

Khnumhotpe, prince of Beni Hasan, Biography of Nederhof - English

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

Transliteration and translation for "The biography of Khnumhotpe, prince of Beni Hasan", following the transcription of De Buck (1948), pp. 67-72, with line numbers following plates 25 and 26 of Newberry (1893) up to line 200, and following plate 11 of Montet (1930-1935) from line 200 onward.

The transliteration throughout follows Hannig (1995).

For published translations, see Breasted (1906), pp. 279-289, §§ 619-639; Newberry (1893), pp. 57-66. Montet (1930-1935), pp. 131-132, offers a translation of the text from line 199 onward.

Bibliography

- J.H. Breasted. *Ancient Records of Egypt -- Volume I*. The University of Chicago Press, 1906.
- A. De Buck. *Egyptian Readingbook*. Ares Publishers, Chicago, Illinois, 1948.
- R.O. Faulkner. *A Concise Dictionary of Middle Egyptian*. Griffith Institute, Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, 1962.
- R. Hannig. *Grosses Handwörterbuch Ägyptisch-Deutsch: die Sprache der Pharaonen (2800-950 v.Chr.)*. Verlag Philipp von Zabern, 1995.
- P. Montet. Les dernières lignes de la grande inscription de Beni Hassan. *Kêmi*, 3:112-132, 1930-1935.
- P.E. Newberry. *Beni Hasan -- Part I*. Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner & Co., London, 1893.

¹
| jrj-p^ct ḥ3tj-^c rh-nsw

¹
| Prince regent, count, acquaintance of the king,

mrrw nṯr=f jmj-r³ | ²ḥ3swt j3btt Nḥrj s3 Hnm-ḥtp m3^c-ḥrw

beloved of his god, leader | ²of the eastern lands, Khnumhotep, son of Neheri, justified,

³
| jr.n s3t ḥ3tj-^c nbt-pr B3qt m3^c-ḥrw

³
| born of a count's daughter, lady of the house Baqet, justified.

⁴ | jr.n=f m mnw=f ⁵sp=f tp m smnlḥ njwt=f

⁴
| He built this as his monument. His foremost deed was adorning his city,

srwd=f rn=f n nhḥ¹
that he might perpetuate his name forever,

¹ Read  as  .

⁶ | smnh=f sw n dt m js=f ⁷ | n hrt-nṯr

⁶ | and that he might adorn it for eternity in his tomb | ⁷of the necropolis.

srwd=f rn n qnbt⁸=f smnh ḥft j3wt=sn
He perpetuated the name of his cabinet, elevated according to their offices,

⁹ | mnḥw jmjw nw ¹⁰ | pr=f ¹¹ ṯn.n=f ḥnt m|rt=f

⁹ | the excellent ones and inhabitants of | ¹⁰his house, whom he raised over his servants,

j3wt nbt hrpt¹².n=f ḥmwt nbt mj ḥpr¹³=s r3=f dd=f
concerning every office that he held and every craft according to its nature. His mouth says:

jw rdj.n wj | ḥm n Ḥr Ḥkn-m-m3^ct
¹⁴
| 'The majesty of Horus: Who rejoices in truth;

nbtj Hkn-m-¹⁵ | m³c^t Bjk-nbw m³c-ḥrw

Two Ladies: Who rejoices in ¹⁵ | truth; Gold Horus, justified;

nsw-bjtj Nbw-k³w-R^c s³-R^c ¹⁶ | Jmn-m-ḥ³t

The king of Upper and Lower Egypt: Nebukaure; Son of Re: ¹⁶ | Amenemhet,

ḏj ^ḥnh ḏd w³s mj R^c ḏt

given life, stability and dominion, like Re forever, appointed me

r ¹⁷ | jrj-p^ct ḥ³tj-^c jmj-r^c ḥ³swt j³btt ¹⁸ | sm³ Ḥr P³ḥt

to be ¹⁷ | prince regent, count, leader of the eastern lands, ¹⁸ | priest of Horus and Pakhet,

r jw^ct ¹⁹ | jt mwt=j m Mnl^ct-Ḥwfw ²⁰

and to the inheritance ¹⁹ | of the father of my mother in Menat-Khufu.

