

Poetical stela of Tuthmosis III

Nederhof - English

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Transliteration and translation for "The 'poetical' stela of Tuthmosis III", following the transcription of De Buck (1948), pp. 53-56.

For an older transcription, see Sethe (1906), number 199 (pp. 610-619).

The transliteration throughout follows Hannig (1995).

For published translations, see Breasted (1906), pp. 262-266, §§ 655-662; Lichtheim (1976), pp. 35-39; Simpson (1972), pp. 285-288 (covers only the text from 13 up to 23).

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¹ | dd-mdw jn Jmn-R^c nb Nswt-t³wj

¹ | Words said by Amun-Re, lord of the Thrones of the Two Lands:

jj.tj n=j h^c.tj n m³ nfr=j

'May you come to me and rejoice at seeing my beauty,

s³=j ndtj=j Mn-hpr-R^c cnh(.w) dt wbn=j n-mrwt=k

my son, my avenger, Menkheperre (may he live forever!). I shine for your sake,

jb=j ² | 3w(.w) m jww=k nfrw r r³-pr=j

² my heart | is glad about your beautiful arrival at my temple.

hn̄m cwj(=j) h^cw=k m s³ cnh

My hands have endowed your body with protection and life.

ndm.wj jm³t=k r šnbt=j

How pleasant is your grace to my breast!

smn=j ³ | tw m jwnn=j bj³j=j n=k

I established | you in my sanctuary and I performed wonders for you.

dj=j n=k qnt nht r h³swt nbt

I gave you valour and strength against all foreign lands.

dj=j b³w=k sndw=k m t³w nbw

I put your authority and fear of you in all lands,

hryt=k r drw ⁴ | shnwt nt pt

⁴ and dread of you as far as | the four supports of heaven.

s³y=j šfšft=k m hwt nbt

I increased awe of you in every body.

dj=j hmhm̄t hm=k ht psdt-pd̄t

I put the fame of Your Majesty throughout the Nine Bows.

wrw h³swt nbt dmd(.w) m hf^c=k

⁵ | 3wy=j cwj=j ds=j

⁵ The princes of all foreign lands are gathered in your grasp, | I stretched out my own hands

nwh=j n=k st

and I bound them for you.

dm=j jwntjw-Stj m db^cw h^bw

I tied up the Nubian nomads by tens of thousands and thousands,

mhtjw m hfnw m sqr-^cnh

and the northerners by hundreds of thousands of captives.

⁶

| dj=j hr rqyw=k hr tbtj=k

⁶

| I made your enemies fall under your feet

tjtj=k sntyw h^bkw jb

so that you could crush the contentious and deceitful,

mj wd=j n=k t^b m bw=f wsh=f

for I entrusted the earth to you, in its length and its breadth,

jmntjw j^bbtjw hr st-hr=k

⁷ | hnd=k h^bswt nbt

⁷ and westerners and easterners are under your command. | You trample all foreign lands

jb=k bw(.w) nn wn hsj sw m h^bw hm=k

while your heart is glad. There is no one who dares come near to Your Majesty,

tj wj m s^bmy=k spr=k r=sn

but while I was your guide you attained them.

db.n=k mw phr-wr

⁸ | Nhrn

You crossed the water of the Euphrates | of Naharina,

m nht m wsr wd.n=j n=k

sdm=sn hmhm=k ^cq m b^bb^bw

with strength and might that I created for you. They heard your battle-cry and hid in holes.

gb.n=j fndw=sn m t^b n ^cnh

⁹ | dj=j nrwt nw hm=k ht jbw=sn

⁹ I deprived their noses of the breath of life. | I set the dread of Your Majesty in their hearts.

bht=j jmt tp=k sswn=s st

jr=s js-h^bq m nbdw-qd

My serpent-diadem on your head consumes them, it makes easy prey of the evil-minded,

10

| ȝm=s jmjw nbwt=sn m nswt=s dn=s tpw ȝmw

10

| it devours the Aegean islanders with its flame, it severs the heads of the Asiatics

nn nhw=sn hr mss(.w) n shmw=s

and none of them is spared. The enemy staggers because of its might.

11

| dj=j phr nh_tw=k m t_tw nbw sh_dt tpt m ndt=k

11

| I let your power pervade all lands. The light of the uraeus is your protection.

nn hpr b_st=k r s_nnt pt

There will be no rebel against you in what heaven surrounds.

12

jw=sn hr jnw¹ hr psdw=sn m klsw n hm=k mj wd=j

They come bearing tributes on their backs, bowing to Your Majesty as I commanded.

