

Destruction of mankind

Nederhof - English

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Transliteration and translation for "The myth of the Destruction of Mankind", following the transcription of De Buck (1948), pp. 123-126.

The transliteration throughout follows Hannig (1995).

For published translations, see Hornung (1991); Lichtheim (1976), pp. 197-199.

Bibliography

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¹
| ḥpr swt [...] ḥm n R^c nṯr ḥpr ḏs=f

¹
| It happened that the majesty of Re, the god who created himself, [...],

m-ḥt wnn=f m nswyt rmt nṯrw m jḥt w^ctj
after he had exercised kingship, and mankind and gods were (still) united.

wn.jn rmt ḥr | ² k3t mdwt r=f jstw rf ḥm=f^c.w.s. j3w.w

Mankind then ² | conspired against him, while His Majesty (l.p.h.!) had grown old,

qsw=f m ḥḏ ḥ^cw=f m nbw šnj=f m ḥsbḏ m³t
his bones were of silver, his flesh of gold, and his hair of real lapis lazuli.

wn.jn ḥm=f | ³ ḥr sj3 mdwt ntt k3.tw r=f jn rmt

His Majesty ³ | perceived the conspiring that was done against him by mankind,

ḏḏ.jn ḥm=f^c.w.s. n ntjw m-ḥtjw=f
and His Majesty (l.p.h.!) said to those in his retinue:

njs mj n=j r jrt=j r Šw ⁴ | Tfnwt Gbb Nwt

'Summon to me my Eye, and Shu, ⁴ | Tefnut, Geb, Nut,

ḥn^c jtw mwwt wnyw ḥn^c=j jst wj m nwn
and the fathers and mothers who were with me when I was in the primordial water,

ḥn^c gr nṯr=j Nwn jnn=f šnyt=f ⁵ | ḥn^c=f jnn=k st m ktk

and also my god Nun, and he shall bring his courtiers ⁵ | with him. Bring them stealthily,

jm m33 rmt jm w^cr jb=sn jy=k ḥn^c=sn r ḥwt-3t
so that mankind doesn't see and lose heart. Come with them to the palace,

ḏḏ=sn šhrw=sn ḏrtw ⁶ | jw=j m nwn

so that they may give their excellent counsel. ⁶ | I shall return to the primordial water,

r bw ḥpr.n=j jm jn {j}.jn.tw nn n nṯrw
to the place where I came into being.' Then these gods were brought,

wn.jn nn n ntrw jpn hr gs=fj hr dhn t3

m-⁷lb3h hm=f

and these gods came at his two sides, kneeling to the ground before His Majesty,

dd=f mdwt=f m-b3h jt smsww

that he might present his issue before the father of the eldest,

jr rmtj nsw rhyt

dd.jn=sn hft hm=f

who created mankind, the king of the people. And they said to His Majesty:

mdw ⁸ | n=n r sdmt=n st

dd.jn R^c n Nwn

'Speak ⁸ | to us, that we may hear it!' Then Re said to Nun:

ntr sms hpr.n=j jm=f

ntrw tpjw-^c

'O eldest god, in whom I came into being, and ancestor gods,

mtj n rmtj hpr⁹ | w m jrt=j

k3.n=sn mdwt r=j

look, mankind, which issued from my Eye, they have conspired against me.

dd n=j jrt=tj r=s

mtj wj hjj=j

Tell me what you would do about it, since I am deliberating

n sm3.n=j st r sdmtw=j dd¹⁰ | tj=tj r=s

and I cannot slay them until I have heard what you might say about it.'

dd.jn hm n Nwn

s3=j R^c ntr 3 r jr sw

Then the majesty of Nun said: 'My son Re, god who is greater than he who begot him,

wr r qm3yw sw

hms st=k ¹¹ | wr snd=k

and most august than they who created him, be seated! ¹¹ | Great is the fear of you,

jw jrt=k r w3yw jm=k

dd.jn hm n R^c

since your Eye is on those who scheme against you.' The majesty of Re then said:

mtj st w^cr(.w) r h3st

'Look, they have fled to the desert,

jbw=sn snd.w hr dd=j

n=¹² | sn dd.jn=sn hft hm=f

because their hearts are fearful about what I said to ¹² | them.' And they said to His Majesty:

ḏj šm jrt=k ḥw=s n=k st

w3w m ḏw

'Let your Eye go, that it may smite them for you, the schemers of evil.'

nn jrt ḥntj jm=s r ḥwt n=k st

There is no Eye that is more able than she to smite them for you.

