The Poetical Stela of Thutmose III

(Cairo Museum 34010)

Part II

The Poem

Quatrain I

 $\begin{array}{c} & & \\ & & & \\ & & \\ & & & \\ & & \\ & & & \\ & & \\ &$

di.i m3.sn hm.k m nb stwt shd.k m hrw.sn m znn.i

Quatrain II

ii.n.i di.i itit.k imiw s(3)<u>t</u>t skr.k tpw 3^cmw nw r<u>t</u>nw

di.i m3.sn hm.k ^cpr m hkr(w).k šzp.k h^cw ^ch³ hr wrryt

Quatrain III



ii.n.i di.i itit.k t3 i3bti hnd.k ntiw m ww nw t3-ntr

di.i m3.sn hm.k mi sšd st bs(w).f m sdt di.f idt.f

ii.n.i di.i itit.k t3 imnti kftiw izy hr [šfšft.k]

di.i m3.sn hm.k m k3 rnp(w) mn ib spd ^cbwi ni h(3).n.tw.f

Quatrain V

ii.n.i di.i titi.k imiw nbw(t).sn t3w nw m(i)<u>t</u>n sd(3)(.wi)<u>hr snd(w).k</u>

di.i m3.sn hm.k m dpy nb sndw mm mw ni tkn.n.tw.f

Quatrain VI

ii.n.i di.i titi.k imiw iww hr(i)w-ib w3d-wr hr hmhmt.k

di.i m3.sn hm.k m ndti h^c.w hr psdw n sm3.f

Quatrain VII

ii.n.i di.i titi.k thnw iww wtntiw n shm(w) b3w.k

di.i m3.sn hm.k m m3i hz(3) ir.k st m h3wt ht int.sn

Quatrain VIII

ii.n.i di.i titi.k phww t3w šnnt šn-wr ^crf(.w) m hf^c.k

di.i m3.sn hm.k m nb dm3t hrw it dggt.f r mrr.f

Quatrain IX

[i.n.i di.i titi.k imiw h]t-t] = [i.m.k hr(i)w s' m skr-'nh]

di.i m3.sn hm.k mi s3b šm^cw nb gst hpwti hns t3wi



The Poetical Stela of Thutmose III: Part II

Vocabulary

trample, tread on (foe) northern Mesopotamia) $\Box \Delta z \check{s}$ spread out *sti* shoot, hurl FSPIN, FPPR stwt (sun-) rays znn image, portrait, document *znt* likeness znti image, duplicate s(3)tt Asia $\stackrel{-}{\frown}$ $\stackrel{-}{\blacktriangleright}$ *skr* smite, strike down rtnw Retjenu (Lebanon) *pr* equip, provide - *hkr* be adorned \frown panoply ے elll *h*^cw weapons *h*^c*w* ^c*h*³ weapons of war $\sim \sim 10^{10}$ wrryt chariot $\begin{array}{c} & & \\$ f h nd trod, step on,trample down

t3-ntr God's Land (south and east of Egypt including Punt) $\int \frac{1}{2} \frac{$ *sšd* thunderbolt, shooting star II ∕∕ ∫ (] bsw flame γ $rac{1}{2}$ sdt fire, flame; bsw m sdt firebrand \Box *idt* rain t3 imnti western lands *kftiw* Crete (possibly the whole Mediterranean) *izy* Izy (probably Cyprus) ♦ *šfšft* respect, awe (adjective-verb) rnpw young *mn* (adjective-verb) firm $\exists \Delta spd$ sharp b horn h_{3i} come/go down m(i) the Mitanni (kingdom east of the Euphrates) sd3 tremble snd fear dpy crocodile *mm* (preposition) among

 \frown $\longrightarrow \Lambda$ tkn approach *hr*(*i*)-*ib* (noun) middle Δ $\underline{h}r$ (preposition) under الش *psdw* back, spine 000 *thnw* Libya (unidentified region) S S HIII shmw power, might DIII b3w might, impressiveness m3i lion hz_3 wild $\widehat{\square}, \widehat{\square}, \widehat{\square} \stackrel{\square}{\models} \stackrel{\square}{\models} h^{3t} \text{ corpse}$ int valley \int $\tilde{s}ni$ encircle, enclose $\delta = \frac{1}{5} \circ \frac{1}{5}$ cartouche $\bigcirc \eth$ '*rf* enclose, include, bag hf^{c} grasp, make capture, seize dm3t wing dm3 stretch hrw Horus ₩ Z *dgi* look, glance, see, behold $\Box h \exists t$ (noun) front, beginning ~~§? snh bind 10 a___ا ا ا š^c sand JAA s3b jackal \$ *šm^cw* Upper Egypt

