### Ahmose son of Abana, Autobiography of

#### Sethe

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The hieroglyphic of "The Autobiography of Ahmose son of Abana", following the transcription of Sethe (1927), number 1 (pp. 1-11).

#### **Bibliography**

• K. Sethe. Urkunden der 18. Dynastie, Volume I. Hinrichs, Leipzig, 1927.

#### **Nederhof - English**

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Transliteration and translation for "The Autobiography of Ahmose son of Abana", following the transcription of Sethe (1927), number 1 (pp. 1-11).

For published translations, see Breasted (1906), pp. 3-9, §§ 1-16 & pp. 17-18, §§ 38-39 & pp. 33-35, §§ 78-82; Lichtheim (1976), pp. 12-15; Sethe (1914), number 1 (pp. 1-6).

#### **Bibliography**

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- M. Lichtheim. *Ancient Egyptian Literature -- Volume II: The New Kingdom*. University of California Press, 1976.
- K. Sethe. *Urkunden der 18. Dynastie -- übersetzt, Volume I.* Hinrichs, Leipzig, 1914.
- K. Sethe. Urkunden der 18. Dynastie, Volume I. Hinrichs, Leipzig, 1927.

Ne dd=j n=tn rmt nbt dj=j rh=tn hswt hprt n=j

Ne "I speak to you, all people. I will let you know the favours that were granted to me.

Ne jw<sup>c</sup>.kw m nbw sp 7

hft-hr-n t3 r-dr=f

Ne I have been rewarded with gold seven times before the entire land,

Ne hmw hmwt r-mjtt-jry

s³ḥ.kw m ³ḥwt cš³w wrt

Ne and with male and female slaves as well. I have been endowed with very many fields.

Ne jw rn n qn m jrt.n=f

Ne The name of a brave man is in what he has done,

Se ..... I DE COMO

Ne nn htm

m t3 pn dt dd=f r-ntt

Ne without ever perishing in this land." He says:

Ne jr.n=j hprw=j m dmj n Nhb

Ne "I grew up in the town of Nekheb.

Ne jw jt=j m w<sup>c</sup>w n nsw-bjtj

Sqnj.n-R<sup>c</sup> m<sup>3</sup>c-hrw

Ne My father was a soldier of the king of Upper and Lower Egypt Seqenenre, justified,



Ne Bibi

 $| s^2 R^2 - int rn = f$   $| ch^c . n = i hr irt w^c w r db^2 = f$ 

Ne and was called Baba, son of Rainet. Then I became a soldier in his place,

Ne m p3 dpt n P3-sm3

Ne on the ship 'The Wild Bull',

## 

Ne m h3w nb t3wj Nb-phtj-R<sup>c</sup> m3<sup>c</sup>-hrw

Ne in the time of the lord of the Two Lands Nebpehtire, justified.



Ne | jw=j m šrj n jrt=j hmt

jw sdr=j m smt šnw

Ne I I was a young man, before I had married, and I slept in a hammock of net<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Uncertain.

# 

Ne hr-m-ht grg.n=j pr

Ne After I had established a household,



Ne chc.n=i it.kw

r p3 dpt Mhti

hr qnn=i

Ne I was taken

I to the ship 'The Northern', because I was brave.

# 

Ne wn.hr=j hr šms jty <sup>c</sup>.w.s. hr-rdwj=j

Ne Then I followed the sovereign (I.p.h.!) on foot



Ne m-ht swtwt=f hr

wrryt = f

Ne after him riding on this chariot.



Ne jw hms.tw hr dmj n Hwt-w<sup>c</sup>rt

Ne When the town of Avaris was besieged,



Ne wn.hr=j hr qnt hr rdwj=j m-b3h hm=f

Ne I showed valour on foot in His Majesty's presence.



Ne chc.n=j dhn.kw r Hc-m-Mn-nfr

Ne Then I was assigned to 'Rising in Memphis',

Ne wn.jn.tw ḥr chỉ ḥr mw m Pi-Ddkw n Ḥwt-wcrt

Ne and there was fighting on the water in Padjedku of Avaris.

Ne Then I made a capture

and carried off a hand.

Ne smj.tw n whm-nsw

wn.jn.tw hr rdjt n=j nbw n qnt

Ne When it was reported to the royal herald, I was given gold of valour.

