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The Autobiography of Admiral Ahmose

Part II

King Ahmose's Nubian Campaign

hr m ht sm3.n hm.f mntiw s(3)tt

wn.in.f hr hntyt r hnt-hn-nfr r sksk iwntiw stiw

wn.in hm.f hr irt h3wt 3t im.sn

h^c.n in.n.i h3kt im z(i) nh 2 drt 3

wn.in.tw hr iw^c.i m nbw hr snnw.si m.k rdi.t(w) n.i hmt 2

n^t m hd in hm.f ib.f 3w(.w) m knt nht

it.n.f rs(i)w mhtiw

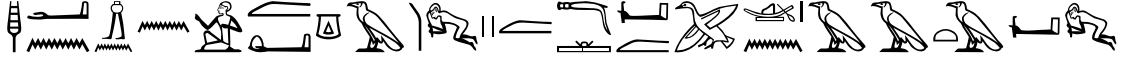
The Two Rebels: Aata and Tetian

h^c.n 33t3 iw(.w) n rsw stkn š3w.f mwt.f

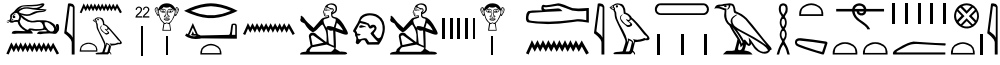
ntrw šm^cw hr 3m.f gm.t(w).f in hm.f m ti-nt-t3-^c-mw



wn.in hm.f hr int.f m skr-^cnh r(m)t.f nb m iz-h3k



h^c.n in.n.i mg3 2 m mh m p3 dpt n 33t3



wn.in.tw hr rdit n.i tp 5 hr dniw 3ht st3t 5 m nwt.i



irw n t3 hnyt r 3w.s m mitt



h^c.n hr(w) pf iw(.w) tti^cn rn.f zhwi.n.f.n.f h3kw ib




wn.in hm.f hr sm3.f izwt.f tmt hpr




h^c.n rdi n.i tp 3 3ht st3t 5 m nwt.

Vocabulary


 *mnt(i)w*

Beduin


 *s(3)tt* Asia


 *ski*,  *sksk* destroy


 *iwnt* bow


 *iwnti* desert bowman

 *sti/sti* Nubian

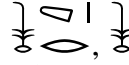
 *h3t* corpse

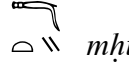
 *h3yt* heap of
corpses

 *n'i* sail, travel by boat


 *knt* valor, power


 *nht* victory

 *rsi* southern


 *mhti* northern

 *tkn* approach, draw near

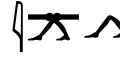
 *stkn* bring on (down)


 *š3w* fate

 *šm'w* Upper Egypt

 *3mm* seize, grasp

 *gmi* find


 *iz* go (imperative)


 *iz-h3k* plunder, booty,


easy prey

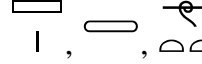
 *mg3*


inexperienced/young warrior


 *mh* seize, capture


 *dniw* share, portion


 *3ht* field, arable land

 *st3t* aurora (0.68 acre)


 *nwt* town

 *hrwi* enemy

 *shwi* collect, assemble

 *h3k* truncate

 *h3k-ib* estranged

 *sm3* kill, destroy

Grammar Points

King Ahmose's Nubian Campaign





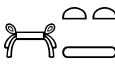
hr m ht sm3.n hm.f mntiw s(3)tt

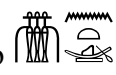


wn.in.f hr hntyt r hnt-hn-nfr r sksk iwntiw stiw


The particle *hr* introduces the prepositional phrase *hr m ht* signaling the beginning of a sentence.¹ The circumstantial *s_{dm.n.f}*/perfect *sm3.n* of the verb *sm3* “kill, slay, destroy” expresses complete action “Then later, his majesty slew...”

The object is  *mntiw* with a variant spelling of  *mnt(i)w*


“Beduin.” Combined with the noun  *s(3)tt* “Asia” in a direct genitive, the whole phrase can be translated as the “Beduins of Asia.”


