The Poetical Stela of Thutmose III

(Cairo Museum 34010)

Part I

Prologue



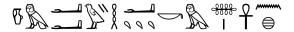
dd-mdw in imn-r^c nb nswt t3wi



ii.ti n.i h^c.ti [n] m3 nfr(w).i z3.i ndti.i MN-HPR-R^c cnh(.w) dt



wbn.i n mrwt.k ib.i 3w(.w) m iww.k nfrw r r-pr.i



 $hnm \ (i) \ h \ k \ m \ z \ nh$

ndmwi im3t.k r šnbt.i



smn.i tw m iwnn.i bi(3)i.i n.k

di.i n.k knt nht r h3swt nbt

di.i b3w.k sndw.k m t3w nbw

hryt.k r drw zhnwt 4 nt pt

s'3y.i [šfšft].k m hwt nbt

di.i hmhmt hm.k ht pdt 9

wrw h3swt nbt dmd m h[f].k

3wy.i ^cwi.i ds.i nwh.i n.k st

dm3.i iwntiw sti m db w h3w mhtiw m hfnw m [skr-nh]

di.i hr rkyw.k hr tbti.k titi.k šntyw.k h3kw-ib

mi wd.i n.k t3 m 3w.f wsh.f imntiw i3btiw hr st-hr.k

hnd.k h3swt nbt ib.k 3w

nn wn ḥsi sw m h3w ḥm.k ti wi m sšmy.k spr.k r.sn

d3.n.k mw phr wr nhrn m nht m wsr wd.n.i n.k

sdm.sn hmhmwt.k 'k m b3b3w

g3.n.i fndw.sn m t3w n ^cnh di.i nrw nw hm.k ht ibw.sn

3ht.i imt tp.k sswn.s st

ir.s iz-h3k m nbdw-kdw

3m.s imiw nbwt.sn m nswt.s



dn.s tpw 3mw nn nhw.sn

hr mss n shmw.s

di.i phr nhtw.k m t3w nbw shdt tpt.i m ndt(i).k

nn hpr bšt(w).k r šnnt pt iw.sn hr inw hr psdw.sn

m ksw n hm.k mi wd.i

di.i bdš tkkw iww m h3w.k

 $m3h \ n \ ibw.sn \ h^cw.sn \ sd3.w(i)$

Vocabulary

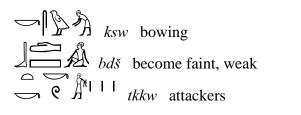
dd-mdw recitation imn(w) Amun *nst* seat, throne h^{i} become excited, aroused • wbn rise, shine $\exists i r - pr$ temple, chapel, shrine *hnm* (transitive) join, unite; (intransitive) be united, hnm m associated/ endowed with $\frac{6888}{8888}$ $\frac{6}{1}$ | z3, z3w protection $\int \int ndm$ (adjective-verb) sweet *im3t* grace, charm iwnn sanctuary wonder, marvel knt valor, power nḫt victory 1111 b3w might, impressiveness endw (noun) fear hryt terror, dread zhnt support, column, pillar s3i make great, increase, *šfšft* respect, awe

hmhmt roaring, battle cry \triangle I pdt bow dmdi/dmdi unite, gather, total, sum *bf* grasp 3wi extend, stretch Ō∭N Nwḥ rope nwh bind (enemies) $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ dm3 bind together *iwnt* bow iwnti desert bowman l sti/sti Nubian *⊸ skr* smite, strike down prisoner of war db^c ten-thousand *h*³ thousand rk incline, turn aside, defy $\bigcap_{i=1}^{n} \underline{t}bt \text{ sandal}$ crush, trample down šnty foe (of the king)

 $\begin{array}{ccc}
 & \sum_{\underline{h}} & \underline{h} \\
 & \underline{$ nri fear nrw (noun) fear, dread $| \mathcal{V} |$ | wd command, assign, bestow, 3ht uraeus-serpent ordain, decree i3bt East $\iint_{\mathbb{R}^n} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} sswn \quad \text{destroy, (noun)}$ destruction [™] *imnt* West [∥]

imnti western, westerner

in the state of the sta (plural noun) evil of character, enemies of Egypt command kdw shape,form, manner, ⊕ ← ∫ ∧ hnd trod, step on, character trample down 3m burn up nswt flame (aggressively) dn cut off (head) sšmw guide, leader -1 m m m throw-**◇** *spr* arrive, attain Mariatic 3m Asiatic ₫¾ ferry, cross (water) mss totter *phr* turn, go around shmw power, might | ☐ ☐ *nhrn* Naharin (Mesopotamia) $\rho \underline{h}r$ go around, course *nḥt* victory through wsr power, might nhtw victory, valor, \bigwedge^{\square} k enter strength b3b3 hole, hiding place shd gleam, brighten bštw rebellion (adjective-verb) narrow, constricted, lack; (transitive verb) deprive (*m* of); šni encircle (noun) absence, lack fnd nose $\int_{1}^{\infty} \int_{1}^{\infty} \int_{$ t^3w air, wind, breath