Ne chc.n whmw ch3 m st tn

Ne Then there was more fighting in this place,

Ne wn.jn=j ḥr wḥm ḫf<sup>c</sup>

∣jm jn=j drt

Ne again I made a capture

I there and carried off a hand,

Ne wn.jn.tw hr rdjt n=j nbw n qnt m whm-c

Ne and again I was given gold of valour.

Ne wn.jn.tw hr ch3 m t3 Kmt rst n dmj pn

Ne Then there was fighting in Egypt south of this town,

Ne | chc.n jn.n=j sqr-cnh s

h3.n=j r p3 mw

Ne I and I brought away a man as captive. I went down into the water,



Ne mk jn.tw=f m mh hr t3 w3t p3

dmj

Ne for he was captured on the side of

the town,



Ne  $\underline{d}$ 3.n=j  $\underline{h}$ r=f  $\underline{h}$ r mw

smjw n whm-nsw

Ne and crossed the water carrying him. When it was reported to the royal herald,

Ne  ${}^{c}h^{c}.n.tw mk^{1} jw^{c}=j m nbw hr snnw=sj$ 

Ne I was rewarded with gold once more.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Read hr, according to Breasted (1906).



Ne wn.jn.tw | ḥr ḥ³q Ḥwt-w<sup>c</sup>rt wn.jn=j ḥr jnt ḥ³qt jm

Ne Then Avaris was captured, and I brought booty from there:

Ne s 1 st-hmt 3 dmd r tp

Ne one man and three women, altogether four people.

Ne 4 wn.jn hm=f hr rdjt st n=j r hmw

Ne And His Majesty gave them to me for slaves.

Ne wnl.jn.tw hr hmst hr Šrhn m rnpwt 3 wn.jn hm=f

Ne Then Sharahen was besieged for three years, and His Majesty captured it.

Ne hr h3q=s chc.n jn.n=j h3qt jm

st-hmt 2 drt

Ne Then I brought booty from there: two women and a hand.

Ne wnl.jn.tw hr rdjt n=j nbw n qnt

Ne I was given gold of valour,

Ne mk rdj.tw n=j h3qt r hmw

Ne and I was given the captives for slaves.

Ne hr-m-ht sm3.n hm=f mntjw-Stt

Ne After His Majesty had slain the bedouin tribes of Asia,

Ne wn.jn=f hr hntyt r Hnt-hn-nfr

17

Ne I he sailed southward to Khent-hen-nefer

Ne r sksk jwntjw-Stj

Ne to destroy the Nubian nomads,

Ne wn.jn hm=f hr jrt ht st jm=sn

Ne and His Majesty carried out a large massacre among them.

18

Ne | chc.n jn.n=j h3qt jm

18

Ne I Then I brought booty from there:

Ne s <sup>c</sup>nh 2 drt 3

wn.jn.tw hr jw<sup>c</sup>=j m nbw hr snnw=sj

Ne two living men and three hands. I was rewarded with gold once more,

Ne mk rdj.tw n=j hmt 2

n°lt m hd jn hm=f

Ne and two female slaves were given to me. His Majesty sailed northward,

Ne jb=f3w(.w) m qnt nht  $j\underline{t}$ .n=f rsjw mhtjw

Ne rejoicing in strength and victory, having captured southerners and northerners.

Ne chc.n 33t3 jw(.w) n rsj

| stkn š³w=f mwt=f

Ne Then Aata came to the south,

I and his fate brought on his doom

Ne ntrw Šm<sup>c</sup>w hr 3m=f

gm.tw=f in hm=f m Tnt-t3-c

Ne when the gods of Upper Egypt grasped him. He was found by His Majesty at Tent-ta-o,

Ne wn.jn hm=f hr jnt=f

m sqr-cnh

Ne and His Majesty brought him away

l as captive

Ne rmt=f nb m js-h3q

Ne and all his people as booty.

Ne  $^{c}h^{c}$ .n jn.n=j mg $^{3}$  2 m mh m p $^{3}$  dpt n  $^{3}$ t $^{3}$ 

Ne Then I brought two warriors as captives from the ship of Aata.