smn.n=f ²¹ | n=j wḏ šm^c

He erected ²¹ | the Upper Egyptian boundary marker for me,

smn|ḥ.n=f mḥtj mj pt ²² ps|š.n=f jtr ²³ ḥr ²⁴ j³t|f

while restoring the northern, like heaven. He divided the great river along its middle,

mj jr³yt n jt ²⁵ | mwt=j

as was done for the father ²⁵ | of my mother,

m tpt-²⁶ | r³ prt m r³ n ḥm n

by the pronouncement that issued from the mouth of the majesty of

²⁷ | Ḥr Wḥm-mswt nbtj Wḥm-mswt ²⁸ | Bjk-nbw (wḥm-)mswt

²⁷ | Horus: Who repeats birth; Two Ladies: Who repeats birth; ²⁸ | Gold Horus: Who repeats birth;

nsw-bjtj Šḥtp-jb-R^c s³-R^c ²⁹ | Jmn-m-ḥ³t

The king of Upper and Lower Egypt: Sehotepibre; Son of Re: ²⁹ | Amenemhet,

dj ^cnh dd w3s mj R^c dt

given life, stability and dominion, like Re forever.

30 | rdjt=f¹ sw r jrj-p^ct h3tj-^c | jmj-r^c h3swt | j3btt³¹

30 | He appointed him to be prince regent, count, leader of the eastern lands,

¹ Written fdjt=f.

m Mn^ct-Hwfw | smn.n=f wd šm^c³²

in Menat-Khufu. | He erected the Upper Egyptian boundary marker,³²

smnh³³ | mh3tj mj pt | psš.n=f jtr^c | hr j3t=f³⁴

while restoring | the northern, like heaven. He divided the great river along its middle,³³

gs=f j3b³⁵ | n Dwt-Hr | r-mn-m h3st j3b|tt³⁶

its eastern side | to the Mountain of Horus reached as far as the eastern land.³⁵

m jt hm=f | dr=f js|ft³⁷ | h^cw m Jtm | ds=f³⁸

At the coming of His Majesty, he repelled evil, appearing as Atum | himself,³⁸

smnh=f gmlt.n=f w3s.tj | jtt njwt | m snnwt=s⁴⁰

and he restored what he found ruined and what one city had taken | from another,⁴⁰

dj=f rh njwt | tš3=s r njwt | sm|nh wd3w=sn | mj pt⁴³

while he let city know | its boundary with city, restoring their boundary markers | like heaven,⁴¹

rh mw=sn r | ntt m sš | sjp r | ntt m jswt⁴⁵

and know their waters according to | what was in writing, investigating | what was of old,⁴⁴

n-3t-n | mrr=f m3ct⁴⁶ | h^c.n rdj.n=f slw r jrj-p^ct h3tj-^c⁴⁷

because he loved justice so much. Then he appointed him to be prince regent and count,

jm3-^c hrj-tp^c n M3-^chd

esteemed assistant and great chief of Ma-hedi.

48 | smn.n=f wḏw | ⁴⁹šm^c m tš=f r ⁵⁰| Wnt

48 | He erected the Upper Egyptian boundary markers as his boundary to | ⁵⁰Unet,

mḥtj=f r Jnpwt ⁵¹psšl.n=f jtr ⁵²ḥr jḥt|=f
and his northern to Input. He divided the great river along its middle,

mw=f ḥwt=f jsr=f ⁵³šl^c=f r-mn-m ḥswt jmntt
its water, its fields, its tamarisks and its sand reached as far as the western lands.

⁵⁴| rdj.n=f sḥ=f smsw=f Nḥt ⁵⁵| m³^c-ḥrw nb jmḥ

⁵⁴| He appointed his eldest son Nekht, | ⁵⁵justified and revered,

r ḥqḥ jw³ | ⁵⁶t=f m Mn^ct-Ḥwfw ⁵⁷| m ḥst ⁵⁸ḥt | nt ḥr nsw

to be ruler of his inheritance in Menat-Khufu, | ⁵⁷as a great favour | ⁵⁸of the king,

m wḏt prt | ⁵⁹rḥ n ḥm n Ḥr ^cnh-mswt
by the command that issued from the mouth of the majesty of Horus: Living of birth;

