# Dispute of a man with his ba

## **Nederhof - English**

Created on 2006-11-04 by Mark-Jan Nederhof. Last modified 2009-06-08.

Transliteration and translation for Dialogue of a Man and his Ba, Papyrus Berlin 3024, following the transcription and facsimile in Goedicke (1970). An older transcription can be found in Faulkner (1956) and Barta (1969).

The transliteration throughout follows Hannig (1995).

For published translations, see Barta (1969); Faulkner (1956); Goedicke (1970); Lichtheim (1975), pp. 163-169; Parkinson (1997), pp. 151-165; Simpson (1972), pp. 201-209.

### **Bibliography**

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## Nederhof

Created on 2014-12-11 by Mark-Jan Nederhof. Last modified 2014-12-23.

Transcription of The Debate between a Man and his Soul, using the photographs from Erman (1896), on the basis of transcriptions by Faulkner (1956) and Allen (2011).

Thanks go to Hany Mohamed Ali Rashwan for making an initial MdC encoding available to me.

For contentious readings, we follow Allen, pp. 262-311, with the following exceptions:

• Line 17: Transcribed is , the sign that is meant, rather than , the sign that appears to be written.

- Line 26: Transcribed is rather than  $\swarrow$  , as it concerns the word wj3.
- Lines 50, 138: Transcribed is  $\frown$  followed by  $\frown$  rather than the reversed order.

• Line 53: The fourth sign is transcribed as rather than

• Line 65: The more conventional transcription  $\stackrel{\textstyle imes}{ imes}$  is used.

• Lines 66, 87, 89, 91, 93, 96, 98, 99, 101: Transcribed is

(generic fish determinative) rather than

- Line 111: Transcribed is crather than the reversed order.
- Line 141: Transcribed is J in front of A.

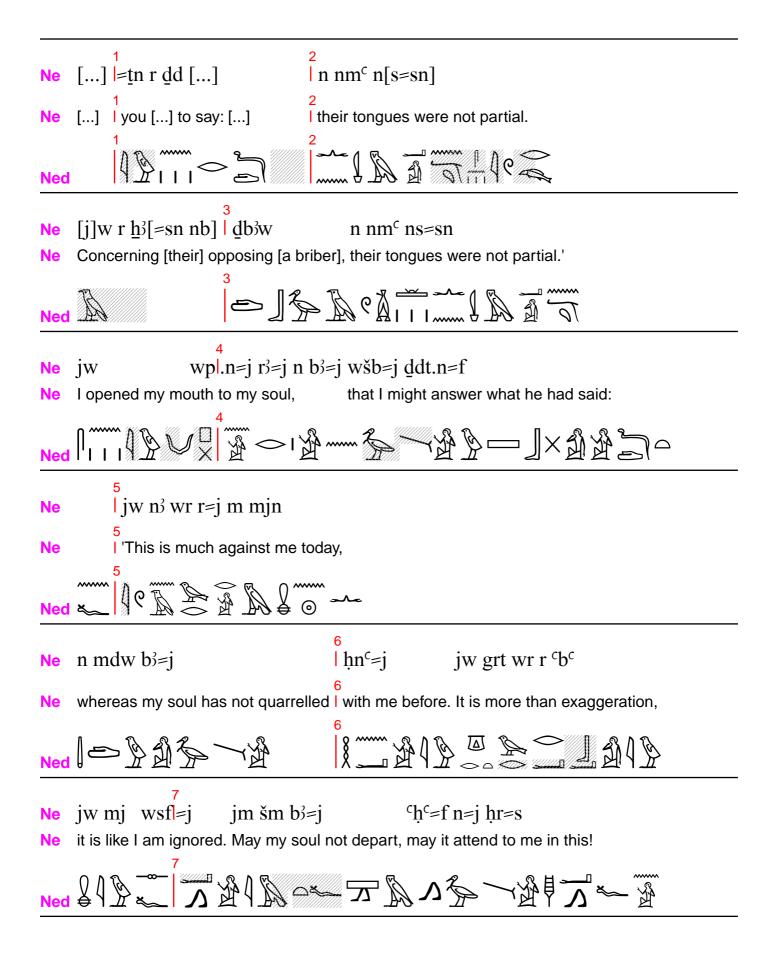
As in Allen's transcription, omitted are all (potential) occurrences of  $\frac{1}{2}$  in front of  $\frac{2}{2}$ .

