

Ptahhotep, Instruction of

Zaba (P)

Created on 2009-10-18 by Mark-Jan Nederhof and Robert Myers. Last modified 2010-05-30.

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  in Zába's transcription is here transcribed as .

Bibliography

- G. Jéquier. *Le Papyrus Prisse et ses Variantes*. Librairie Paul Geuthner, Paris, 1911.
- Z. Zába. *Les Maximes de Ptahhotep*. Editions de L'Académie Tchecoslovaque des Science, Prague, 1956.

Zaba (P)

Created on 2009-11-05 by Mark-Jan Nederhof. Last modified 2009-11-12.

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

Created on 2009-11-01 by Mark-Jan Nederhof. Last modified 2010-05-30.

In preparation.

The transliteration throughout follows Hannig (1995).

For published translations, see Jacq (2004), Lichtheim (1975), pp. 61-80; Parkinson (1997), pp. 246-272; Simpson (1972), pp. 159-176.

Bibliography

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- C. Jacq. *The Wisdom of Ptah-Hotep*. Constable, 2004.
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- M. Lichtheim. *Ancient Egyptian Literature -- Volume I: The Old and Middle Kingdoms*. University of California Press, 1975.
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- W.K. Simpson (editor). *The Literature of Ancient Egypt: An Anthology of Stories, Instructions, and Poetry*. Yale University Press, 1972.

Za ^{4.1} 


Ne ¹ | sbꜣyt nt ⁴ | jmj-rꜣ njwt ꜥtj Pḥ-ḥtp

Ne ¹ | Instruction of ⁴ | the leader of the city and vizier Ptahhotep,

Za 


Ne ⁵ | ḥr ḥm n nsw-bjtj Jssj ḥnh(.w) ȝt r nhḥ

Ne ⁵ | under the majesty of the king of Upper and Lower Egypt Isesi (may he live forever

Za ^{4.2} 

Ne ⁶ | jmj-rꜣ njwt ꜥtj Pḥ-ḥtp ȝd=f ⁷ | jty nb=j

Ne ⁶ until eternity!). | The leader of the city and vizier Ptahhotep says: | ⁷ 'Sovereign, my lord,

Za 

Ne ⁸ | tnj ḥpr(.w) jꜣw ḥꜣ.w

Ne ⁸ | infirmity has developed, old age has befallen,

Za ^{4.3} 

Ne ⁹ | wgg jw(.w) jḥw ḥr mꜣw

Ne ⁹ | feebleness has come, weakness is renewed.

Za 

Ne ¹⁰ | sdr.n=f ḥrd(.w) rꜥ nb

Ne ¹⁰ | One sleeps as a child every day.

Za ^{4.4}

¹¹
Ne | jrtj nds.w cnhwj jmr.w

¹¹
Ne | The eyes are weak, the ears have become deaf.

Za

¹²
Ne | phtj hr 3q n wrd jb=j

¹²
Ne | Strength is waning through the tiredness of my heart.

Za

¹³
Ne | b gr(.w) n mdw.n=f

¹³
Ne | The mouth is silent and cannot speak.

^{5.1}
Za

¹⁶
Ne | jb tm.w n sh3.n=f sf

¹⁶
Ne | The mind has stopped and cannot remember the day before.

Za

¹⁷
Ne | qs mn.n=f n 3ww¹

¹⁸
Ne | bw nfr hpr(.w) m bw bjn

¹⁷ | The bones hurt because of the high age. ¹⁸ | Good has turned into evil.

¹ Reading is uncertain.

Za

¹⁹
Ne | dpt nbt sm.tj

²⁰
Ne | jrjt j3w n rmtj

¹⁹
Ne | All taste has gone.

²⁰
Ne | What old age does to people

Za 

Ne | bjn m jht nbt | fnd db³(.w) n ssn.n=f

Ne | is evil in every respect. | The nose is blocked and cannot breathe,

Za 


Ne | n tnw ^hc hmst

Ne | because of the difficulty of standing and sitting.