⁶⁰| nbtj ^cnh-mswt Bjk-nbw ^cnh-mswt

⁶⁰| Two Ladies: Living of birth; Gold Horus: Living of birth;

nsw-bjtj ⁶¹| Ḥpr-k³-R^c s³-R^c S-n-Wsrt

The king of Upper and Lower Egypt: | ⁶¹Kheperkare; Son of Re: Sesostris,

dj ^cnh | ⁶²ḏd wḥs mj R^c ḏt ⁶³sḥ=j tlp n mswt=j

given life, | ⁶²stability and dominion, like Re forever. The foremost nobility of my birth was

wḏl³ mwt=j r jrt-p^ct ⁶⁴ | ⁶⁵ḥtt^c

that my mother proceeded to become regentess | ⁶⁵and countess,

m sḥt ḥqḥ ⁶⁶| n Mḥ-ḥḏ r Ḥwt-Sḥtp-jb-R^c

as the daughter of the ruler | ⁶⁶of Ma-hedi, to Hut-Sehotepibre,

67
| dj ḥnh dd w3s mj R^c dt

67
| given life, stability and dominion, like Re forever,

r ḥmt ⁶⁸ | n jrj-p^{ct} ḥ3tj-^c ⁶⁹ ḥq3 njwwt | m3t

⁶⁸
and to become the wife | of the prince regent, count, ruler of the new settlements,

m3t.n nsw ⁷⁰ jmt | n bjtj

⁷⁰
praised by the king of Upper Egypt, pupil | of the king of Lower Egypt,

r s^cḥ=f n jmj-r3 njwt ⁷¹ | Nḥrj m3^c-ḥrw nb jm3ḥ jn | ⁷² wj

⁷¹
concerning his rank of leader of the city, | Nehri, justified and revered.

nsw-bjtj Nbw-k3w-R^c

The king of Upper and Lower Egypt Nebukaure,

dj ḥnh dd w3s ⁷³ | mj R^c dt

⁷³
given life, stability and dominion, | like Re forever, brought me

m s3 ḥ3tj-^c r jw^{ct} ⁷⁴ | ḥq3t jt mwt=j

⁷⁴
as son of a count into the inheritance | of the rule of the father of my mother,

n-³lt-n mrr=f m3^{ct} ⁷⁶ Jtm | pw ds=f Nbw-k3w-R^c

because he loved justice so much. He is Atum himself, Nebukaure,

dj ḥnh ⁷⁷ | dd w3s ⁷⁷ 3w-jb=f mj R^c dt

⁷⁷
given life, | stability, dominion and happiness, like Re forever.

dj.n=f wlj r ḥ3tj-^c m rnpt-sp 19 m ⁷⁹ | Mn^{ct}-Ḥwfw ḥ^c.n smn | ⁸⁰ ḥ.n=j sj

⁷⁹
He appointed me to be count in the year 19, in | Menat-Khufu. Then I adorned it,

ḥ^c=s ḥpr.w ⁸¹ | m jht nbt ⁸² srwd | .n=j rn n jt=j

⁸¹
and it acquired | all kinds of things. I perpetuated the name of my father.

smnh.n=j ḥwwt-⁸³lk^w jrjw šms.n=j twtw⁸⁴|=j r ḥwt-nṯr
I restored their mortuary chapels. I followed my statues to the temple.

sm^{3c}.n=j n=sn | p³t=sn t ḥnqt qbḥw jrjw snṯr ⁸⁶| w^cbt
⁸⁵I brought to them | their offerings of bread, beer, libation, wine, incense | ⁸⁶and meat-offering,

sjp n ḥm-k³ smnh⁸⁷.n=j sw m ḥwt m⁸⁸l^rt
assigned to the mortuary priest. I endowed him with fields and servants.

w^d.n⁸⁹|=j prt-r-ḥrw t ḥnqt k³ ḥpdw
I commanded a mortuary offering of bread, beer, oxen and fowl,

m ḥb nb ⁹⁰| n ḥrt-nṯr m tpj-rnpt wpt-rnpt
⁹⁰at every feast | of the necropolis, at New Year's Day, the opening of the year,

rnpt-⁹¹ḥt ⁹¹| rnpt-ndst
the feast of the great year and | the feast of the small year,

ḥrq rnpt ḥb | ⁹²wr m rkḥ ḥ ⁹³| m rkḥ nds
the end of the year, the great feast, at the Great Burning and | ⁹³at the Little Burning,

m 5-ḥrj⁹⁴|w-rnpt m šdt š^c
at the five epagomenal days, at the taking of the sand¹,

¹ Reading very uncertain.