#### Bibliography

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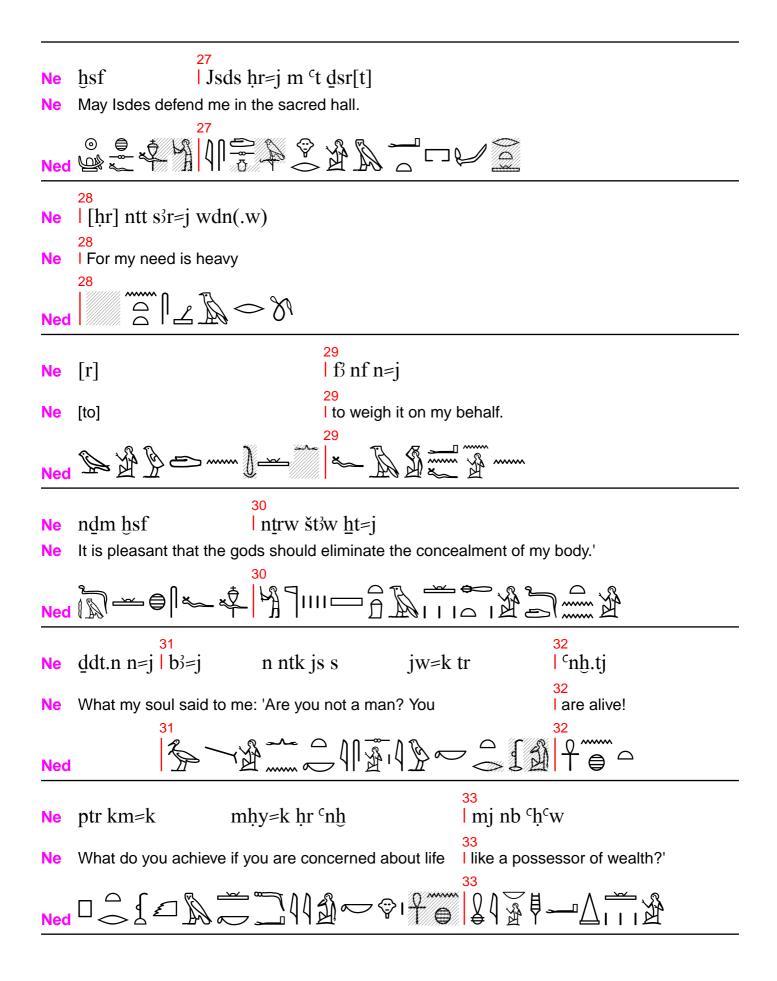
• R.O. Faulkner. The man who was tired of life. *The Journal of Egyptian Archaeology*, 42:21-40, 1956.



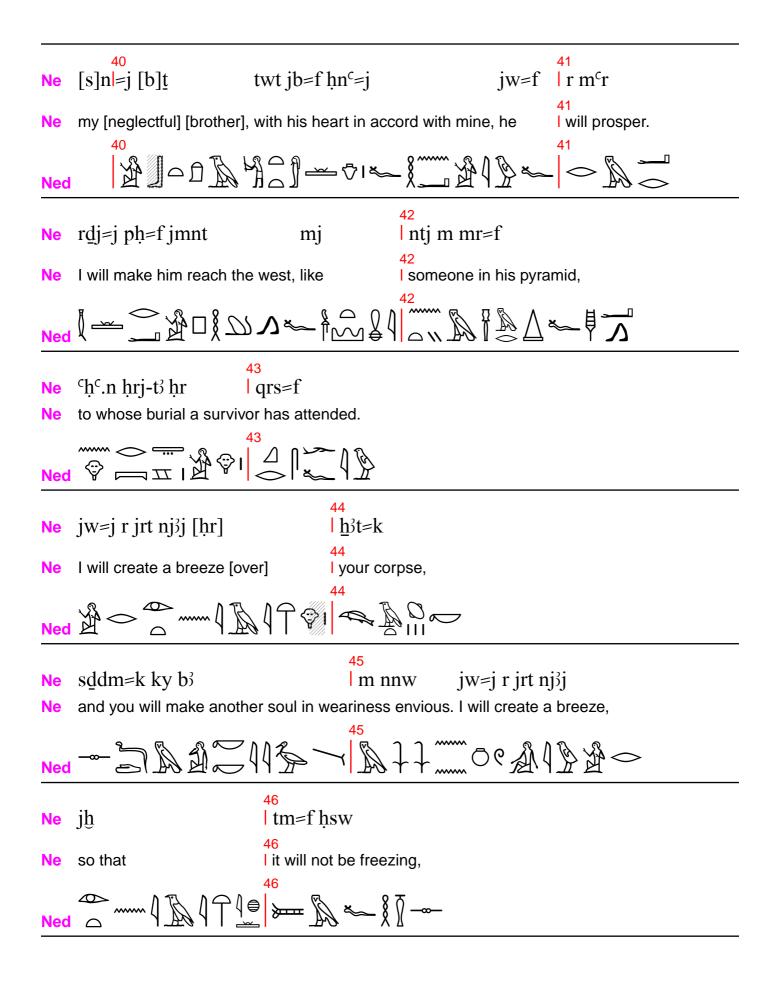
Ne 
$$[[...]=fnn Gi=f$$
  
Ne  $[[...] = fnn Gi=f$   
Ne  $[[...] He will not be guilty
Ne  $[[...] He will not be guilty
Ne  $[[wi]=fm ht=j m snw nwh$   
Ne  $[that he [will distance himself] from my body, from a net of cord,
Ne  $[[wi]=fm ht=j m Gi ] = [fn] = [fn$$$$ 