Za 

Ne | wd.tw n b³k-jm jrt mdw-j³wj

Ne | May this humble servant be ordered to appoint a staff-of-old-age,

Za 


Ne | jh dd=j n=f mdw sdmyw

Ne | so that I may tell him the words of those who have heard

Za 

Ne | shrw jmjw-h³t | p³w sdm n n³rw

Ne | the counsels of the ancestors | who once listened to the gods.

Za 

Ne | jh jr.tw n=k mjtt | dr.tw šnw m rhyt

Ne | May the same be done for you, | may suffering be driven away from the people,

Za  

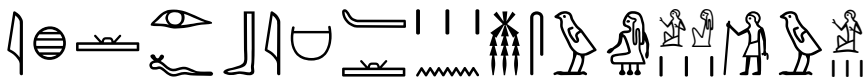
Ne | b³k n=k jdbwj | dd.jn ḥm n nṯr pn

Ne | and may the Two Banks serve you!' | And the majesty of this god said:

Za 


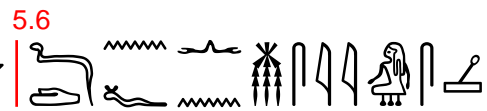
Ne | sb³ rk sw r mdt ḥr-ḥ³t

Ne | 'Instruct him in the words of the past,

Za 

Ne | jḥ jr=f bj n msw srw

Ne | so that he will be a model for the children of officials.

Za  

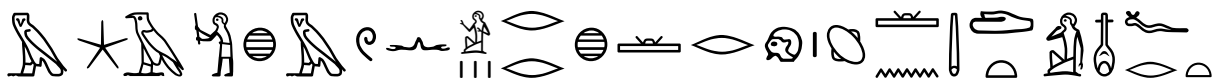
Ne | ^cq sḏm jm=f mtrt-jb nb | dd n=f | nn msy s³.w

Ne | May hearing enter him, and all sincerity¹. Speak to him, | for none is born wise!

¹ Exact meaning is uncertain.

Za 


Za 

Za 

Za 

Za 

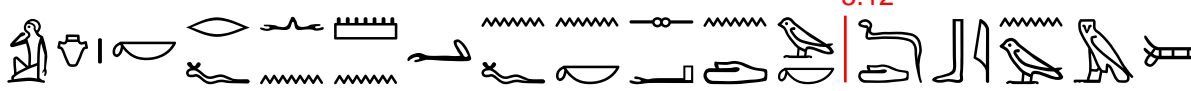
Za 

Za  5.10

Za 

Za  5.11


Za 

Za  5.12


Za 

Za  5.13

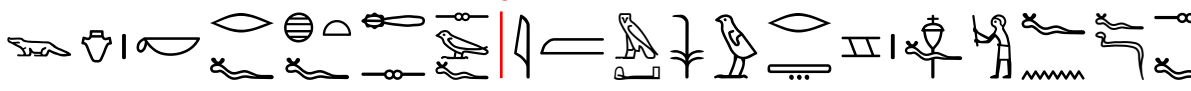
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Za  5.14


