

Syriac and Greek versions

The Hymn is found in two early translations, one in Syriac and the other in Greek (possibly 3rd century), both interpolated in a few manuscripts of the Acts of Thomas.¹ There is also a Greek paraphrase of the hymn by Nicetas of Thessalonica (possibly 11th century).²

1

ܩܘܪܒܢܐ ܕܥܠܡܐ ܕܥܠܡܐ
ܕܥܠܡܐ ܕܥܠܡܐ ܕܥܠܡܐ

‘When I was a little child, and dwelling in my kingdom, my father’s house,’

ὅτε ἤμην βρέφος ἄλαλον ἐν τοῖς τοῦ πατρὸς μου βασιλείοις

‘When I was an infant, not (still) speaking, (dwelling) in the palace of my father,’

2

ܕܥܠܡܐ ܕܥܠܡܐ ܕܥܠܡܐ
ܕܥܠܡܐ ܕܥܠܡܐ ܕܥܠܡܐ

‘and in the wealth and delicacies of my nurturers, I had rest,’

ἐν πλούτῳ καὶ τρυφῇ τῶν τροφῶν ἀναπαυόμενος

‘and in the luxuries and delights of my fosterers, I had rest,’

¹ . In 1871 the editio princeps of the Syriac hymn appeared in London: W. Wright, *Apocryphal Acts of the Apostles. Edited from Syriac Manuscripts in the British Museum and other Libraries*, London, I. The Syriac texts, II, ܩܘܪܒܢܐ ܕܥܠܡܐ ܕܥܠܡܐ ܕܥܠܡܐ. The English translation, 1871, 238-245. Some other (important) editions are: A.A. Bevan, *The Hymn of the Soul contained in the Syriac Acts of St Thomas* (re-edited with an English translation), Cambridge, 1897; G. Hoffmann, “Zwei Hymnen der Thomasakten”, *Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft*, 4, 1903, 273-309; Paul-Hubert Poirier, *L’hymne de la perle des Actes de Thomas*, (introduction, texte, traduction, commentaire), Louvain-la-Neuve, 1981. As for the Greek version, see: R.A. Lipsius, M. Bonnet, *Acta Apostolorum Apocrypha*, partis alterivs, volvmen altervm, Acta Philippi et Acta Thomae accedvnt Acta Barnabae, Lipsiae, 1903, 219-224; M. Lipinski, *Konkordanz zu den Thomasakten*, Frankfurt am Main, 1988, 575-577.

² . It was first published by M. Bonnet, “Actes de saint Thoms, apôtre: Le Poème de l’âme. Version grecque remaniée par Nicéetas de Thessalnique”, *Analecta Bollandiana*, 20, 1901, 159-164. For a new edition with critical apparatus, see the book of P.-H. Poirier.

³ . ܕܥܠܡܐ ܕܥܠܡܐ Hoffmann.

⁴ . ܕܥܠܡܐ ܕܥܠܡܐ Hoffmann.

7

אמת מלכות
כסף וזהב ופניני

‘chalcedonies from India, and silk brocade from the land of Kushan.’

καὶ λίθοι ἐξ Ἰνδῶν οἱ χαλκεδόνιοι καὶ μαργαρίται ἐκ Κοσάνων·

‘stones from (the land of) Indians, the chalcedonies, and pearls from (the land of) Kushan.’

8

והצניעו⁶ מלכות
באבן חן ופניני

‘And they girded me with adamant that cuts the iron.’

καὶ ὄπλισάν με τῷ ἀδάμαντι·

‘And they armed me with adamant.’

9

אֶת־הַמַּלְבָּשׁוֹת
אֲשֶׁר־עָשׂוּ לִי בְּאַהֲבָה

‘And they took off my splendid (robe), that in their love they had made for me,’

καὶ ἐνέδυσαν⁹ με ἐσθῆτα διάλιθον χρυσόπαστον ἣν ἐποίησαν στέργοντές με

‘and they *took off from me the garment adorned in precious gemstones (and) shot with chrsoprase, that, full of love, they had wrought for me,’

10

והמדידו⁷ לי
בגדי צבעוני

‘and my purple toga, that was measured (and) woven to my stature.’

καὶ στολὴν τὸ χρῶμα ξανθὴν πρὸς τὴν ἐμὴν ἡλικίαν·

⁶ . אמת מלכות אמת מלכות Hoffmann.

⁷ . אבן חן Cod.

⁸ . אבן חן Cod.

⁹ . Bonnet proposes ἐξέδυσάν.

‘and the robe of pale colour, (that was) adjusted (correctly) to my height.’

11

כְּצִוִּיָּךְ הָיָה אֲדָמָה
וְכִתְּבֵהוּ בְּלִבִּי לְפָנֶיךָ

‘And they made a pact with me, and wrote it into my heart that it might not be forgotten:’

σύμφωνα δὲ πρὸς ἐμὲ πεποιήκασιν ἐγκαταγράψαντες τῇ διανοίᾳ μου ἐπιλαθέσθαι¹⁰ με· ἔφησάν τε·

‘Having made a pact with me, writing it in my heart (διάνοια) to [not] be forgotten, they said:’

12

כִּי יֵרֵד אֶלְמִצְרַיִם וְיָבִי
אֶת הַיָּחִיד הַיָּחִיד

‘If thou goest down into Egypt and bringest (from there) the one (unique) pearl.’

ἐὰν κατελθὼν εἰς Αἴγυπτον κομίσης ἐκεῖθεν τὸν ἕνα μαργαρίτην

‘If, having gone down to Egypt, thou bringest along from there the unique pearl.’

13

הַיָּחִיד הַיָּחִיד הַיָּחִיד
הַיָּחִיד הַיָּחִיד הַיָּחִיד

‘which is in the midst of the sea, near the serpent, the hissing one,’

τὸν ὄντα ἐκεῖ περὶ τὸν δράκοντα τὸν καταπότην

‘that which is there, near the dragon, the swallow,’

14

וְהָיָה לְךָ כְּבוֹד וְהָיָה
לְךָ כְּבוֹד וְהָיָה לְךָ

‘thou shalt don thy splendid robe, and thy toga that is laid over it,’

¹⁰ . Bonnet proposes τοῦ μὴ ἐπιλαθέσθαι.

¹¹ . Cod.

¹² . Cod. “Read, according to a conjecture of Nöldeke’s, .”

ὅπως ἐνδύσῃ τὴν διάλιθον ἐσθῆτα καὶ τὴν στολὴν ἐκείνην
<ῆ> ἐπαναπαύεται·

ὅπως ἐνδύσῃ τὴν διάλιθον ἐσθῆτα καὶ τὴν στολὴν ἐκείνην ἣν
ἐπαναπαύεται·

‘so that thou art dressed in the garment adorned in precious
gemstones, and the tunic in which it rests,’

15

ⲉⲓⲃⲓ ⲙⲁⲣⲁ ⲛⲁⲟ
.ⲓⲉⲣⲟⲩⲁ ⲛⲁⲣⲁⲗⲁⲧⲁ ⲓⲃⲟⲓⲥ

‘and with thy brother, our second one, thou shalt be heir in
our kingdom.’

τοῦ εὐμνήστου καὶ γένη μετὰ τοῦ ἀδελφοῦ σου κῆρυξ τῆ
ἡμετέρα βασιλεία.

‘with the well-remembering, thy brother, thou shalt be herald
in our kingdom.’

16

ⲁⲓⲃⲟⲩ ⲛⲁⲩⲁⲧⲟ ⲓⲃⲟⲓⲥ
.ⲓⲉⲣⲟⲓⲥ ⲉⲓⲃⲟⲩ ⲛⲁⲩⲁⲧⲟ

‘I left the East (and) went down, there being with me two
messengers.’

ἡρχόμεν δὲ ἐξ Ἀνατολῆς
μεθ’ ἡγεμόνων δύο.

‘I went out from the East
with two guides’.