Ne	[jw]tt mnt=f [jm] [] s <sup>3</sup> []
Ne	14 I [without] him suffering [therein]. []
Ned	
Ne Ne	$_{[jw]}^{15}$ [jw]=f tkn=f jm=j hrw qsnt He will stay close to me on the day of suffering.
Ned	
Ne	<sup>16</sup>   <sup>c</sup> ḥ <sup>c</sup> =f m pf gs mj jr nḥnw
Ne	16 I He should stand on yonder side, like a praise singer does:
Ned	
Ne	$ \begin{array}{l}     17 \\     1 p^3 \text{ js pw prr} \\     \hline     \end{array}  jn.n=f \text{ sw rf} $
Ne	<ul> <li>17</li> <li>I "This is one who goes forth, as he has brought himself!"</li> </ul>
Ned	
<sup>1</sup> App	pearance as .
Ne	$b_{j}^{18} = j \ w h_{j}(.w) \ r \ s d h h r \ c n h$
Ne	My soul is ignorant about easing the misery that is due to life,
Ned	The second and the second and the second and the second se
Ne	jhm $\int_{10}^{19} \text{wj r mwt} n \text{jjt=j n=f}$
Ne	and restrains I me from death before I have come to it.
Ned	$\frac{19}{\Lambda} = \frac{19}{\Lambda} $

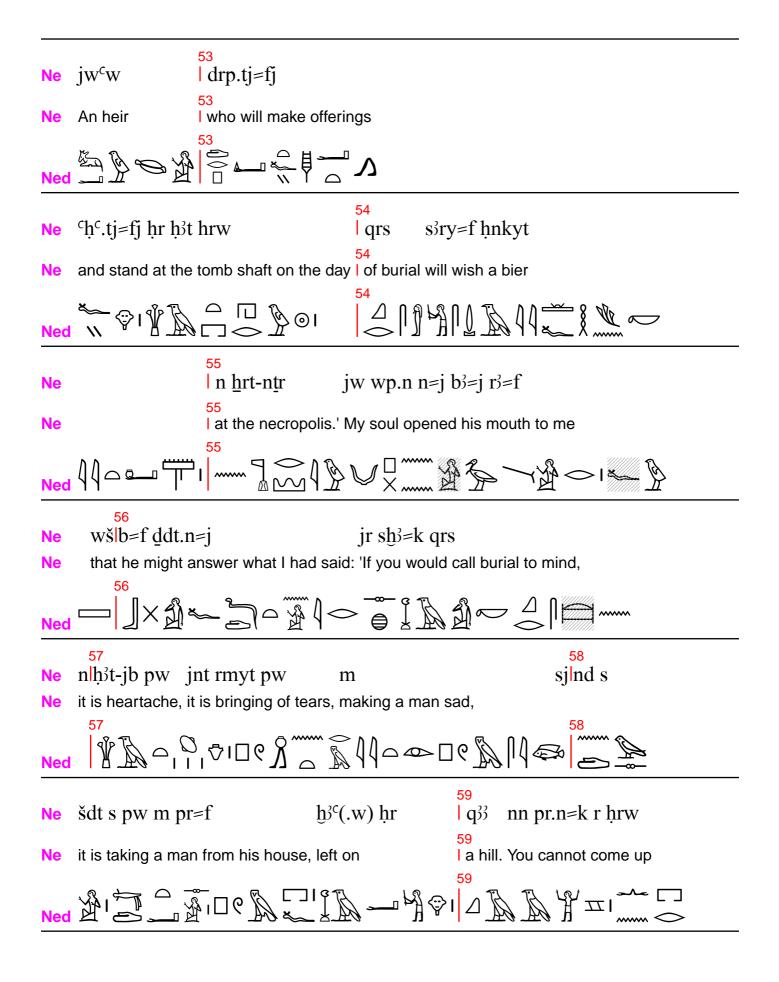
Ne	sndm $  n=j jmnt jn-jw qsnt pw$
Ne	The west gives me pleasure. Is it suffering?
Ned	
Ne	phrt $^{21}$   pw <sup>c</sup> nh jw htw hr=sn
Ne	It is a turning-point of life; trees fall.
Ned	
Ne	hnd rk $\stackrel{22}{ }$ hr jsft w <sup>3</sup> h m <sup>3</sup> r=j
Ne	Trample 22 I on evil, and cast aside my misery!
Ned	$\mathcal{F}^{22}$
Ne	23   wd² wj Dhwtj htp   ntrw
Ne	23 I May Thoth declare concerning me: "The gods are satisfied."
Ned	
Ne	$hsf Hnsw hr=j$ $ss m-m^{3}ct$
Ne	May Khons defend me: I "A true scribe."
Ned	
Ne	sdm R <sup>c</sup> $mdw =j sg wj^{3}$
Ne	May Re hear my utterance: "Stop the barque!"
Ned	



