Ptahhotep, Instruction of

Zaba (P)
Transcription of *The Instruction of Ptahhotep*, in the version of Papyrus Prisse, following Zába (1956). The missing line numbers 6.1, 8.13, and 17.5 were inserted on the basis of Jéquier (1911). On p. 49, line number 12.4 was corrected to 13.4.

In lines 7.5 and 12.9, what seems to be ꜱ in Zába's transcription is here transcribed as ḫ.

Bibliography

Zaba (P)
Line numbers of Devaud for version P.

Bibliography
- The numbers of Devaud, as they occur at the beginning of lines in Zaba, for version P.

Nederhof (P) - English
In preparation.
The transliteration throughout follows Hannig (1995).

Bibliography
Instruction of the leader of the city and vizier Ptahhotep,

under the majesty of the king of Upper and Lower Egypt Isesi (may he live forever). The leader of the city and vizier Ptahhotep says: Sovereign, my lord,

infirmity has developed, old age has befallen, feebleness has come, weakness is renewed.

One sleeps as a child every day.
jrtj nōs.w  njhwj jmrm.w

The eyes are weak, the ears have become deaf.

phtj hr śq n wrḏ jb=ḏ

Strength is waning through the tiredness of my heart.

ṟ gr(.w) n mdw.n=f

The mouth is silent and cannot speak.

jb tm.w n shin.n=f sf

The mind has stopped and cannot remember the day before.

qs mn.n=f n ḥw w

The bones hurt because of the high age. Good has turned into evil.

Reading is uncertain.

dpt nbt šm.tj

All taste has gone.

jrrt jw n rmṯ

What old age does to people
Ne 21 bij m jḥt nbt 22 fn(l) dbi(w) n ssn.n=f
Ne 21 is evil in every respect. 22 The nose is blocked and cannot breathe.

Ne 23 n tnw ḫḥ ḫmst
Ne 23 because of the difficulty of standing and sitting.

Ne 28 wd.tw n bīk-jm jrt mdw-jw
Ne 28 May this humble servant be ordered to appoint a staff-of-old-age,

Ne 30 jḥ dd=j n=f mdw sdmyw
Ne 30 so that I may tell him the words of those who have heard

Ne 31 shrw jmjm-hēt 32 pīw sdm n ntrw
Ne 31 the counsels of the ancestors 32 who once listened to the gods.

Ne 33 jḥ jr.tw n=k mjtt 34 dr.tw šnw m rhyt
Ne 33 May the same be done for you, 34 I may suffering be driven away from the people,
And may the Two Banks serve you!' And the majesty of this god said:

Instruct him in the words of the past, so that he will be a model for the children of officials.

May hearing enter him, and all sincerity. Speak to him, for none is born wise!'

Exact meaning is uncertain.