

(18) I also resettled the towns that were enfeebled in this nome with persons of other nomes. (19) Those of them who had been servants, I made their positions into those of official(s).

(20) I never deprived a man of his property, so that he would complain of me about it to the town god. I am one who speaks, and repeats, the good.

(21) I never maligned a man to his superior, so that he would complain about it to the god.

I stood, indeed, (22) as Ruler in the Mountainviper nome, together with my brother, the honored sole companion and lector-priest Hemra, the honored one. (23) I was beneficial to it with stables for cattle and dwellings for fishermen. I settled all its mounds (24) with people and cattle [as well as] sheep and goats, in very truth, I do not tell lies here !

(25) I am also (26) one beloved of his father,

(27) praised of his mother,

(28) well-disposed<sup>7</sup> to his brothers,

(29) pleasant to his sisters.

(26a) I am also the priest of his town god, his mouth who put respect of him (27a) into his [fellowmen], for I wished him to be [honored] (28a) by them in the place [in which he is]. (29a) --- this noble one ----- (30) noble ---his father, his mother, his noble brothers. (31) ... --- fathers ---.

(32) I am also an effective spirit, one equipped in [this place] in which I am.

#### Notes

1) The gods of the 12th nome; see now Graefe, Studien. — 2) That is to say, Henqu abolished the *corvée* of portage and generally fostered the rise of the common man. — 3) On the phrase see Edel, Untersuchungen, pp. 34-37. — 4) So, following Edel, Untersuchungen, p. 35. — 5) Several obscure sentences concerning crimes against women and poor people. — 6) Read *nm:k*, and see Faulkner, Dict., 133, also Roccati, RdE 20 (1968) 191; the meaning is : If you are too young to understand what I say, ask your father to explain it to you." — 7) The term is *mnḥ-qd*.

## 7. The Autobiography of the Nomarch Ankhtifi

### On the Pillars of his Tomb at Mo'alla (UE 3)

Vandier, Mo'alla. Schenkel, MHT, no. 37, pp. 45-57; Kees, *Orientalia* 21 (1952) 86-97; Fischer, *WZKM* 57 (1961) 59-77; Fecht in *Schott Fs.*, 50-60; Lichtheim, *AEL* I, 85f; Schenkel, *Bewässerung*, 42-46.

More than any other nomarch, Ankhtifi flaunted his independence, his personal initiative, and his combative courage, in a language both forceful and jaunty. Of his long autobiography, only the first sections, numbered 1-5 in

Vandier's edition, are translated here. In sections 1-2 Ankhtifi relates his conquest and pacification of the nome of Edfu (UE 2) which he joined to his nome of Hieraconpolis (UE 3). In section 3 there is an allusion to his also having concluded an alliance with the nome of Elephantine (UE 1). Most of sections 3-5 are given over to his colorful self-praise. In his youth, when a man named Hetep (perhaps his father) was nomarch of the 3d nome, Ankhtifi recognized royal control in the shape of the "Council of the Overseer of Upper Egypt", residing in the Thinite nome, by inviting the Council on a visit of inspection, as he tells in section 5. Thereafter, no more is heard of authority other than his own. His military forays included an incursion into the Theban nome, where he fought against the joined forces of Thebans and Coptites. This incident suggests that Ankhtifi flourished just before the Theban family of nomarchs embarked on its policy of expansion. Ankhtifi's account of famine relief (section 10) is interesting but unfortunately obscured by major lacunae.

*Nos. 1 & 2*

The Prince, Count, Royal Seal-bearer, Sole Companion, Lector-priest, Troop Commander, Overseer of Scouts, Overseer of foreign lands, Great Headman of the Horus-Throne nome and the nome of Nekhen, Ankhtifi, who says :

Horus brought me to the Horus-Throne nome for life, prosperity, health, to reestablish it, and I did. For Horus wished to reestablish it, because he brought me to reestablish it.

I found the House of Khuu inundated like marshland, abandoned by him who belonged to it, in the grip of a rebel, under the control of a wretch.

I made a man embrace the slayer of his father, the slayer of his brother, so as to reestablish the Horus-Throne nome. No power in whom there is the heat of [strife] will be accepted, now that all manner of evil, whose doing people hate, has been suppressed.

*No. 3*

I am the van of men, the rear of men,  
one who finds counsel where needed.  
A leader of the land through active conduct,  
strong in speech, collected in thought,  
on the day the three nomes were joined.  
I am the champion who has no peer,  
who spoke out when the nobles were silent,  
on the day fear was cast and Upper Egypt was silent.

*No. 4*

As for anyone on whom I placed my hand, no misfortune ever befell him, for my heart is sealed and my counsel excellent.

As for any fool, any wretch, who sets himself against me, I shall give more than he has given. "Woe", will be said of one accused by me. His 'raft' will take on water like a boat.

I am the champion who has no peer !

*No. 5*

The Prince, Count, Royal Seal-bearer, Sole Companion, Chief Priest, Chief of foreign lands, Chief of Scouts, Great Headman of the Horus-Throne nome and the nome of Nekhen, Ankhtifi the Brave, says :

I am the van of men, the rear of men,  
for my like has not been, will not be,  
my like was not born, will not be born.

I have surpassed the deeds of my forebears, and my successors will not reach me in anything I have done for the next million years.

For when this troop of Hefat is at rest, this land stands at rest. But when it slams its tail like a crocodile, this whole land, south and north, stands trembling.

When I grasp the oars, I find the herds shut in, the bolts bolted. When I travel to the nome of Thinis against one who forgot himself, I find it with its watchmen on the walls. When I hasten to the combat, "Woe", says he, the wretch.

I am the champion who has no peer !

The Count and Troop Commander of the whole nome of Nekhen, Ankhtifi the Brave, says :

I invited the Council of the Overseer of Upper Egypt, who is in the Thinite nome, to confer with ['the Prince'], Count, Chief Priest, and Great Headman of the nome of Nekhen, Hetep. A thing I have not found done by other headmen who have been in this nome, (it was done) by my excellent planning, by my steady counsel, by my nightly vigilance. I am the champion who has no peer !

## 8. The Autobiography of the Nomarch Khety I

Siut Tomb no. 5 (UE 13)

Ninth/Tenth Dynasty

The three large inscribed rock tombs of the necropolis of Siut, the metropolis of the 13th nome of Upper Egypt, have long been famous for their important historical inscriptions of which, however, owing to persistent destruction and plundering, little now remains. Having first been recorded by members of the French team that produced the monumental *Description de l'Egypte*, the inscriptions on their façades were copied anew by F. Ll. Griffith in 1886, at a time when the façades had already been victimized by