Ne	₫d=j n šm=j	34 jr nß r t3
Ne	'I would say to someone who is a	34 bout to go: I "As to that burial,
Ned	RV & L RC	$\begin{array}{c} 34 \\ 4 \\ \hline \end{array} \\ \\ \hline \end{array} \\ \\ \hline \end{array} \\ \\ \hline \end{array} \\ \\ \\ \\$
Ne	nḥm.nj ṯw ḥr tfyt	nn $  nwt = k$
Ne	you are taken away from leaping	around. Without I your taking care,
Ned		
Ne		<sup>36</sup> jw=j r j <u>t</u> t=k jw grt=k mwt(.tj)
Ne	every criminal will say:	<sup>36</sup> 'I will take you!' When you are dead,
Ned		$ \begin{array}{c} \mathbf{M} \\ \mathbf$
Ne	rn=k <sup>37</sup> ∣ <sup>c</sup> nḫ(	.w) st nß nt hnt
Ne	but your name I still liv	ves, that is a resting-place
Ned		
Ne	<sup>c</sup> fd <sup>38</sup> I nt jb	dmj pw jmnt
Ne	attractive <sup>38</sup> I to the heart.	The west is a harbour,
Ned	گ <b>۷ ~ </b>	>\${\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\
Ne Ne		jr s₫m n=j b₃=j If my soul listens to me,
Ned	39	