17

ⲛⲁⲩⲁⲧⲟ ⲛⲁⲩⲁⲧⲟ ⲛⲁⲩⲁⲧⲟ
.ⲛⲁⲩⲁⲧⲟ ⲛⲁⲩⲁⲧⲟ ⲛⲁⲩⲁⲧⲟ

‘For the way was terrible and difficult, and I was too young
to tread it.’

ἐφ’ ὁδὸν δυσχερῆ τε καὶ φοβερὰν
ἄπειρος δὲ ἤμην τοῦ ταύτην ὁδεῦσαι.

‘On the road, difficult and terrifying

¹³ .ⲁⲓⲃⲟⲓ Cod.

¹⁴ .ⲛⲁⲩⲁⲧⲟ Hoffmann.

¹⁵ . Wright. ⲁⲓⲃⲟⲓ Cod.

¹⁶ . Nöldeke proposes ⲉⲓⲃⲟⲓⲥ.

..חבטו יח ו ראו יח
 .חבלעק¹⁸, חבל יח חבטו

‘(waiting) till he should doze off and fall asleep, and I take away my pearl from him’

ἐπιτηρῶν νυστάξαι καὶ κοιμηθῆναι τοῦτον, ὅπως μου τὸν μαργαρίτην ὑφέλωμαι.

‘watching for (a favourable) moment, as he should slumber and sleep, so that I (could) snatch from him my pearl’.

חבטו יח ו ראו יח
 .חבטו, יח ו, יח ו, חבטו

‘As I was single and solitary, to those with whom I dwelt I became a stranger.’

μόνος δὲ ὢν ἐξενιζόμεν τὸ σχῆμα καὶ τοῖς ἐμοῖς ἀλλότριος ἐφαινόμην.

‘As I was alone, I became a stranger (because) of (my) appearance, and to those of my (lodging) I was looking strange.’

חבטו יח ו ראו יח
 .חבטו, יח ו, יח ו, חבטו

‘There I saw one of my race, a nobleman, from among the Easterns,’

ἐκεῖ δὲ εἶδον ἐμὸν συγγενῆ τὸν ἐξ Ἀνατολῆς, τὸν ἐλεύθερον

‘And there I beheld a fellow of my race who came from the East (and) who was a free man,’

חבטו יח ו ראו יח
 .חבטו יח ו²¹

‘a young boy, handsome (and) gracious, a ...²²’

παῖδα εὐχαρῆ καὶ ὠραῖον υἷὸν μεγιστάνων

¹⁸ . חבטו יח ו Hoffmann.

¹⁹ . יח ו Hoffmann.

²⁰ . חבטו Hoffmann.

²¹ . חבטו יח ו Hoffmann.

²² . According to Bevan, “the dislocation of the metre shows that there is here a lacuna, and conjectures are therefore hopeless.” (35)

‘a boy, charming and handsome, a son of Great ones.’

26

וַיָּבֹאוּ אֵלַי וַיִּתְּקֵנִי אֵלָיו.²³

‘And he came to me and attached himself to me.’

οὗτός μοι προσελθὼν συγγέγονεν

‘This (boy) came up to me, (and) kept company (with me).’

27

וַיַּעַשׂ לִּי חֵן וַיְהִי לִּי חֵן
וַיִּתְּקֵנִי אֵלָיו וַיִּתְּקֵנִי אֵלָיו.²⁴

‘And I made him my intimate acquaintance, a companion with whom I shared my merchandise.’

καὶ συνόμιλον αὐτὸν ἔσχον καὶ φίλον καὶ κοινωνὸν τῆς ἐμῆς πορείας ποιησάμενος.

‘And I had him as a companion, made him a friend and my partner in the journey.’

28

וַיִּנְהַגְנֵנִי אֶל-מִצְרַיִם
וַיִּנְהַגְנֵנִי אֶל-מִצְרַיִם.²⁵

‘I warned him against the Egyptians, and against contacting the impure.’

παρεκελευσάμην δὲ αὐτῷ τοὺς Αἰγυπτίους φυλάσσεσθαι καὶ τῶν ἀκαθάρτων τούτων τὴν κοινωνίαν.

‘I urged him to avoid the Egyptians and the contact of the impure ones.’

29

וַיִּתְּקֵנִי אֵלָיו
וַיִּתְּקֵנִי אֵלָיו.²⁶

‘And I put on a garment like theirs, that they might not humiliate me, because I had come from abroad,’

²³ . Hoffmann.

²⁴ . Hoffmann.

²⁵ . Hoffmann (oder מיניתי? mit אֶלָיו?).

²⁶ . (Cod.) ‘lest they should dishonour me’ (from יָחַד ‘to insult, disgrace’); Nöldeke) ‘lest they should identify me’ (יָחַד aph. ‘to know, recognise’ from יָחַד ‘to repudiate’); Hoffmann) ‘lest they should suspect me’.

ἐνεδυσάμην δὲ αὐτῶν τὰ φορήματα, ἵνα μὴ ξενίζωμαι ὡσπερ
ἔξωθεν

‘As for me, I did wear their habit so as not to look like a
stranger (coming) from a faraway place,’

30

.כִּשְׂמֵי יִצְחָק הִלְבַּשְׁתִּי
.לְפָנֵי כָּל אֲרָבִים וְעַל כָּל אֲרָבִים

‘to take the pearl, and (lest) they should awaken the serpent
against me.’

ἐπὶ τὴν τοῦ μαργαρίτου ἀνάληψιν, καὶ τὸν δράκοντα
διυπνίσωσιν κατ’ ἐμοῦ οἱ Αἰγύπτιοι.

‘to take the pearl, and lest the Egyptians might arouse the
serpent against me.’

31

.כִּי אֲנִי לֹא מִלְּבָנָם
.אֲנִי לֹא מִלְּבָנָם אֲנִי לֹא מִלְּבָנָם

‘But in one way or another, they perceived that I was not
their fellow-countryman.’

οὐκ οἶδα δὲ ἐξ οἷας ἔμαθον προφάσεως ὡς οὐκ εἰμι τῆς
χώρας αὐτῶν

‘But, I do not know under what circumstances, they found
out that I was not from their country.’

32

.וְהֵלְכָה אִתִּי בְּחָיִל
.וְהֵלְכָה אִתִּי בְּחָיִל

‘They took part with me with guile and even made me eat
from their food.’

δόλω δὲ συνέμειζάν μοι τέχνην, καὶ ἐγευσάμην τῆς αὐτῶν
τροφῆς.

‘And through deception, they applied their art (trickery) to
me and I tasted their food.’

33

.וְהֵלְכָה אִתִּי בְּחָיִל

27 . חֵטְא Hoffmann.

28 . One should expect ,מִן אֲרָבִים (Nöldeke, Bevan).

29 . אֲנִי Hoffmann.

30 . אֲנִי Hoffmann.

ܘܩܨܠܝܢ ܠܡܠܟܐ ܕܡܠܟܐ

‘I forgot that I was a king’s son, and I served their king.’

ἠγνόησα ἑμαυτὸν υἱὸν ὄντα βασιλέως, τῷ δὲ αὐτῶν
ἐδούλευσα βασιλεῖ.

‘I no longer knew that I was myself a king’s son, and I served
their king.’

34

ܘܩܨܠܝܢ ܠܡܠܟܐ ܕܡܠܟܐ
ܘܩܨܠܝܢ ܠܡܠܟܐ ܕܡܠܟܐ

‘And I forgot about the pearl, for which my parents had sent
me.’

ἦλθον δὲ καὶ ἐπὶ τὸν μαγρарίτην, ἐφ’ ὃν οἱ πατέρες μου
ἀπεστάλκασίν με·

‘But I had come to (take) the pearl, for which my parents had
sent me.’

35

ܘܩܨܠܝܢ ܠܡܠܟܐ ܕܡܠܟܐ
ܘܩܨܠܝܢ ܠܡܠܟܐ ܕܡܠܟܐ

‘And by reason of the heaviness of their ill-treatments I fell
into a deep sleep.’

