

# Kay, Laudatory autobiography of

## Nederhof - English

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Transliteration and translation for "The laudatory autobiography of Kay", following the transcription of De Buck (1948), pp. 73-74.

For an older transcription, see Anthes (1928), p. 54. A drawing of the original (Gr. 24) can be found in plate 24 thereof.

The transliteration throughout follows Hannig (1995).

For published translations, see Anthes (1928), pp. 55-56.

## Bibliography

- R. Anthes. *Die Felseninschriften von Hatnub*. Hinrichs, Leipzig, 1928.
- A. De Buck. *Egyptian Readingbook*. Ares Publishers, Chicago, Illinois, 1948.
- R.O. Faulkner. *A Concise Dictionary of Middle Egyptian*. Griffith Institute, Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, 1962.
- R. Hannig. *Grosses Handwörterbuch Ägyptisch-Deutsch: die Sprache der Pharaonen (2800-950 v.Chr.)*. Verlag Philipp von Zabern, 1995.



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dw<sup>3</sup>.n njwt=f r pr=f r dw<sup>3</sup> k<sup>3</sup>=f

whose city went early in the morning to his house to praise his spirit,

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r<sup>c</sup> nb n-<sup>c3</sup>t-n mr[wt=f]

every day because of the greatness of the love [of him]

---

[n] | nfr n jr<sup>r</sup>t=f n=s

jw jr.n=j m<sup>3</sup>ct spd r wšm

and | the goodness of what he does for it. I did justice, sharper than a needle,

---

jw nḥm.n=j m<sup>3</sup>r m-<sup>c</sup> wsr

jw snf.n=j ḥ<sup>3</sup>rt jwtt ḥ<sup>3</sup>j=s

I freed the oppressed from the powerful, I succoured the widow without a husband,

---

jw šd.n=j nmḥ jw<sup>tj</sup> jt=f

<sup>6</sup> | jw ts.n=j d<sup>3</sup>m=s n ḥrdw

I raised the orphan without a father. | I levied their troops of young men

---

n mrt <sup>c3</sup>ḥprw=s

so that the current ones were numerous,

---

jw grt d<sup>3</sup>m=s <sup>c</sup>q(.w) n ndsw

ḥms m prw=s n n <sup>c</sup>ḥ<sup>3</sup>=sn

whereas its (old) troops have entered into citizenship, live in their houses, and didn't fight

---

m rk snḍ n | <sup>7</sup> pr-nsw jw nḥm.n=j njwt=j

in the time of fear of | the palace. I saved my city,

---

hrw <sup>c</sup>w<sup>3</sup> m-<sup>c</sup> ḥrt mrt nt

<sup>8</sup> | pr-nsw

on the day of robbery, from the evil terror of | the palace.

---

jnk grt ḥnt=s hrw <sup>c</sup>ḥ<sup>3</sup>=s

nh {}t=s m šdt š<sup>3</sup>

I was its foremost on the day of its battle, its stronghold in the swamp land,

---

s<sup>3</sup> ḥq<sup>3</sup> | <sup>9</sup> n Wnt ḥwd <sup>c3</sup> ḥr-qd

son of the ruler | of Unet, wealthy and great in every respect.

---

jw grt s<sup>c</sup>nḥ.n=j njwt=j r-d<sup>r</sup>=s m ts<sup>w</sup> nw

<sup>10</sup> | t<sup>3</sup> jw nn wn

I kept my whole town alive on the sandbanks of | the land, while there was nothing.

---

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wrw mj šrrw=s                    n hr hn n Hmnw

The great were as its small. There was no discontented face in Hermopolis,

---

Wnw | <sup>11</sup>m-mjtt-jrj snš.n=j šnwt=j n bw nb    jnk nb nfrt

and the same in Unu. I opened my barn to everyone. I am a possessor of beauty,

---

mry <sup>12</sup>ḥntjw | smḳy n hrw nfr                    Nḥrj Kḳy m<sup>3c</sup>-hrw

loving myhrr, | <sup>12</sup>companion of the holiday.' Kay son of Nehri, justified,

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ḥnh(.w) dt r nḥh

may he live forever until eternity.

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