Destruction of mankind

Nederhof - English
Created on 2006-11-04 by Mark-Jan Nederhof. Last modified 2015-08-06.
The transliteration throughout follows Hannig (1995).
For published translations, see Hornung (1991); Lichtheim (1976), pp. 197-199.

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

after he had exercised kingship, and mankind and gods were (still) united.

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

his bones were of silver, his flesh of gold, and his hair of real lapis lazuli.

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

and His Majesty (l.p.h.!) said to those in his retinue:

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

and the fathers and mothers who were with me when I was in the primordial water,

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

so that mankind doesn't see and lose heart. Come with them to the palace,

so that they may give their excellent counsel. I shall return to the primordial water,' Then these gods were brought,
and these gods came at his two sides, kneeling to the ground before His Majesty,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

'Look, they have fled to the desert,

because their hearts are fearful about what I said to them.' And they said to His Majesty:
"Let your Eye go, that it may smite them for you, the schemers of evil.

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

May it descend as Hathor!"

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

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

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

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

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

Thus Sachmet came into being, concoction of the night,

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

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

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

'Go to Elephantine, and bring me haematite in great quantity!'
And this haematite was brought to him. Then the majesty of this great god ordered

that the Braided in Heliopolis grind this haematite, while maidservants grind barley for beer.

Then the haematite was put into this beer mash, and it became like human blood;

seven thousand jars of beer were made.

Then the majesty of the king of Upper and Lower Egypt Re came together with these gods

by the goddess, among their days of travelling south, the majesty of Re said:

'How good it is! I will protect mankind against her.' And Re said:

'Carry it to the place of which she had said "I will slay mankind there."'

The majesty of the king of Upper and Lower Egypt Re rose early,

in the middle of the night, to have this sleeping potion poured out,

and the fields were flooded three palms high with the liquid,
and found that these (fields) were flooded, and her gaze was pleased by it.

Then she drank and it pleased her heart.

After she returned drunk without having perceived mankind,

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

Thus beautiful women came into being in Momemphis.