Ne wn.jn.tw | hr rdjt n=j tp 5 hr dnjw 3ht stt 5 m

Ne I was given five people and five arourae of land in my town,

Ne njwt=j jrw n t3 hnyt r3w=s m-mitt

and the same was done for the whole crew.

Ne  ${}^{c}h^{c}.n \ br$  | pf jw(.w) Ttj ${}^{c}n \ rn = f$ 

Ne Then that enemy called Tetian came,

Ne shwj.n=f n=f  $h^3kw-jb$  wn.jn hm=f hr  $sm^3=f$ 

Ne who had drawn together rebels. His Majesty slew him

Ne jst=f m tmt hpr

Ne and his troop was annihilated.

Ne  $^{c}h^{c}.n$   $r\underline{d}j|.n=j$  tp 3 3ht sgt 5 m njwt=j

Ne Then I was given three people and five arourae of land in my town.

Ne wn.jn=j ḥr hnt nsw-bjtj Dsr-k3-R<sup>c</sup> m³<sup>c</sup>-hrw

Ne Then I conveyed the king of Upper and Lower Egypt Djeserkare, justified,

Ne jw=f m hntyt r K3š

Ne as he sailed southward to Kush

$$S_{e} \sim \left| \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} -\infty \\ \\ \end{array} \right|^{25} \left| \begin{array}{c} -1 \\ \\ \end{array} \right|^{25} \left| \begin{array}{c$$

Ne r swsh I tšw Kmt

wn.jn ḥm=f ḥr sqr jwntj-Stj pf

Ne to widen

I the borders of Egypt. Then His Majesty smote that Nubian nomad

Ne m hrj-jb mš<sup>c</sup>=f jnw m gw<sup>3</sup>gw<sup>3</sup> nn nhw=sn

Ne in the midst of his army, taken in a stranglehold, none missing,

Ne wthw

m dy hr gs mj ntjw n hpr

26

Ne the fleeing

I were felled as though they had never been.

Ne jst wj m tp n m $\S^c = n$ 

jw <sup>c</sup>h₃.n=j r wn-m³<sup>c</sup>

Ne Now, I was in the van of our army, where I fought properly,

Ne m3.n hm=f qnt=j

Ne and His Majesty saw my valour.

Se 
$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}$$

Ne jn=j drt 2

m|s n hm=f

Ne I carried off two hands, and presented them to His Majesty.

Ne wn.jn.tw hr hhy rmt=f mnmnt=f

Ne Then his people and his cattle were pursued.

Ne chc.n jn.n=j sqr-cnh ms n hm=f

Ne I brought a captive and presented him to His Majesty.

Ne jn=j hm=f m hrw 2 r Kmt

l m Hnmt-ḥrw

Ne I brought His Majesty to Egypt from Upper Well in two days,

Ne  ${}^{c}h^{c}.n.tw \ hr \ jw^{c}=j \ m \ nbw \ {}^{c}h^{c}.n \ jn.n=j \ hmt \ 2 \ m \ h^{3}q$ 

Ne and I was rewarded with gold. Then I brought away two female slaves as booty,

Ne wn.jn.tw hr rdjt=j r ch3wtj n hq3

Ne Then I was appointed to be warrior-of-the-ruler.

Ne wn.jn=j hr hnt nsw-bjtj \( \frac{1}{2} - \hbracktrum \text{pr-k}^2 - \text{R}^c \text{ m}^c - \hbracktrum \text{rw}

Ne Then I conveyed the king of Upper and Lower Egypt Aakheperkare, justified,

Ne jw=f m hntyt r Hnt-hn-nfr

Ne as he sailed southward to Khent-hen-nefer,

Ne | r sswn h³cj ht h³swt

30

Ne I to crush rebellion throughout the lands,

Ne r dr bs n c hist

Ne and to drive off intrusion from the desert region.

Ne wn.jn=j hr qnt m-b3h=f m p3 mw bjn

Ne I showed valour in his presence at the cataract,

Ne m p3 s3s3

p<sup>3</sup> ch<sup>c</sup>w hr t<sup>3</sup> pn<sup>c</sup>yt

Ne during the towing

of the fleet through the eddy.

Ne wn.jn.tw hr rdjt=j r hrj-hnyt

Ne Then I was appointed to be naval commander.

Ne wn.jn  $hm=f^{c}$ .w.s.