Za 

Za  6.1

Za 

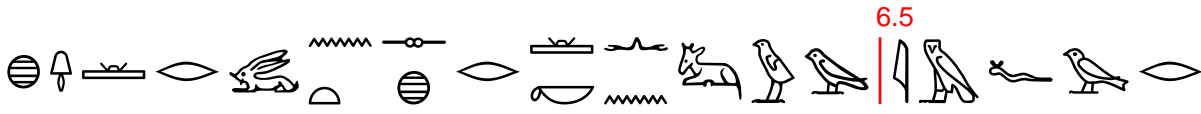
Za  6.2

Za 

Za  6.3


Za  6.4

Za 

Za  6.5

Za 

Za  6.6


Za 

Za  6.7

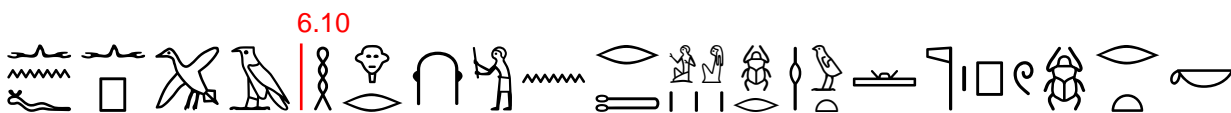
Za 

Za  6.8

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Za  6.9

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Za  6.10

Za 

Za  6.11

Za 


Za 

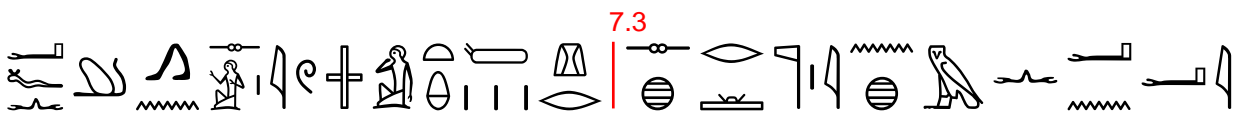
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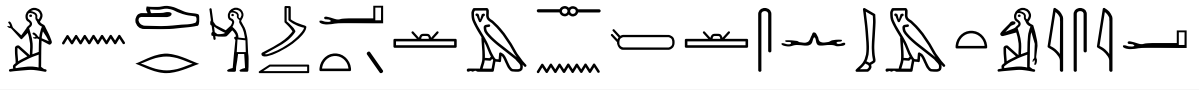
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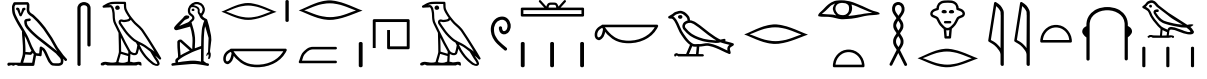
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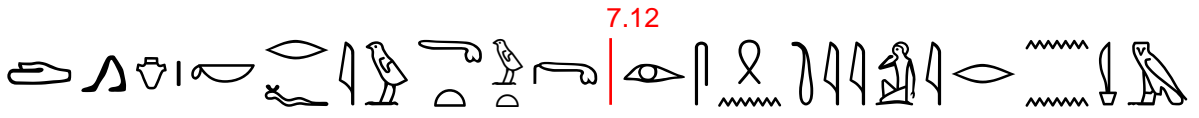
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Za  7.12


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Za 

Za  8.1


Za  8.2

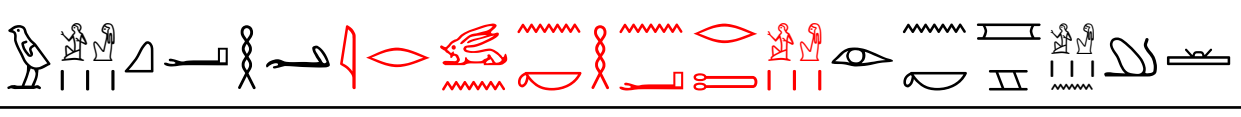
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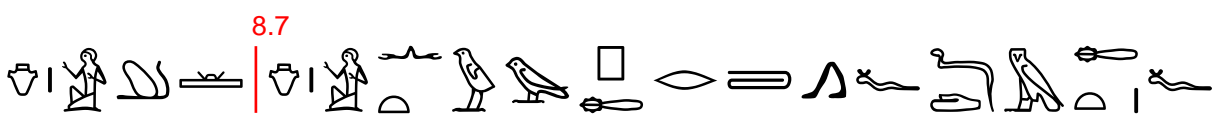
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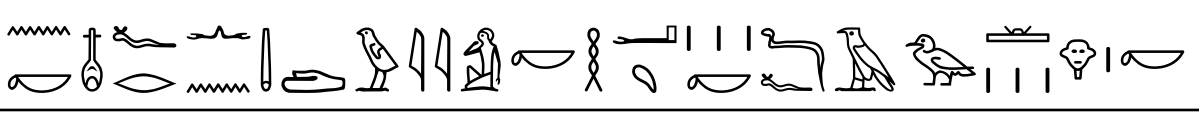
Za  8.5

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Za  8.7

Za  8.8

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Za 8.9 |

Za 8.10 |

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Za 8.14 |

Za 9.1 |

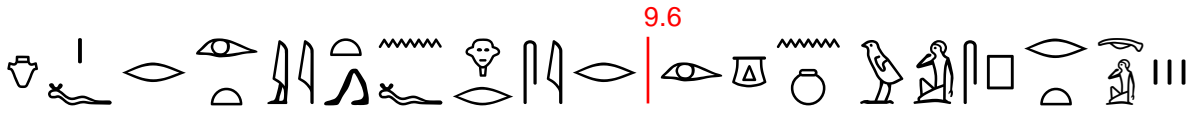
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Za 9.3 |