τῷ δὲ τῆς τροφῆς αὐτῶν βάρει εἰς ὕπνον κατηνέχθη βαθύν

‘But, due to the heaviness of his food, I fell into a deep
sleep.’

36

ܘܩܨܠܝܢ ܠܡܠܟܐ ܕܡܠܟܐ
ܘܩܨܠܝܢ ܠܡܠܟܐ ܕܡܠܟܐ

‘But all these things that had happened to me my parents
were aware of, and were grieved for me.’

ταῦτα δὲ μου παθόντος καὶ οἱ πατέρες μου ἤσθοντο καὶ
ἔπαθον ὑπὲρ ἐμοῦ.

‘But while I suffered these things, my parents noticed and
they felt concerned for me’

³¹ . ܕܡܠܟܐ Hoffmann.

³² . ܕܡܠܟܐ Hoffmann.

³³ . ܘܩܨܠܝܢ (‘their troubles/ oppressions’) Cod. Nöldeke suggests
ܘܩܨܠܝܢ ‘their foods’.

³⁴ . Hoffmann proposes ܘܩܨܠܝܢ.

.. ܕܝܚܠܝܢ ܝܘܕܝܢܐ
 .ܝܘܕܝܢܐ ܕܝܚܠܝܢ ܝܘܕܝܢܐ

‘It was proclaimed in our kingdom that everyone should present oneself to our court,’

ἐκηρύχθη δὲ κήρυγμα ἐν τῇ βασιλείᾳ ἡμῶν ἵνα πάντες ἐπὶ τὰς ἡμετέρας ἀπαντῶσιν θύρας .

‘And a proclamation was made in our kingdom, that all should get to our gate.’

ܐܕܝܢ ܕܝܘܕܝܢܐ ܕܝܘܕܝܢܐ
 .ܕܝܘܕܝܢܐ ܕܝܘܕܝܢܐ ܕܝܘܕܝܢܐ

‘kings and leaders of Parthia, and all the grandees of the East.’

καὶ τότε οἱ βασιλεῖς τῆς Παρθενίας καὶ οἱ ἐν τέλει καὶ οἱ Ἀνατολῆς πρωτεύοντες

‘and then, the kings of Parthia, those in authority, and the first ones of the East,’

ܕܝܘܕܝܢܐ ܕܝܘܕܝܢܐ ܕܝܘܕܝܢܐ
 .ܕܝܘܕܝܢܐ ܕܝܘܕܝܢܐ ܕܝܘܕܝܢܐ

‘And they wove a plan on my behalf, that I should not be left in Egypt.’

γνώμης ἐκράτησαν περὶ ἐμοῦ ἵνα μὴ ἔλθω³⁷ ἐν Αἰγύπτῳ.

‘they passed on me a decision that I might not be *abandoned in Egypt,’

ܕܝܘܕܝܢܐ ܕܝܘܕܝܢܐ ܕܝܘܕܝܢܐ
 .ܕܝܘܕܝܢܐ ܕܝܘܕܝܢܐ ܕܝܘܕܝܢܐ

‘And they wrote a letter to me, and every magnate put his name thereon:’

ἔγραψαν δέ με καὶ οἱ δυνάσται σημαίνοντες οὕτως·

³⁵ . ܕܝܘܕܝܢܐ Hoffmann.

³⁶ . ܕܝܘܕܝܢܐ Hoffmann.

³⁷ . Hilgenfeld proposes ἐαθῶ, and Bonnet λειφθῶ.

³⁸ . Nöldeke correctly proposes ܕܝ (Bevan, Hoffmann).

‘they, as well as petty rulers, wrote to me expressing in these terms:’

41

.כאלו מלכו מלכא דא
.כמאן דימאן מלכא

‘From thy father, the king of kings, and thy mother, the mistress of the East,’

παρὰ τοῦ πατρὸς βασιλέων βασιλεὺς καὶ μητρὸς τὴν
Ἀνατολὴν κατεχούσης

‘From thy father, the king of kings, and the mother who governs the East,’

42

.מִיָּדִי מֵאִמִּי דָּא
.מֵאִמִּי דְּבְרִי דְּבְרִי דְּבְרִי

‘and from thy brother, our second one, to thee our son, who art in Egypt, greeting!’

καὶ ἀδελφοῦς αὐτῶν δευτέρου³⁹ ἀφ' ἡμῶν τῷ ἐν Αἰγύπτῳ
υἱῷ ἡμῶν εἰρήνη·

‘and from (thy) brother, the second (after us), greetings (to you), our son in Egypt’

43

.מִשְׁנֵה דָּא דְּבְרִי דְּבְרִי
.מִשְׁנֵה דְּבְרִי דְּבְרִי דְּבְרִי

‘Wake up and rise from thy sleep, and listen to the words of our letter!’

ἀνάστηθι καὶ ἀνάνησον ἐξ ὕπνου, καὶ τῶν ἐπιστολιμαίων
ῥημάτων ἄκουσον

‘Rise (from bed) and become sober from thy sleep, listen to the words of the letter!’

44

.דאן כאלו מלכא דא
.דאן כאלו מלכא דא

³⁹ . Bonnet emends it to ἀδελφοῦ σου τοῦ αὐτῶν δευτέρου ; and Poirier to ἀδελφοῦ αὐτῶν δευτέρου.

⁴⁰ . Nöldeke proposes דא (Bevan).

⁴¹ . מִשְׁנֵה דָּא דְּבְרִי Hoffmann.

‘Remember that thou art a son of kings! See the servitude,
whom thou servest!’

καὶ ὑπομνήσθητι υἱὸς βασιλέων ὑπάρχων· δουλικὸν
ὑπεισηλθες ζυγόν·

‘And remember that thou art a son of kings: thou hast put
thyself under a servile yoke.’

45

רָחֵם יְהוָה אֶתְּמוֹתַי
.דִּילֵךְ דָּעֵר פִּי לְחַלְוֵתַי

‘Remember the pearl for which thou didst come to Egypt!’

μνημόνευσον τοῦ μαργαρίτου δι’ ὃν εἰς Αἴγυπτον ἀπεστάλης.

‘Remember the pearl for which thou didst send to Egypt!’

46

.יְהוָה אֶתְּמוֹתַי
.וְיִסְמֵךְ אֶתְּמוֹתַי

‘Think of thy splendid robe, and thy glorious toga
remember,’

μνημόνευσον τῆς ἐσθῆτός σου τῆς χρυσοπάστου·

‘Remember thy robe, shot with chrysoprase!’

47

.יְהוָה אֶתְּמוֹתַי
.וְיִסְמֵךְ אֶתְּמוֹתַי

‘which thou shalt put on and adorn thyself with, as thy name
hath been read out in the List of the Valiant.’

ἐκλήθη δὲ τὸ ὄνομά σου βιβλίον ζωῆς

‘Indeed thy name hath been proclaimed [in] the Book of life,’

48

.וְיִסְמֵךְ אֶתְּמוֹתַי
.וְיִסְמֵךְ אֶתְּמוֹתַי

‘And with thy brother, our vice regent, thou shalt be with him
in our kingdom.’

42 . דָּעֵר אֶתְּמוֹתַי Hoffmann.

43 . רָחֵם Hoffmann.

44 . פִּי חַיִּים Cod. Wright correctly proposes פִּי חַיִּים.

45 . Hoffmann proposes דִּילֵךְ, and Bevan יְהוָה.

46 . רָחֵם Hoffmann.

καὶ τοῦ ἀδελφοῦ σου οὗ παρείληφας ἐν τῇ βασιλείᾳ ἡμῶν.

‘and that of thy brother, with whom thou hast associated thyself in our kingdom.’

