

# The Story of Wenamun (P. Moscow 120)

Notes by Minh-Tâm Trinh

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## *Glossing Conventions*

(May not match the conventions in my older notes)

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| (       ) | text omitted by the scribe, but implicitly understood |
| <       > | addition to fix a scribal error                       |
| {       } | deletion to fix a scribal error                       |
| [       ] | addition to fix lacuna, or addition uncertain         |

## *Sources*

[G]                V. “The Misfortunes of Wenamun.” *Late-Egyptian Stories*. Bibliotheca Aegyptiaca 1. Brussels: Fondation Égyptologique Reine Élisabeth (1932), 61–76.

[R]                “P. Moscou 120; Ounamon (= LESt 05).” *Ramses Online*. Accessed starting on 1/12/2025. <http://ramses.ulg.ac.be/text/legacy/188>

## *Other References*

[J]                F. Junge. *Late Egyptian Grammar: An Introduction*. 2nd English Ed. Trans. D. Warburton. Griffith Institute, Oxford (2005).

[L]                *A Dictionary of Late Egyptian*. Ed. L. H. Lesko. Collab. Ed. B. S. Lesko. 2nd Edition. Vols. I–II. B. C. Scribe Publications (2002).

[Li]                “The Report of Wenamun (1.41): P. Moscow 120.” Trans. M. Lichtheim. In Part Seven of *Ancient Egyptian Literature*, Vol. II: *The New Kingdom*. Berkeley: University of California Press (2006), 224–230.

[Ro]                J. A. Roberson. “A Very Brief Introduction to Hieratic.” Rev. 1.0 (Spring 2018). <https://mqtrinh.github.io/other/egyptian/hieratic/roberson-j-a-very-brief-intro-to-hieratic.pdf>

[TLA]                Thesaurus Linguae Aegyptiae. Version 2.2.0. Union of the German Academies of Sciences and Humanities. <https://tla.digital/home>

[W] “The Report of Wenamon.” Trans. E. Wente. In *The Literature of Ancient Egypt*. Ed. W. K. Simpson. 3rd Ed. New Haven: Yale University Press (2003), 116–124.

Red denotes rubric text in P. Moscow 120.

1/12/25

(1.1) [*hsb.t*] 5 3*bd* 4 *šmw sw* 16

*hrw n wdy.(t) iir smsm h3y Wn-Imn n Pr Imn* (1.2) [*Nsw.t Nb*] *T3wy*

*r [ini.t t3] t.t n p3 Wi3 ʕ3 Špsy n Imn-Rʕ Nsw.t Ntr.w nty hr tp [...]*

(1.3) [...*Imn*]-*Wsr-H3.t*

**(1.1)** [Regnal year] 5, month 4 of summer, day 16:

Day of the departure that the elder [of the] portal [*idaafa*], Wenamun, made [*relative*] from the house of Amun, **(1.2)** [Lord of] the Two Lands,

to [bring] the timber for the Great Venerable Bark of Amun-Re, King of the Gods, which is at the head [...]

**(1.3)** [...Amun]-Userhat:

1/26/25

*hrw n spr iir=i r Dʕn.t r p3* (1.4) [*nty Ns-Sw-B3-Nb*]-*Dd Ti-nt-Imn im*

*iw=i (hr) rdi.t n=w n3 wh3.w n Imn-Rʕ Nsw.t Ntr.w*

*iw=w* (1.5) (*hr*) *rdi.t ʕš.tw m-b3h=w*

*iw=w (hr) dd*

*ir.y sp-sn m p3 dd Imn-Rʕ Nsw.t Ntr.w p3-* (1.6) [*-y.n nb*]

Day of my departing [“departing that I made”] to Djanet [Tanis], to the **(1.4)** [place] in which Nesubanebdjed [“He of Banebdjed” = Smendes] [and] Tentamun are.

I am giving [*first present?*] to them the dispatches [L I.110] of Amun-Re, King of the Gods.

They **(1.5)** are causing them to be read [L I.78] [*passive*] in front of them.

