Gebel Barkal stela of Tuthmosis III

Nederhof - English

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The transliteration throughout follows Hannig (1995).
For published translations, see Cumming (1982), number 365 (pp. 1-7); Helck (1984), number 365 (pp. 5-12); Reisner (1933).

Bibliography
Year 47, third month of the Season of Inundation, day 10, under the majesty of Horus: Mighty bull appearing in Thebes;

Two Ladies: Enduring of kingship like Re in heaven;

Gold Horus: Sacred of appearance, mighty of strength;

The king of Upper and Lower Egypt: Menkheperre;

Son of Re, of his body, his beloved, lord of every foreign land: Tuthmosis, beautiful of form.

He created it as his monument for his father Amun-Re,

lord of the Thrones of the Two Lands, in the fortress 'Slayer of the foreigners',

making for him a resting place of eternity

because he made the victories of My Majesty greater than those of any king who had been.

I seized the southerners under the command of his spirit,

and the northerners in accordance with his guidance.

He created the son of Re, Tuthmosis, ruler of Thebes, given life like Re forever,

the good god who seizes with his arm,
who strikes the southerners and beheads the northerners,

who smashes the heads of the evil-minded,

who carries out a massacre of the bedouin tribes of Asia,

who overthrows the rebels among the bedouin,

who subjugates the lands at the ends of the world, who smites the nomads of Nubia,

who attained the boundaries of the foreign lands of those who attacked him,

who confronts the battlefield furiously.

All foreign lands were united, standing prepared to fight as one. There were no deserters,

relying on the numerous troops, with limitless people and horses.

They advanced, their hearts being bold, without fear in their hearts.

But the one mighty of strength overthrew them,

the one with powerful arm, who tramples his enemies. He is a king who fights alone,

without crowds behind him. He is more effective than a million of numerous soldiers.

Read rather than .
n gm.tw n=f 2nw cḥwjt prj-c ḫr prj
No equal to him has been found: warrior, hero on the battlefield,

nn cḥ m hâw=f sḥm ḫr-cwj r ḫswt nbt
in whose vicinity there is no resistance, who immediately overpowers all foreign lands,

m tpj n mš=f
as commander of his army,

sšd=f r jmjtw pđtw 1 mj sbdi=f ḫrt
while he rushes between the barbarians as a star that crosses the sky,  
1 Following note 8 of Barns (1972).

cq m wmt [w]n [th]j 1 hh=f r=s m sdt
who enters the turmoil of battle, while his glowing breath [attacks] them with fire,  
1 Following the note concerning 1230.1 on p. 6 of Cumming (1982).

jr st m tm wn ḫdb.w ḫr snfw=sn
who eradicates them, while they lie in their blood.

jn ḫt=f sḥr n=f st
It is his serpent-diadem that overthrows them for him,

nsrt=f drt ḫftjw=f
his flame that drives away his enemies.

mš cṣj n Mṭn sḥr(.w) m km n wnw
The numerous army of Metjen was overthrown within an hour,

sb.w rsj mj ntjw n ḫpr  7 [... ] r3-c ḫt wnmyt
as perished as those who have never been, in the manner of a consuming flame,  
7 Following the note concerning 1230.1 on p. 6 of Cumming (1982).

m jr cwj ntr-nfr wr pḥtj m r3-diwine
as what the arms of the good god did, who is great of strength in battle,

jr ḥḥyt m sw nb
who carries out a massacre of everyone,

ḥrj-tp=f wč.w nsw-bjtj Mn-ḥpr-Rč cḥ(ḥ.w) ḫt
his only leader, the king of Upper and Lower Egypt Menkheperre (may he live forever!).
Horus, with a powerful arm, an excellent fortress to his army, a refuge to the subjects,

who attacks every land with infighting, who rescues Egypt on the battlefield,

Following note 9 of Barns (1972).

a protector who does not fear the rapacious. He is a brave bull

whose southern borders reach to the crest of the world, to the ends of this world,

and the northern to the ends of Asia, to the supports of heaven.

They come to him with bowed heads seeking his breath of life.

He is a king valiant like Montu, who robs but from whom one cannot rob,

who tramples all rebellious foreign lands without there being anyone to protect them

in that land of Naharina, which its lord had abandoned in fear.

I damaged his towns and his people and I set fire to them.

My Majesty turned them into ruins, so that they could not be reconstructed.

I captured all their people, who were brought as prisoners, their cattle without limit,

and their possessions as well. I took the crops away from them, tore out their barley,
and felled all their trees and all their fruit trees. Their districts were massacred.

Following the note concerning 1231.17 on p. 6 of Cumming (1982).

My Majesty devastated them so that they became [...] on which there were no trees.