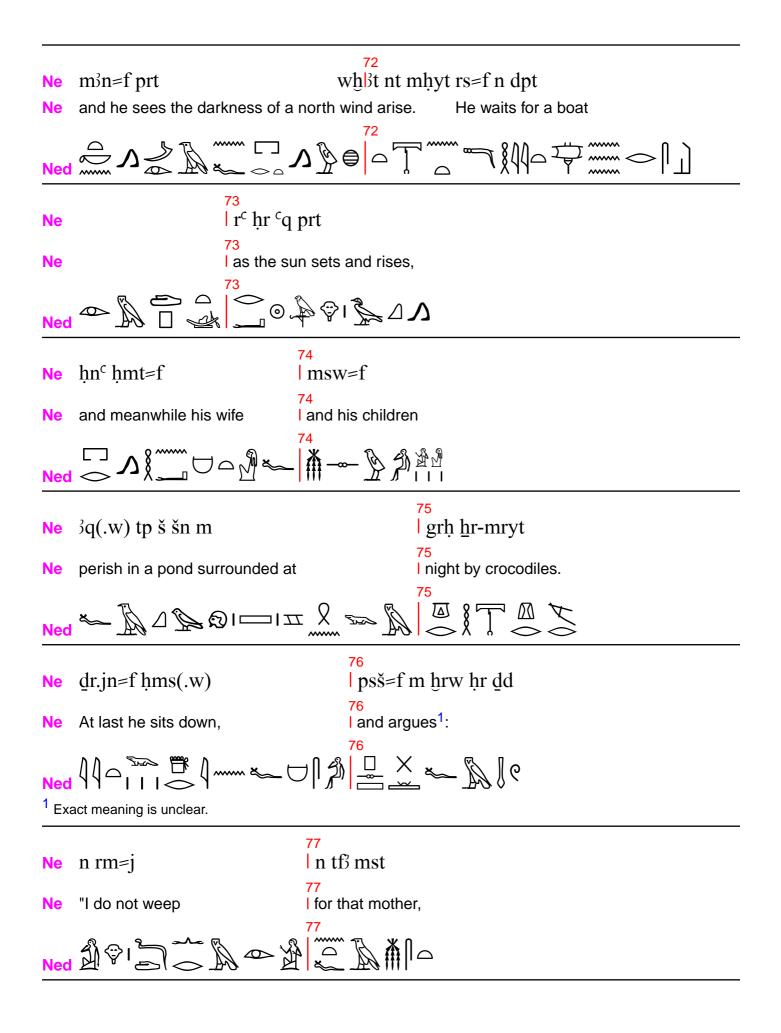


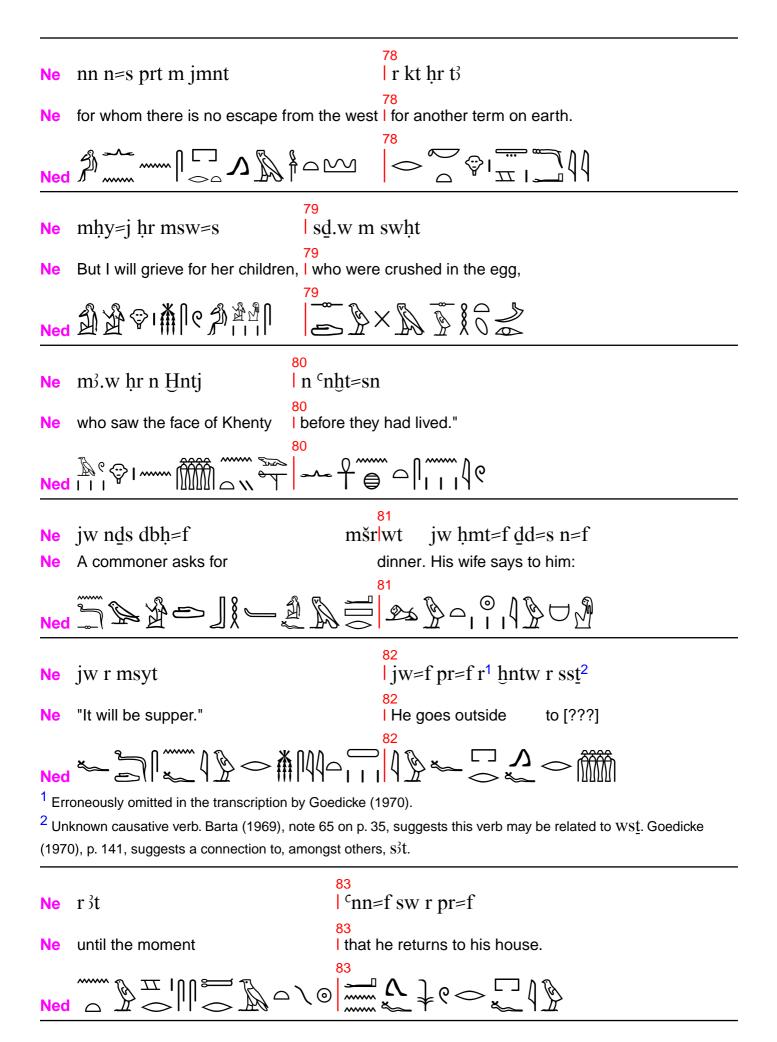
Ne s₫dm=k ky b³	47 ntj t <sup>3</sup> .w
Ne and you will make another soul who is hot	envious:
Ne swr=j mw ḥr	$\frac{48}{1 \text{ b}_{3}^{2}\text{b}_{3}^{2}\text{t}} \qquad \underline{t}sy=j  \underline{s}wy$
Ne 'I will drink water at	the watering-place.' I will heap up hay,
<sup>49</sup> Ne l s₫dm=k <sup>1</sup> ky bỷ ntj ḥqr(	.w)
49 Ne I and you will make another s	oul who is hungry envious.
<sup>1</sup> Written s₫m=k.	
Ne jr jhml=k wj r mwt n	n p³ qj
Ne But if you restrain I me from a death in	this form,
Ũ	k ḫnt=k ḥr=s m jmnt
Ne you will not find a place on which you can	rest in the west.
	=j sn=j r hprt
Ne Be favourable, my soul,	my brother, to what will happen!
Ned 🖗 🖾 🖗 🔊 🖓 👘 🖓 I 🗢	□銀→密調」一個