49

ⲉⲥ ⲁⲛⲓⲛⲁⲓ ⲉⲩⲛⲁⲓ ⲉⲩⲛⲁⲓ
ⲉⲩⲛⲁⲓ ⲉⲩⲛⲁⲓ ⲉⲩⲛⲁⲓ

‘And my letter was letter which the king sealed with his right hand,’

ὁ δὲ βασιλεὺς ὡς πρεσβευτῆς κατεσφραγίσατο

‘And the king sealed it like (a letter given to) an ambassador,’

50

ⲉⲩⲛⲁⲓ ⲉⲩⲛⲁⲓ ⲉⲩⲛⲁⲓ
ⲉⲩⲛⲁⲓ ⲉⲩⲛⲁⲓ ⲉⲩⲛⲁⲓ

‘(to keep it) from the wicked ones, the sons of Babylon, and the cruel demons of Sārbūy.’

διὰ τοὺς πονηροὺς τοὺς Βαβυλωνίους παῖδας καὶ δαίμονας τυραννικοὺς τοὺς⁵⁰ λαβυρίνθους⁵¹.

‘because of the wicked children of Babylon and the tyrannical demons dwelling in Labyrinth.’

51

ⲉⲩⲛⲁⲓ ⲉⲩⲛⲁⲓ ⲉⲩⲛⲁⲓ
ⲉⲩⲛⲁⲓ ⲉⲩⲛⲁⲓ ⲉⲩⲛⲁⲓ

‘It flew like an eagle, the king of all birds.’

Nicetas: εἰς ὕψος ἤρεν καὶ ἀετοῦ δίκην ἀνῆξεν ὥσπερ ὑπόπτερον.

‘It lifted itself up and, as if carried by wings, it soared (high skyward) like an eagle.’

52

ⲉⲩⲛⲁⲓ ⲉⲩⲛⲁⲓ ⲉⲩⲛⲁⲓ
ⲉⲩⲛⲁⲓ ⲉⲩⲛⲁⲓ ⲉⲩⲛⲁⲓ

47. ⲉⲩⲛⲁⲓ Hoffmann.

48. ⲉⲩⲛⲁⲓ Hoffmann.

49. ⲉⲩⲛⲁⲓ Nöldeke, Hoffmann.

50. Bonnet omits it.

51. Bonnet proposes λαβυρίνθου, and Poirier λαβυρίνθους.

52. ⲉⲩⲛⲁⲓ Hoffmann.

53. ⲉⲩⲛⲁⲓ Wright.

‘It flew and alighted at my side, and became all word.’

Nicetas: αὕτη ἢ ἐπιστολὴ φῶς γέγονεν ἐν ἐμοὶ καὶ πῦρ καὶ τὸ ἐνόν μοι ζώπυρον ὥσπερ ἀνάγασσα

‘This letter became light and fire in me, and, having rekindled the spark that was already in me,’

53

.⁵⁴ ὁδὲ λῆ ἰ λῆλ ὁλῆλ
.δὲ λῆ λῆλ ὁλῆλ

‘At its voice, and at the sound of its rustling, I awoke and rose from my sleep.’

ἐγὼ δὲ πρὸς τὴν ταύτης φωνὴν τε καὶ αἴσθησιν, ἐξ ὕπνου ἀνερμησάμην⁵⁵.

‘So I, at its voice and perception, I arose from my sleep.’

54

.ὁδὲ λῆλ ὁλῆλ
.δὲ λῆλ ὁλῆλ ὁλῆλ

‘I took it and kissed it, I opened it and read.’

ἀναλαβὼν δὲ καὶ καταφιλήσας ἀνεγίνωσκον.

‘Then, having taken it up and having kissed it, I (started to) read.’

55

.ὁδὲ λῆλ ὁλῆλ ὁλῆλ
.δὲ λῆλ ὁλῆλ ὁλῆλ

‘And according to what was engraved upon my heart were the words of my letter written.’

ἐγγράπτο δὲ περὶ ἐκείνου τοῦ ἐν τῇ καρδίᾳ μου ἀναγεγραμμένου·

‘In fact, it was written according to what was inscribed in my heart.’

56

.ὁδὲ λῆλ ὁλῆλ ὁλῆλ
.δὲ λῆλ ὁλῆλ ὁλῆλ

⁵⁴ . ὁδὲ λῆ ἰ Hoffmann.

⁵⁵ . Bonnet proposes ἀνωρμησάμην.

⁵⁶ . Hoffmann adds λῆ.

⁵⁷ . Nöldeke proposes ὁδὲ λῆλ. (Bevan, Hoffmann).

⁵⁸ . Hoffmann proposes ὁδὲ λῆλ.

‘I remembered that I was a son of kings, and my nobility longed for its nature.’

καὶ ὑπεμνήσθην παραχρῆμα ὅτι βασιλέων εἰμι υἱός καὶ ἡ ἐλευθερία μου τὸ γένος μου ἐπιζητεῖ

‘and I immediately remembered that I was the son of kings, and my freedom obliged me to seek my race.’

57

.כִּזְכַּרְתִּי אֶת הַמַּלְאָכִים
.°אֲשֶׁר אֶלְמַד לְעֵינַי בְּמִצְרַיִם

‘I remembered the pearl, for which I had been sent to Egypt.’

ὑπεμνήσθην δὲ καὶ τοῦ μαργαρίτου ἐφ' ὃν κατεπέμφην εἰς Αἴγυπτον·

‘I also remembered the pearl, for which I had been sent to Egypt.’

58

.וְאֲנִי בִּשְׂרַפְתִּי אֶת הַנָּחָשׁ
.כְּשֶׁנִּסְּתִי אֶת הַנָּחָשׁ

‘And I began to charm the terrible hissing serpent.’

ἤρχόμην δὲ ἐφ' ἄρμασιν⁶⁰ ἐπὶ τὸν δράκοντα τὸν φοβερὸν

‘And I started the enchantment of the terrible dragon,’

59

.וְאֲנִי אֶלְמַדְתִּי אֶת הַנָּחָשׁ
.°אֲשֶׁר אֶלְמַדְתִּי אֶת הַנָּחָשׁ

‘I caused him to doze off and fall asleep, as I mentioned over him my father’s name,’

καὶ κατεπόνεσα τοῦτον ἐπονομάσας τὸ τοῦ πατρός μου ὄνομα.

‘and I subdued him by pronouncing my father’s name.’

60

.כְּשֶׁנִּסְּתִי אֶת הַנָּחָשׁ
.כְּשֶׁנִּסְּתִי אֶת הַנָּחָשׁ

⁵⁹ . Hoffmann proposes מִנְדִּים (cf. verse 34). But cf. verse 45 אֶלְמַדְתִּי אֶת הַנָּחָשׁ.

⁶⁰ . Bonnet proposes ἐπάσματος.

⁶¹ . ;מִלְּפָנֶיךָ Cod. Hoffmann deletes מִלְּפָנֶיךָ.

⁶² . Nöldeke proposes אֶלְמַדְתִּי אֶת הַנָּחָשׁ.

‘and the name of our second one, and that of my mother, the queen of the East’.

61

.כחמל יחל⁷⁷ חמלמל
..כח חמל חמלמל חמלמל

‘I then snatched away the pearl, and turned back to my father’s house.’

ἀρπάσας δὲ τὸν μαργαρίτην ἀπέστρεφον πρὸς τοὺς ἐμοὺς ἀποκομίσας πατέρας.

‘Once I had taken the pearl from him, I turned back bringing it to my parents.’

62

.כחמלמל כחמל⁷⁸ חמלמל
..חמלמל⁷⁹ חמלמלמל חמלמל

‘And their filthy and unclean clothes I put off, and left them at their place.’

καὶ ἀποδυσάμενος τὸ ρυπαρὸν ἔνδυμα ἐν τῇ αὐτῶν κατέλειψα χώρα.

‘And after having stripped off the dirty livery, I left it in their country.’

