

## OBELISK OF RAMESSES II.

*(Now in the Place de la Concorde, Paris.)*


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TRANSLATED FROM THE  
FRENCH TEXT OF M. FRANÇOIS CHABAS.

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THIS Obelisk, the grandest monument of Egyptian art now existing in Europe, is one of two which were originally set up by Rameses II before the great temple of Ammon-Ra at El Luxor. It is a monolith of red granite. The Paris obelisk, which was the shorter of the two, was 70ft. 3in. high (French) from the end of the pyramidion down to the base, but exclusive of the height of the pedestal which remained at Thebes, the width of the obelisk at its base was about 7ft. 6in. and its weight upwards of 220,000 kilogrammes and contains on each face three vertical lines of deeply cut hieroglyphics representing the adorations of Rameses to Amen-Ra. The apex is believed to have been originally protected by a covering of gilded bronze.

The Viceroy of Egypt, Mohammed Ali, offered to the British Government one of the obelisks of

Alexandria, and the other to France; but after examination of the monolith and the difficulties of transport, the proposal was declined by England. When Champollion made his exploration of Egypt, he examined the question, and upon his report the two obelisks of Luxor were judged worth the trouble and expense of transport. An especial vessel the "Louqsor," was built at Toulon for the purpose, and sailed in 1831 under the command of Ship Lieutenant Verninhac St. Maur. The obelisk was landed at Paris, 23 December, 1833.

The inscriptions have been several times translated and published both on the Continent and in England. There is a translation by Salvolini, *Traduction des Inscriptions sur l'obelisque de Paris*, 4to., Paris 1837; and the text is given by Champollion, *Monuments*, Tome IV. pl. CCIX; Sharpe, *Egypt. Inscr.*, pl. 42, 43. The translation here given is that given by M. Chabas in *Traduction complète des Inscriptions Hiéroglyphiques de l'obelisque de Luxor, à Paris*, 1868, which has been selected as the most recent and as combining the results of the studies of previous Egyptologists.

## OBELISK OF RAMESES II.

North side of Obelisk facing the Madeleine.

*Vignette:* Rameses II on his knees offering two vases of wine to Ammon-Ra.

*Cartouche of Rameses II:* *The master of the two worlds* OUSOR-MA-RA, *Lord of the diadems*, MEI-AMMON-RAMES

The god says to the king: "I give thee perfect health, I give thee life, stability and perfect happiness."

East side facing the Tuileries.

*Vignette:* The same subject as before.

*Cartouche:* *The good god, master of the two worlds*, OUSOR-MA-RA, *Son of the sun, Lord of the diadems*, MEI-AMMON-RAMES, *vivifying like the sun.*

West side facing the Champs Elysées.

Same offering.

*Cartouche:* "*The good god, master of the two worlds*, OUSOR-MA-RA, *Son of the sun, Lord of the diadems*, MEI-AMMON-RAMES, *vivifying like the sun eternally.*"

South Side facing the Palais Législatif.

Ramses II making an offering of water to Amun-Ra.

*Cartouche:* "*The good god*, OUSOR-MA-RA, SOTEP-EN-RA, *Son of the sun, MEI-AMMON-RAMES, who gives life, stability and happiness, like the sun.* AMMON-RA tells him (to the King) "I give thee perfect joy."

TRANSLATION  
OF THE VERTICAL INSCRIPTIONS.

North side of Obelisk facing the Madeleine: Central Column of hieroglyphics.

“The HORUS-sun, strong bull of the Sun, who has smitten the barbarians,<sup>1</sup> Lord of the diadems, who fights millions, magnanimous lion, golden hawk, strongest on all the world, OUSOR-MA-RA bull at his limit, obliging the whole earth to come before him, by the will of AMMON his august father.”

“He has made (*the Obelisk*), the Son of the Sun MEI-AMMON-RAMSES “living eternally.”

Column of hieroglyphics, left of spectator.

“The HORUS-sun, strong bull, the strongest (of the strongest) who fights with his sword, King of great roarings, master of terror, whose valour strikes the whole earth, King of Upper and Lower Egypt OUSOR-MA-RA SOTEP-EN-RA Son of the Sun MEI-AMMON-RAMSES whose dominion is twice cherished like that of the god inhabiting Thebes, King of Upper and Lower Egypt OUSOR-MA-RA SOTEP-EN-RA Son of the sun MEI-AMMON-RAMSES “The Vivifier.”

Column to the right of the spectator.

“The HORUS-sun, strong bull, the grandee of the triacontæid fêtes, who loves the two worlds, King strong by his sword, who has seized both worlds, supreme Chief whose royalty is great as that of the god TUM, King of Upper and Lower Egypt OUSOR-MA-RA, SOTEP-EN-RA Son of the sun

<sup>1</sup> The Sati.

MEI-AMMON-RAMSES. The Chiefs of the entire world are under his feet; King of Upper and Lower Egypt OUSOR-MA-RA, SOTEP-EN-RA Son of the sun MEI-AMMON-RAMSES "vivifier."

