

### 3. The Autobiography of Pepinakht called Heqaib

Aswan, Qubbet el-Hawa Tomb no. 35

Sixth Dynasty : Pepi II

PM V, 237. de Morgan, Catalogue I, 174-176; Urk. I, 131-135. Roccati, Litt. No. 43, pp. 208-211.

The autobiography is inscribed on the façade of the tomb in a circular pattern. It begins above the entrance, on the left, in four lines (A), moves to the right and left of the entrance in two lines each (B,C), continues to the right and left of the entrance in six lines each, and four final lines are written above the entrance on the right (D).

#### *A. Above Entrance, left*

*4 lines*

(1) The Tenant Landholder and Scribe of the Phyle of the pyramid Men-ankh-Neferkare, the Royal Seal-bearer, Sole Companion, and Overseer of Scouts : Heqaib.

(2) The Mayor of the pyramid Men-nefer-Pepi, the Sole Companion, Lector-priest, and Overseer of Scouts, who brings the produce of foreign lands to his lord : Pepinakht.

(3) The Leader of the Phyle of the pyramid Kha-nefer-Mernere, who casts the terror of Horus <into> foreign lands : the honored Heqaib.

(4) The Count, Sole Companion, Councillor, Keeper of Nekhen, Headman of Nekheb, Overseer of all Scouts, one honored by the great god : Pepinakht.

#### *B. Right of Entrance*

(1) The Count, Royal Seal-bearer, Sole Companion, and Lector-priest : Pepinakht.

(2) The Sole Companion, Councillor, Keeper of Nekhen, Headman of Nekheb, and Overseer of all Scouts : Heqaib.

#### *C. Left of Entrance*

(1) The Tenant Landholder and Scribe of the Phyle of the pyramid Men-ankh-Neferkare, the Sole Companion : Heqaib.

(2) The Count, Royal Seal-bearer, Sole Companion, Lector-priest, and Overseer of foreign lands, one honored by the great god : Pepinakht.

D. Main Text

Right, left, and above entrance, right

16 lines

(1) I am one who speaks the good, repeats what is liked; and I never spoke any evil to a potentate about anyone; for I wished to stand well<sup>1</sup> with (2) the great god.

I gave bread to the hungry, clothes to the naked; and I never judged between two parties (3) in a manner to deprive a son of his father's property.

I am one beloved of his father, praised by his mother, (4) one whom his siblings love.

The majesty of my lord sent me to hack up Wawat and Irtjet. I acted (5) to the satisfaction of my lord. I slew a large number of them, sons of the ruler, and excellent 'troop leaders'.<sup>2</sup> I brought a large (6) number of them to the residence as captives, while I was at the head of numerous and strong troops in boldness of heart. My lord trusted (7) me fully<sup>3</sup> in every mission on which he sent me.

The majesty of my lord also sent me to pacify these lands. (8) I acted to my lord's satisfaction in a most excellent manner : I brought the two rulers of these lands to the residence with offerings of (9) live cattle, longhorns and shorthorns, the best ones for the residence, together with sons of the rulers and the 'troop leaders' who were with them. (10) ['I performed'] the tasks of headmen of the South through my excellent vigilance in doing my lord's wish<sup>4</sup>.

The majesty of my lord also sent me (11) to the land of the Asiatics, to bring him the sole companion, ship's captain, and overseer of scouts, An-ankhet, who had been equipping a ship there for Punt (12) when Asiatics belonging to the Sand-dwellers slew him together with the company of soldiers that was with him. (13) ----- (14) ----- (15) ----- his men. I drove to flight and slew some of their men, I together with the company of soldiers that was with me. (16) [The count], Royal Seal-bearer, Sole Companion, Lector-priest, and Overseer of Scouts, who casts the terror of Horus into foreign lands, Pepinakht, whose good name is Heqaib.

Notes

- 1) Read *nfr n.i* and see Edel, Untersuchungen, pp. 34f. — 2) The meaning of *mr-šnw* has not been established, see Wb. IV, 509. — 3) Literally, "My lord filled his heart with me". — 4) *N iqr rs(w)-tp.i n irt mrrt nb.i*.