63

.⁷⁷ כחמלמל חמלמל⁷⁷ חמל⁷⁷ חמל
..כחמלמל חמלמל חמלמל

‘Straight I took my way to come to the light of our homeland, the East.’

ἤϋθυνον δὲ αὐτὸ καὶ τὴν ὁδὸν πρὸς τὸ φῶς τῆς κατὰ ἀνατολὴν πατρίδος.

‘Straightaway I set out on a way (to come) to the light of my fatherland, the East.’

64

..חמלמל חמלמל
..חמלמל חמלמל חמלמל

63 . חמלמל Hoffmann.

64 . חמלמל Hoffmann.

65 . חמלמל Hoffmann.

66 . חמל⁷⁷ Hoffmann.

67 . כחמל Bevan.

‘And my letter, my awakener, I found before me on the way.’

καὶ εὔρον καθ' ὁδὸν διαιρουῖσάν (ἄδιαίρουσάν)⁶⁸ με·

‘And I found on the way the one that had awakened me,’

65

.⁷⁰ .דיער וואס ⁷¹ קרא
.קראט א וואס צוה

‘And as it had awakened me with its voice, so again with its light it was leading me.’

αὐτὴ δέ, ὥσπερ φωνῆ χρησαμένη ἀνέστησεν ὑπνωθέντα με, καὶ ὠδήγησέν με τῷ παρ' αὐτῆς φωτί .

‘and as it woke me up from my sleep by using its voice, so it guided me with the light (emanating) from it.’

66

.⁷² .וואס ⁷³ קרא
⁷⁴ .קרא וואס צוה

‘For the royal silk (garment) it shone before me with its aspect.’

ἔστιν γὰρ ὅτε ἡ ἀπὸ σηρικῶν ἐσθῆς βασιλικὴ πρὸ τῶν ἐμῶν ὀφθαλμῶν.

‘For at times the royal silk robe was before my eyes.’

67

.⁷⁵ .וואס וואס
.קראט, וואס צוה

‘And by its voice and its guidance, again and again, it encouraged me to hurry.’

68

.⁷⁶ .וואס ⁷⁷ וואס

‘And by its love it drew me on.’

⁶⁸ . Bonnet proposes διεγείρουσάν, Merkelbach διεγείρασάν, and Poirier διαίρουσάν.

⁶⁹ . Hoffmann deletes.

⁷⁰ . דיער Wright (Bevan, Hoffmann).

⁷¹ . קרא Wright, Bevan, קרא Hoffman, קרא Kruse. Possibly קרא

⁷² . “66b The text is here quite unintelligible”. Bevan, 37.

⁷³ . וואס וואס Honfmann, wa-b-ḳālāh wa-b-hedyāh Kruse

⁷⁴ . וואס Bevan

⁷⁵ . וואס Cod. וואס Wright, וואס Bevan

ἀγούσης δέ με καὶ ἐλκούσης τῆς στοργῆς.

‘(With) love (it) drew me ahead and attracted me.’

69

נעמי סרביה ליהלל .
בבליה ליהלל .

‘I went forth, by-passed Sārbūy, I left Babylon on my left hand.’

τὴν Λαβύρινθον παρήλθον καὶ καταλείψας ἐπ’ ἀριστερὰ τὴν Βαβυλῶνα

‘I outstripped Labyrinth, and having left Babylon on my left,’

70

הגדולת מדינת
המסחרים הגדולה

‘and I reached Mesene the great, the port of the merchants,’

εἰς τὴν Μέσον ἀφικόμην

‘I arrived at Mesene,’

71

השוכנת על
הים הגדול

‘that sitteth on the seashore.’

τὴν μεγάλην οὔσαν παραλίαν.

‘that is the great coastline.’

72

המלבוש
הנאה והתלבוש

‘And my splendid robe, which I had put off, and the toga wherein it was wrapped,’

73

הנהר
הגדול

⁷⁶ . תיבחה (Read תיבחה ?) Wright.

⁷⁷ . אב Hoffmann.

⁷⁸ . ,המלבוש Cod. (,המלבוש in marge). ,המלבוש Wright (Bevan), wa-l-zahyût(y) Kruse.

⁷⁹ . תבחה Nöldeke (Since תבחה is masculine, we must read תבחה, with Nöldeke. Bevan, 37).

⁸⁰ . תבחה הגדולה Cod. “I have ventured to read תבחה הגדולה ‘from the heights of Hyrcania’.” (Bevan, 37). תבחה הגדולה Poirier.

.תּוֹרַתְּ, תִּקַּח מִיָּדָי

‘from the heights of Hyrkania, my parents sent thither,’

74

.רֹאשֵׁי־בַיִת וְרִבֵּי
.מִשְׁמָרֵי־הַבַּיִת רֹאשֵׁי־בַיִת

‘by their treasurers, who for their faithfulness were trusted therewith’

75

וְעַתָּה אֲנִי חָסֵד וְיָמִי
כִּי אֲנִי חָסֵד וְיָמִי אֲנִי חָסֵד

‘And while I remembered not its arrangement, for in my childhood I had left it at my father’s house,’

οὐκ ἐμνημόνευον δὲ τῆς λαμπρότητός μου· παῖς γὰρ ὢν ἔτι
καὶ κομιδῇ νέος κατελελοίπειν αὐτήν ἐν τοῖς τοῦ πατρὸς
βασιλείοις·

‘But I was not able to remember my splendour; indeed, I was still child and quite young when I had left it in my father’s palace.’

76

.כִּי עָלַי כִּי אֲנִי
כִּי אֲנִי כִּי אֲנִי כִּי אֲנִי

‘all of a sudden when I faced it, like a mirror of myself, the garment resembled me.’

ἐξαίφνης δὲ ἰδόντος μου τὴν ἐσθῆτα ὡς ἐν ἐσόπτρῳ
ὁμοιωθεῖσαν

‘But on a sudden, when I saw the likeness of the raiment, (it was) as if (I was) reflected in a mirror.’

77

.כִּי אֲנִי כִּי אֲנִי

81 . אֲנִי Hoffmann.

82 . תּוֹרַתְּ Hoffmann.

83 . עָלַי Hoffmann.

84 . רִבֵּי Hoffmann.

85 . “We have either to substitute רִבֵּי for אֲנִי, or else to read אֲנִי
כִּי אֲנִי כִּי אֲנִי ‘I seemed to myself like the mirror of the garment’.” Bevan,
38

86 . רִבֵּי Hoffmann

87 . אֲנִי Cod. Nöldeke proposes אֲנִי.

88 . אֲנִי Köbert

וְיָרָא אֶת כָּל־עַצְמוֹתָיו בְּכֹל־הוֹלְתוֹ וְגַם־אֶת־עַצְמוֹ

‘I saw it all in the whole of me, and also I faced myself wholly in it.’

καὶ ὅλον ἑμαυτὸν ἐπ' αὐτὴν ἐθεασάμην, καὶ ἔγνων καὶ εἶδον δι' αὐτῆς ἑμαυτόν·

‘And I contemplated my whole self in it, and I realized and saw myself through it,’

78

כִּי־הָיוּ־שְׁנַיִם בְּחֵלְקֵינוּ וְשָׁבִיבֵינוּ אֶת־עַצְמוֹתֵינוּ
וְשָׁבִיבֵינוּ אֶת־עַצְמוֹתֵינוּ בְּכֹל־הוֹלְתֵנוּ

‘For we were two in division, and again we (were) one in one form.’

ὅτι κατὰ μέρος διηρήμεθα ἐκ τοῦ αὐτοῦ ὄντες, καὶ πάλιν ἓν ἐσμεν διὰ μορφῆς μιᾶς.

‘so that we were divided into (two) parts, and again we were one in a unique form.’