13

| ḥ3=s m Ḥwt-Ḥr

13

| May it descend as Hathor!'

jw.jn rf nṯrt tn sm3.n=s rmt ḥr ḥ3st

This goddess returned after she had slain mankind in the desert,

ḏḏ.jn ḥm n nṯr pn

jjj.wj m ḥtp Ḥwt-Ḥr jrt n jr w

and the majesty of this god said: 'Welcome in peace, Hathor, who helped the creator'

j.n=j r=s

14

| ḏḏ{j}.jn nṯrt tn ḥnh=k n=j

when I came to her! | And this goddess said: 'As you live for me,

jw shm.n=j m rmt

jw ndm ḥr jb=j

ḏḏ.jn ḥm n R^c

I have overpowered mankind, and it was pleasure to my heart.' And the majesty of Re said:

jw=j r shm jm=sn m nsw

15

| m s^cndw st

'I shall take power over them as king, | as he who diminished them.'

ḥpr Shmt pw šbbt nt grḥ

Thus Sachmet came into being, concoction of the night,

r rhnt ḥr snf=sn š3^c m Nnj-nsw

ḏḏ.jn R^c

to wade in their blood as far as Herakleopolis. Then Re said:

16

| njs mj n=j wpwtjw ḥḥw sjnw shs=sn mj šwt nt ḥt

16

| 'Summon to me swift, nimble messengers, that they may rush like a body's shadow!'

jn.jn.tw nn n wpwtjw jpn

17

| ḥr-^cwj

ḏḏ.jn ḥm n nṯr pn

And these messengers were brought | immediately. The majesty of this god then said:

š3s{n} r 3bw jn n=j djdt r wr

'Go to Elephantine, and bring me haematite in great quantity!'

jn.jn.tw n=f nn n djdt rdj.jn hm n ntr pn 3

And this haematite was brought to him. Then the majesty of this great god ordered

¹⁸
hnkt{t} ntj m Jwnw hr nd djdt jpn jstw gr hmwt hr tš jt r hnqt
that the Braided in Heliopolis grind this haematite, while maidservants grind barley for beer.

rdj.jn.tw djdt jpn hr šbbt tn wn.jn mj sn¹⁹f n rmt
Then the haematite was put into this beer mash, and it became like human blood;

jr{t}.jn.tw hnqt hbnt 7000
seven thousand jars of beer were made.

jw.jn rf hm n nsw-bjtj R^c hn^c ntrw jpn
Then the majesty of the king of Upper and Lower Egypt Re came together with these gods

r m3 nn n hnqt jstw hd t3 | n sm3 rmt
to see this beer. ²⁰
When the day dawned | on which mankind would be slain

jn ntrt m sww=s n nw hntyt dd.jn hm n R^c
by the goddess, among their days of travelling south, the majesty of Re said:

nfr.wj st jw=j r mkt | rmt hr=s dd.jn R^c
²¹
'How good it is! I will protect | mankind against her.' And Re said:

fy mj st r bw dd.n=s sm3=j rmt jm
'Carry it to the place of which she had said "I will slay mankind there." '

nhp.jn hm n nsw-bjtj R^c
The majesty of the king of Upper and Lower Egypt Re rose early,

²²
| m nfrw grh r rdjt stj.tw nn n sdrt
²²
| in the middle of the night, to have this sleeping potion poured out,

wn.jn 3hwt ntj šsp 3 hr mh m mw
and the fields were flooded three palms high with the liquid,

m b3w n hm n ntr pn šm{t}.jn | ntrt tn m dw3w.wj
by the might of the majesty of this god. Then this goddess came in the early morning

gm.n=s nn hr mḥt

nfr.jn hr=s {t} jm

and found that these (fields) were flooded, and her gaze was pleased by it.

wn.jn=s {t} hr swr nfr hr jb=s {t}

Then she drank and it pleased her heart.

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jj.n=s th.tj nn sjḃ.n=s rmt

After she returned drunk without having perceived mankind,

ḏd.jn ḥm n R^c n nṯrt tn

jj. {t} wj m ḥtp jmḳyt

the majesty of Re said to this goddess: 'Welcome in peace, O gracious one!'

ḥpr nfrwt pw m Jmḳw

Thus beautiful women came into being in Momemphis.
