

# **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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- M. Lichtheim. *Ancient Egyptian Literature -- Volume II: The New Kingdom*. University of California Press, 1976.

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<sup>1</sup>  
| ḥpr swt [...] ḥm n R<sup>c</sup> nṯr ḥpr ḏs=f

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

---

m-ḥt wnn=f m nswyt          rmt nṯrw m jḥt w<sup>c</sup>tj  
after he had exercised kingship, and mankind and gods were (still) united.

---

wn.jn rmt ḥr | <sup>2</sup> k3t mdwt r=f          jstw rf ḥm=f<sup>c</sup>.w.s. j3w.w

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

---

qsw=f m ḥḏ ḥ<sup>c</sup>w=f m nbw šnj=f m ḥsbḏ m<sup>3</sup>t  
his bones were of silver, his flesh of gold, and his hair of real lapis lazuli.

---

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

His Majesty <sup>3</sup> | perceived the conspiring that was done against him by mankind,

---

ḏḏ.jn ḥm=f<sup>c</sup>.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          <sup>4</sup> | Tfnwt Gbb Nwt

'Summon to me my Eye, and Shu, <sup>4</sup> | Tefnut, Geb, Nut,

---

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

---

ḥn<sup>c</sup> gr nṯr=j Nwn    jnn=f šnyt=f          <sup>5</sup> | ḥn<sup>c</sup>=f    jnn=k st m ktk

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

---

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

---

ḏḏ=sn šhrw=sn ḏrtw          <sup>6</sup> | jw=j m nwn

so that they may give their excellent counsel. <sup>6</sup> | 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-<sup>7</sup>lb3h 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 <sup>8</sup> | n=n r sdmt=n st

dd.jn R<sup>c</sup> n Nwn

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

---

ntr sms hpr.n=j jm=f

ntrw tpjw-<sup>c</sup>

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

---

mtj n rmtj hpr<sup>9</sup> | 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 dd<sup>10</sup> | 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<sup>c</sup> 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 <sup>11</sup> | wr snd=k

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

---

jw jrt=k r w3yw jm=k

dd.jn hm n R<sup>c</sup>

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

---

mtj st w<sup>c</sup>r(.w) r h3st

'Look, they have fled to the desert,

---

jbw=sn snd.w hr dd=j

n=<sup>12</sup> | sn dd.jn=sn hft hm=f

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

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---

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,

---

14

jw shm.n=j m rmt

jw ndm ḥr jb=j

ḏḏ.jn ḥm n R<sup>c</sup>

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<sup>c</sup>ndw st

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

---

15

ḥpr Shmt pw šbbt nt grḥ

Thus Sachmet came into being, concoction of the night,

---

r rhnt ḥr snf=sn š3<sup>c</sup> m Nnj-nsw

ḏḏ.jn R<sup>c</sup>

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-<sup>c</sup>wj

ḏḏ.jn ḥm n nṯr pn

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

---

17

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 𐎓

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

---

<sup>18</sup>  
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 sn<sup>19</sup>lf 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<sup>c</sup>                      hn<sup>c</sup> ntrw jpn  
Then the majesty of the king of Upper and Lower Egypt Re came together with these gods

---

r m<sup>3</sup> nn n hnqt jstw hd tš                      | n sm<sup>3</sup> rmt  
to see this beer.    When the day dawned | on which mankind would be slain

---

jn ntrt                      m sww=s n nw hntyt                      dd.jn hm n R<sup>c</sup>  
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<sup>c</sup>  
'How good it is! I will protect | mankind against her.' And Re said:

---

fy mj st r bw dd.n=s sm<sup>3</sup>=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<sup>c</sup>  
The majesty of the king of Upper and Lower Egypt Re rose early,

---

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

---

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

---

m b<sup>3</sup>w n hm n ntr pn                      šm{t}.jn | ntrt tn m dw<sup>3</sup>w.wj  
by the might of the majesty of this god. Then this goddess came in the early morning

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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.

---

24

jj.n=s th.tj nn sjḃ.n=s rmt

After she returned drunk without having perceived mankind,

---

ḏd.jn ḥm n R<sup>c</sup> 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.

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