Grammar Points

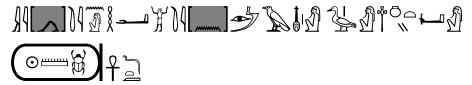
Prologue



dd-mdw in imn-r^c nb nswt t3wi

 \underline{dd} -mdw with the infinitive of \underline{dd} is a very common heading. It introduces the speaker \underline{imn} - r^c "Amun-Re" who asserts his support of Thutmose III in creating the "Empire" with the dominance of Egypt over the world known to them.

This stela was erected at Karnak after Thutmose III achieved this goal. <u>dd-mdw</u>, lit. "speaking words" can be translated many ways (or can be left un-translated), including "recitation," "speech of," etc. The god's epithet <u>nb nswt t3wi</u> "lord of the thrones of the Two Lands" emphasizes that it is Amun-Re who provides authority to the king to rule over Egypt.



ii.ti n.i h^c.ti [n] m³ nfr(w).i z³.i ndti.i MN-HPR-R^c (nh(.w) dt

Amun-Re speaks to the pharaoh using the statives of the verbs *ii* "come" and *h* "i "become aroused, excited." The second-person suffix *ti* shows that they both express wish/command, and therefore can be translated as imperatives: *ii.ti* "welcome!" and *h* ".ti "be aroused/exulted!"

Alternatively, following Lichtheim, the statives should emphasize the state resulting from these actions; *ii.ti* "you come," *h*^c.ti "in joy."

The infinitive of the 2-ae-gem. verb m33 is the object of the preposition n, and it uses here the base stem m3.

In the next passage the subject of the statives, the pharaoh, is specified and expanded using the noun *ndti* "savior" (derived from the verb *nd* "save, protect"). Note also that *MN-HPR-R*° is Thutmose III's throne name.

The epithet ${}^{c}nh(.w) \underline{d}t$ "alive forever" is formed by the stative of the verb ${}^{c}nh$ "live," and is typically placed after the king's (or queen's) name.

wbn.i n mrwt.k ib.i 3w(.w) m iww.k nfrw r r-pr.i

In the first sentence the theme is *wbn.i* "I shine" and the rheme is the prepositional phrase *n mrwt.k*. The latter can be translated as "for the sake of you," lit. "for/through love of you." (Unlike the English possessive adjectives, *mrwt.k* may not only mean "love of yours" but also "love of you/your love.") The displacement of the emphasis from the (usual) predicate to this prepositional phrase is because the fact that Amun-Re shines is given (and obvious), and the new and important information is that the god shines "through love of you." Therefore, the verb form of *wbn* is a non-attributive relative form used emphatically, and the emphasis is on this prepositional phrase. In English, a cleft sentence can bring out the emphasis: "It is through love of you that ..."

In the second clause the Egyptian idiom 3wi ib "happy, exulted" in a subject-stative construction uses the adjective-verb 3wi "long," lit. "long of heart."

The object of the preposition *m* is the plural of the noun phrase *iw.k nfr* "your good coming" which itself includes the verbal noun *iww* "coming." (*iww.k* cannot be a non-attributive relative form because it is clearly plural.)

Finally, r-pr "temple, chapel, shrine" is one of the many phrases that can be obtained from r "mouth, utterance, spell, door."