⁹⁵| m ḥbd 12 smdt 12
⁹⁵| at the 12 monthly feasts and the 12 mid-monthly feasts,

ḥb | nb n tpj-ḥ nfr tpj-ḍw jr grt | ḥm-k³ rmṯ nbt
⁹⁷every feast of the happy living and of the dead. As for | the mortuary priest or any person

98 | hnn.tj=sn st n wnn=f n | wnn s³=f hr nst=f 99

98 | who shall disturb them, he shall not be, and his son shall not be in his place.

100 101
wr | hst=j m stp-s³ r smr w^c|tj nb

The praise of me in the palace was greater than that of any sole companion.

t_n.n=f wj hntw s^chw=f [dj].kw 102 103 104
| hr-h³t wnw | hr-h³t=j

He raised me over his nobles. I was [placed] | before those who had been | before me. 103 104

j^cb.n | qnbt nt ^ch 105 106 107
| r djt hstj hftw | dh_n=j

The cabinet of the palace assembled | to give praise according to | my appointment, 106 107

hftw 108 109
| hswt hp_rt | m-b³h

according to | the favour that came to pass | in the presence of 108 109

tpt-r³ nt nsw d|s=f 110
the pronouncement of the king himself.

n hpr mjtt n b³|kw p³.n | nb=sn hst | st 111 112 113

Never happened the like to servants whom their lords had praised.

r_h.n=f st-ns=j 114
| n_hn qm³=j

He knew my eloquence | while my appearance was youthful. 114

j|w=j m jm³hy | n hr nsw hst=j 115 116 117
| hr šnwt=f

I was honoured | with the king, my praise | was with his courtiers, 116 117

jm³t=j m-b³h 118 119
| smrw=f

and the fondness for me was before | his companions. 119

jrj-p^ct h3tj-|^c Nhrj s³ Hnm-htp nb jm³h 120

The prince regent and count Khnumhotep son of Nehri, revered.

121
| kt ḥswt jryt n=j

122
| dj.tw s³=j smsw Nḥt jrl.n Ḥty

121
| Another favour granted to me: | My eldest son Nekhet, born of Kheti, was appointed

r ḥq³ Jnpwt | r jw^ct jt mwt|=f

124
to be ruler of Input, | and to the inheritance of the father of his mother,

shpr m smr w^lc^tj | djw r ḥ³t nt t³-|Šm^cw

126
was made sole companion and was appointed to be chief of Upper Egypt.

djw n=f tn^lw s^cḥ jn ḥm n | Hr Sšmw-t³wj

128
Every dignity was conferred on him by the majesty of | Horus: Leader of the Two Lands;

nbtj Sh^cj-m³^ct | Bjk-nbw ḥtp-n^trw

130
Two Ladies: Who makes truth appear; | Gold Horus: Who placates the gods;

nsw-bjtj Ḥ^cj-ḥpr-R^c | s³-R^c | S-n-Wsrt

131
The king of Upper and Lower Egypt: Khakheperre; Son of Re: | Sesostris,

dj ^cnh dd w³s mj R^c dt | jr|=f mnw=f m Jnpwt

132
given life, stability and dominion, like Re forever. He built his monuments in Input,

m smnh | gmt.n=f wš(.tj) | jt^l.n njwt m snwtj=s

133
restoring | what he found damaged and what one city had taken from another,

rdj rh=f | tš=f | r ḥdt | sjp | r ntt m jswt

135
letting it know | its boundary according to the land register, investigating | what was of old,

| dj wd r tš|=f šm^c

137
| placing a boundary marker at his Upper Egyptian boundary,

smnh mḥtj ¹³⁹ | mj pt smn ḥr shwt ¹⁴⁰ | nt ḥrw
and restoring the northern, | like heaven, erecting on the fields | of the lowland

dmd-smḥ ¹⁴¹ | r wḏ 15
a total ¹⁴¹ | of 15 boundary markers,

smn ḥr ḥwt=f mḥtj ḫšl=f r Wḥwt ¹⁴² ¹⁴³
establishing on its northern fields its boundary as far as Wabut.