The second (independent) sentence is marked by the initial word *wn.in* “then.” King Ahmose now turns south to conquer Nubia. Admiral Ahmose’s narrative uses the pseudo-verbal construction *hr* + infinitive to express this subsequent action. The infinitive of the 4ae-inf. verb  *hnti* “sail upstream/south, go forward” is usually spelled

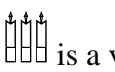

as  *hntyt*, and here  is another variant. Recall that the

shorter form  *hnt* of this infinitive also occurs.




hnt-hn-nfr is a region in Nubia, south to the second cataract of the Nile. The 4-lit.

verb  *sksk* “destroy” is reduplicated from the root of the 2ae-inf. verb

 *ski* with the same meaning. Here it appears in the *r* + infinitive construction and

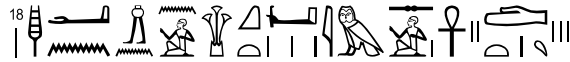
expresses planned action. The noun  is a variant of the plural of  *iwnti*

¹ Allen (16.6.13).

“desert bowman” which, in turn, seems to have been derived from  *iwnt* “bow.” The archaic bow  has phonetic value *sti/sti* and with the “throw-stick” determinative  it serves as the adjective/noun “Nubian.”



wn.in hm.f hr irt h3wt 3t im.sn






h.c.n in.n.i h3kt im z(i) nh 2 drt 3



wn.in.tw hr iw.c.i m nbw hr snw.si m.k rdi.t(w) n.i hmt 2

The grammar in this passage has been discussed previously.

The brutality of the Nubian campaign is clear from the noun  *h3wt* derived from  *h3t* “corpse,” an alternative spelling of  *h3yt²* “heap of corpses.” Just like any soldier, Ahmose had to offer/present his two prisoners of war to the pharaoh. As a reward for his valor, he then received two female servants.



n.c.t m hd in hm.f ib.f 3w(.w) m knt nht



it.n.f rs(i)w mhitiw

The change in the narrative (King Ahmose’s return home) is signaled by the narrative infinitive of *n.c.i* “sail,” and its subject, the pharaoh, is introduced by the preposition *in*.

The king’s state of mind is described in the next clause with the stative of the adjective-verb *3wi* “long,” employing the Egyptian idiom *3wi ib* “happy,” lit. “long of heart.” His successful (completed) campaign is summarized by the circumstantial *sdm.n.f*/perfect of the verb *iti/iti* “seize, take possession of.”

² [ShS. 132].

The Two Rebels: Aata and Tetian



ḥꜥ.n 33t3 iw(.w) n rsw stkn š3w.f mwt.f






ntrw šmꜥw ḥr 3m.f gm.t(w).f in ḥm.f m ti-nt-t3-ꜥ-mw



wn.in ḥm.f ḥr int.f m skꜣr-ꜥnh r(m)t.f nb m iz-ḥ3k

However brutal the Nubian campaign of Ahmose may have been, it was not decisive. As the current passage shows, the king had to return to annihilate new rebel forces and capture their leader Aata, possibly the succeeding king in the Nubian capital, Kerma.



The establishment of the new Nubian king to contend with is given in the first sentence employing a subject-stative construction of the verb *iwi* “come.”

In the next sentence the caus. 3-lit. verb *stkn* “bring on (down),” lit. “cause to approach” is indicative/perfective *sdm.f*. The subject, the fate of Aata,  *š3w.f*, is not explicitly described in the text, but its object with the determinative  of *mwt* “die” and the somewhat unusual appearance of the sign  for “swelling, unhealthy” makes little doubt of Aata’s doom.

Divine help is acknowledged in seizing the rebel in the *ḥr* + infinitive construction “The gods of the Upper Egypt seized him.” (Due to the fact that the object of the infinitive is an attached suffix pronoun, the 2ae-gem. verb *3mm* “seize, grasp” uses only the base stem.)

The attention then shifts to the pharaoh, the representative of the divine forces, who, as a result of the gods’ help pinned down the rebel. This is expressed in a result clause by the prospective/subjunctive *sdm.f* of the verb *gmi* “find.” The location of *ti-nt-t3-ꜥ-mw* Tinet-taa-mu is unknown. Based on the literal rendering “she of the land of the water supply” it must be a district of the first cataract region.

In the first sentence a subject-stative construction introduces another enemy, Tetian. His name, given in an A B nominal sentence, suggests that he was Egyptian, in fact, during this time period the use of this name is well-attested.

The passive participle of the verb  *h3k* “truncate” is used in the Egyptian idiom  *h3k-ib* “estranged, trouble-maker,” lit. “(one) who is truncated of heart.”

Tetian’s troops were annihilated, and this is expressed by a negated participle (modifying *izwt.f* “his troops”), the (feminine) participle of the negative 2-lit verb *tm* followed by the negational complement *hpr*, lit. “one who did not come into being/happen.”

Although in the last sentence several parts have been omitted, an almost identical sentence above makes its grammar and meaning clear.