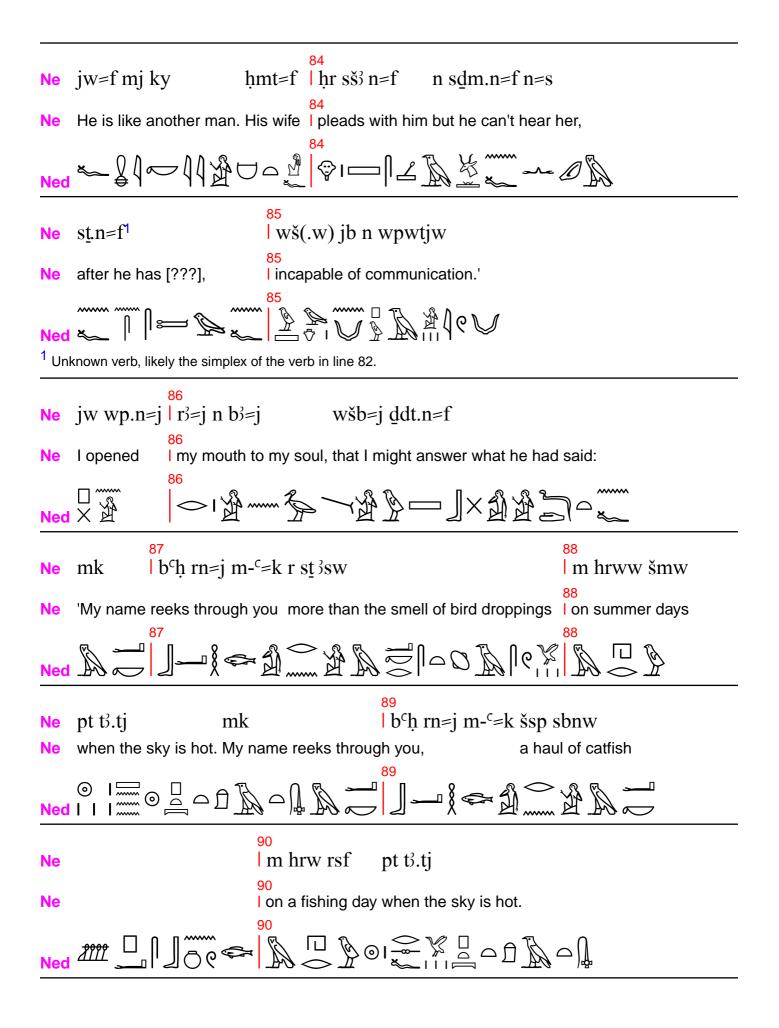


Ne	m³=k	60   r <sup>c</sup>
Ne	to see	<mark>60</mark> I the sun.
Ned	$\nabla^{\sim}_{\sim} \sim \langle \langle \langle \Box \rangle \rangle \rangle \sim \langle \langle \Box \rangle \rangle \rangle \sim \langle \langle \Box \rangle \rangle \rangle \sim \langle \Box \rangle \rangle \sim \langle \Box \rangle \rangle \rangle \rangle \rangle \langle \Box \rangle \rangle \rangle \rangle \rangle \rangle \rangle \langle \Box \rangle \rangle \rangle \rangle$	
Ne Ne	qdw m jnr n Those who built in granite,	$ \overset{61}{\square} \overset{61}{\square} \overset{61}{\square} $
Ned		>
Ne	<u>þ</u> ws qn mr nfrw	$m = \frac{62}{1 \text{ k}^3 \text{t nfrt}}$
Ne	who constructed and completed beauti	
Ned		
Ne	51 1	ntٍrw <sup>c</sup> b³w jrj wš(.w)
Ne		gods, their altars were bare,
Ned		-
Ne	mj nnw	64   mwt.w ḥr mryt
Ne	like those of weary ones	64 I who are dead on a riverbank
Ned	1 <u>~}</u> <i>}</i> }	
Ne	n g <sup>3</sup> w ḥrj-t <sup>3</sup>	<sup>65</sup> ∣j <u>t</u> .n nwy pḥ=fj
Ne	for lack of a survivor.	65 I After the water has taken its toll,
Ned		

Ne	β <b>h</b> w	<mark>66</mark>   m-mjtt-jrj	
Ne	and sunlight	66 I as well,	
Ned	AR " U		
Ne	mdw n=sn rn	nw	<sup>67</sup> ∣ spt n mw. s₫m rk n=j
Ne	the fish of the w	aterside speak to them.	Listen to me,
Ned	{~, =}		
Ne	mk nfr s <u>d</u> m n	n rm <u>t</u>	<sup>68</sup>   šms hrw nfr smḫ mḥ
Ne	as it is good to I	listen to people!	68 I Have a good time and forget worries!
Ned			
Ne	jw n <u>d</u> s	<sup>69</sup> ∣ sk3=f šdw=f	f
Ne	A commoner	69 I cultivates his p	plot,
Ned			 لا هر
Ne	jw=f3tp=f		70 šmw∣=f r- <u>h</u> nw dpt
Ne	he loads his har	rvest into a boat,	_ <b>x</b>
Ned		°∽⊉□₫∽;;	$\overline{\mathbb{A}}^{70} \xrightarrow{70} \overline{\mathbb{A}}^{70} \overline{\mathbb{A}}^{7$
Ne	s⋢=f		sqd wt hb=f tkn(.w)
Ne	and tows the tra	ansport,	as his feast is near
Ned		IOD \$   \$ ~   {	







Ne	<sup>91</sup>   mk b <sup>c</sup> ḥ rn≠j m- <sup>c</sup> =k	r s <u>t</u>		92   3pdw <sup>1</sup>
Ne	91 I My name reeks through y	ou, more than the sr	nell	92 I of ducks,
<mark>Ned</mark> <sup>1</sup> Wr	91 itten <sup>3</sup> psw.		>  ^(	
Ne	r bwit nt twr	_	<u>n</u> r msyt	
Ne	more than a covert of reed		ull of fowl.	
Ned	$\mathbb{X} \subset \mathbb{Y} \subseteq \mathbb{Y} \subseteq \mathbb{Y}$			
Ne	mk b <sup>c</sup> ḥ rn≠j		r s <u>t</u> :	h3mw
Ne	My name reeks	-	you, more	than the smell of fishermen,
Ned				-of A A Yo-
Ne	e	sšw ḥ³m.n≓sn		
Ne	95 more than the creeks I of n	narshes they have fig	shed.	
Ned		エIIII①1888 五	Å Å	
Ne	mk	96 ∣b <sup>c</sup> ḥ rn=j	m- <sup>c</sup> =k	
Ne	My name reeks through yo	96		
Ned				
Ne	r s <u>t</u> msḥw			
Ne	more than the smell of croo	·		
Ned		⊃Ø∭{{0^_	> 	