Now My Majesty travelled to the ends of Asia. I let many ships be constructed of cedar,

on the hills of the God's Land, in the presence of the mistress of Byblos,

and they were put on carts pulled by oxen. They went before My Majesty

to cross that great river that flows between this foreign land and Naharina,

a king who is lauded for his arms in battle.

He crossed the Euphrates after him who had attacked him, as chief of his army,

chasing that vile enemy foreign lands of Metjen.

But he fled from His Majesty to another land, a distant place, in fear.

Then My Majesty erected my stela on that mountain of Naharina,

carved out of the mountain on the western side of the Euphrates.

There is no enemy of mine in the southern lands,
jw mḥṭjw m ksw n bꜣw=j  ḫn Rꜣ wḏ st ḫr=j

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And the northerners come bowing to my might. It is Re who commanded it for me,

cꜣf.n=j šnt.n ẖt=f

for I have grasped all that his Eye revolves around.

dj.n=f n=j tḥ m ḫw=f wšḥ=f  ḏmꜣ.n=j psḏt-pḏt

He gave me the land in its length and its breadth. I tied up the Nine Bows,

jww ḫrj-jbw nw ḫd-wr

the islands in the middle of the ocean,

hꜣw-nbwt ḫꜣswt bštwt  ḫṣj.n=j m-ḥnt r Tꜣ-mrj

the inhabitants of the Aegean Sea and the rebellious lands. I returned southward to Egypt

dj.n=j ḫpš Nḥrn  ḳꜣ ḫṛyt m ḫ n ḫṛjw-šꜣ

and subjugated Naharina, greatly feared in the mouths of the bedouin,

ḥtm ḳꜣw=sn ḫr=s  n pr.n=sn r-ḥꜣ n snḏw kꜢ

their gates being closed because of it, and they couldn't go out for fear of the bull.

nsw pw pr-ꜣ mnnw mnḥ n mšꜣ=f  sbṭj m ḫj-[n-pt]

He is a brave king, an excellent fortress to his army, a castle of iron.

hd=f tḥ nb ḫ ḫpš=f  ṃn s ḫḥw ḫꜣ=f

He attacks every land with his strength, without millions of men behind him.

1 Read 𒌳 rather than 𒌳.

wdj r mḏddf  ṭnw ms=f  n wh.n šsrw=f

A sure marksman everytime he takes aim, whose arrows cannot miss.

tmꜣ-jꜣ n ḫpr mjtt=f  Mnṯw qn ḫr prj

One with powerful arm, the like of whom has never been, valiant Montu on the battlefield.

ky sp gr n nḥt wḏ.n ḫr=j  Ṽḥm.n=f n=j qnt  ḳꜣ t

Now another victory that Re commanded for me: He again did for me a very brave act,

m ym n Njj  ṭḏ.j.n=f jṛy=j sꜣw mꜣbww

at the lake of Niya. He made me round up herds of elephants.
My Majesty hunted them, a herd of 120. Never had anything similar been done by a king since the god of those who had received the white crown.

I have said this without boasting and without lie.

I did this according to what [...] ordered to me [...],

who guides My Majesty on the good road, through his excellent plans.

He united for me the black land and the red land,

what the sun revolves around is in my grasp. Now I'll speak again to you, so hear, people!

He conferred on me the foreign lands of Retjenu during the first expedition,

as they came to engage My Majesty, being millions of men,

hundreds of thousands of the finest of all foreign lands, standing on their chariots,

330 princes, each one thereof with his army. They were in the valley of Qina,

ready for battle in a narrow defile.

And a successful act took place against them caused by me. My Majesty attacked them
and they fled immediately, falling in heaps. They entered Megiddo and my Majesty besieged them for seven months, until they came out

beseeching My Majesty, saying: 'Give us your breath, our lord!'

The foreigners of Retjenu will not rebel again.'

Then that enemy and the princes who were with them had sent to My Majesty all their children, with many tributes of gold and silver,

all their horses that were with them, their large chariots of gold and silver

and those that were undecorated, all their coats of mail, their bows, their arrows,

and all their weapons. This is what they had come with

to fight and conspire against My Majesty, and now they brought them as gifts to My Majesty.

They stood on their walls giving praise to My Majesty in order to be given the breath of life.

Then My Majesty ordered that they be made to swear an oath:

'We will not again do evil against Menkheperre (may he live forever!), our lord,
in our lifetime, for we have seen his might. He has given us breath as he wishes.

Then My Majesty ordered that they be granted passage to their towns.

They all went on donkeys, since I had taken their horses.

I captured their inhabitants for Egypt and their properties as well.

My father gave them to me, I [...] the excellent god, who is successful.

whose plans do not fail, who sent My Majesty to seize the lands and all foreigners together.

I overthrew them as he ordered, in the way that he used to do.

He let me smite all foreigners and there was none who dared approach me.

My mace overthrew the Asiatics, and my mace smited the Nine Bows.

My Majesty subjugated every land. Retjenu is under my feet, the bedouin of Asia are subject to My Majesty. They are subservient to me as one,

charged with tributes of millions of many things from the crest of the world,
nbw c33 n W3w3t nn dw r tnwt=f
and much gold from Wawat, its quantity without limit.

mdh tw jm r stp-s3 c w.s.  tnw rnt pt m hmntjw
One constructs there for the palace (l.p.h.!), each and every year, 'eight'-ships

hr c5f w c33 r js tw c prw hw-r b3kw
and many ships for the crew of sailors in addition to the tributes

stjw m bhw hbnj  jw n=j hwtd m Ks
the bedouin of Asia in ivory and ebony. Precious wood comes for me from Kush,

m slyw nw m3m3w  htyt nn dw jrw jrn m snxt hntj
consisting in branches of doum palm and furniture without limit of southern acacia.

mdh n sn m5c=j m Ks  ntw jm m hhw
My army hewed them in Kush, which was there by the millions.

30 [... m5c w c33 nw m3m3w  jn hmw=j m nhf
30 [... many ships of doum palm, which My Majesty had carried off in victory.

mdh [... Djhj  ntw rnt pt m c5c n Rmnn
[...] constructed [...] Djahi each and every year from real cedar from Lebanon,

jn w r stp-s3 c w.s.
which is brought to the palace (l.p.h.)

jw n=j hwtd r Kmt shntw
Precious wood comes for me to Egypt, brought south, [...] real [...] from Negau,

m stp n T3-ntr  swd st
the pick of the God's Land, which were assigned,

m5c mj ss r sprt r hw
[m5c-wood] like alabaster for supply to the residence,

1 Uncertain.

nn snt jw trw jrw  tnw rnt pt nbt
without expiration of the coming of the appropriate season of a single year.
My army, which is in Ullaza as occupying force, comes

which is from cedar from conquests of My Majesty, by the plans of my father [...]

who conferred on me all foreigners. I didn't give it of it to the Asiatics,

since it is wood that he likes. He subjugated, and they acknowledge my lord,

and the misery from them has been pacified.

which was called the Thrones of the Two Lands among the people

when it wasn't known yet. May you know the wonder of [...] before the people

A star fell, falling to their south. The like had not happened before.

It struck them opposite to him. None could stand there [...] in heaps.

But [...] after them with fire in their faces. None of them offered resistance,

and none looked back. They no longer had horses, which had bolted in [...]

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I returned southward, my heart being glad, after I had triumphed for my lord, [...]

He placed the fear of me among all foreigners, and they fled far away from me.

All that the sun shines upon is bound together under my feet. My Majesty myself says:

He has made me lord of the five portions, ruler of what the sun revolves around.

There is no road to me, since he has sealed the entire land for me.

There is no limit to what became mine in victory. He placed my might in Upper Retjenu.

They [...] me their produce to the place where My Majesty is, at every season.

The foreign land extracts for me everything good that is in it,
which it had hidden from other kings. It spread them out all kinds of precious stones,

all kinds of sweet-smelling herbs that grow in Punt,

and everything good from the southern land.

Everything that comes before My Majesty through trade is his. I fill his house

and repay him for his protection on the battlefield.

I will also give offerings, precious goods from all foreign lands as

which his strong arm had attacked. He ordered it to me against all foreigners.

These courtiers the Thrones of the Two Lands,

the great god of the primordial time, the primeval god who created your beauty.

He has given you every land. Lead it for him who knows that you have come forth from him.

It is he who guides Your Majesty on the road.' fear of me in the ends of Asia,

without my messenger being hindered.

My army cut down the flag poles on the Cedar-terraces [..]
for the monuments of my forefathers, all the gods of Upper and Lower Egypt.

My Majesty constructed row boats of cedar ...

in the harbour [of] Lebanon in the fortress ...

All the princes of Lebanon [...] the royal ships, to travel south therein.

to fetch all kinds of precious goods [...] the southern land, to the palace (l.p.h.l).

The princes of Retjenu dragged these flag poles ...

with oxen to the harbour, and they came with their tributes

to the place where His Majesty was, to the residence in ...

with all good products that were brought as precious goods from the south, ...

charged as tributes of the annual requirements, as all subjects of My Majesty.

What the people said: '... the foreigners [...] your might.

Your fame has pervaded the crest of the world.
Your esteem has shaken the hearts of those who attack [...] the people [...] [... every [...]

who will disrespect your plans. It is your father who [...] His Majesty was in [...].'