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).

Bibliography

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

"May you come to me and rejoice at seeing my beauty, my son, my avenger, Menkheperre (may he live forever!). I shine for your sake,

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

My hands have endowed your body with protection and life.

How pleasant is your grace to my breast!

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

I gave you valour and strength against all foreign lands.

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

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

I increased awe of you in every body.

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

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.

dm3=j jwntjw-Stj m db'=w ḥ₃w
I tied up the Nubian nomads by tens of thousands and thousands,

mhtjw m ḥfnw m sqr- nfl
and the northerners by hundreds of thousands of captives.

6 dj=j ḥ₃ rqw=k ḥ₃ tbj=k
I made your enemies fall under your feet

6 tjtj=k śntyw ḥ₃kw jb
so that you could crush the contentious and deceitful,

mj wd=j n=k t₇ m ṣw=f wsḥ=f
for I entrusted the earth to you, in its length and its breadth,

jmntjw j₃btjw ḥ₃ st-ḥr=k
and westerners and easterners are under your command. I You trample all foreign lands

7 hjd=k ḥ₃swt nbt

7 jb=k ḥw(.w) nn wn ḥsj sw m ḥw ḥm=k
while your heart is glad. There is no one who dares come near to Your Majesty,

8 tj mj sšmy=k spr=k r=sn
but while I was your guide you attained them.

8 dš.n=k mw pḥr-wr
You crossed the water of the Euphrates l of Naharina,

m nḥt m wsr wd.n=j n=k sḏm=sn hnhmt=k  ṣ q m bǐbw
with strength and might that I created for you. They heard your battle-cry and hid in holes.

9 gš.n=j fnḏw=sn m ṭ n ḥ₃nḥ
I deprived their noses of the breath of life. I I set the dread of Your Majesty in their hearts.

9 ʾḥt=j jmt tp=k sswn=s st
My serpent-diadem on your head consumes them, it makes easy prey of the evil-minded,
Am=s jmjw nbwt=sn m nswt=s
dn=s tpw 3m

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.

dj=j phr nh tw=k m tw nbw shd t pt m ndt=k
I let your power pervade all lands. The light of the uraeus is your protection.

nn hr bš=k r šnnt pt
There will be no rebel against you in what heaven surrounds.

jw=sn hr jnw hr psdw=sn m k|sw n hm=k mj wd=j
They come bearing tributes on their backs, bowing to Your Majesty as I commanded.

Read ⊙ rather than ⊘.

dj=j bdš tkt w jww m hw=k
I let the aggressors who come near you become weak,

mšh n jbw=sn hšw=sn sdš(.w)
with fearful hearts, their bodies trembling. I came to let you crush the princes of Palestine,

sš=j st hr rdwj=k ht hšwt=sn
spreading them out under your feet throughout their lands,

dj=j mš=sn hm=k m nb stwt
and to let them see Your Majesty as the lord of radiance,

shd=k m-hr=sn m snn=j
while you shine before them in my likeness. I came to let you crush those in Asia

sqr=k tpw 3m nw Rtnw
and strike the heads of the Asiatics of Retjenu,

dj=j mš=sn hm=k 3pr(.w) hkr=k
and to let them see Your Majesty equipped with your regalia,
while you carry weapons on a chariot.

I came to let you crush the eastern land and trample those in the districts of the God's Land,

and to let them see Your Majesty as shooting star, which sheds its flame in fire and emits its fragrance.

I came to let you crush the western land, Keftiu and Isy being in awe of you,

and to let them see Your Majesty as a young bull, stout-hearted, sharp of horns, invincible.

I came to let you crush the Aegean islanders, the lands of Metjen trembling for fear of you, and to let them see Your Majesty as a crocodile, lord of fear in the water, unapproachable.

I came to let you crush those on the 'turtle backs', the sea people hearing your battle-cry, and to let them see Your Majesty as avenger, appearing on the backs of his victims.

I came to let you crush Libya, the islands of the people of Wetnet being in the power of your might, and to let them see Your Majesty as a wild lion,
jr=k st m ḫwt ḫt jnt=sn
while you turn them into corpses throughout their valley.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>jj.n=j dj=j tj=t=k phww t6</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I came to let you crush the boundaries of the world,</td>
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</table>

šmnt šn-wr ʾrf(.w) m ḥf=k
what the ocean surrounds being enfolded in your grasp,

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>dj=j m3=sn ḥm=k m nb dm=t ḫr</th>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>and to let them see Your Majesty as possessing the wings of Horus,</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>j̣t m ḍg=t=f r m=r=f</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jj.n=j dj=j tj=t=k jmjw ḫt t6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>who takes what he sees at will.</td>
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<tr>
<td>I came to let you crush the border people1</td>
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</table>

1 Following Lichtheim (1976).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>snḥ=k ḫrjw-šc m sqr-šnḥ</th>
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<tr>
<td>and fetter the bedouin as captives,</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>dj=j m3=sn ḥm=k mj šb šmč</th>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
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<tr>
<td>and to let them see Your Majesty as an Upper Egyptian jackal,</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>nb glt ḫpwj ḫns tōwj</th>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jj.n=j dj=j tj=t=k jmjtjw-Stj</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lord of speed, runner, rover of the Two Lands.</td>
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<tr>
<td>I came to let you crush the Nubian nomads,</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>r-mn-m Š=t m ʾmm=t=k</th>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dj=j m3=sn ḥm=k mj snwj=k</td>
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<tr>
<td>who are in your grasp as far as Shat, and to let them see Your Majesty as your two brothers,</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>dm=t.n=j ʾwj=sn n=k m nḥt</th>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
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<td>whose hands I joined together for you in victory.</td>
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<tr>
<th>snt=j k dj.n=j sn m šš ḫš=k</th>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
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<tr>
<td>I placed your two sisters as protection behind you,</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>ʾwj ḥm=j ḫr ḫr sḥr dwt</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>dj=j ḫwt=k</td>
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<tr>
<td>and the arms of My Majesty are raised, warding off evil. I gave you protection,</td>
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<tr>
<th>sš=j mrr=j ḫr Kš-nḥt ḫš-j-m-Wšst</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>my son, my beloved, Horus, mighty bull who appears in Thebes,</td>
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</table>
Dhwtj-msjw ɛnh(.w) dt

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

jr n=j mrrt nbt k3=j

who does for me all that my spirit desires.

sCȟc.n=k jwnn=j m kt nh喜欢吃

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

sbį wr [...] sHb nfrw=f Jmn-Rc

The great gate "[...], his beauty adorns Amun-Re"1.

1 Uncertain.

wr m nw=k r nsw nb ḫpr

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

wδ.n=j n=k jrt st ḫtp.kw ḫr=s

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

smn=j ḥr st-Hr n ḫḥw m rnpwt

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

sśm=k ɛnhw n dt

so that you may lead the living forever.'