 \underline{h} nm 'wi(.i) \underline{h} 'w.k m z3 'n \underline{h}

The verb form of $\underline{h}nm$ "endow/provide/associate" (used transitively) may be a circumstantial/ imperfective $\underline{s}\underline{d}m.f$ "My arms have endowed your body ..." or a prospective/subjunctive $\underline{s}\underline{d}m.f$ "My arms will/may endow your body..." (See the discussion below.) The object \underline{h} "body" is, as usual, plural and the flesh determinative is incorporated in the plural strokes.



ndmwi im3t.k r šnbt.i

The exclamatory adjectival sentence is indicated here by the masculine dual form of the

adjective *ndm* "sweet." is the usual spelling of *im3t* "grace, charm."



smn.i tw m iwnn.i bi(3)i.i n.k

di.i n.k knt nht r h3swt nbt

di.i b3w.k sndw.k m t3w nbw

ḥryt.k r drw zhnwt 4 nt pt

Here and below we will frequently encounter sdm.f verb forms with the same suffixed pronominal subject \widehat{S} . i. In all these Amun-Re speaks to the pharaoh and his presence is indicated by this suffix pronoun. In many instances, the verb itself is rdi using the base stem di. The only sdm.f forms that use this stem are the circumstantial/imperfective sdm.f and the prospective/subjunctive sdm.f. The most obvious choice for the verb form is the first because of the meaning of the imperfect: Amun-Re's continual support of the pharaoh. It is also a common in captions such as: \widehat{S} implies \widehat{S} in \widehat{S}

On the other hand, some authors² interpret the god's speech as a prophecy, and consequently translate these $s\underline{d}m.f$ verb forms as future tense. This fits very well with the prospective/subjunctive $s\underline{d}m.f$. Moreover, in general, the use of the first-person singular suffix pronoun in the prospective/subjunctive also expresses the actor's intention.

In what follows, without explicit mention, we will interpret these verb forms as circumstantial/imperfective *sdm.f.*

With this note, the current passage poses no grammatical problems.

² See V.A. Tobin's translation in W. K. Simpson, The Literature of Ancient Egypt, The American University of Cairo Press, 2005.

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¹ Lacau and Chevrier, Une chapelle d'Hatshepsout, 291 and pl. 14 (55).

bi(3)i is a variant of bi3i "wonder, marvel." Note also the different translations of the predicate \triangle di "give, set" in the next two clauses.

The final di.i "I have set" has three objects: b3w.k, snd(w).k, hryt.k with attached adverbial adjuncts for the last two. In the last adverbial phrase, using the preposition r, Amun-Re indicates that the "Empire" stretches to the "limits" of the entire (known) world. The alternative spelling of *shnt* is $\bigoplus \triangle$ *zhnt* "support, column, pillar," and for graphical reasons, in the 4 pillars of heaven, the ideogram y zhnt is repeated 4 times.



s3y.i [šfšft].k m hwt nbt

The circumstantial/imperfective sdm.f of final weak verbs may receive a double reed-leaf ending. This is the case here for the caus. 3ae-inf. verb si "make great," increase, magnify."



di.i hmhmt hm.k ht pdt 9

The object of di "make" is the noun phrase hmhmt hm.k with direct genitive, where hmhmt means "roaring, battle cry."

Alternatively, according to Lichtheim, hmhmt here means "fame, renown."³

The object of the preposition $\bigoplus \triangle$ *ht* "throughout" is the "Nine Bows," the traditional enemies of Egypt. They usually included Asiatics and Nubians but their exact identity depended on the specific era.



wrw h3swt nbt dmd m h[f].k

In this sentence the absence of the subject indicates that $\frac{d}{dt} = \frac{dmdi}{dt} =$ unite, total, sum" is passive. Due to its length, the object wrw h3swt nbt is topicalized. Here the adjective wr "great, elder, important" is used as a noun, and its plural means the

³ This opinion is based on a study by J. Spiegel, WZKM, 54 (1957).

"nobles, princes," lit. "great ones." This kind of topicalization is not uncommon for the passive.

3wy.i ^cwi.i ds.i nwh.i n.k st

As before 3wy is the circumstantial/imperfective sdm.f of the 3ae-inf. adjective-verb 3wi "extend, stretch."

The 3-lit. verb nwh "bind (enemies)" is derived from the noun nwh "rope." The pronoun st "them" refers to wrw in the previous sentence.

dm3.i iwntiw sti m db w h3w mhtiw m hfnw m [skr-nh]

The noun phrases iwntiw sti "Beduins of Asia," and skr-'nh "prisoner of war," lit. "(one)

who is smitten alive," were discussed in Ahmose's autobiography. The nisbe $\triangle \times mhti$ "northern" used as a noun in plural designates "the men of the north" or "the northeners."

di.i hr rkyw.k hr tbti.k titi.k šntyw.k h3kw-ib

mi wd.i n.k t3 m 3w.f wsh.f imntiw i3btiw hr st-hr.k

In the first sentence the *rdi sdm.f* construction starts with the circumstantial/imperfective *sdm.f* of *rdi* and is followed by the prospective/subjunctive *sdm.f* of *hr* "fall" with causative meaning "I have made your opponents fall..."