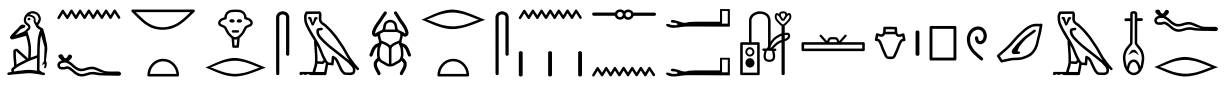
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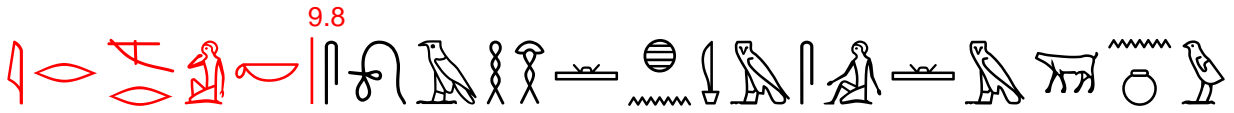
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Za 9.5 |

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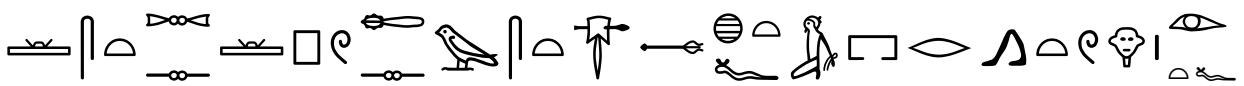
Za  9.9

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Za  9.11

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Za  9.13


Za  10.1


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Za  10.2

Za  10.3

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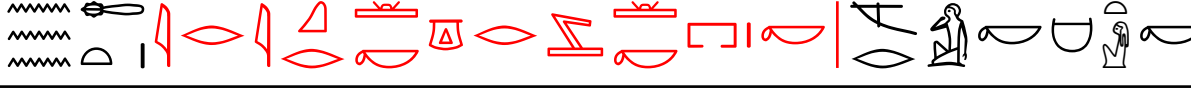
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Za 10.6 


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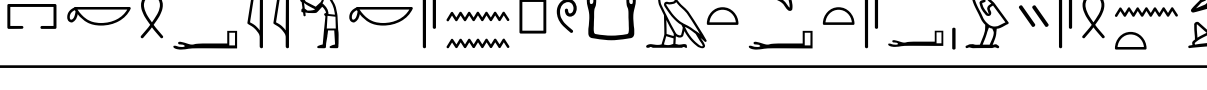
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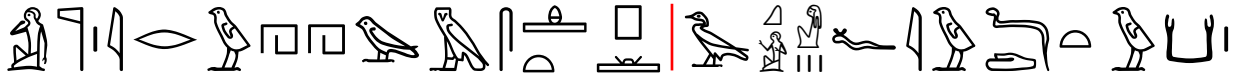
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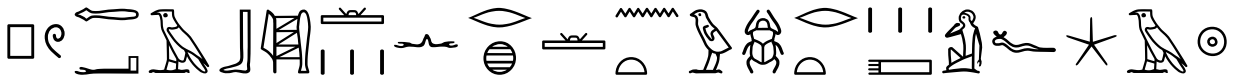
Za 10.12 

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Za 11.1 

11.2

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11.3

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11.4

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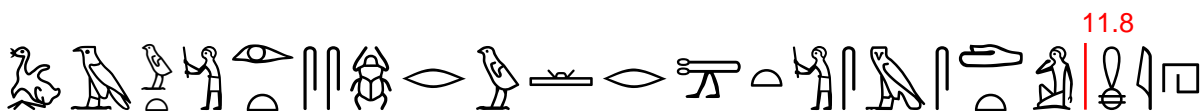
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11.6