 $\bigvee_{1}^{\frac{p}{p}}$ $\bigvee_{1}^{\frac{p}{p}}$ $\bigvee_{wp-w3wt}$ the opener $\stackrel{\text{of ways}}{\frown}$ $-\Lambda$ gst speed hpw Apis bull hpwti runner *hns* traverse (region) *r mn m* as far as š3t Shat (unidentified region in Nubia) San - 3mmt grasp $\stackrel{(i)}{\rightharpoonup} \stackrel{(i)}{\boxtimes} snt$ sister, wife , $\overline{\Lambda}$ z³ protection, safeguard \mathfrak{P} (foes), remove, dispel, disperse $\square \square \square \square dwt evil$ $\int \Box^{-1} | I | hwt$ protection \bigtriangledown sh(3)b make festive $\overset{\frown}{}$ sšm guide, lead লিট্র্রা *sndw* (noun) fear s^ch^c erect $\Box \Box$ wtt beget $\mathbf{M}^{2}, \mathbf{M}^{2}, \mathbf{M}^{2}, \mathbf{M}^{2}$ (preposition) behind, around p_3 do in the past time <u> dmdi/dmdi</u> unite

The Poetical Stela of Thutmose III: Part II

Grammar Points

The Poem

Quatrain I

 $\| M \widehat{A} A \widehat{A} \| \widehat{A} \widehat{A} \| \| \widehat{A} \| \widehat{A$

di.i m3.sn ḥm.k m nb stwt sḥd.k m ḥrw.sn m znn.i

The Poem consists of ten quatrains, stanzas of four lines. Each quatrain contains two couplets (distichs) so that each couplet occupies two lines. For reasons of space, we display each couplet in a single line.

The second contains another rdi + prospective/subjunctive sdm.f construction: $\int di.i m 3.sn hm.k$, where the verb m33 "see" is prospective/subjunctive sdm.f; some translators interpret this as "experience, know." As discussed in the prologue we consider di.i in both cases as circumstantial/imperfective sdm.f. This also applies to any sdm.f verb form with the suffix pronoun being Amun-Re $\int di.i$.

There are a lot of localities in The Poem, and for convenience, we list the (previously not discussed) geographical terms as follows:

43hi Djahi (Palestine, Syria and northern Mesopotamia) 563tt Asia

¹ See Allen (25.16.2).

Image: Bibbi eastern lands

Image: Bib eastern lands

Image: Bi

The first couplet has simple grammar. In the second, the noun $\mathcal{T} \cap \mathcal{T} \cap \mathcal{T} \cap \mathcal{T}$, $\mathcal{T} \cap \mathcal{T} \cap \mathcal{T}$ sti "shoot," and with this the phrase *nb stwt* can be translated as "lord of (sun)light."

The caus. 2-lit. verb shd "shine, brighten" is prospective/subjunctive sdm.f expressing the result of the previous action. Although the prepositional phrase m hrw.sn can be translated as "in front of/before them," the plural stokes indicate that hr is used here as the noun "face," and the phrase literally means "in their faces." The noun $\overrightarrow{11}$ nn "image, portrait, document" doubtless must be related to " nn nn nn " ilikeness" and $\overrightarrow{11}$ nn " nn

Quatrain II

 $\begin{array}{c} & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & &$

Once again the two predicates in the first couplet are governed by *rdi* plus prospective /subjunctive *sdm.f* of the verbs *itit* and *skr* "smite, strike down."

In the second couplet the first adverb clause contains the stative of the verb pr"equip, provide" expressing passive voice. Another verb for all here here here a dorned"directly gives passive voice and is related to the noun <math>for all here here "(royal) insignia, panoply (of war accoutrements)."

In the second adverb clause (de Buck) (Sethe) *šzp* is circumstantial/imperfective *sdm.f* (expressing concomitant action). It can be elevated from "take" to "display, raise up (to show)."

Note the interesting sequence of the stative followed by circumstantial / imperfective sdm.f when the first expresses state and the second action.

Note also the coincidence that the war chariot came to Egypt from Asia during the Hyksos period some 100 years before Thutmose III.

Quatrain III

The grammar here and below is a bit repetitive so that we point out only the new features.

*t*3-*n*<u>t</u>*r* "God's Land" (in honorific transposition) with the plural of W = w"region" is a vaguely defined geographic location south/east of Egypt. It usually includes the exotic land of Punt (with main import of incense). Punt is conjectured to be the Somaliland which is a bit of misfit with *t*3 *i*3*bti* "eastern lands." More generally, *t*3-*n*<u>t</u>*r* can de-

In the second couplet the crocodile determinative is suggestive of the verb s s d "flash, glitter (star)" to which the noun s s d t "thunderbolt, shooting star" is related. s d t t "shoot, hurl" (written here with the rare determinative s t t t) is a perfective active participle with object bs(w) f m s d t "its firebrand," lit. "its flame in fire."

In the last adverb clause *di* "give" is in concomitant circumstantial/imperfective *sdm.f* again.

The whole passage creates the impression that the king's appearance is like a celestial phenomenon. It is an interesting coincidence that the most spectacular meteor shower, the Perseids, comes (in mid-August) from the constellation Perseus which (at its start at midnight) is in the easterly direction.

Quatrain IV



This new quatrain now turns to west with the explicit mention of izy *kftiw* "Crete" and izy "Izy" functioning as subjects of a simple adverbial sentence. The identification of the latter with Cyprus may be doubtful; note that here it is in the wrong direction from Egypt.

In the second couplet, the two *nfr* hr constructions *mn ib*, lit. "firm of heart" and *spd 'bwi*, lit. "sharp of horns" are attached to $\frac{2}{3} + \frac{2}{3} = \frac{2}{3} \frac{2}$

In the last relative clause the verb h3i "come/go down" should here be interpreted as "tackle (a dangerous animal)." It appears in negated circumstantial sdm.n.f/perfect with the impersonal suffix tw carrying passive meaning. This negated verb form itself expresses inability and should be translated in present tense. The literal translation of this clause ni h(3).n.tw.f "he cannot be tackled" can be turned into a single adjective "invincible" (Lichtheim) attached to the antecedent k3 rnp. (The suffix pronoun *f* is coreferential to the young bull.)

Finally, once again note the coincidence with the bull-cult of the Minoan Crete.

V

The phrase *imiw nbwt* has been discussed in the "Epilogue" in the previous chapter. The second clause of the first couplet contains a subject-stative construction expressing the

state of the "Lands/Kingdom of Mitanni." It uses the stative of the verb $\int s d3$ "tremble" (with the *sd3*–bird "egret" phonogram/determinative).

The grammar of the second couplet is similar to that of quatrain IV. The last (relative) clause of the antecedent dpy "crocodile" contains the negated circumstantial sdm.n.f /perfect *ni tkn.tw.f* of the verb *tkn* "approach" with coreferent, the suffix pronoun *.f.* Note that the preposition *mm* "among" governs plural nouns, so that *mw* must carry plural sense: "waters."

Quatrain VI

ii.n.i di.i titi.k imiw iww ḥr(i)w-ib w3d-wr ḥr hmhmt.k

di.i m3.sn hm.k m ndti h^c.w hr psdw n sm3.f

All the grammar here has been discussed previously. In the first couplet note the two prepositional nisbes: *imiw* and the nisbe constructed from the prepositional phrase hr *ib* "middle." The noun phrase *imiw iww* hr(i)w *ib* w3d-wr, lit. "those of the islands that are in the middle of the sea" designates seaborne people, it is the subject of the following adverbial predicate. Due to the aggressive nature of oppression, $n\underline{d}ti$ should be translated as "avenger" not "protector, savior." The stative of the verb $\underline{h}j$ describes the pharaoh as standing on the shoulders of the "wild bull," a reference to the defeat of Seth by Horus with the latter being personified by the king. Alternatively, the replacement of the wild bull determina-

tive max with the less aggressive max may indicate that max sm³ more likely mean "victim."

Quatrain VII

This passage has no new grammar.

Quatrain VIII

In the first couplet, in a word play with the 3ae-inf. verb $\frac{1}{2}$ *šni* "encircle, enclose," the scribe forms the preposed subject *šnnt šn-wr* "what the ocean encircles" of a subject + stative construction.

In this construction *šnnt* is the (generic) feminine imperfective relative form of *šni*, and the name *šn-wr* "ocean," lit. "the great one that encircles" reflects the ancient belief that the ocean surrounded the land. Incidentally, the stative predicate is given by the verb *'rf* which has a similar meaning: "enclose, include."

