

# Ahmose son of Abana, Autobiography of

## Sethe

Created on 2008-11-11 by Mark-Jan Nederhof. Last modified 2009-06-24.

The hieroglyphic of "The Autobiography of Ahmose son of Abana", following the transcription of Sethe (1927), number 1 (pp. 1-11).

The encoding requires further checking against a facsimile.

## Bibliography

- K. Sethe. *Urkunden der 18. Dynastie, Volume I*. Hinrichs, Leipzig, 1927.

## Nederhof - English

Created on 2008-11-11 by Mark-Jan Nederhof. Last modified 2009-07-02.

Transliteration and translation for "The Autobiography of Ahmose son of Abana", following the transcription of Sethe (1927), number 1 (pp. 1-11).

For published translations, see Breasted (1906), pp. 3-9, §§ 1-16 & pp. 17-18, §§ 38-39 & pp. 33-35, §§ 78-82; Lichtheim (1976), pp. 12-15; Sethe (1914), number 1 (pp. 1-6).

## Bibliography

- J.H. Breasted. *Ancient Records of Egypt -- Volume II*. The University of Chicago Press, 1906.
- M. Lichtheim. *Ancient Egyptian Literature -- Volume II: The New Kingdom*. University of California Press, 1976.
- K. Sethe. *Urkunden der 18. Dynastie -- übersetzt, Volume I*. Hinrichs, Leipzig, 1914.
- K. Sethe. *Urkunden der 18. Dynastie, Volume I*. Hinrichs, Leipzig, 1927.

Se 

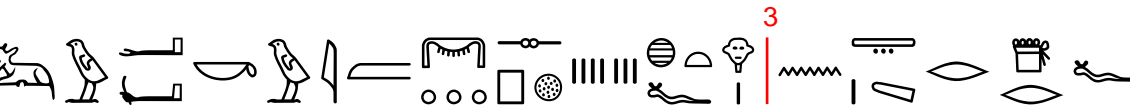
Ne | ḥrj-ḥnyt J<sup>c</sup>ḥ-msjw s3 Jb3n3 m3<sup>c</sup>-ḥrw | dd=f

Ne | Naval commander Ahmose, son of Abana, justified, | says:

Se 

Ne dd=j n=tn rmt nbt dj=j rh=tn ḥswt ḥprt n=j

Ne "I speak to you, all people. I will let you know the favours that were granted to me.

Se 

Ne jw<sup>c</sup>.kw m nbw sp 7 ḥft-ḥrl-n t3 r-dr=f

Ne I have been rewarded with gold seven times before the entire land,

Se 

Ne ḥmw ḥmwt r-mjtt-jry s3ḥ.kw m 3ḥwt C3w wrt

Ne and with male and female slaves as well. I have been endowed with very many fields.

Se 

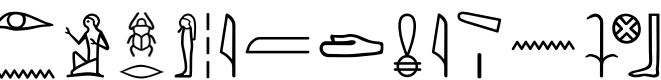
Ne jw rn n qn m jrt.n=f

Ne The name of a brave man is in what he has done,

Se 


Ne nn ḥtm | m t3 pn dt dd=f r-ntt

Ne without ever perishing in this land." He says:

Se 

Ne jr.n=j ḥprw=j m dmj n Nḥb

Ne "I grew up in the town of Nekheb.

Se 

Ne jw jt=j m w<sup>c</sup>w n nsw-bjtj Sqnj.n-R<sup>c</sup> m3<sup>c</sup>-ḥrw

Ne My father was a soldier of the king of Upper and Lower Egypt Seqenenre, justified,



Se 

Ne m-ht swtw=f hr

wrrytl=f

Ne after him riding on this chariot.