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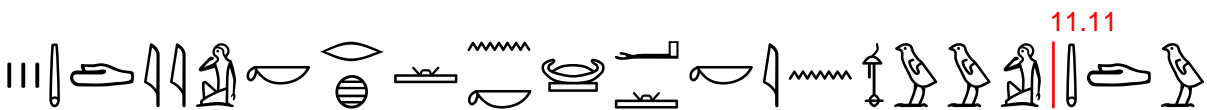
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11.9

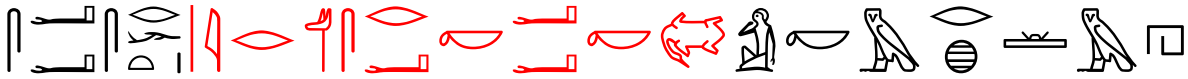
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11.12

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Za ^{11.13}

Za ^{12.1}

Za ^{12.2}

Za

Za ^{12.3}

Za ^{12.4}

Za ^{12.5}

Za

Za ^{12.6}

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Za ^{12.7}

Za ^{12.8}

Za ^{12.9}

Za

Za ^{12.10}

Za 12.11

Za

Za 12.12

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Za 12.13

Za 13.1

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Za 13.4


Za 13.5

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Za 13.8

Za  13.9

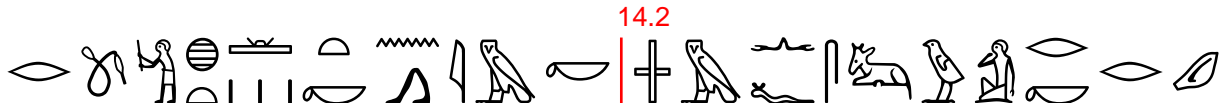
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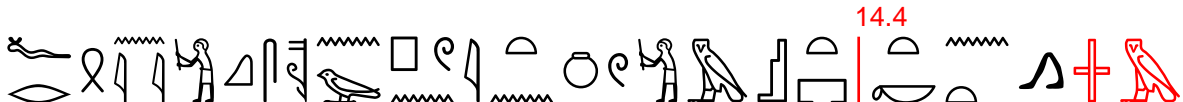
Za  13.11

Za  13.12

Za  14.1

Za  14.2


Za  14.3


Za  14.4

Za  14.5

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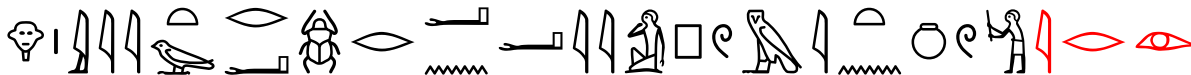
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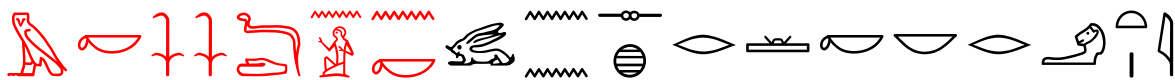
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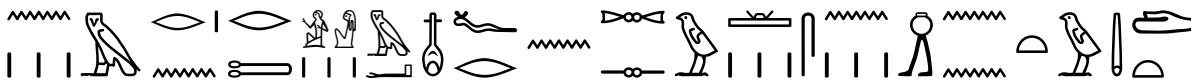
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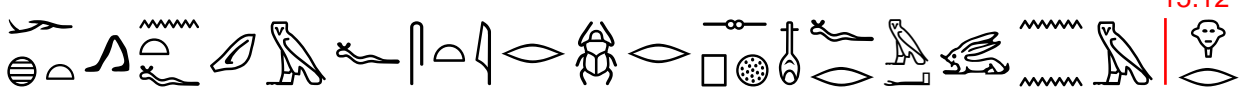
Za  15.9