Ne	9798I r hmst $hr sp^3t^1 hr$ -mrytmkI b <sup>c</sup> h rn=j m- <sup>c</sup> =k
Ne	97 I more than sitting on sandbanks <sup>2</sup> of crocodiles. My name reeks through you
<sup>2</sup> Fol	lowing Faulkner (1956).
Ne Ne	r st hmt $dd$ $grlg r = s n fymore than the smell of a wife about whom a lie has been told involving a man.$
Ned	
Ne Ne	$\begin{array}{cccc} 100 \\ l \ rn = j \ m^{-c} = k \ r \ \underline{h} rd \ qn \\ My \ name \ reeks \ through \ you \\ 100 \\ \end{array} \qquad \qquad$
Ned	
Ne	$\frac{101}{dd r=f jw=f}   \{jw=f\} n ms dw=f$
Ne	about whom is said "He belongs to his rival." <sup>1</sup>
Ned <sup>1</sup> I.e.	"he is an illegitimate child".
Ne	mk b <sup>c</sup> h rn=j $m^{-c}=k$
Ne	102My name reeksI through you,
Ned	
Ne	$dmj n jty šnn bštw = \begin{cases} 103 \\ m 33 s 3 = f \end{cases}$
Ne	city of a sovereign that conspires to rebel I when his back is turned.
Ned	

Ne	dd = j n - m m j n snw bjn(.w)
Ne	Whom can I talk to today? Brothers are evil
Ned	
Ne	104105 $l \text{hnmsw nw mjn n mr.nj}$ $dd=j$ $l \text{ n-m mjn}$ 104
Ne	and friends of today don't love each other. Whom can I talk to today?
Ned	
Ne	<sup>c</sup> wn jbw s nb $hr$ j $t$ jht snnw=f
Ne	106 Hearts are greedy and every man is stealing I things from his fellow.
Ned	
Ne	$ \begin{array}{ccc} 107 & & 108 \\ l j w sf 3q(.w) & n ht hr h .w n & bw-lnb \end{array} $
Ne	107 I Kindness has vanished and rudeness has descended upon everyone.
Ned	
Ne	dd=j n-m mjn htp ḥr bjn
Ne	Whom can I talk to today? One is contented with evil
Ned	
Ne	$\begin{array}{cccc} 109 & & 110 \\   rdj rf^1 bw-nfr r t^3 & m st nbt \ dd=j n-m &   mjn \\ 100 & & 110 \\ \end{array}$
Ne	109 I and goodness is cast on the ground everywhere. Whom can I talk to I today?
	$\begin{bmatrix} 109 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\$
Ne	sḫ <sup>c</sup> r s m sp=f bjn
Ne	Who should enrage a man by his ill deed
Ned	

Ne	ssbtl=f bw-nb jw=f dw
Ne	makes everyone laugh by his evil wrongdoing.
	111
Ned	
	112
Ne	$dd=j$ n-m mjn jw $h^{c}d^{3}$ .tw
Ne	112Whom can I talk toI today? One steals,
Ned	
Ne	s nb hr jtt $snnw = f dd = j n - m mjn$
Ne	every man is robbing his fellow. Whom can I talk to today?
Ned	
Ne	btw m $\int_{-\infty}^{114} \sin j rr h n^{c} = f$
Ne	The villain is I an intimate friend and the brother with whom one dealt
Ned	$ \begin{array}{c} 114 \\ \hline \\ 0 \end{array} \end{array} \begin{array}{c} 114 \\ \hline \\ 1 \end{array} \\ \hline \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1$
Ne Ne	115 ḫpr(.w)   m ḫft dd=j n-m mjn n sḫ3.tw sf has become an enemy. Whom can I talk to today? Yesterday is not remembered,
Ned	
Ne	$\int \frac{116}{n \text{ jr.tw } n \text{ jr } m \text{ t}^3 \text{t}} \frac{d}{d} = j \text{ n-m mjn}$
Ne	116 I one does not help now who has given help. Whom can I talk to today?
Ned	

Ne	117   snw bjn(.w) jnn.tw m drdrw	118   r mtt nt jb
Ne	117 I Brothers are evil and one turns to strangers	118 I for honesty.
Ned		
Ne	₫d≠j n-m mjn ḥrw htm(.w)	
Ne	Whom can I talk to today? Faces I are blank,	
Ned		
Ne	s nb m $hr$ m $hr$ m $hr$ r s nw=f	
Ne	every man has his face downcast concerning 120 I his brothers.	
Ned		11
Ne	dd=j n-m mjn jbw <sup>c</sup> wn(.w) <sup>121</sup>	jb n s
Ne	121 Whom can I talk to today? Hearts have become greedy I and the	e is no man's heart
Ned		Å ¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬
Ne Ne	rhn.tw $hr=f$ $dd=j$ n-lm mjn nn m <sup>3</sup> <sup>c</sup> tjw on which one may rely. Whom can I talk to today? None are righted	eous
Ned		, <del></del>
Ne	t <sup>3</sup> sp(.w) n $\int_{j_{rw}}^{123} j_{rw} j_{sft} dd = j_{n-m} mj_{n}$	
Ne	and the land is left to I evildoers. Whom can I talk to today?	
Ned		