Se 

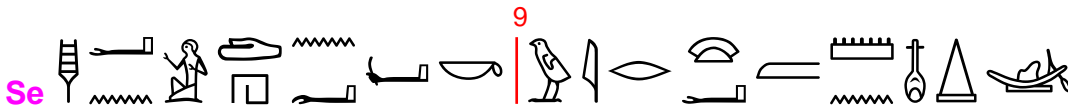
Ne jw hms.tw hr dmj n Hwt-wrt

Ne When the town of Avaris was besieged,

Se 

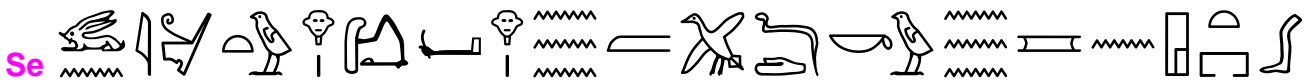
Ne wn.hr=j hr qnt hr rdwj=j m-b3h hm=f

Ne I showed valour on foot in His Majesty's presence.

Se 

Ne <sup>9</sup>chc.n=j dhn.klw r Hc-m-Mn-nfr

Ne Then I was assigned to 'Rising in Memphis',

Se 

Ne wn.jn.tw hr ch3 hr mw m P3-Ddkw n Hwt-wrt

Ne and there was fighting on the water in Padjedku of Avaris.

Se 

Ne chc.n hfc.n=j

<sup>10</sup> | jn=j drt

Ne Then I made a capture

<sup>10</sup> | and carried off a hand.

Se 

Ne smj.tw n whm-nsw

wn.jn.tw hr rdjt n=j nbw n qnt

Ne When it was reported to the royal herald, I was given gold of valour.


Se 

Ne chc.n whmw ch3 m st tn

Ne Then there was more fighting in this place,



---

**Se** 

**Ne** wn.jn.tw | hr h3q Hwt-w<sup>r</sup>t wn.jn=j hr jnt h3qt jm

**Ne** Then Avaris was captured, and I brought booty from there:

---

**Se** 

**Ne** s 1 st-hmt 3 dmd r tp 4

**Ne** one man and three women, altogether four people.

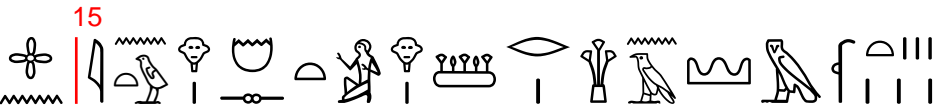
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**Se** 

**Ne** wn.jn hm=f hr rdjt st n=j r hmw

**Ne** And His Majesty gave them to me for slaves.


---

**Se** 

**Ne** wnl.jn.tw hr hmst hr Šrh n m rnpwt 3

**Ne** Then Sharahen was besieged for three years,

---

**Se** 

**Ne** wn.jn hm=f hr h3q=s h<sup>c</sup>.n jn.n=j h3qt jm

**Ne** and His Majesty captured it. Then I brought booty from there:

---

**Se** 

**Ne** st-hmt 2 drt wnl.jn.tw hr rdjt n=j nbw n qnt

**Ne** two women and a hand. I was given gold of valour,

---

**Se** 

**Ne** mk rdj.tw n=j h3qt r hmw

**Ne** and I was given the captives for slaves.

---

**Se** 

**Ne** hr-m-ht sm<sup>3</sup>.n hm=f mntjw-Stt

**Ne** After His Majesty had slain the bedouin tribes of Asia,

---

<sup>17</sup>  
Se 

<sup>17</sup>  
Ne | wn.jn=f ḥr ḥntyt r Ḥnt-ḥn-nfr

<sup>17</sup>  
Ne | he sailed southward to Khent-hen-nefer

Se 

Ne r sksk jwntjw-Stj

Ne to destroy the Nubian nomads,

Se 

Ne wn.jn ḥm=f ḥr jrt ḥt ʿt jm=sn

Ne and His Majesty carried out a large massacre among them.

<sup>18</sup>  
Se 


<sup>18</sup>  
Ne | ḥ<sup>c</sup>.n jn.n=j ḥqt jm s ḥ<sup>c</sup> 2 drt 3

<sup>18</sup>  
Ne | Then I brought booty from there: two living men and three hands.