psš.n=f ¹⁴⁴ | jtr ḥr jḥt=f ¹⁴⁵ | gs=f jmntj n Jnpwt
He divided ¹⁴⁴ | the great river along its middle, ¹⁴⁵ | its western side to Input

r-mn-m ḥslwt jmntt ¹⁴⁶
reaching as far as the western lands,

ḥft spr ¹⁴⁷ | jrj-p^ct ḥḥtj-^c Ḥnm-ḥtp sḥ Nḥt ¹⁴⁸ | m^{3c}-ḥrw nb jmḥh r-ḏḏ
when the prince regent and count Nakht son of Khnumhotep, justified and revered,

n rh mw=j ¹⁴⁹ | ḥswt wrt nt ¹⁵⁰ | ḥr nsw
petitioned: "My waters do not know ¹⁴⁹ | the great favour from the king."

ky wr ¹⁵¹ | m nḏ m smr w^ctj ¹⁵² ¹⁵³ | ḥjm n sm^lrw
Another prince ¹⁵¹ | was appointed as sole companion, ¹⁵² | greatest of the companions,

ḥšḥ jn^lw pr-nsw ¹⁵⁴ smr w^c ¹⁵⁵ | nn wn ḥr ḥw=f
numerous in gifts from the palace, sole companion, ¹⁵⁵ | whose equal has never been,

sḏmw n^l=f sḏmw ¹⁵⁶ rḥ w^c ¹⁵⁷ | ḥtm rḥw
to whom the authorities listen, only mouth ¹⁵⁷ | that silences the mouths,

jnn ḥht ¹⁵⁸ | n nb=s rḥ-^c ḥḥswt
who brings advantage ¹⁵⁸ | to its possessor, entry of the foreign lands,

¹⁵⁹ N|hrj s³ Hnm-ḥtp s³ hnm-ḥ|tp jr.n nbt-pr Hty

Khnumhotep son of Khnumhotep son of Nehri, born of the lady of the house Kheti.

¹⁶¹ | s^cnh.n=j rn n jtw|=j gm.n=j wš(.w) ¹⁶³ | ḥr sb³w

¹⁶¹ | I kept alive the names of my forefathers that I'd found obliterated | ¹⁶³ upon the doorways,

¹⁶⁴ rh m t|jt mtj m šdt nn ¹⁶⁵ | djt ky m ^cb k|y ¹⁶⁶ ¹⁶⁷ jst s³ pw | mnḥ

¹⁶⁵ legible, accurately spelled, without | confusing one with another. He is an excellent son,

¹⁶⁸ srwd rn n t|pjw-^c

who perpetuates the names of the ancestors,

¹⁶⁹ Nhrj s³ | Hnm-ḥtp m^{3c}-ḥrw nb jm³h ¹⁷⁰ | s^cḥ=j tp m

¹⁷⁰ Khnumhotep son of Nehri, justified and revered. | My foremost nobility was

¹⁷¹ smnh|.n=j ḥrt ¹⁷² sn | s r jr^rt jt|=f ¹⁷³

that I built a tomb, as a man should imitate what his father did.

jr.n n=f jt=j ḥwt-k³ ¹⁷⁴ | m Mr-nfrt ¹⁷⁵ m jnr | nfr n ^cnw

¹⁷⁴ My father built for himself a mortuary chapel | in Mer-neferet, of good limestone,

r srwd ¹⁷⁶ | rn=f n nhḥ ¹⁷⁷ | smnh=f sw n dt

¹⁷⁶ in order to perpetuate | his name forever. He adorned it for eternity,

rn=f ^cnh(.w) ¹⁷⁸ | m r³ n p^ct

¹⁷⁸ so that his name might live | in the mouths of the people,

¹⁷⁹ dd|.w m r³ n ^cnhw ¹⁸⁰ | ḥr js=f n ḥrt-nṯr

¹⁸⁰ and remain in the mouths of the living | and on his tomb of the necropolis,

¹⁸¹ m pr=f | mnḥ n nhḥ ¹⁸² st|=f nt dt

in his excellent house of eternity, his place of everlastingness,

ḥft ḥswt nt ḥr ¹⁸³ | nsw mrwt=f m ¹⁸⁴ | stp-s³

according to the favour from | the king and the love of him in | the palace.