They say:

Yes [L I.37] (said twice), as the speech of Amun-Re, King of the Gods, ou- **(1.6)** [-r lord.]

2/9/25

*iw=i (hr) iry.<t> <r>-š3<-<r> 3bd 4 šmw*

*iw=i m-hnw D<sup>c</sup>n.t*

*iw Ns-Sw-B3-Nb-Dd (1.7) Ti-nt-Imn [hr] wd.(t)=i irm hr(y)-mnš Mngbt*

*iw=i h3y r (1.8) p3 ym 3 n HBrw n 3bd 1 šmw hrw 1*

*iw=i (hr) spr Dr w<sup>c</sup> dmi n (1.9) tkr*

**I am staying until [TLA r-š3<-r] month 4 of summer**

I was inside Djanet.

Then Nesubanebdjed **(1.7)** [and] Tentamun are sending me with the overseer [of the] ship [L I.189], Mengebet.

Then I went down to **(1.8)** the great sea of Kharu [Syria] **on month 1 of summer, day 1.**

Then I was going to Djer [Dor], a village of **(1.9)** fortified gate[s] [L II.236].

3/2/25

*iw Bdr p3y=f wr (hr) rdi.t ini.tw n=i*

*kw 50 irp msh.t (1.10) I[?] m3s.t n ih 1*

*iw w<sup>c</sup> rmt n By br.t (hr) w<sup>c</sup>.r*

*iw t3y=f nbw (1.11) [tbw ir.(w) n] dbn 5 hd tbw 4 ir(w) n dbn 20 hd rf dbn 10[?]*

Then Beder, its chief, was causing to be brought to me

50 loaves of bread, a jug [L I.206] [of] wine, **(1.10)** [and] one haunch [L I.177] of beef.

Then a man of the barge [? boat determinative] was fleeing [L I.95].

Then he seized a bowlful [J 359] **(1.11)** [of gold worth] 5 [*deben*], 4 bowlfuls of silver worth 20 *deben*, 20 sacks of money [silver?] weighing 10 [Ramses: 11?] *deben*.

**3/16/25**

(1.12) [...p3 it3]=f nbw dbn 5 ḥd dbn 31

iw=i (hr) dwn m t3y dw3.w

iw=i (hr) šmi.t r (1.13) [p3] nty p3 wr n im

iw=i dd.n=f

tw it3y.kwi t3y=k n mr hr mntk p3 wr n p3y t3 hr (1.14) mntk p3y=f smty

wh3 p3y=i ḥd

i3 ir p3 ḥd ny-sw Imn-R<sup>c</sup> (1.15) Nsw.t Ntr.w p3 Nb n N3 T3.wy

**(1.12)** [...that stolen by] him: 5 deben of gold, 31 deben of silver.

Then I recovered [L II.243] in the morning.

Then I went to [“against”] **(1.13)** the one which [is] that chief [“of”] there.

Then I said to him:

I was robbed [L I.224] [stative as passive] in your harbor, and, you are chief of the land, and, **(1.14)** you are its judge [L II.45].

Look for my money!

Ah [L I.11], as for [L I.37] the money that [is] of Amun-Re, **(1.15)** King of the Gods, the Lord of the Two Lands,

**3/30/25**

ny-sw Ny-[S]w-B3-Nb-Dd

ny-sw hr Hri-Hr p3y nb n3 kth.w (1.16) 3y.w n Kmt

mntk sw

ny-sw W3rt

ns-sw.t Mk3m<sup>c</sup>r

ns-sw.t T3k3r-

(1.17) -b<sup>c</sup>r p<sup>3</sup> wr n Kpn<sup>3</sup>

iw=f dd.n=i

[i]n dns=k

[i]n mnht=k

it [is] of Nesubanebdjed.

It [is] of Smendes, my lord, [and] the other [L I.179] **(1.16)** great ones of Egypt.

It [is] yours.

It [is] of [why spelled -sw.t?] Mekamar.

It [is] of Takar-

**(1.17)** -bar, the chief of Kepna [Byblos].

Then he said to me:

Are you serious [“heavy”] [L II.251]?

[Or] are you joking [L I.189]?