Za 

Za  15.10

Za  15.11

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Za  15.12

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Za  15.13

Za 16.1

Za 16.2

Za 16.3

Za

Za 16.4

Za 16.5

Za 16.6

Za 16.7

Za 16.8


Za 16.9


Za 16.10

Za 16.11

Za 16.12


Za 16.13

Za  16.14

Za  17.1

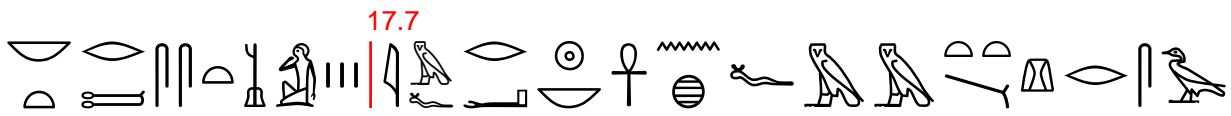
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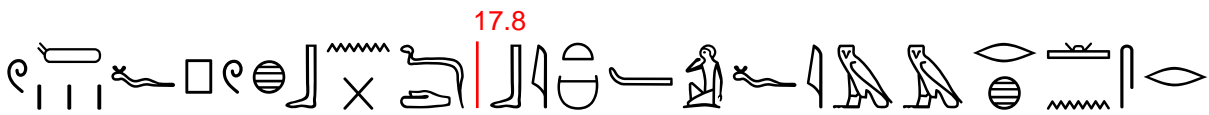
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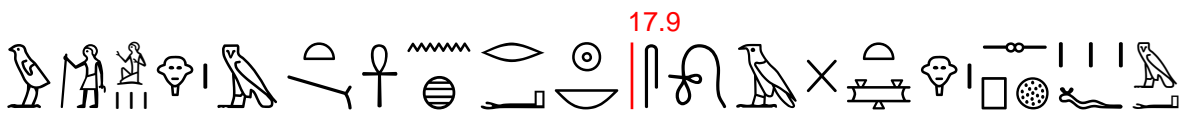
Za  17.4


Za  17.5

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Za  17.13


Za 18.1 

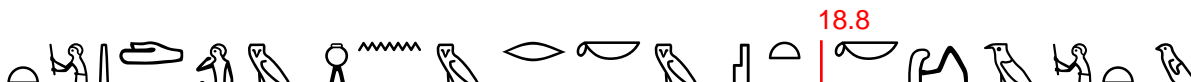
Za 18.2 

Za 18.3 


Za 18.4 

Za 18.5  18.6 

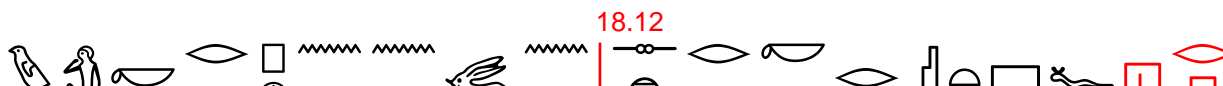
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Za 18.8 

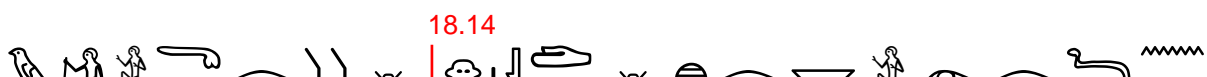
Za 18.9 

Za 18.10 


Za 18.11 


Za 18.12 

Za 18.13 

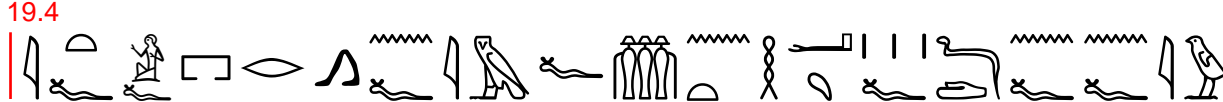
Za 18.14 


Za 19.1 

Za 19.2  19.2

Za 19.3  19.3

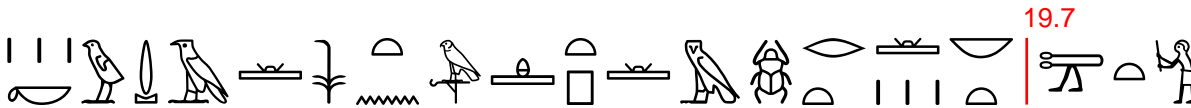
Za  19.3

Za 19.4  19.4

Za 19.5  19.5


Za  19.5

Za 19.6  19.6

Za 19.7  19.7

Za  19.7

Za 19.8  19.8

Za 19.9  19.9

Za  19.9