ḥq³.n=f njwt=f m sdt ¹⁸⁵ | n fh̄t=f m ḥm

He ruled his city when he was an infant | before his circumcision.

¹⁸⁶ | jr.n=f jpt nsw ¹⁸⁷ šwtj=f jbl³=sn

¹⁸⁶ | He executed a royal commission and his two plumes danced

m ḥnw ¹⁸⁸ | n q³bt=f m rh̄ nsw ¹⁸⁹ | st-ns=f

when he was a child | at his mother's breast, for the king knew | his eloquence

nḥn qm³=f ¹⁹⁰ Sbk-l^cnḥ s³ Nḥrj m³^c-ḥrw nb jm³ḥ

while his appearance was youthful, Nehri son of Sobek-ankh, justified and revered,

¹⁹¹ | ṯn.n=f ḥnt s^cḥw=f ¹⁹² | r ḥq³ njwt=f ḥprt ḥ³tj-^c Ḥnm-ḥtp

¹⁹¹ | whom he raised over his nobles | to rule his city. Achievements of count Khnumhotep:

¹⁹³ | jr.n(=j) mnw m-ḥnw n njwt=j qdl.n=j wh³ gm^l.n(=j) m ʒ

¹⁹³ | I built a monument within my city. | I rebuilt a colonnaded hall that I found in ruins.

s^cḥ^c.n=j ¹⁹⁶ | sw m wh³w n-m³t | sš m rn=j ds=j ¹⁹⁷

I erected | it with columns anew, | inscribed with my own name.

¹⁹⁸ | s^cnḥ.n=j rn n jt=j ḥlr=s[n] ¹⁹⁹ [sš].n=j jrt=j ḥr m^lnw nb ²⁰⁰

¹⁹⁸ | I kept alive the name of my father upon them. I inscribed what I did upon every monument.

jr.n=j ʕ n mh̄ 7 m ²⁰¹ | ʕš n Ng³w ²⁰² r sb³ | ṯp n js

I made a door of seven cubits of | cedar from Negau, for the first doorway of the tomb,

šwj-r³ n mh 5 šsp 2 203
| r k³r n ʿt špst

and double doors of five cubits and two palms, | for the shrine of the august chamber

204
| ntt m-hnw n js pn

204
| that is within this tomb.

205
dbht-lḥtp prt-r-hrw t ḥnqt k³ ³pd

The requisites for a mortuary offering of bread, beer, oxen and fowl,

ḥr mnlw nb jr.n=j s³p.n=j mr 207
| qd sbḥt=f

were on every monument that I built. I inundated a pond | and built its portal

208
dd ḥw n wḥ pn

that gave air to this colonnaded hall.

209
wr mnw=j | m-hnw n njwt tn r jtw=j

My monuments within this city were greater than those of my forefathers,

210 211
| sdt njwt tn mnḥ mnlw smt=s

210
| a child of this city,¹ and the monuments of its burial place were more excellent

¹ Montet reads some verb in place of sdt with the meaning "to bloom" ("épanouir"), leading to something like: "This city bloomed, as the monuments ...".

212 213
r tpjw^{-c} jrrw ḥr-ḥ³lt=j jnk sḥ mnw

than those of the ancestors built before me. I was distinguished in monuments.

214 215
| sb³.n=j ḥmwt nb | wnt tm.tj m-hnw njwt tn


214 215
| I taught every craft | that had been forgotten within this city,

216 217 218
n mlrwt mnḥ rn=j ḥr | mnw nb jr.n=j grg ḥrl=j

so that my name might be excellent upon | every monument that I built, founded on me

219
nn mnst jm sh³.ln=j jmw ky

without fault. I made the ship of another descend,¹

¹ I take  as determinative. Alternatively one could read ky šps, "another nobleman", as independent phrase.

220
| jrj-p^ct h³tj-^c Nhrj s³ Hnm-²²¹h³tp

jr.n B³qt m³^c-hrw nb jm³h

220
| prince regent and count Khnumhotep son of Nehri, born of Baqet, justified and revered.

222
| hrp js jmj-r³ htmt B³qt

222
| Supervisor of the tomb, treasurer Baqet.'