Se 

Ne wn.jn.tw ḥr jw<sup>c</sup>=j m nbw ḥr snnw=sj mk rdj.tw n=j ḥmt 2

Ne I was rewarded with gold once more, and two female slaves were given to me.

<sup>19</sup>  
Se 

<sup>19</sup>  
Ne n<sup>c</sup>t m ḥd jn ḥm=f jb=f ʿw(.w) m qnt nḥt

Ne His Majesty sailed northward, rejoicing in strength and victory,

Se 

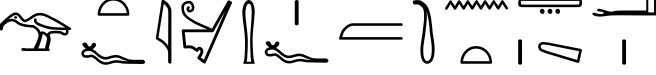
Ne jt.n=f rsjw mḥtjw ḥ<sup>c</sup>.n ʿt jw(.w) n rsj

Ne having captured southerners and northerners. Then Aata came to the south,

<sup>20</sup>  
**Se** 

**Ne** | stkn šw=f mwt=f ntrw Šm<sup>c</sup>w hr 3m=f

<sup>20</sup>  
**Ne** | and his fate brought on his doom when the gods of Upper Egypt grasped him.

**Se** 

**Ne** gm.tw=f jn hm=f m Tnt-t<sup>c</sup>

**Ne** He was found by His Majesty at Tent-ta-o,

**Se** 

**Ne** wn.jn hm=f hr jnt=f

<sup>21</sup>

<sup>21</sup>

| m sqr-<sup>c</sup>nh

**Ne** and His Majesty brought him away

<sup>21</sup>

| as captive

**Se** 

**Ne** rmt=f nb m js-h<sup>3</sup>q

**Ne** and all his people as booty.

**Se** 

**Ne** ḥ<sup>c</sup>.n jn.n=j mg<sup>3</sup> 2 m mh m p<sup>3</sup> dpt n 33t<sup>3</sup>

**Ne** Then I brought two warriors as captives from the ship of Aata.

**Se** 

**Ne** wn.jn.tw

<sup>22</sup>

<sup>22</sup>

| hr rdjt n=j tp 5

**Ne** I was given five people

**Se** 

**Ne** hr dnjw 3ht s<sup>3</sup>t 5 m njwt=j

**Ne** and five arourae of land in my town,

**Se** 

**Ne** jr w n t<sup>3</sup> hnyt r 3w=s m-mjtt

**Ne** and the same was done for the whole crew.



---

Se 23

Ne ḥ<sup>c</sup>.n ḥr | pf jw(.w) Ttj<sup>c</sup>n rn=f

Ne Then that enemy called Tetian came,

---

Se

Ne šḥwj.n=f n=f ḥ<sup>3</sup>kw-jb wn.jn ḥm=f ḥr sm<sup>3</sup>=f

Ne who had drawn together rebels. His Majesty slew him

---

Se

Ne jst=f m tmt ḥpr ḥ<sup>c</sup>.n rdj<sup>l</sup>.n=j tp 3

Ne and his troop was annihilated. Then I was given three people

---

Se

Ne ḥt sḥt 5 m njwt=j

Ne and five arourae of land in my town.

---

Se

Ne wn.jn=j ḥr ḥnt nsw-bjtj Dsr-k<sup>3</sup>-R<sup>c</sup> m<sup>3</sup><sup>c</sup>-ḥrw

Ne Then I conveyed the king of Upper and Lower Egypt Djoserkare, justified,

---

Se

Ne jw=f m ḥntyt r K<sup>3</sup>š

Ne as he sailed southward to Kush

---

Se

Ne r swsh | tšw Kmt wn.jn ḥm=f ḥr sqr jwntj-Stj pf

Ne to widen | the borders of Egypt. Then His Majesty smote that Nubian nomad

---

Se

Ne m ḥrj-jb mš<sup>c</sup>=f jnw m gw<sup>3</sup>gw<sup>3</sup> nn nhw=sn

Ne in the midst of his army, taken in a stranglehold, none missing,

---

Se <sup>26</sup>

Ne wthw | m dy hr gs mj ntjw n hpr

Ne the fleeing | were felled as though they had never been.

Se

Ne jst<sup>c</sup> wj m tp n mš<sup>c</sup>=n jw<sup>c</sup> h<sup>3</sup>.n=j r wn-m<sup>3</sup><sup>c</sup>

Ne Now, I was in the van of our army, where I fought properly,

Se

Ne m<sup>3</sup>.n hm=f qnt=j jn=j d<sup>r</sup>t 2

Ne and His Majesty saw my valour. I carried off two hands,

Se <sup>27</sup>

Ne m<sup>3</sup>s n hm=f wn.jn.tw hr h<sup>3</sup>y rmt=f mnmnt=f

Ne and presented them to His Majesty. Then his people and his cattle were pursued.

Se

Ne h<sup>c</sup>.n jn.n=j sqr-<sup>c</sup>nh ms n hm=f

Ne I brought a captive and presented him to His Majesty.

Se <sup>28</sup>

Ne jn=j hm=f m hrw 2 r Kmt | m Hnmt-hrw

Ne I brought His Majesty to Egypt from Upper Well in two days,

Se

Ne h<sup>c</sup>.n.tw hr jw<sup>c</sup>=j m nbw

Ne and I was rewarded with gold.

Se

Ne h<sup>c</sup>.n jn.n=j hmt 2 m h<sup>3</sup>q

Ne Then I brought away two female slaves as booty,



---

**Se** 31

**Ne** m p3 s3s3 | p3 ʕw hr t3 pnʕyt

**Ne** during the towing | of the fleet through the eddy.

---

**Se**

**Ne** wn.jn.tw hr rdjt=j r hrj-hnyt

**Ne** Then I was appointed to be naval commander.

---

**Se** 32 33

**Ne** wn.jn hm=f ʕ.w.s. | [...] | ʕr.jn hm=f r=s mj 3by

**Ne** Then His Majesty (l.p.h.!) | [...] | and His Majesty became as enraged as a panther.

---

**Se**

**Ne** wdt hm=f šsr=f tpj mn(.w) m šnbt nt hr pf

**Ne** His Majesty shot and his first arrow stuck in the chest of that enemy.

---

**Se** 34

**Ne** wn.jn nn [...] | [...] bdš.w n nsrt=f

**Ne** Then these [...] | [...] despondent on account of his uraeus.

---

**Se**

**Ne** jr w jm m 3t hbyt

**Ne** It was done there in an act of massacre,

---

**Se** 35

**Ne** jnw hrw=s n m sqrw-ʕnh | nʕt m hd jn hm=f

**Ne** and their people were brought away as captives. | His Majesty sailed northward,

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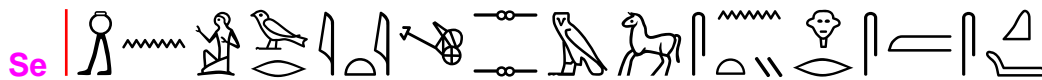


Se 

Ne jst<sup>c</sup> wj m tp n mš<sup>c</sup>=n m<sup>3</sup>.n ḥm=f qnn=j

Ne Now, I was in the van of our army, and His Majesty saw my valour.

39

Se 

Ne | jn=j wryt ssm=s ntj ḥr=s m sqr-<sup>c</sup>nh

Ne | I brought away a chariot, its horse, and him who was on it as captive,

Se 

Ne ms n ḥm=f wn.jn.tw ḥr jw<sup>c</sup>=j m nbw ḥr snnw=sj

Ne and presented them to His Majesty. I was rewarded with gold once more.

40

Se 

Ne | tnj.kw pḥ.n=j jšwj

Ne | I have grown old and reached old age.

Se 

Ne ḥswt=j mj tpt=s [...] mr [...] ḥtp=j m ḥrt jrt.n=j ds=j

Ne The favours towards me are as before [...] beloved [...] I rest in the tomb that I myself

Ne built.

41

42

43

44

45

Se 

Ne | [...] | [...] | [...] | [...] | m Bhj wḥm rdj.tw n=j jn nsw-bjt

Ne | [...] | [...] | [...] | [...] | in Behi. Again I was given by the king of Upper and Lower

46

Se 

Ne [...] | sḫt 60 m Ḥḏ<sup>c</sup> dmd sḫt [...]

Ne Egypt [...] | 60 arourae in Hadjaa, altogether [...] arourae.

<sup>47</sup>  
**Se** | 

<sup>47</sup>  
**Ne** | jmj-rn=f n n3 n hmw hmwt n h3qt rdj n=j

<sup>47</sup>  
**Ne** | List of names of the male and female slaves from the booty given to me:

<sup>48</sup>  
**Se** | 

<sup>48</sup>  
**Ne** | hm P3-md3y

<sup>48</sup>  
**Ne** | male slave Pamedjai;

<sup>49</sup> **Se** |  <sup>50</sup> **Se** | 

<sup>49</sup> **Ne** | hm P3y-3bdw

<sup>50</sup> **Ne** | hm

<sup>49</sup> **Ne** | male slave Pajabdju; <sup>50</sup> **Ne** | male slave Senebnebef;

**Se** |  

<sup>51</sup> **Ne** Snb-nb=f | hm [...]

<sup>52</sup> **Ne** | hm Qn-p3-hq3

<sup>51</sup> **Ne** | male slave [...]; <sup>52</sup> **Ne** | male slave Qenpakheqa;

**Se** |   

<sup>53</sup> **Ne** | hm Dhwtj-snbw

<sup>54</sup> **Ne** | hm Sbk-ms

<sup>55</sup> **Ne** | hm

<sup>53</sup> **Ne** | male slave Djehutisenebu; <sup>54</sup> **Ne** | male slave Sobekmes; <sup>55</sup> **Ne** | male slave Kharai;

**Se** |   

<sup>56</sup> **Ne** H3-r3y | hm P3-3m

<sup>57</sup> **Ne** | hmt T33

<sup>58</sup> **Ne** | hmt

<sup>56</sup> **Ne** | male slave Paam; <sup>57</sup> **Ne** | female slave Taa; <sup>58</sup> **Ne** | female slave Sedjemesni;

---

**Se** <sup>59</sup> |  <sup>60</sup> | 

**Ne** S<sub>dm</sub>[=s]-n=j | ḥmt Bkt <sup>60</sup> | ḥmt

**Ne** <sup>59</sup> | female slave Baket; <sup>60</sup> | female slave Ka[...]isi;

---

**Se** <sup>61</sup> |  <sup>62</sup> | 

**Ne** K<sub>3</sub>-[...] =j-sj | ḥmt T<sub>3</sub>-<sup>61</sup> m-tw <sup>62</sup> | ḥmt

**Ne** <sup>61</sup> | female slave Taametju; <sup>62</sup> | female slave Wabentasachmet;


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**Se** <sup>63</sup> |  <sup>64</sup> | 

**Ne** W<sup>b</sup>.n-t<sub>3</sub>-Shmt | ḥmt Js-t<sub>3</sub>-r<sub>3</sub>-jw-mj <sup>64</sup> | ḥmt Jt-nfr

**Ne** <sup>63</sup> | female slave Istarajumi; <sup>64</sup> | female slave Itnefer;

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**Se** <sup>65</sup> |  <sup>66</sup> | 

**Ne** | ḥmt Hdt-Kwš <sup>65</sup> | ḥmt Jmn-ḥr-ssnb <sup>66</sup>

**Ne** | female slave Hadetkush; <sup>65</sup> | female slave Amunhersedeneb. <sup>66</sup>

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