The noun of agent \triangle \nearrow rkw "opponent" is derived from the verb \triangle rkw "incline, turn aside, defy," and the plural has a peculiar spelling here \triangle \bowtie rkyw (instead of rkww). The Nine Bows were often depicted on royal sandals and footstools to symbolically express the king's treading on Egypt's enemies. (In the text tbti is the feminine dual of $ext{l} tbt$ "sandal," and it is better translated as "sole.")

In the second result clause the verbal predicate titi or titi or titi with either of the determinatives titi, titi means "crush, trample down." It is prospective/subjunctive to express result, and in the English translation "so that" can be inserted" in front of it.

The passive participle of the verb $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{h}{3}k$ "truncate" is used in the Egyptian idiom $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{h}{3}k$ -ib "estranged," lit. "(one) who is truncated of heart."

In the initial "as" clause of the second sentence the 2-lit. verb $w\underline{d}$ "command, assign, bestow" is a non-attributive perfective relative form governed by the preposition mi. The meaning of the Egyptian idiom $m \ 3w.f \ wsh.f$ "in its length and breath" is "whole, entire." The second and main clause has an adverbial predicate. The subject is the noun phrase composed of the plurals of two nisbes $\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{i} \frac{1}$

nn wn hsi sw m h3w hm.k ti wi m sšmy.k spr.k r.sn

In the first sentence the main clause has the verbal predicate for the first sentence the main clause has the verbal predicate for the following unmarked step on, trample down" in circumstantial/imperfective sdm.f. The following unmarked adverb clause contains a subject-stative construction which once more uses the Egyptian idiom 3wi~ib "happy, exulted."

The second sentence starts with the negated indicative/perfective $s\underline{d}m.f$ construction nn wn using the verb wnn, a common way to express general negation of existence "there is not," "there does not exists." The usual meaning of the verb hsi with the preposition m means "face (aggressively)." The verb form is imperfective active par-

ticiple, and it is indicated by the double stokes, lit. "There is none who faces it aggressively in your majesty's vicinity..."

The circumstantial/imperfective sdm.f verbal predicate of the main clause spr with the preposition r needs to be translated to match the context: "attain, overwhelm" are fitting choices.

d3.n.k mw phr wr nhrn m nht m wsr wd.n.i n.k

The predicate of the main clause is the transitive verb $\underline{d3i}$ "ferry across, cross." The intestine ideogram is suggestive to the meaning of the verb \underline{phr} "turn, go around." It is a participle here, and the "great water that goes around/the great turning water" is the winding Euphrates. In a similar vein, nhrn "Naharin" is ancient Mesopotamia, the land between the Euphrates and Tigris rivers.

The following adverb clause specifies why the king could cross the Euphrates in victory and might; since Amun-Re decreed $(w\underline{d})$ it. We have an emphatic construction here. The fact that Thutmose III crossed the Euphrates is the given information, the theme, and the rheme is the adverb clause. Therefore $d\beta.n.k$ is a perfect non-attributive relative form used emphatically: "It is because I decreed it for you that you crossed ..."

sdm.sn hmhmwt.k 'k m b3b3w

The predicate of the initial adverb clause is the non-attributive perfective relative form of the verb $s\underline{d}m$: "When they hear..." The verbal predicate $'\underline{k}$ "enter" of the following main clause expresses result so that it is prospective/subjunctive $s\underline{d}m.f$. It inherits the (suppressed) subject.

g3.n.i fndw.sn m t3w n ^cnh di.i nrw nw hm.k ht ibw.sn

The first clause starts with a, a variant spelling of a, a was a variant spelling of a, a which the preposition a it means "deprive of." The verb form is circumstantial a a which in the strict word order requires the object a a to follow. The indirect genitive a a a a in the adverbial phrase is typical and self-explanatory: "breath of life."

The next clause once again starts with the circumstantial/imperfective sdm.f:di.i, and the abstract noun nrw "fear" is doubtless derived from the verb $rac{r}{r}$ $rac{r}{r}$ "fear." The plural genitival adjective nw is fooled by this false plural.