[...] bcr.jn hm=f r=s mj3by

Ne Then His Majesty (I.p.h.!) [...] I and His Majesty became as enraged as a panther.

Ne His Majesty shot and his first arrow stuck in the chest of that enemy.

Ne wn.jn nn |...|

[...] bdš.w n nsrt=f

Ne Then these [...]

[...] despondent on account of his uraeus.

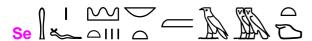
Ne jrw jm m 3t hbyt

Ne It was done there in an act of massacre,

Ne jnw hrw=sn m sqrw-cnh

| n<sup>c</sup>t m hd jn hm=f

Ne and their people were brought away as captives. I His Majesty sailed northward,



Ne h3swt nbt m3mmt=f

Ne all foreign lands in his grasp.

Ne jwntj-Stj pf hs m shd

Ne That wretched Nubian nomad hung with his head downward

Ne m hot bjk n hm=f

djw r ti Im Jpt-swt

Ne from the prow of the falcon-ship of His Majesty. One landed I at Karnak.

$$\mathbb{S}_{\mathbf{e}} \otimes \mathbb{I}_{\mathbf{e}} \mathbb{$$

Ne m-ht nn wd3 r Rtnw

Ne Thereafter one proceeded to Retjenu,

Ne  $r j^c t j b = f h t h swt$ 

spr hm=f r Nhrn

Ne to vent his fury throughout the lands. When His Majesty reached Naharina,

37

Ne | gmt hm=f c.w.s. hrw pf ts=f skw

37

Ne I His Majesty (I.p.h.!) found that enemy marshalling troops,

Ne wn.jn hm=f hr jrt ht st st jm=sn

Ne and His Majesty carried out a large massacre among them.

Ne nn | tnwt m sqrw-cnh jnn hm=f m nhtw=f

Ne Countless were the captives that His Majesty brought away from his victories.

Ne jst wj m tp n m $\S^c = n$ 

m3.n hm=f qnn=j

Ne Now, I was in the van of our army, and His Majesty saw my valour.

39

Ne | jn=j wryt ssm=s

ntj hr=s m sqr-cnh

39

Ne I I brought away a chariot, its horse, and him who was on it as captive,

Ne ms n hm=f

wn.jn.tw hr jw<sup>c</sup>=j m nbw hr snnw=sj

Ne and presented them to His Majesty. I was rewarded with gold once more.

40

Ne | tnj.kw pḥ.n=j j3wj

40

Ne II have grown old and reached old age.

Ne hswt=j mj tpt=s [...] mr [...]

htp=j m hrt jrt.n=j ds=j

Ne The favours towards me are as before [...] beloved [...] I rest in the tomb that I myself

Ne built.

41 42 43 44 45

Ne | [...] | [...] | [...] | m Bḥj wḥm rdj.tw n=j jn nsw-bjt

41 42 43 44 45

Ne I [...] I [...] I [...] I in Behi. Again I was given by the king of Upper and Lower

Ne Egypt [...] I 60 arourae in Hadjaa, altogether [...] arourae.

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Ne | jmj-rn=f n n3 n hmw hmwt n h3qt rdj n=j
Ne I List of names of the male and female slaves from the booty given to me:
  48
   hm P3y-3bdw
Ne | hm P3-md3y
                                           hm Snb-nb=f
                                           I male slave Senebnebef;
Ne I male slave Pamedjai;
                       I male slave Pajabdju;
  51
            l hm Dhwtj-snbw
              hm Qn-p3-hq3
Ne | hm [...]
Ne I male slave [...]; I male slave Qenpakheqa; I male slave Djehutisenebu;
                                    hm P3-53m
Ne hm Sbk-ms
                   hm H3-r3y
                                                 hmt
Ne I male slave Sobekmes; I male slave Kharai;
                                    I male slave Paam; I female slave Taa;
Ne T33 \mid hmt Sdm[=s]-n=j
                        | hmt Bkt
                                       hmt
     I female slave Sedjemesni; I female slave Baket; I female slave Ka[...]isi;
Ne
            Ne K3-[...]=j-sj \mid hmt T3-S-m-tw
                                   hmt
            I female slave Taametju;
                                   I female slave Wabentasachmet;
Ne
```