#### 4/13/25

hr ptr bw iri=i (1.18) <sup>c</sup>m n t<sup>3</sup>y wšb.t dd=k n=i

hn [p<sup>3</sup>] it<sup>3</sup>y iw ns-sw p<sup>3</sup>y=i t<sup>3</sup> p<sup>3</sup> h<sup>3</sup>y (1.19) r t<sup>3</sup>y=k br

mtw=f t<sup>3</sup>y p<sup>3</sup>y=k h<sup>3</sup>d

wn iw=i [r] db<sup>3</sup>=f n=k m p<sup>3</sup>y wd<sup>3</sup>

š<sup>3</sup>=w (1.20) gmi.t p<sup>3</sup>y=k it<sup>3</sup>y

y<sup>3</sup> ir p<sup>3</sup> it<sup>3</sup>y i-t<sup>3</sup>y tw

mntk sw ns-sw (1.21) t<sup>3</sup>yk br

but look, I cannot **(1.18)** understand [“to”] this request that you say to me.

If [L I.289] the thief [L I.53] [were] of my land, that went down **(1.19)** toward your ship [L I.136],

and he had stolen your money,

I would replace it for you, of[?] the storehouse [L I.121].

until [L II.107] **(1.20)** the finding [of] your thief.

[But] truly [L I.11], as for [L I.37] the thief that robbed [prosthetic *i*- for relative] you,  
he is of **(1.21)** your ship.

**4/27/25**

*i-ir nhy hrw.w d(y) r kr=i*

*wh3=i sw*

*iw=i (hr) iry.t hrw 9*

*iw=i mni.tw (1.22) [hr] t3y=f mr*

*iw=i (hr) šmi.t r-kr=f*

*iw=i (hr) dd n=f*

*mk bw-pw=k gmy.(t) p3y=i hđ*

*(1.23) [...] =k wi [ir]m [n3y] hr[y.w] mnš irm n3.w šm <r> [ym]*

Spend [prosthetic *i*- for imperative] a few [L I.240] days here [L II.241] next to [L II.155] me.

I will seek him.

[Then] I am spending 9 days;

I am mooring [*tw* as stative marker] **(1.22)** [in] his harbor [L II.192; not *mry.t* on L I.193];

I am going [around] next to him.

[Then] I am saying to him:

Look, there is no finding by you [of] my money.

**(1.23)** [...] [you...] me with those captains [of] the ships [L I.189], with those that go [by] sea.

5/18/25

*iw=f(hr) dd n=i*

*gr [tw] (1.24) [...] [sd]m p3 [...] [sd]m t3[y=i md.t]*

*[...]i dd=i n=k*

*iw m ir[i...] (1.25) [...] [p3] nty.iw=k i[m]*

*iw=k (r) [mh m n]3y.w kr[...-.w] mtw=k mh mi [...]*

*(1.26) š<sup>cc</sup>.w šmi.t (r) wh3 p3y.w it3y i-t3i (sn) [...]*

[Then] he is saying to me:

You [be] quiet! **(1.24)** [...] [hea]r the [...] [hea]r the[se words of mine].

[...] I am saying to you:

Do not d[o...] **(1.25)** [...] [that] where you are [“which you are therein”].

You (will) [seize in th]eir boa[ts] and seize like[?] [...]