79

וְהַמְּנִיָּחִים אֲנִי־רָאִיתִי וְהַמְּנִיָּחִים אֲנִי־רָאִיתִי
וְהַמְּנִיָּחִים אֲנִי־רָאִיתִי וְהַמְּנִיָּחִים אֲנִי־רָאִיתִי

‘And the treasurers, too, who brought it to me, I saw in like manner,’

οὐ μὴν ἀλλὰ καὶ αὐτοὺς τοὺς ταμειούχους τοὺς τὴν ἐσθῆτα κομίσαντας

‘Moreover, the treasurers too, those who brought the raiment (to me),’

80

וְהָיוּ־שְׁנַיִם אֲנִי־רָאִיתִי וְהָיוּ־שְׁנַיִם אֲנִי־רָאִיתִי
וְהָיוּ־שְׁנַיִם אֲנִי־רָאִיתִי וְהָיוּ־שְׁנַיִם אֲנִי־רָאִיתִי

‘that, though being two, they were (of) one form, for the unique emblem of the king was graven on them’

ἐώρων δύο, μορφή δὲ μία ἐπ' ἀμφοτέρων, ἐν σύμβολον βασιλικὸν ἐν ἀμφοτέροις ἔκειτο·

‘I saw them two, but (there was) only one form in both, a unique royal sign was (stamped) on both.’

81

⁸⁹ . Nöldeke proposes וְהָיוּ־שְׁנַיִם אֲנִי־רָאִיתִי

93. ܘܡܢܝܢܟܘܢ ܘܝܫܘܥܘܢ 92. ܘܠܗܘܢ 91. ܘܠܗܘܢ 90. ܘܡܢܝܢܟܘܢ

‘by the hand (of my father) that by means of them returned to me my deposit and my wealth,’

τὸ δὲ χρῆμα καὶ τὸν πλοῦτον ἐν χερσὶν εἶχον, καὶ ἀπεδίδουν μοι τιμὴν·

‘They had money and riches on hand, and they did me honour,’

82

ܘܡܢܝܢܟܘܢ 94. ܘܡܢܝܢܟܘܢ 95. ܘܡܢܝܢܟܘܢ 96. ܘܡܢܝܢܟܘܢ 97.

‘my splendid embroidered robe which was adorned with glorious colours,’

καὶ τὴν ἐσθῆτα τὴν εὐπρεπεστάτην ἣτις ἐν φαιδροῖς χρώμασιν

‘and also the very beautiful garment, which (was embroidered) in bright colours,’

83

ܘܡܢܝܢܟܘܢ 98. ܘܡܢܝܢܟܘܢ 99. ܘܡܢܝܢܟܘܢ 100.

‘with gold and with beryls, chalcedonies and (silk) brocade,’

χρυσῷ πεποίκιλτο καὶ λίθοις τιμίοις

‘decked out in gold and (adorned) with precious stones,’

84

ܘܡܢܝܢܟܘܢ 101. ܘܡܢܝܢܟܘܢ 102. ܘܡܢܝܢܟܘܢ 103. ܘܡܢܝܢܟܘܢ 104.

90 . Wright proposes ܘܡܢܝܢܟܘܢ or ܘܡܢܝܢܟܘܢ.

91 . “The construction of this clause is not clear.” (Bevan, 38). Nöldeke proposes ܘܡܢܝܢܟܘܢ ܘܡܢܝܢܟܘܢ, Hoffmann (nach καὶ ἀπεδίδουν μοι τιμὴν corr.) ܘܡܢܝܢܟܘܢ ܘܡܢܝܢܟܘܢ, Kruse b-îdeh d-âb(y) d-pannî lî.

92 . ܘܡܢܝܢܟܘܢ Hoffmann.

93 . ܘܡܢܝܢܟܘܢ Hoffmann.

94 . ܘܡܢܝܢܟܘܢ Cod. (ܘ is a later addition).

95 . ܘܡܢܝܢܟܘܢ ܘܡܢܝܢܟܘܢ Hoffmann. « It is difficult to believe that ܘܡܢܝܢܟܘܢ is right here, as the use of the same verb in 82a and 82b would be very awkward. Possibly ܘܡܢܝܢܟܘܢ is a mistake for ܘܡܢܝܢܟܘܢ (Aphel) ‘shining’ .” (Bevan, 39)

96 . Wright suggests ܘܡܢܝܢܟܘܢ (Hoffmann). Nöldeke proposes ܘܡܢܝܢܟܘܢ. “Whether ܘܡܢܝܢܟܘܢ is a mistake for ܘܡܢܝܢܟܘܢ, or merely another pronunciation of the same word, cannot be determined.” (Bevan, 39)

97 . ܘܡܢܝܢܟܘܢ Hoffmann.

‘and sardonyxes of various hues -it also was made ready in its high place-,’

καὶ μαργαρίταις χροῖᾱ πρεπούση·

‘and pearls of assorted colours.’

85

.ܘܠܘܢܐܢܐ ܠܦܪܚܘܢ
.ܘܠܘܢܐܢܐ ܠܦܪܚܘܢ

‘and with diamond stones, all its seams were fastened.’

86

.ܘܠܘܢܐܢܐ ܠܦܪܚܘܢ
.ܘܠܘܢܐܢܐ ܠܦܪܚܘܢ

‘And the image of the king of kings, was embossed and depicted in full all over it.’

ἴδρυτω¹⁰⁰ ἐν ὕψει· καὶ ἡ εἰκὼν τοῦ τῶν βασιλέων βασιλέως¹⁰¹
ὅλη δι’ ὅλης·

‘And the full image of the king of kings was placed in height all over (the garment).’

87

.ܘܠܘܢܐܢܐ ܠܦܪܚܘܢ
.ܘܠܘܢܐܢܐ ܠܦܪܚܘܢ

‘And like the sapphire-stone, its colours were varied too.’

λίθοις σαμπερίνοις ἐν ὕψει ἐπεπήγεισαν ἀρμοδίως.

‘With sapphire stones, in height, it had been harmoniously set.’

88

.ܘܠܘܢܐܢܐ ܠܦܪܚܘܢ
.ܘܠܘܢܐܢܐ ܠܦܪܚܘܢ

⁹⁸ . Kruse proposes krômāh ‘colouring’. Syr. ܠܘܢܐܢܐ comes from Gr. χρῶμα (see verse 82).

⁹⁹ . ܠܘܢܐܢܐ Hoffmann.

¹⁰⁰ . Bonnet. ἴδρυτω Cod.

¹⁰¹ . βασιλεὺς Cod. Bonnet proposes βασιλέως. Indeed, grammatically, βασιλέως (genitive singular of βασιλεύς) is more correct.

¹⁰² . ܘܠܘܢܐ Cod. “I have ventured to read ܘܠܘܢܐ instead of ܘܠܘܢܐ.” (Wright, 244)

¹⁰³ . ܘܠܘܢܐ Hoffmann.

¹⁰⁴ . Wright reads ܠܘܢܐܢܐ (Cod.) and emends to ܠܘܢܐܢܐ, ܠܘܢܐܢܐ ‘meiner Gnosis’ Hoffmann.

‘Again, I saw that in all of it, the motions of knowledge were palpitating.’

ἑώρων δὲ αὐθις ὅτι δι' ὅλων κινήσεις ἐξεπέμποντο γνώσεως

‘Moreover, I saw that, the movements of knowledge came from all (its) parts,’

89

.الللهلله ١٠٥ هـ
.لهلهله لهلهله لهله

‘And as if to speak, I saw too that it was preparing.’

καὶ ἦν ἐτοιμή ἀφεῖναι λόγον·

‘and it was about to utter a word.’

90

.لهلهله لهلهله لهله
.لهلهله ١٠٦ لهلهله لهله

‘I heard the sound of its modulations, which it whispered to those who brought it down:’

ἤκουον δὲ αὐτῆς ὁμιλούσης·

‘I heard it declaring:’

91

.١٠٩ لهلهله لهله ١٠٨ لهله ١٠٧ لهله
.لهلهله لهلهله لهله لهله

‘It is for the most valiant of the servants (of the king/ father) that they raised me before my father.’