East side facing the Tuileries. Central Column :

"The HORUS-sun, strong bull, fighting with his sword, Lord of the diadems, who subdues (strikes down) whoever nears him, who seizes the ends of the world, Golden Hawk, very terrible, master of valour, King of Upper and Lower Egypt OUSOR-MA-RA, divine issue of his father AMON, Lord of gods. Causing to be joyous the temple of the soul and the gods of the great temple in joy. He has made the obelisk the Son of the sun MEI-AMMON-RAMSES "living eternally."

Column at left of the spectator.

"The HORUS-sun, strong bull, Son of AMMON, how multiplied are his monuments ! the very strong, beloved Son of the sun, on his throne, King of Upper and Lower Egypt OUSOR-MA-RA, SOTEP-EN-RA Son of the sun MEI-AMMON-RAMSES who has erected the dwelling of AMMON (Thebes), like the heavenly horizon, by his great monuments for eternity, King of Upper and Lower Egypt, Son of the sun, MEI-AMMON-RAMSES "vivifier."

Column to the right of the spectator.

"The HORUS-sun, strong bull, beloved of the goddess TRUTH,<sup>2</sup> King doubly cherished as the god TUM, supreme

<sup>1</sup> The recent publications of Mariette-Bey on Abydos have shewn the real meaning of the word *mai*, determined by the pebble of minerals; it is not the invitation *mai*, but a word intimating the idea of bodily humours. The same word occurs with the determinative *phallus*, alluding evidently to the meaning *germen, semen*.

<sup>2</sup> Ma.

Chief, delight of AMMON-RA, for centuries; King of Upper and Lower Egypt OUSOR-MA-RA, SOTEP-EN-RA Son of the sun MEI-AMMON-RAMSES: what is heaven, that (such) is thy monument; thy name will be permanent like the heavens, King of Upper and Lower Egypt OUSOR-MA-RA, SOTEP-EN-RA Son of the sun MEI-AMMON-RAMSES "vivifier."

West side facing the Champs Elyseès. Medial Column:

"The HORUS-sun, strong bull, beloved of the goddess TRUTH (MA) Lord of the diadems, who takes care of Egypt and chastises nations, Golden Hawk, Master of armies, the very strong, the King of Upper and Lower Egypt OUSOR-MA-RA King of Kings, issue of TUM, one in body with him to perform his royalty on earth for centuries, and to render happy AMMON's dwelling by benefactions. He has made (the Obelisk) the Son of the sun MEI-AMMON-RAMSES "Living eternally."

Column to the left of the spectator.

"The HORUS-sun, strong bull, rich in valour, King potent by the sword, who has made himself master of the whole world by his strength, King of Upper and Lower Egypt OUSOR-MA-RA, SOTEP-EN-RA Son of the sun MEI-AMMON-RAMSES;—all countries of the earth come to him with their tributes, King of Upper and Lower Egypt OUSOR-MA-RA-SOTEP-EN-RA Son of the sun MEI-AMMON-RAMSES "vivifier."

Column to the right of the spectator.

"The HORUS-sun, strong bull, beloved of the Sun, King who is a great plague (to his enemies); the whole earth trembles in terror of him, King of Upper and Lower Egypt OUSOR-MA-RA, SOTEP-EN-RA, Son of the sun (MEI-AMMON-

RAMSES) Son of MONT, whom MONT has formed with his hand, King of Upper and Lower Egypt OUSOR-MA-RA, SOTEP-EN-RA, Son of the sun MEI-AMMON-RAMSES "vivifier."

South side facing the Palais Legislatif. Central Column :

"The HORUS-sun, strong bull, very valorous, King of Upper and Lower Egypt OUSOR-MA-RA, SOTEP-EN-RA eldest son of the King of the gods, who has raised him on his throne on the earth, like an unique Lord, possessor of the whole world ; he knows him, as he (the king) had done homage to him by bringing to perfection his dwelling for millions of years, mark of the preference he had in the *Southern Ap* for his father, who will prefer him for millions of years. He has made (the Obelisk) the Son of the sun MEI-AMMON-RAMSES "vivifier" eternal as the sun."

Column to the left of the spectator.

"The HORUS-sun, strong bull, loved by the goddess TRUTH (MA) King of Upper and Lower Egypt OUSOR-MA-RA, SOTEP-EN-RA, Son of the sun, MEI-AMMON-RAMSES, Scion of the sun, protected by HARMACHIS, illustrious seed, precious egg of the sacred Eye, emanation of the King of the gods, to be the unique Lord possessor of the whole world, King of Upper and Lower Egypt OUSOR-MA-RA, SOTEP-EN-RA Son of the sun MEI-AMMON-RAMSES, "eternal vivifier."

Column to the right of the spectator.

"The HORUS-sun, strong bull, beloved of the sun, King of Upper and Lower Egypt OUSOR-MA-RA, SOTEP-EN-RA Son of the sun MEI-AMMON-RAMSES King excellent, war-like, vigilant to seek the favours of him who has begotten him : thy name is permanent as the heavens ; the length

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