šhtj    prt šht n nb dr\{t\}
Good god, son of Amun, offspring of Re-Harakhti, glorious seed of the Almighty,

wṯ n K3-mwt=f    nsw n kmt ḫq3 dšrt
begotten by Kamutef, king of the Black Land, ruler of the Red Land,

jty    jṯ ptḏ-9
sovereign | who seized the Nine Bows,

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

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

nsw nṯr pr hrw nṯtw mj Mṯw
divine king going forth on the day of victory like Month

wr pẖtj{t}    mj s3 Nwt
one great of strength | like the son of Nut!

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

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

n bḏ w n ḫm=f šjš pẖww
to the might of His Majesty, from as far as the marshlands.

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

mfkšt ḫw nb nw tš-nṯr ḫr psḏ=sn
| turquoise and every kind of herb from the God's Land were on their backs,
and 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.’
Then he was brought before His Majesty with his gifts and he said, saluting His Majesty:

\[ jw^1 \ n=k \ R^c \ n \ p\d t-9 \ \ jm \ (n)=n \ c\nh \ hr=k \]

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

\[ ^1 \text{Written as } jww. \]

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

\[ jj=j \ n=k \ jty \ nb \ \ hr \ Bntrš \]

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

\[ \text{snwt } kt \ n \ hm\text{-nsw } Nfr-R^c \ \ mn \ 3\bh(\ .w) \ m \ h^c w=s \]

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

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

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

\[ jn \ n=j \ ët \ nt \ pr-cnh \ \ qnb \ \ nt \ hnw \]

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

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

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

\[ mtn \ rdj.tw \ c\{s\} \ .tw \ n \ tj \ r \ sdm=tjn \ mdt \ tn \ \ jsk \ jn \ n=j \ hmwt \ m \ jb=f \]

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

\[ s\b \ (jqr) \ m \ db^c w=f \ m-q\b t=tn \]

and excellent scribe from among you.'

\[ jj \ pw \ (jr).n \ s\b \ nsw \ D\hw t\-m-\hb \ m-\bh \ hm=f \]

Then the royal scribe Thothemheb came before His Majesty,

\[ wd.n \ hm=f \ smj=f \ r \ Bhtn \ h\n^c \ jpw t \ pn \]

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

\[ spr \ pw \ jr.n \ rh-jht \ r \ Bhtn \ \ gm.n=f \ Bntrš \ m \ shr \ hr \ 3\b \{tj\} \]

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

the great god who expels disease demons.

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

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

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 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.'

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!