In the second couplet the noun $dm^2 t$ "wing" is clearly related to the verb $dm^2 t$ "wing" is clearly related to dm^3 "stretch." The phrase $nb \ dm^3 t \ hrw$ "lord/possessor of the wing(s) of Horus" or shortly "Horus/falcon-winged" is yet another reference to Horus Thutmose III. This phrase is the antecedent of the perfective active participle of *iti* "seize, grasp." Its object is the imperfective relative form of *dgi* "look, glance, see, behold" (feminine, referring to generic objects) followed by yet another imperfective relative form of *mri* "love, desire" (masculine, referring to the pharaoh). The whole phrase literally means: "who seizes what he (only) glances at what(ever) he desires." If one replaces "what he glances at" by "with his glimpse," then the meaning of the passage becomes clear.

This construction is reminiscent to the idiom $\underset{mrr.f}{\overset{\frown}{irr.f}} mrr.f$ whenever he wills/likes he does" mentioned at the Story of the Shipwrecked Sailor as the name of the great primordial god. The last relative form mrr.f, being the object of the preposition r, can be viewed as non-attributive and this can be brought out with the translation "in that he desires (he) takes what he glances at." A variation of this is the common phrase $\underset{irr.f}{\overset{\frown}{irr.f}} mi mrr.f$, lit. "the way he acts is according to the way he desires."

Quatrain IX

di.i m3.sn hm.k mi s3b šm^cw nb gst hpwti hns t3wi

The grammar in the first couplet is similar to that of quatrains II-III. The noun phrase h3tt3, lit. "the beginning of the land" is translated by Lichtheim as "border." In contrast, the entire nisbe construction *imiw* h3t-t3, lit. "those who are in the front of the land" is interpreted by Tobin as "the leaders of the land;" a bit strange as it designates people other than the pharaoh himself. The object of the verb snh "bind" is $hr(i)w \ s^{c}$ with the plural of the nisbe hri used as a noun. Its literal meaning is "those upon the sand" (which Lichtheim keeps) and it designates "the desert nomads/Beduins." The term skr-cnh was discussed in the Prologue.

The "jackal of Upper Egypt" is $\begin{bmatrix} r & r \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$, $\begin{bmatrix} r & r \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$, $\begin{bmatrix} r & r \\ wp-w3wt \end{bmatrix}$ "the opener of ways," the jackal god of Abydos. The name is subject to several interpretations: opening the ways to lead the king to military conquests or the deceased through the Netherworld, or

assisting in the opening the mouth ritual. The term hpwti "runner" is doubtless related to the pharaoh's running with the Apis bull (hpw) during the royal jubilee, the sed-festival. The verb hns "traverse" (used transitively here) is a perfective active participle.

Quatrain X

 $\frac{2^{2}}{1} \underbrace{M_{2}} \underbrace{M_{2}} \underbrace{M_{1}} \underbrace{M_{2}} \underbrace{M_{2} \underbrace{M_{2}$

The term *iwntiw sti* was discussed in the Prologue. The second clause of the first couplet has adverbial predicate with the subject "Nubian bowmen" suppressed as it is stated in the previous clause. The prepositional phrase *r mn m* "as far as" with the infinitive of *mn* "remain" has the literal meaning "to remain in."

In the second couplet *snwi.k* "Two Brothers" are Horus and Seth, and Amun-Re asserts that it was he who joined their hands for the Pharaoh to symbolically represent the victorious unification of Egypt. This reconciliation of power is often represented by Horus and Seth tying together of the heraldic plants, the papyrus of Lower Egypt and the reed of Upper Egypt.

The verb form of *dmd* "join, unite" is a perfect relative form with antecedent *snwi.k.* The suffix pronoun *.sn* attached to *wj* as a possessive is coreferential with this antecedent: "the Two Brothers whose hands I united..."

Epilogue

ĨĮ-QQANTE IV III III III IIII

snti.k di.n.i sn m z3 h3.k 'wi hm.i hr hr(w) hr shr(t) dwt

In the first couplet the two sisters (in feminine dual) are Isis and Nephthys, the two protective goddesses of Osiris. They form the topicalized object of the predicate, the following circumstantial *sdm.n.f*/perfect. The preposition *h*³ is usually translated as "around, behind."