ἐγὼ εἰμι ἐκείνου τῶν πάντων ἀνθρώπων ἀνδρειοτάτου οὗ ἔνεκεν παρ' αὐτῶ τῷ πατρὶ ἐνεγράφη·

‘I belong to the one who is the most courageous of all men; that is why, in the name of the father himself, I was inscribed.’

92

¹⁰⁵ . <هه> هـ Hoffmann. Kruse : w-'a(y)k hi.

¹⁰⁶ . لهلهله Cod. “Perhaps we might read لهلهله” (Wright). لهلهله Bedjan, لهلهله Bevan, لهلهله Hoffmann.

¹⁰⁷ . هه Hoffmann.

¹⁰⁸ . Burkitt. لهله Cod.

¹⁰⁹ . Cod. “The phrase [لهله ?] لهله لهله ‘the active in deeds’ (Wright) is very suspicious. Since لهله is elsewhere treated as feminine, we should expect لهله, and for the some reason we should expect لهله in 82b, if the robe is still speaking.” (Bevan, 39)

.כאן אנו רואים כי כפי מעשיו גדל
.כפי מעשיו גדל אנו רואים

‘And I also felt in myself that my stature was growing according to his actions.’

καὶ αὐτὸς δὲ ἤσθόμην αὐτοῦ τῆς ἡλικίας.

‘And I perceived (in myself) my stature.’

93

.כאשר הולך אנו רואים
.כאשר הולך אנו רואים

‘And with its kingly motions, it was totally rushing forth to me.’

αἱ δὲ κινήσεις αἱ βασιλικαὶ πᾶσαι ἐπανεπαύοντό μοι ἀξάνουσης πρὸς ταύτης ὀρμάς·

‘All the royal motions were leaning on me, since it was increasing its efforts.’

94

.כאשר הולך אנו רואים
.כאשר הולך אנו רואים

‘And by the hand of its givers, it hastened that I might take it.’

ἔσπευδεν ἐκ χειρὸς αὐτῶν¹¹² ὀρεγομένη ἐπὶ τὸν δεχόμενον αὐτήν.

‘It hastened from the hands (of its givers), stretching (itself) out towards the one who was receiving it.’

95

.כאשר הולך אנו רואים
.כאשר הולך אנו רואים¹¹³

‘And me too, my love stimulated me so that I move quickly to meet it and receive it.’

καὶ ἐγὼ ἐκ τῆς ἀγάπης ἐδιήγειρεν ὀρμησαὶ εἰς ὑπάντησιν αὐτῶν¹¹⁴ καὶ δεξασθαι αὐτήν.

¹¹⁰ . Hoffmann. אנו Cod.

¹¹¹ . Bevan rightly states: “To whom does the suffix in אנו refer? Possibly the idea may be that the ‘labours’ performed by the prince in Egypt produced a corresponding effect upon the robe which he had left behind him.” (39)

¹¹² . Bonnet. αὐτοῦ Cod.

¹¹³ . אנו Hoffmann.

‘And it awakened in me the desire that I throw myself into meeting it and receiving it.’

96

.תהללתי וקבלתי
.התלבשתי ביופיו וקבלתי

‘And I extended (my hands) and received it, with the beauty of its colours I adorned myself.’

*ἐκταθείς ἄνθη¹¹⁵ δὲ χρωμάτων ἐκοσμήθην¹¹⁶

‘Stretching out, I adorned myself with the (beauty) of its colours.’

97

.כסתי בגדי מלכותי
.התלבשתי ביופיו

‘And with my toga of brilliant colours, I covered myself completely.’

καὶ τὴν στολήν μου τὴν βασιλικὴν ὑπερέχουσαν ἐστολισάμην δι' ὅλου·

‘And I completely covered myself with my superior royal robe.’

98

.התלבשתי ביופיו
.כסתי בגדי מלכותי

‘I was clothed with it and ascended to the gate of salutation and adoration.’

ἐνδυσάμενος δὲ ἦρθην εἰς χώραν εἰρήνης σεβάσματος·

‘being clothed (with it) I was lifted upwards towards the country of peace (and) adoration.’

99

.כסתי בגדי מלכותי
.התלבשתי ביופיו

¹¹⁴ . αὐτῷ Cod. Bonnet proposes αὐτῆς, and Poirier αὐτῶν.

¹¹⁵ . ἐκταθεῖσαν Cod. ἐκταθείς· ἄν[θη] Poirier.

¹¹⁶ . Bonnet. ἐκομίσθην Cod.

¹¹⁷ . חלל חלל Cod. חלל חלל Bevan, חלל חלל Hoffmann.

¹¹⁸ . Hoffmann proposes כס .

¹¹⁹ . חלל Cod. Wright: חלל?

‘I bowed my head and paid homage to his Majesty my father who had sent it to me.’

καὶ τὴν κεφαλὴν κλίνας προσεκύνησα τοῦ πατρὸς τὸ φέγγος τοῦ ἀποστείλαντός μοι ταύτην

‘And having bowed my head, I adored the splendour of my father who had sent (it) to me.’

100

„סאָנאַעל דינען
גאָט און אַרבעטן אים צו טון

‘For I had fulfilled his commandments, and he, too, fulfilled what he had promised.’

ὅτι ἐγὼ μὲν ἐποίησα τὰ προσταχθέντα καὶ αὐτὸς ὁμοίως ὅπερ κατεπηγγείλατο·

‘For I kept the orders given (by him), and he, similarly, (kept) what he had promised.’

101

„סאָפּאָרן אַ יאָר
די אַרבעטן און אַרבעטן אים צו טון

‘And at the gate of his princes, I mingled with his grandees.’

καὶ ἐν ταῖς θύραις τοῦ βασιλικοῦ τοῖς¹²¹ ἐξ ἀρχῆς αὐτοῦ κατεμειγνύμην.

‘And at the gates of the palace, with (those) of his dominion, I mingled.’

102

„אָן אַרבעטן אים צו טון
און אַרבעטן אים צו טון

‘For he was delighted in my presence and received me, and with him, I was in his kingdom.’

ἦσθην δὲ ἐπ' ἐμοὶ καὶ εἰσεδέξατό με μετ' αὐτοῦ ἐν τοῖς βασιλείοις·

‘And he rejoiced in me, and received me into his company in his palace.’

103

„סאָפּאָרן אַ יאָר

¹²⁰ . סאָפּאָרן Hoffmann.

¹²¹ . Bonnet. τοῦ Cod.

.כאשכח טל ,תאבילא דא

‘And with the sound of *songs, all his servants praised him.’

πάντες δὲ οἱ ὑπῆκοοι αὐτοῦ εὐφήμοις φωναῖς ὑμνοῦσιν·

‘All his servants were singing with the sound of praise.’

104

.כאדי כח יחלי ,תאדיכא
.יכז יכ דיכ טכא כחל תאבילא

‘And he promised that also at the court of the king of kings I should be.’

ὑπέσχετο δέ μοι καὶ εἰς τὰς τοῦ βασιλέως θύρας σὺν αὐτῷ ἀποσταλεῖσθαι

‘He also promised me that with him I shall be sent to the court of the king,’

104

.יכז ,דיכ יכא כח יאכא
.כאדיכא כחל טכא

‘And with my gift and my pearl, I should appear with it (/ him) before our king.’

ἵνα μετὰ τῶν ἐμῶν δώρων καὶ τοῦ μαργαρίτου ἅμα αὐτῷ φαινώμεθα τῷ βασιλεῖ.

‘so that, with my presents and the pearl, we should appear, at the same time as the king himself.’