3ht.i imt tp.k sswn.s st



ir.s iz-h3k m nbdw-kdw



3m.s imiw nbwt.sn m nswt.s



dn.s tpw 3mw nn nhw.sn



hr mss n shmw.s

The first four lines of this passage use the noun + circumstantial sdm.f/subject-imperfective construction with a single topicalized subject 3ht.i imt tp.k. The goddess determinative is suggestive of the meaning of 3ht "(the) uraeus-serpent," one of the protective goddesses worn on the pharaoh's forehead. The subject also involves the feminine form of the prepositional nisbe imi lit. "which is on/in."

By construction, these clauses express the imperfect. The predicates are the causa tive verb *sswn* "destroy," and the verbs *iri* "make," *3m* "burn up, consume," and *dn* "cut off." The feminine suffix pronoun refers to the ureaus-serpent.

The literal meaning of the military term iz-h3k "go and plunder" as a noun phrase

stands for "plunder, devastation." The plural noun nbdw-kdw is a $nfr \ kr$ construction, lit. the plural of "evil of character," and it generally refers to the enemies of Egypt. Note that from the 11^{th} Dynasty onwards the nw-pot determinative in kdw "shape, form, manner, character" is often replaced by kdw. In addition, in nbdw-kdw the plural strokes are replaced by the "foreigner" determinatives.

In the phrase *imiw nbwt* the sign is a variant of is a variant of in the phrase itself therefore can be translated as "(those) who are in the marshy areas of the north/east." Lichtheim translates this as the "lowlanders" as opposed to *imiw iww* "islanders," lit. "(those) who are in the islands" (cf. the "Poem" in Part II).

The throw-stick m m frequently occurs as a determinative to all foreign peoples. In m "Asiatic" it generally designates an inhabitant of Syria-Palestine.

In the clause *nn* A the noun phrase A has a suffix pronoun that refers to the enemies of Egypt in general. Therefore the negative particle *nn* can be translated as "without." The literal meaning of the whole phrase *nn nhw.sn* is "without a loss of them," and it clearly indicates that none of them were able to escape their fate.

In the last line the introductory particle hr is a statement auxiliary and signals inevitable consequence/necessity expressed by the circumstantial/imperfective sdm.f of the verb mss "totter" (with the suppressed subject $\Im mw$). Written out, it should be hr.sn mss $\Im mw n shmw.s$. The preposition n here should be translated as "because of."

di.i phr nhtw.k m t3w nbw shdt tpt.i m ndt(i).k

nn hpr bšt(w).k r šnnt pt

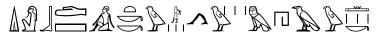
iw.sn hr inw hr psdw.sn m ksw n hm.k mi wd.i

The rdi + subjunctive sdm.f construction with the verb phr "go around, course through, encompass" in prospective/subjunctive starts this passage: "I let your might course through every land." The second adverb clause contains an adverbial sentence of identity. The subject is the direct genitive shd tpt.i with the infinitive of the caus. 2-lit. verb shd "gleam, brighten" used as a noun: "my gleaming uraeus." The predicate is the adverbial phrase m ndt.k with the verbal noun ndt(i) "savior, protection." (Note that the infinitive of the 2-lit. verb nd "save, protect" uses the base stem.)

The independent sentence that follows uses the nn + prospective/subjunctive $s\underline{d}m.f$ construction with future meaning: "will not be(come)." The following phrase employs the (feminine) imperfective relative form of the verb $\check{s}ni$ "encircle."

In the next sentence the verb *iw* is again circumstantial/imperfective *sdm.f* and the following adverbial phrases depict a typical scene of the foreigners carrying tributes on their backs bowing to the pharaoh. Finally, the prepositional phrase *m ksw* "(in) bowing" uses the verbal noun *ksw* (not the infinitive of the 3-ae-inf. verb *ksi* "bow").

Finally, the preposition mi governs the nominal non-attributive relative form $w\underline{d}.i$ as already discussed above.



di.i bdš tkkw iww m h3w.k

 $m3h.n ibw.sn h^{c}w.sn sd3.w(i)$

Once again we see here a rdi + subjunctive construction with rdi in circumstantial/imperfective $s\underline{d}m.f$. The object of the 3-lit. verb $bd\check{s}$ "become weak, faint" is tkk "attacker, foe" (plural), and it is also the antecedent of the (matching plural) perfective active participle of iw "come."

m3h "burn" is circumstantial sdm.n.f/ perfect expressing completed action "their courage (lit. hearts) burned away," and in the following adverb clause the subject + stative construction describes the resulting state: "their limbs trembled." Note the writing of the 3PL of the stative of the verb sd3 "tremble" with plural strokes.