The direct genitive *wi hm.i* is the subject of the adverbial sentence with predicate the prepositional phrase *hr hrw*: "My majesty's arms are upraised." This construction is followed a hr + infinitive pseudo-verbal construction. The latter involves the verb *shri* "drive away, remove, dispel, disperse," and, as it is often the case with caus. 3ae-inf. verbs, the *t* ending is omitted.

di.i hwt.k z3.i mrr.i hrw k3 nht h^c m w3st

This passage asserts that Thutmose III is Amun-Re's son. The imperfective relative form *mrr.i* of the verb *mri* "love" can be translated as "my beloved," lit. "(he) whom I love." *k3 nht* and $h^{c}m w3st$ (with the participle of the verb $h^{c}i$ "appear, rise (in glory)") are typical epithets of a king.

wtt.n.i m ntr(i) [h w] dhwti-msw nh(.w) dt ir n.i mrrt nbt k3.i

That the pharaoh is Amun-Re's son continues to be asserted with the perfect relative form of the verb *wtt* 'beget," lit. "the one whom I begot." $n\underline{t}ri h^c w$ is a nfr hr construction in which $n\underline{t}i$ "divine" itself is a nisbe derived from the noun $n\underline{t}r$.

The suffix pronoun *i* suddenly changes to refer to the pharaoh. The innocent looking construction $\frac{1}{2}$ is not circumstantial *sdm.n.f* / perfect but *ir n.i*, a participle + prepositional phrase combination, lit. "(he) who makes/performs for me." The object is a (feminine) imperfective relative form of the verb *mri* "love, desire." The subject of the relative form is *k3.i* "my ka" in which ka is crudely translated as "life force." Here it is one of Amun-Re's spiritual components which, by duty, the pharaoh has to nourish.

s'ḥ'.n.k iwnn.i m k3t nḥḥ s3ww swsḫ(w) r p3wt ḫpr



sb3 [wr zp 2 MN-HPR-R^c sh(3)b n] nfrw.f imn-r^c

Amun-Re now recalls Thutmose's accomplishments in reverence for him. As every pharaoh's duty was to erect monuments for the gods, $s^{c}h^{c}.n.k$ *iwnn.i* "you erected my temple" is the thematic background, and the emphasis is on the adverbial phrase *m* k3t nhh "as a work of eternity." In this emphatic construction $s^{c}h^{c}.n.k$ is non-attributive perfect relative form.

The causatives of the adjective-verbs 3wi "long" and wsh "wide" are s3wi "lengthen" and swsh "widen" are passive here indicated by the *w* ending in the first, lit. "made to be long/wide." This is followed by a comparative introduced by the preposition *r*. The comparison is made with p3wt hpr in which the noun p3wt "original time/creation" is closely related to the verb p3 "do in the past," and hpr is an acive participle of the verb hpr "happen, evolve." The whole phrase indicates comparison with everything that happened/evolved before, in the past. A similar construction is $bn = p3yt hpr^2$ "they were more beautiful than what existed before."

Putting the Egyptian ditto sign zp after an adjective wr emphasizes the greatness of the temple's door "very great," and the following noun phrase is simply the name of the door "Men-Kheper-Re who celebrates the (lit. of his) beauty of Amun-Re." (The caus. 3-lit. verb sh(3)b "make festive, celebrate" is a participle used as a noun in an indirect genitive. The suffix pronoun is a forward reference to Amun-Re.)

wr mnw.k r nswt nb hpr wd.n.i n.k irt st htp.kw hr.s

This is a typical comparative adjectival sentence with predicate wr "great (in number)," and subject mnw.k "your monuments." As usual, the comparative is introduced by the preposition r "with respect to" followed by the phrase nswt nb hpr, lit."any/every king who existed/evolved." The phrase contains the active participle of the verb hpr "evolve."

The circumstantial *sdm.n.f*/perfect of *wd* "command, decree" is followed by the dative *n.k* indicating to whom the decree is directed. The command itself is expressed by the infinitive of *iri* with plural object *st* referring back to *mnw.k*.

The happy state of Amun-Re is expressed by the stative of htp "content," and the

² [Urk. IV, 168, 11].

suffix pronoun *s* can either be viewed as an exceptional writing of the 3PL suffix pronoun *.sn*, or as a general reference using the neuter "it."

smn.i tw hr st hrw n hhw m rnpwt sšm.k `nh[w] n $\underline{d}t$

This passage poses no grammatical problems. *st hrw* is the Horus-throne, once again emphasizing Thutmose III's authority as the king.

The second (subordinate) clause with the prospective/subjunctive *sdm.f* of *sšmi* "lead, guide, rule" is a clause of result of the previous one. As such, it can be introduced by the words "so that."