

Strong is Amon, knowing how to answer,
 Fulfilling the desire of him who cries to him;
 The Sun the true King of Gods,
 The Strong Bull, the mighty lover of power.

VII. HYMN TO THE NILE

By the scribe Ennana. It represents the idea that "the Nile is the source of all life in Egypt, that it is the supreme god, mysterious, uncreated, the father of the gods and all things else, into whose secrets none can penetrate. He describes in a lofty style the benefits conferred by the Nile when it spreads its waters over the country at its annual return." *Records of the Past*, iii.² 48-54.

Adoration to the Nile!
 Hail to thee, O Nile!
 Who manifestest thyself over this land,
 And comest to give life to Egypt!
 Mysterious is thy issuing forth from the darkness,
 On this day whereon it is celebrated!
 Watering the orchards created by Re
 To cause all the cattle to live,
 Thou givest the earth to drink, inexhaustible one!
 Path that descendest from the sky,
 Loving the bread of Seb and the first fruits of Nepera,
 Thou causest the workshops of Ptah to prosper!

He brings the offerings, as chief of provisioning;
 He is creator of all good things,
 As master of energy, full of sweetness in his choice.
 If offerings are made it is thanks to him.
 He brings forth the herbage for the flocks,
 And sees that each god receives his sacrifices.
 All that depends on him is a precious incense.
 He spreads himself over Egypt,
 Filling the granaries, renewing the marts,
 Watching over the goods of the unhappy.

He is prosperous to the height of all desires,
 Without fatiguing himself therefor.
 He brings again his lordly bark;

**Giver of
 Life.**

Its sources
 were un-
 known.

Re, the sun
 god.

Seb, god of
 earth; Ptah,
 chief god of
 Memphis.

**Creator of
 all good.**

**Incessantly
 active.**

Uræus,
snake-symbol
of divinity or
royalty, worn
on headdress.

He is not sculptured in stone, in the statues crowned with the uræus
serpent,
He cannot be contemplated.
No servitors has he, no bearers of offerings!

He is not enticed by incantations!
None knows the place where he dwells,
None discovers his retreat by the power of a written spell . . .

**Nourisher of
mankind.**

Establisher of justice! mankind desires thee,
Supplicating thee to answer their prayers; thou answerest them by
the inundation!

Men offer the first fruits of corn;
All the gods adore thee!
The birds descend not on the soil.
It is believed that with thy hand of gold
Thou makest bricks of silver!
But we are not nourished on lapis lazuli;
Corn alone gives vigor. . . .

**Offerings to
thee.**

O inundation of the Nile,
Offerings are made to thee,
Oxen are immolated to thee,
Great festivals are instituted for thee.
Birds are sacrificed to thee,
Gazelles are taken for thee in the mountain.
Pure flames are prepared for thee.
Sacrifice is made to every god as it is made to the Nile.
The Nile has made its retreats in Southern Egypt,

Tuau, the
other world.

Its name is not known beyond the Tuau.
The god manifests not his forms,
He baffles all conception.

**Prosper, O
giver of
prosperity!**

Men exalt him like the cycle of the gods,
They dread him who creates the heat,
Even him who has made his son the universal master

His son is
pharaoh.

In order to give prosperity to Egypt.
Come and prosper! come and prosper!
O Nile, come and prosper!
O thou who makest men to live through his flocks,
And his flocks through his orchards!

Come and prosper, come,
O Nile, come and prosper!

This work has been successfully finished and dedicated to the scribe of the treasury Qaqabu (by the scribe Ennana).

VIII. SPOILIATION OF TOMBS

This extract is a single clause in an extensive report made by a commission for examining into the condition of cemeteries appointed by Rameses IX (about 1100). From this and other sources we learn that tomb robbery was an oft-committed crime. *Records of the Past*, xii. 107.

Sepulchres and chapels in which repose the chanters and mourners, the women and men of the country, in the west-quarter of the city. It was found that the thieves had violated them all, that they had torn their occupants away from their coffins and cases, had thrown them into the dust and had stolen all the funeral objects which had been given to them, as well as the gold and silver and the ornaments which were in their coffins.

IX. EGYPTIAN PRECEPTS

The following precepts are taken from the "oldest book in the world," written on papyrus. It was discovered in the necropolis of Thebes and first published in 1847. It is now in the National Library in Paris.

The first part, in which we find some precepts concerning manners and morals, was composed in the reign of Senoferu (third dynasty). The last part was composed by the prefect Ptah-hotep in the reign of Assa (fifth dynasty). (American) *Records of the Past*, i. 311-320.

The third and fifth dynasties lie within 2900-2540.

If thou sittest down to eat with a number, despise the dishes which thou lovest; it is but a short time to restrain thyself; and voracity is something degrading, for there is bestiality in it. As a glass of water quenches thirst, as a

On eating in company.

END OF SAMPLE TEXT



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