No	iw šw	124 l m <sup>c</sup> a-ib inn tw m hm	m	
Ne	jw šw   m <sup>c</sup> q-jb jnn.tw m hmm An intimate friend is lacking and one turns to a stranger			
Ne	An intillate mer	124	o a stranger	
Ned	<u>}</u> @ 1016	RIQ V & C & C	<u>}</u>	
Ne	125   r srḫt n≠f	₫d=j n-m mjn	nn   h	s ir jb pß
Ne	125 I to complain to.	Whom can I talk to today?	None is content	there,
Ned			20   ~~~~ _~~     ● ◎ ~~~   <	。 □ ~ 。 ⊃ ▽ 」 凶
Ne	šm ḥn <sup>c</sup> =f	nn sw	127   wn(.w) d	d=j n-m mjn
Ne	and he with who	om one walked is no more.	× / _	/hom can I talk to today?
Ned		₽\\$ <u></u> }	127 e e sin 2	\Q ? ↓ Q
Ne	jw=j <u>³t</u> p=k	128 Iw <u>h</u> r m³r n g³w <sup>c</sup> q-jb		
Ne	I'm laden with m	isery for lack of an in	timate friend.	
Ned				$ \int \left( \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n$
Ne	129   dd=j n-m mj	n nf hw t		130   nn wn pḥwj=fj
Ne	129 I Whom can I ta	lk to today? The evil that sco	ourges the earth	130 I is without end.
Ned	129 】 】 】 】 】 】 】 】 】 】 】 】 】 】 】 】 】 】 】			
Ne	jw mwt m-ḥr	=j m mjn snb	131   mr	mj prt r hntw
Ne	Death is in my s	ight today, a cure	131   of a s	sick man, like going outside
Ned		~}@@P\$		৻৵ৣ৾৾ঀ৾৾৾ঀ৾৾৾ঀ৾৾৾ঀ৾৾৾

Ne	$r-s^{3}$ jhmlt jw mwt m-hr=j mjn
Ne	after confinement. Death is in my sight today,
Ned	
Ne Ne	nj s <u>t</u> <sup>c</sup> nltjw mj ḥmst <u>h</u> r ḥt³w like the smell of myrrh, like sitting under a sail
Ned	
Ne	134   hrw <u>¢</u> w jw mwt m-ḥr≈j mjn 134
Ne	on a windy day. Death is in my sight today,
Ned	
Ne	135136mj st sšnwmj hmst hr mrytI nt tht
Ne	135136I like the smell of lotus flowers, like sitting on the shore ofI drunkenness.
Ned	
Ne	jw mwt m-ḥr≈j mjn mj   w³t ḥwyt
Ne	137 Death is in my sight today, like I a path washed by rain,
Ned	
Ne Ne	138 mj jw s m mš <sup>c</sup> l r pr≈sn jw mwt m-ḥr≈j mjn like a man's coming home from an expedition. Death is in my sight today,
Ned	

139 140 sht<sup>1</sup> jm kft pt mj s m Ne 140 139 like I the sky's clearing, like a man's grasping I thereby Ne 140 1 Read A as A r hmt n=f jw mwt m-hr=j mjn Ne what he didn't know before. Death is in my sight today, Ne Ned 141 jr.n=f rnpwt <sup>c</sup>š3t | mj 3bb s m33 pr=sn Ne 141 I like a man's longing to see home after he has spent many years Ne 141 142 | m ndrt wnn ms ntj jm m ntr <sup>c</sup>nh(.w) it(.w) Ne in captivity. But, who is there is a god who lives, Ne 142 Ned 143 hr hsf jw n jrr sw Ne 143 I because of punishing the evil of one who does it. Ne 143 Ned 144 wnn ms | ntj jm <sup>c</sup>h<sup>c</sup>(.w) m wj<sup>3</sup> Ne But, who is there stands in a barque, Ne a a top a p Ned

Ne	hr rdjt dj.tw stpt <sup>145</sup> jm n r <sup>3</sup> w-prw
Ne	because of letting its <sup>1</sup> choice offerings be given to the temples.
Ned <sup>1</sup> It is	$ \begin{array}{c} 145 \\ \hline \\ $
Ne Ne	wnn ms ntj jm m $rh-ljht$ n $hsf.n.tw=f$ But, who is there is a wise man who cannot be turned away, 146
Ned	
Ne	$ hr spr n \qquad \begin{array}{c} 147 & 148 \\   R^{c} hft mdw = f & ddt.n n = j &   b^{3}(=j) \\ 147 & \end{array} $
Ne	because of appealing to I Re following his word.' What my soul said to me:
Ned	
Ne Ne	jm rk nhwt hr h33 $149$ 'Put whining on a peg, $nj-slw=j pn sn=j$ o my comrade, my brother!
Ned	
Ne	wdn=k $hr^{c}h$ 150I r m^{c}h^{3}=k $hr^{c}nh$ mj $dd=k$
Ne	150 May you give offerings upon a brazier, I in order to reach for a life as you described.
' Sig	n should represent a brazier.
Ne	mr wj $\stackrel{151}{13}$ wjn n=k jmnt
Ne	Desire me I here and dismiss the west!
Ned	

