

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 c^{nh}(.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

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

hnm c^{wj}(=j) h^cw=k m s3 c^{nh}

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 ³
| 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

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

s3y=j šfšft=k m hwt nbt

I increased awe of you in every body.

dj=j hmhmt hm=k ht psdt-pdt

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

wrw h3swt nbt dmd(.w) m hf^c=k ⁵
| 3wy=j c^{wj}=j ds=j

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

nwh=j n=k st

and I bound them for you.

dm³=j jwntjw-Stj m db^cw h³w

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 rtyw=k hr tbtj=k

6

| I made your enemies fall under your feet

tjtj=k šntyw h³kw jb

so that you could crush the contentious and deceitful,

mj wd=j n=k t³ m ³w=f wsh=f

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

jmntjw j³btjw hr st-hr=k

7

| hnd=k h³swt nbt

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

jb=k ³w(.w) nn wn hsj sw m h³w hm=k

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

tj wj m sšmy=k spr=k r=sn

but while I was your guide you attained them.

d³.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 hmhmt=k ^cq m b³b³w

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

g³.n=j fndw=sn m ³ n ^cnh

9

| dj=j nrwt nw hm=k ht jbw=sn

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

³ht=j jmt tp=k sswn=s st

jr=s js-h³q m nbdw-qd

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

10

| ʒm=s jmjw nbwt=s n m nswt=s dn=s tpw ʕmw

10

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

nn nhw=s n hr mss(.w) n shmws

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

11

| dj=j phr nhtw=k m tʔw nbw šḥt tpt m ndt=k

11



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

nn hpr bšt=k r šnnt pt

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

jw=s n hr jnw¹ hr psdw=s n m kls¹²w 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 hʔw=k

I let the aggressors who come near you become weak,

mʔh n jbw=s n hʕw=s n sdʔ(.w) | jj.n=j dj=j tjtj=k wrw Dʔhj

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

sš=j st hr rdwj=k ht hʔswt=s n

spreading them out under your feet throughout their lands,

dj=j mʔ=s n hm=k m nb stwt

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

šḥd=k m-hr=s n m snn=j | jj.n=j dj=j tjtj=k jmjw Stt

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

sqr=k tpw ʕmw nw Rʔnw

and strike the heads of the Asiatics of Retjenu,

dj=j mʔ=s n hm=k ʕpr(.w) hkr=k

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

šsp=k ḥ^cw ḥ³ ḥr wrryt 15
| jj.n=j ḏj=j tjtj=k t³ j³btj

while you carry weapons on a chariot. | I came to let you crush the eastern land

ḥnd=k ntjw m ww nw T³-ntr

and trample those in the districts of the God's Land,

ḏj=j m³=sn ḥm=k mj sšd

and to let them see Your Majesty as shooting star,

st bs=f m sdt ḏj=f jdt=f

which sheds its flame in fire and emits its fragrance.

16
| jj.n=j ḏj=j tjtj=k t³ jmntj Kftjw Jsy ḥr ššft=k

16
| I came to let you crush the western land, Keftiu and Isy being in awe of you,

ḏj=j m³=sn ḥm=k m k³ rnp mn-jb spd ḥbwj n ḥ³.n.tw=f

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

17
| jj.n=j ḏj=j tjtj=k jmjw nbwt=sn t³w nw Mtn sd³(.w) ḥr snd=k

17
| I came to let you crush the Aegean islanders, the lands of Metjen trembling for fear of you,

ḏj=j m³=sn ḥm=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 ḏj=j tjtj=k jmjw jww ḥrjw-jb w³d-wr ḥr hmhmt=k

18
| I came to let you crush those on the 'turtle backs', the sea people hearing your battle-cry,

ḏj=j m³=sn ḥm=k m ndtj ḥ^cw ḥr psdw n sm³=f

and to let them see Your Majesty as avenger, appearing on the backs of his victims.

19
| jj.n=j ḏj=j tjtj=k Tḥnw

19
| I came to let you crush Libya,

jww wtntjw n šhm b³w=k

the islands of the people of Wetnet being in the power of your might,

ḏj=j m³=sn ḥm=k m m³j-ḥs³

and to let them see Your Majesty as a wild lion,

jr=k st m ḥwt ḥt 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 c^rf(.w) m ḥf^c=k

what the ocean surrounds being enfolded in your grasp,

dj=j m3=sn ḥm=k m nb dm3t Hr

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

jṯ m dggt=f r mrr=f ²¹ | jj.n=j dj=j tjtj=k jmjw ḥ3t t3

who takes what he sees at will. ²¹ | I came to let you crush the border people¹

¹ Following Lichtheim (1976).

snḥ=k ḥrjw-š^c m sqr-^cnh

and fetter the bedouin as captives,

dj=j m3=sn ḥm=k mj s3b šm^c

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

nb gst ḥpwtj ḥns t3wj ²² | jj.n=j dj=j tjtj=k jwntjw-Stj

lord of speed, runner, rover of the Two Lands. ²² | I came to let you crush the Nubian nomads,

r-mn-m Š3t m 3mmt=k dj=j m3=sn ḥm=k mj snwj=k

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

dmḍ.n=j c^rwj=sn n=k m nḥt

whose hands I joined together for you in victory.

23

| sntj=k dj.n=j sn m s3 ḥ3=k

23

| I placed your two sisters as protection behind you,

c^rwj ḥm=j ḥr ḥr ḥr šḥr ḍwt

dj=j ḥwt=k

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

s3=j mrr=j Hr K3-nḥt ḥ^cj-m-W3st

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

wṯṯ.n=j m [...] ²⁴ | Dḥwtj-msjw ḥnh(.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.

sḥḥ.n=k jwnn=j m k3t nhḥ

s3w.w swsh(.w) r p3t ḥpr

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

sb3 wr [...] ²⁵ | shb nfrw=f Jmn-Rḥ

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

¹ Uncertain.

wr mnw=k r nsw nb ḥpr

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

wḏ.n=j n=k jrt st

ḥtp.kw ḥr=s

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

smn=j tw ḥr st-Ḥr n ḥḥw m rnpwt

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

sšm=k ḥnhw n dt

so that you may lead the living forever.'