*

The paraphrase of Nicetas of Thessalonica:

1 Υἱὸς γέγονα βασιλέως·

9 στολῆ κεκόσμημαι χρυσοπάστῳ·

4 θησαυρὸς ἐπέδότη μοι θαυμαστός, οἷον προσῆκεν βασιλέας τοῖς τέκνοις χαρίζεσθαι·

6 χρσὸς ἦν καὶ ἄργυρος οὗτος·

7 καὶ λίθοι τῶν διαφανῶν καὶ τιμίων·

¹²² . Hoffmann :

כח יחלי ,תאדיכא
יכ דיכ טכא כחל תאבילא

¹²³ . דיכ יכא כח יאכא Hoffmann.

5 ἡ δὲ τούτων ὀλκὴ κούφη καὶ ἀβαρὴς καὶ ῥάστη μόνῳ
κουφίζεσθαι τῷ λαβόντι·

8 <καὶ ὄπλισάν με τῷ ἀδάμαντι·> ὃ πᾶς ἄλλος ὑπέικει
καὶ διαπέφευγε σίδηρος·

11 ἐφ' οἷς συνθέσθαι διησφαλίσατό μοι μὴ ἐκλαθέσθαι τῶν
δωρεῶν καὶ τοῦ φύσαντος·

12 Αἴγυπτον διόντα ποιητικῶς φάναι δολιχὴν ὁδὸν
ἀργαλέην τε·¹²⁴ ἀφ' ἧς κεκομικένοι ἀπέσταλμαι

13 τὸν πολύτιμον μαργαρίτην δράκοντι κατ' αὐτὴν δεινῷ
καλυπτόμενον·

14 ὡς ἂν κάκεινον¹²⁵ ἔχων τῆς πρώτης στολῆς
ἐπικόσμησιν τῆς προτέρας αὐθις ἀξιωθεῖν υἰότητος·

16 τούτοις συνθέμενος καὶ δυσὶ συνταχθεὶς ὁδηγοῖς τὴν ἐξ
ἀνατολῶν ἡλίου πρὸς δύσιν ἰοῦσαν πορείαν ἐστάλην·

19 ἀφικόμενος δὲ διὰ τῆς Βαβυλωνίων καὶ Λαβυρίνθου

20 εἰς Αἴγυπτον

21 τρὸς τῷ φωλεῷ τοῦ δράκοντος καταλέλυκα ὃς τὸν
ἐπιζητούμενον μαργαρίτην περιεκάθητο·

22 τοῦτον παρεφύλασσον ἀφυπνῶσαι, ὅπως αὐτὸς ἀκονιτὶ
τοῦτον ἀφέλωμαι ὃν αὐτὸς φθόνῳ κατέχωσεν·

24 εἶχον δ' ἐκεῖ καὶ τὸν ἐξ ἀνατολῶν μοι κατὰ γένος
προσήκοντα τοῦ ἔργου συλλήπτορα

28 ὅς μοι ἀεὶ συμπαρῆν καὶ συνεβούλευεν τοὺς
Αἰγυπτίους παραφυλάττεσθαι καὶ τῆς αὐτῶν ζύμης καὶ τοῦ
φυράματος·

32 ἀλλ' οἱ δεινοὶ τῷ ὄντι Αἰγύπτιοι καὶ πέρα δεινότητος
δόλῳ συνέμειξαν καὶ τέχνη παρέκλιναν καὶ τῆς τροφῆς αὐτῶν
ἀπογέυσασθαι ὑπηγάγοντο·

33 καὶ γευσάμενος φεῦ μοι τῆς ἄνωθεν εὐγενείας ἠλόγησα
καὶ τὴν βασιλέως ἐπελαθόμεν υἰότητα καὶ τῷ αὐτῶν ἐδούλευσα
βασίλει

34 μακρὰ χαίρειν εἰπὼν τῇ φροντίδι τοῦ μαργαρίτου ὃν
ἀνελέσθαι ἀπέσταλμαι·

¹²⁴ . Cf. Homer (Ὀμηρὸς Οδύσσεια), 4.393 : αἱ κ' ἐθέλησθα, ὅττι τοι ἐν
μεγάρουσι κακὸν τ' ἀγαθὸν τε τέτυκται οἰχομένοιο σέθεν **Δολιχὴν ὁδὸν
ἀργαλέην τε.**

¹²⁵ . Bonnet : κάκεινης?

35 τῷ βάρει γὰρ τῆς βρώσεως ἐκείνης κατενεχθεῖς καὶ ὕπνῳ καρῳθεῖς θανάτου γείτονι

36 τὸν τῆς Ἀνατολῆς ἄρχοντα καὶ τοὺς ὑπάσπιστάς αὐτοῦ οἱ τῆς Παρθίας κατάρχουσι παρελύπησα·

40 οἱ γε καὶ δι' ἐπιστολῆς τὰ δόξαντα διεσήμηναν ὧδε πως ἔχοντα·

41 πατὴρ καὶ βασιλεὺς βασιλέων καὶ μήτηρ ἢ τὴν Ἀνατολὴν κατέχουσα

42 καὶ ἀδελφοὶ οἱ¹²⁶ ἐξ αὐτῶν τὴν γένεσιν ἔχοντες τῷ ἐν Αἰγύπτῳ υἱῷ ἡμῶν καὶ ἀδελφῷ εἰρήνη.

43 ἀνάνησον ἀνάστηθι πόρρω στῆθι τῆς Αἰγυπτίων σκαιότητος καὶ σωτηρίων ῥημάτων ἐπάκουσον.

44 υἱὸς ὢν μνήσθητι βασιλέως καὶ δούλειον ἔλκειν αἰδέσθητι ζυγὸν ἐπαυχένιον·

45 μνήσθητι τοῦ πολυτίμου ὃν ἀπώλεσας μαργαρίτου δι' ὃν παροδεῦσαι τὴν Αἴγυπτον κατελήλυθας·

46 ἀντιποιήθητι τῆς πατρικῆς ἐσθῆτος τῆς χρυσοπάστου·

62 καὶ τὴν εἰδεχθῆ ταύτην καὶ ἄμορφον τῶν Αἰγυπτίων ἀπόρριψον·

48 καὶ τὸν μαργαρίτην ἀναληψάμενος δεῦρ' ἀνάβηθι καὶ τοῖς ἀδελφοῖς τῶν ἄνω βασιλείων συμμετόχος γένοιο.

52 αὕτη ἢ ἐπιστολὴ φῶς γέγονεν ἐν ἐμοὶ καὶ πῦρ καὶ τὸ ἐνόν μοι ζώπυρον ὥσπερ ἀνάψασα

51 εἰς ὕψος ἤρην καὶ ἀετοῦ δίκην ἀνῆξεν ὥσπερ ὑπόπτερον.

54 ἐγκολπωσάμενος δὲ ταύτην καὶ ἀσπασάμενος

56 ἐν μνήμῃ γέγονα τῶν προτέρων ἀπάντων· τοῦ γένους· τῆς υἰότητος· τῶν κόσμων· τῶν θησαυρῶν·

57 τοῦ πολυτίμου καὶ ἀπαραβλήτου ἐκείνου μαργαρίτου δι' ὃν ἢ ἀποδημία.

58-59 καὶ μνησθεῖς ἐπεστράφην· καὶ ἐπιστραφεῖς ἀντῆρα καὶ ἀντεπῆλθον τῷ προτέρῳ ἐκείνῳ δράκοντι· ἐπῳδαῖς τε καὶ θείοις κατακλήσας ἐπάσμασι καταδαρθεῖν πέπεικα·

61 καὶ οὕτω τὸν μαργαρίτην ὑφήρπασα

99 καὶ πρὸς τὸν πατέρα ὑπέστρεφον.

¹²⁶ . Bonnet omits.

102 ὁ δὲ ἤσθεις ὡς οὐκ ἄλλοτε οὔτε τὴν βραδυτῆτα
προέφευρεν καὶ τῆ πρώτῃ στολῆ κατημφίασε·

103 καὶ τοῖς βασιλείοις αὐτοῖς ἀποδέδωκεν ταῖς ἐν αὐτοῖς
ἀγλαΐαις καὶ δωρεαῖς αἰδίως εὐφραίνεσθαι.