**(1.26)** They began to go [to] seek their thief, which took [...] [*many lacunae*]

6/1/25

*(1.30) [b]r.t*

*iw=i (hr) gmy hđ dbn 30 im=s*

*iw=i (hr) mh im[.w ...]*

*(1.31) p3y.tn hđ*

*iw=f w3h m-di=i (r)-sh3 [r] i-iri.t tn gmy.t p3 [...] (1.32) it3y sw*

*bw-pw it3[y] tn*

*iw=i r it3=f wpw mntn iw [...w]=i[?] r [...]*

*(1.33) iw=w (hr) šmi.t n=w*

*iw=i (hr) hb.t n=i [...] im3w [hr] sp.t [n] p3 ym [m] t3 mry.t n Kpny*

*iw [...] (1.34) [...] Imn-t3-Mi.t*



*iw=i (hr) rdi.t h.wt=f m-hnw=f*

*iw p3 wr n Kpny h3b n=i r dd*

*i-rwi tw=k m (1.35) t3y mry.t*

*iw=i (hr) h3b n=f r dd*

*i-i[r] [...] tnw [...] [n ...]=i[?] (hr) sm[i.t]*

*(1.36) [...] ir [...] r hni(=i) tw*

*imi t3y(=i) (1.37) tw r Km[.t n]*

*iw=i (hr) iri.t hr.w 29 n t3y=f mry.t*

*[iw] i-ir=f nw (hr) h3b n=i m-mnt r dd*

*i-rwi (1.38) tw=k [m] t3y=i mry.t*

*hr-ir sw (hr) wdn [n] n3y=f ntr.w*

*iw p3 ntr (hr) t3y.t w<sup>c</sup> dd<sup>c</sup> 3 [m] n3y=f (1.39) dd.w 3.w*

*iw=f (hr) rdi.t=f [m] h3w.t*

*iw=f (hr) dd.n=f*

*in p3 ntr r-hry*

*in p3 wpwty nty hr=f*

[*skipping ahead:*] **(1.30)** [...b]arge.

Then I am finding 30 *deben* of silver in it.

Then I am grasping the[m] [...]

**(1.31)** my money,

then he stays at my side, until [prosthetic *-i* for relative] making the finding of the [...] **(1.32)** thief, him[?].

You weren't robbed ["There was not robbing of you"].

I would[?] seize him but [L I.99] you [...] I [...]

**(1.33)** Then they were going to them.

Then I am holding celebration [L I.307] for myself [...] pavilion [L I.29], [on] the coastline [“border”, “rim”] [L II.31] [of] the sea of Byblos.

Then [...] **(1.34)** Amun-of-the-Road.

I am placing his goods in its interior.

Then the chief of Byblos is writing [L I.286] to me, saying:

Banish [prosthetic *-i* for imperative] [L I.267] yourself **(1.35)** from[?] my harbor!

Then I am writing to him:

Do [prosthetic *-i* for imperative?] [...] where [...] [to...] I[?] am goi[ng].

**(1.36)** [...] do [...] will I be rowed [L I.382].

Cause [L I.26] that I be taken [L II.224] **(1.37)** to Eg[ypt, now!]

Then I am spending 29 days in his harbor,

in which he spends [prosthetic *-i* for relative] [the] time in writing to me, daily, saying:

Banish **(1.38)** yourself from my harbor!

Then[?] he is making offerings [to] his gods.

Then the god was taking a grown youth [from] among his **(1.39)** grown youths.

Then he was working himself [into] trances.

Then he was saying to him:

Bring up the god!

Bring up the messenger who is overseeing [“upon”] it,

**6/15/25**

*(1.40) n 'Imn i-wd sw*

*mntf i-di iw=f*

*iw i-iri p3 h3w h3w m p3y grh*

*iw gm.- (1.41) -i w<sup>c</sup> br.t*

*iw hr=s r Km.t*

*iw 3tp=i p3y=i ink nb r s.t*

*iw i-ir=i nw (1.42) r p3 kkw r-dd*

*h3y=f 3tp=i p3 ntr r tm di.t ptr sw k.t i-ir.t*

**(1.40)** on behalf of [L I.223?] Amun that sent for [prosthetic *-i* for relative] him.

He was the one who caused [prosthetic *-i* for relative] that he comes,

Then it was during the night that the one who does trances [prosthetic *-i* for second tense?] was entranced.

that I fou- **(1.41)** -nd a boat

which faced [“while its face was”] toward Egypt,

[onto] which I loaded all my own [L I.36].

[and in] which I spent looking [L I.223] **(1.42)** toward the darkness, saying:

Lower him, my cargo, the god, to cause that no other eye see [L I.159] him.

**6/29/25**

*iw p3 (1.43) (i)m(y)-r mr (hr) iy.t n=i r-dd*

Then the **(1.43)** overseer of the harbor came to me, saying: