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

Ḥr Kḥ-nḥt ḥcjt-m-Wḥst
Horus: Mighty bull appearing in Thebes;

nbtj Wḥ-h-nsyt-mj-Rc-m-pt
Two Ladies: Enduring of kingship like Re in heaven;

Ḥr-nbw Ḟsr-hcw shḥm-pḥṭj
Gold Horus: Sacred of appearance, mighty of strength;

nsw-bjtj Mn-hpr-Rc
The king of Upper and Lower Egypt: Menkheperre;

si-Rc n ḥt=f mr=f nb n ḥḥst nb
Son of Re, of his body, his beloved, lord of every foreign land: Tuthmosis, beautiful of form.

Dḥwtj-msjw nfr-hpr
He created it as his monument for his father Amun-Re,

jr.n=f m mnw=f n jt=f Jmn-Rc
He created the son of Re, Tuthmosis, ruler of Thebes,

nb Nswt-twj
lord of the Thrones of the Two Lands, in the fortress 'Slayer of the foreigners',

jrt n=f ḫnw nhḥ
making for him a resting place of eternity

Dr-ntt sȝn=f nḥtw ḫm=j
because he made the victories of My Majesty greater than those of any king who had been.

jṯn=j rsjw ḫr ḫḏ kḥ=f
I seized the southerners under the command of his spirit,

mḥṭjw ḫṯ sšm=f
and the northerners in accordance with his guidance.

jm n=f Rc Dḥwtj-msjw ḫḥb-Wḥst
dj ȝnh mj Rc ḫḏ
He created the son of Re, Tuthmosis, ruler of Thebes, given life like Re forever,

nṯr-nfr jṯ m ḫḥpš=f
the good god who seizes with his arm,
hw rsjw ḥsq mḥtjw
who strikes the southerners and beheads the northerners,

ssḥ tpw nbḏw-qd
who smashes the heads of the evil-minded,

3  jr št mntjw-Sṭt
3  who carries out a massacre of the bedouin tribes of Asia,

šḥ bt nw ḥrw-šc
who overthrows the rebels among the bedouin,

wf tḥw nw ṣḥww tš
who subjugates the lands at the ends of the world, who smites the nomads of Nubia,

jn ḏrw ḥšwt phhw sw
who attained the boundaries of the foreign lands of those who attacked him,

ḥṣwt nb dmḏ.(w) ḥc mj wč ḥr.(w) r ḥh
All foreign lands were united, standing prepared to fight as one. There were no deserters,

4  hnn m skw ṣšj
4  relying on the numerous troops, with limitless people and horses.

jj.n=sn jbw=sn šḥm.(w)
nn ḥryt m jb=sn
They advanced, their hearts being bold, without fear in their hearts.

šhr. n st šḥm phṭj
But the one mighty of strength overthrew them,

ṭmš-c tjṭj hftjw=f
the one with powerful arm, who tramples his enemies. He is a king who fights alone,

nn ṣšt ḥš[f
5  ḥ sw r
5  ḥḥ m mšč ṣšj
without crowds behind him. He is more effective than 1 a million of numerous soldiers.

1  Read ﬁ rather than ﮇ.  

n gm.tw n=f 2nw cẖꜣwtj prj-ꜣ ꝏ prj
No equal to him has been found: warrior, hero on the battlefield,

nn cẖꜣ c m ḫw=f ṣẖm ḫr-ꜣwj r ḫꜣswt nbt
in whose vicinity there is no resistance, who immediately overpowers all foreign lands,

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

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

³q m wmt [w]n ꜣ [th]j ꜣ hh=f r=s m sḏt
who enters the turmoil of battle, while ᴵ 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 ḫꜣt=f ṣẖрабат n=f st
It is his serpent-diadem that overthrows them for him,

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

mšꜣ cꜣꜣ n Mtn sẖr(.w) m km n wnwtf
The numerous army of Metjen was overthrown within an hour,

sb.w rsj mj ntjw n ḫpr [安全保障] ṣẖꜣ c ḫt wnmyt
as perished as those who have never been, ᴷ in the manner of a consuming flame,
⁷ Following the note 7.3 concerning 1230.1 on p. 7 of Cumming (1982).

m jr ḫꜣw nṯr-nfr wr pḥtj m ḫꜣꜣdꜣyw
as what the arms of the good god did, who is great of strength in battle,

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

ḥrj-tp=f wꜣꜣ w nsw-bjtj Mn-ḥꜣRꜣ c
his only leader, the king of Upper and Lower Egypt Menkheperre (may he live forever!).

³nḥ(.w) ḫt
Hr pw ₄m₃-c mnnw mnh n m₅-c=f
He is Horus, with a powerful arm, an excellent fortress to his army, a refuge to the subjects,

hd t₈w nb m hw-nj-r-hr¹ nḥm 8 Kmt ḫr pg³
who attacks every land with infighting, who rescues l Egypt on the battlefield,
¹ Following note 9 of Barns (1972).

mk n snq=f cwn-jb k₃ pw wsr-jb
a protector who does not fear the rapacious. He is a brave bull

tš₈w=f rs r wpt-t³ r ḫntjw nw t³ pn
whose southern borders reach to the crest of the world, to the ends of this world,

mhṭj r ḫhww nw Stṭ r šḥnt wnt
and the northern to the ends of Asia, to the supports of heaven.

jw=sn n=f m ḡḥ tp sbj.tw ṭw=f n ḡ nh
They come to him with bowed heads seeking his breath of life.

nsw pw qn mj Mnṭw  jṭ n jṭ.tw m-c=f
He is a king valiant like Montu, who robs but from whom one cannot rob,

ptpt 9 ḫṣwt nb bṣṭt nn wn nḥ st
who tramples l all rebellious foreign lands without there being anyone to protect them

m ti pf n Nhrn  ḫṣ-c.n nb=f n snq
in that land of Naharina, which its lord had abandoned in fear.

ḥb.n=j njwwt=f ḡḥyt=f dj.n=j sdt jm=sn
I damaged his towns and his people and I set fire to them.

jr.n st ḫm=j m jḥwt nn ḫpr grg st
My Majesty turned them into ruins, so that they could not be reconstructed.

ḥṣ.q.n=j rmt=sn nbṭ jn m sqrwc-ᶜ nh mn|mnt jrj nn ḫr
I captured all their people, who were brought as prisoners, their cattle without limit,

ḥḥwt=sn r-mjtṭ nḥm.n=j ḡḥt{t} r=s ḡḥṣ.n=j jṭ=sn
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,
and the northerners come bowing to my might. It is Re who commanded it for me,

crfn=j šnt.n jḥt=f
for I have grasped all that his Eye revolves around.

djn=f n=j tō m jw=f wšh=f dmjn=j psḏt-pḏt
He gave me the land in its length and its breadth. I tied up the Nine Bows,

jww ḫṛj-jbw nw wḏ-wr
the islands in the middle of the ocean,

ḥw-nbwt ḫswt bštwt
the inhabitants of the Aegean Sea and the rebellious lands. I returned southward to Egypt

djn=j ḫps Nhṛn cṯ ḫṛt m rš n ḫṛjw-šc
and subjugated Naharina, greatly feared in the mouths of the bedouin,

ḥtm csw=sn ḫr=s n prn=sn r-hš n snḏw kš
their gates being closed because of it, and they couldn't go out for fear of the bull.

nsw pw pr-c mnnw mnḥ n mšc=f sbṯj m bjʃ-[n-pt]
He is a brave king, an excellent fortress to his army, a castle of iron.

hd=f tō nb ḫr ḫps=f nn s ḫhw ḫš=f
He attacks every land with his strength, without millions of men behind him.

1 Read ḫ rather than ḫ.

wdj r mdḏ ḫnw ms=f n whn šsrw=f
A sure marksman everytime he takes aim, whose arrows cannot miss.

tmj-c n ḫpr mjtt=f Mnṭw qn ḫ prj
One with powerful arm, the like of whom has never been, valiant Montu on the battlefield.

ky sp gr n nḥt wḏ.n Rc ḫr=j ḫpmn=f n=j qnt | ḫṯ
Now another victory that Re commanded for me: He again did for me a very brave act,

my mn Niṣj rdjn=f jry=j sḏw m ḫbw
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 enteredMegiddo

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,

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

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.

His father has done it [...] It is not an act of people.'

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, [...] 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,
and much gold from Wawat, its quantity without limit.

One constructs there for the palace (l.p.h.), each and every year, 'eight'-ships

and many ships for the crew of sailors in addition to the tributes

the bedouin of Asia in ivory and ebony. Precious wood comes for me from Kush,

consisting in branches of doum palm and furniture without limit of southern acacia.

My army hewed them in Kush, which was there by the millions.

[...] many ships of doum palm, which My Majesty had carried off in victory.

[...] constructed [...] Djahi each and every year from real cedar from Lebanon,

which is brought to the palace (l.p.h.).

Precious wood comes for me to Egypt, brought south, [...] real [...] from Negau,

the pick of the God's Land, which were assigned,

[m\(^3\)-wood] like alabaster for supply to the residence,

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 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.

My [...] So hear, people of the southern land that is at the sacred mountain,

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

to come to meet in the night, to carry out the regular watch; there were two observers.

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 [...]

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

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 [...]

13
45  | [... ] r mnw jtw=j  nṯrw nbw nw Șmʾw Mḥw
45  | [... ] for the monuments of my forefathers, all the gods of Upper and Lower Egypt.

jw mḏh.n hm=j dpwt nt ḫnt nt ʾš [...]
My Majesty constructed row boats of cedar [...]

ḥr mryt [... ] Rmnn m mnn 46  | [...]
46  | in the harbour [of] Lebanon in the fortress [...]

[...] wrw nbw Rmnn dpwt-nsw  r sḥnt jm=sn
All the princes of Lebanon [...] the royal ships, to travel south therein,

r jnt bjḥt nbt [...]  [ḥ]nt-tš r stp-sš ʾš.š.s.
to fetch all kinds of precious goods [...] the southern land, to the palace (l.p.h.l).

wrw nw 47  | [... ] wrw nw Ṯnw sšš nš n snwt
47  | The princes of [... ] The princes of Retjenu dragged these flag poles

ḥr jḥw r mryt  ntsn jyj ḫr bškw=sn
with oxen to the harbour, and they came with their tributes

r bw ḫr ḫm=f  r ḫnw m 48  | [...]
48  | to the place where His Majesty was, to the residence in [...]

ḥr mšš nb nfr jnw  m bjḥt rs [...]
with all good products that were brought as precious goods from the south, [...]

ḥtr.w m bškw n ḫrt-rnpt  mj ndt nbt nt ḫm=j
charged as tributes of the annual requirements, as all subjects of My Majesty.

sḏdt.n rmḥ [... ]  | [... ] [... ] n ḥštjwt bšw=k
49  | What the people said: ‘[...] [ ] the foreigners [...] your might.

hmḥmt=k ḫhr.n=š wpt-tš
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 [...]."