¹ Read ○ rather than ▽.

dj=j bdš tkkw jww m h_tw=k

I let the aggressors who come near you become weak,

13

m³h n jbw=sn h^cw=sn sd³(.w) | jj.n=j dj=j tjtj=k wrw D³hj

13

with fearful hearts, their bodies trembling. | I came to let you crush the princes of Palestine,

sš=j st hr rdwj=k ht h³swt=sn

spreading them out under your feet throughout their lands,

dj=j m³=sn hm=k m nb stwt

and to let them see Your Majesty as the lord of radiance,

14

sh_d=k m-hr=sn m snn=j | jj.n=j dj=j tjtj=k jmjw Stt

14

while you shine before them in my likeness. | I came to let you crush those in Asia

sqr=k tpw ȝmw nw Rtnw

and strike the heads of the Asiatics of Retjenu,

dj=j m³=sn hm=k cpr(.w) hkr=k

and to let them see Your Majesty equipped with your regalia,

šsp=k h^cw c^b hr wrryt 15
| jj.n=j dj=j tjtj=k t^b j^bbtj
15
while you carry weapons on a chariot. | I came to let you crush the eastern land

hnd=k ntjw m ww nw T^b-ntr
and trample those in the districts of the God's Land,

dj=j m^b=sn hm=k mj s^bd
and to let them see Your Majesty as shooting star,

st bs=f m sdt dj=f jdt=f
which sheds its flame in fire and emits its fragrance.

16
| jj.n=j dj=j tjtj=k t^b jmntj Kftjw Jsy hr šfšft=k
16
| I came to let you crush the western land, Keftiu and Isy being in awe of you,

dj=j m^b=sn hm=k m k^b rnp mn-jb spd c^bwj n h^b.n.tw=f
and to let them see Your Majesty as a young bull, stout-hearted, sharp of horns, invincible.

17
| jj.n=j dj=j tjtj=k jmjw nbwt=sn t^bw nw Mtn sd^b(.w) hr snd=k
17
| I came to let you crush the Aegean islanders, the lands of Metjen trembling for fear of you,

dj=j m^b=sn hm=k m dpy nb sndw m mw n tkn.n.tw=f
and to let them see Your Majesty as a crocodile, lord of fear in the water, unapproachable.

18
| jj.n=j dj=j tjtj=k jmjw jww hrjw-jb w^bd-wr hr hmhm^bt=k
18
| I came to let you crush those on the 'turtle backs', the sea people hearing your battle-cry,

dj=j m^b=sn hm=k m ndtj h^cw hr psdw n sm^b=f
and to let them see Your Majesty as avenger, appearing on the backs of his victims.

19
| jj.n=j dj=j tjtj=k Thnw
19
| I came to let you crush Libya,

jww wtntjw n shm b^bw=k
the islands of the people of Wetnet being in the power of your might,

dj=j m^b=sn hm=k m m^bj-hs^b
and to let them see Your Majesty as a wild lion,

jr=k st m h³wt ht jnt=sn

while you turn them into corpses throughout their valley.

20

| jj.n=j dj=j tjtj=k phww t³

20

| I came to let you crush the boundaries of the world,

šnnt šn-wr ^crf(.w) m hf^c=k

what the ocean surrounds being enfolded in your grasp,

dj=j m³=sn hm=k m nb dm³t Hr

and to let them see Your Majesty as possessing the wings of Horus,

j³ m dggt=f r mrr=f

²¹ | jj.n=j dj=j tjtj=k jmjw h³t t³

21

who takes what he sees at will. | I came to let you crush the border people¹

¹ Following Lichtheim (1976).

snh=k hrjw-š^c m sqr-^cnh

and fetter the bedouin as captives,

dj=j m³=sn hm=k mj s³b šm^c

and to let them see Your Majesty as an Upper Egyptian jackal,

nb gst hpwtj hns t³wj

²² | jj.n=j dj=j tjtj=k jwntjw-Stj

22

lord of speed, runner, rover of the Two Lands. | I came to let you crush the Nubian nomads,

r-mn-m Š³t m ³mmt=k

²² dj=j m³=sn hm=k mj snwj=k

who are in your grasp as far as Shat, and to let them see Your Majesty as your two brothers,

dmd.n=j ^cwj=sn n=k m nh³t

whose hands I joined together for you in victory.

23

| sntj=k dj.n=j sn m s³ h³=k

23

| I placed your two sisters as protection behind you,

^cwj hm=j hr hr shr dwt

dj=j hwt=k

and the arms of My Majesty are raised, warding off evil. I gave you protection,

s³=j mrr=j Hr K³-nht h^cj-m-W³st

my son, my beloved, Horus, mighty bull who appears in Thebes,

wtt.n=j m [...] | ²⁴ Dhwtj-msjw cnh(.w) dt

whom I have begotten in [...] | Tuthmosis (may he live forever!),

jr n=j mrرت nbت k3=j

who does for me all that my spirit desires.

s^ch^c.n=k jwnn=j m k3t nh^c s³w.w swsh(.w) r p³t hpr

You have erected my sanctuary as a work of eternity, made longer and wider than before.

sb³ wr [...] | ²⁵ shb nfrw=f Jmn-R^c

The great gate "[...]" | his beauty adorns Amun-Re¹.

¹ Uncertain.

wr mnw=k r nsw nb hpr

Your monuments are greater than those of any king who has been.

wd.n=j n=k jrt st htp.kw hr=s

I commanded you to make them, and I am satisfied with them.

smn=j tw hr st-Hr n hhw m rnpwt

I established you on the Horus throne for millions of years,

s³m=k cnhw n dt

so that you may lead the living forever.'
