

OUT OF EGYPT
 Israel's Exodus Between Text and Memory, History and Imagination

MOSES THE MAGICIAN

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 Rutgers University
 UCSD / June 2013

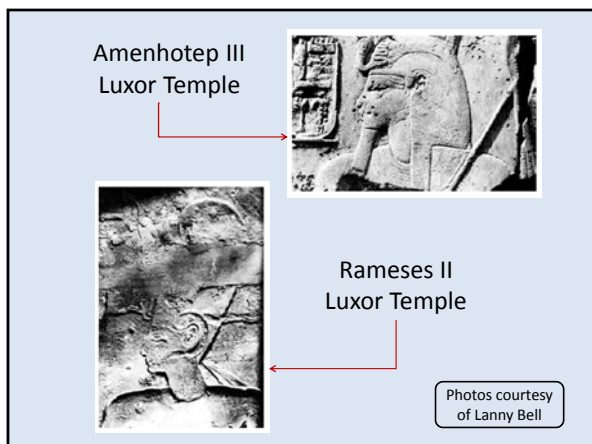
Moses as Equal to Pharaoh

Exodus 7:1
 וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה רְאֵה נָתַתִּיךָ אֱלֹהִים לְפָרְעֹה
 וְאַהֲרֹן אֶחָיו יִהְיֶה נְבִיאָךְ:
 “Look, I have set you (as) a god to Pharaoh,
 and Aaron your brother will be your prophet.”

Exodus 4:16
 וְדַבְרָהוּא לְךָ אֱלֹהִים וְהָיָה הוּא יִהְיֶה־לְךָ לִפִּי
 וְאַתָּה תִּהְיֶה־לוֹ לְאֱלֹהִים:
 “And it will be, he will be for you as a mouth,
 and you will be for him as a god.”



Exodus 34:29-30
 קָרַן עוֹר פָּנָיו
 ‘the skin of his face was horned’




Exodus 3:14

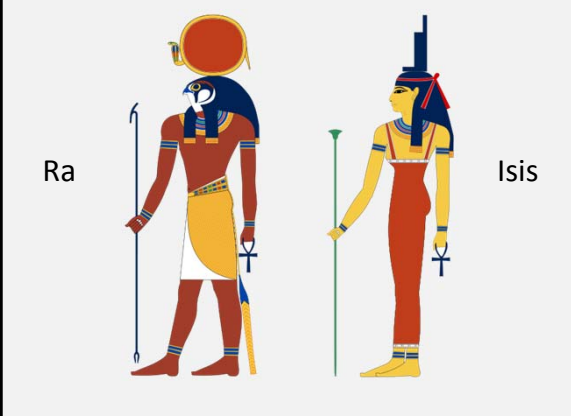
וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים אֶל־מֹשֶׁה אֲשֶׁר אֶהְיֶה
 וַיֹּאמֶר כֹּה תֹאמַר לְבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲהִיֶּה שְׁלַחְנִי אֵלֵיכֶם:
 And God said to Moses, “Ehyeh-asher-Ehyeh”;
 and he said, “Thus say to the children of Israel:
 Ehyeh sent me to you.”

THE UNKNOWN NAME OF RA

P. Turin 1993
c. 1300 B.C.E.



Museo delle Antichità Egizie di Torino




Ra

Isis

Exodus 4:3-4

וַיֹּאמֶר הַשְּׁלִיכֵהוּ אֶרְצָה וַיִּשְׁלִיכֵהוּ אֶרְצָה וַיְהִי לְנָחָשׁ
וַיִּנָּס מֹשֶׁה מִפָּנָיו:
And he said, "Cast it down to the earth," and he cast it down to the earth, and it became a snake; and Moses fled from before it.

וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה שְׁלַח יָדְךָ וְאַחֲזוּ בִזְנָבוֹ
וַיִּשְׁלַח יָדוֹ וַיַּחֲזֶק בּוֹ וַיְהִי לְמִטָּה בְּכַפּוֹ:
And YHWH said to Moses, "Send-forth your hand, and grab its tail"; and he sent-forth his hand, and he took-hold of it; and it was a staff in his palm.




Papyrus Westcar
with the Wax Crocodile story
(Ägyptisches Museum Berlin 3033)

Exodus 7:10

וַיָּבֹאוּ מֹשֶׁה וְאַהֲרֹן אֶל־פַּרְעֹה וַיַּעֲשׂוּ כִּן כַּאֲשֶׁר צִוָּה יְהוָה
וַיִּשְׁלַח אַהֲרֹן אֶת־מִטָּתוֹ לִפְנֵי פַרְעֹה וּלְפָנֵי עַבְדָּיו וַיְהִי לְתַנִּין:
And Moses and Aaron came unto Pharaoh, and they did thus, as YHWH had commanded; and Aaron cast-down his staff before Pharaoh and before his servants, and it became a crocodile.

תַּנִּין = 'crocodile'



British Museum

Walters Art Gallery

Exodus 7:20 / First Plague

וַיַּעֲשׂוּכֵן מֹשֶׁה וְאַהֲרֹן כַּאֲשֶׁר | צִוָּה יְהוָה וַיִּרָם בְּמַטֵּה נֹדֶף אֶת-הַמַּיִם אֲשֶׁר
בַּיָּאֵר לְעֵינֵי פְרֻעָה וְלְעֵינֵי עַבְדָּיו וַיִּהְיֶה כָּל-הַמַּיִם אֲשֶׁר-בַּיָּאֵר לְדָם:

And Moses and Aaron did thus, as YHWH had commanded, and he raised his staff, and he struck the water that was in the Nile, before Pharaoh, and before his servants; and all the water that was in the Nile was turned into blood.



Admonitions of Ipuwer / P. Leiden 344
Rijksmuseum van Oudheden

The Admonitions of Ipuwer

Egyptian sage, c. 2000 B.C.E.

P. Leiden 344 (18th-19th Dynasty)

Adapted from Nili Shupak, *The Context of Scripture*, 1.94

Indeed, the river is blood, yet one drinks from it.
Men shrink from people and thirst after water. . . .
Indeed, the desert is throughout the land, the
nomes are laid waste. Foreign tribes (lit. *pgtyw*
'bowmen') come into Egypt. They are really no
people.

Exodus 8:13 / Third Plague

וַיַּעֲשׂוּכֵן וַיִּטְּ אַהֲרֹן אֶת-יָדוֹ בְּמַטֵּהוּ וַיִּדֹף אֶת-עֹפֶר הָאָרֶץ וְתַהֲלִי הַכִּנָּם
בְּאָדָם וּבַבְּהֵמָה כָּל-עֹפֶר הָאָרֶץ הָיָה כְנָם בְּכָל-אֶרֶץ מִצְרָיִם:

And they did thus, and Aaron stretched-forth his hand
with his staff, and he struck the dust of the earth, and it
became lice, upon humans and upon beasts; all the dust
of the earth was lice in all the land of Egypt.

Herodotus, Book Two, section 37
Translation of A. D. Godley, *Herodotus*
(Loeb Classical Library), vol. 1, p. 319

Their priests shave the whole body
every other day, that no lice or aught
else that is foul may infest them in
their service of the gods.

Pelizaeus-Museum Hildesheim



Ägyptisches Museum Berlin



Ancient
Egyptian
Priests

Exodus 9:11 / Sixth Plague

וְלֹא־יָכְלוּ הַחֲרָטְמִים לַעֲמֹד לִפְנֵי מֹשֶׁה מִפְּנֵי הַשָּׁחִין
 כִּי־הָיָה הַשָּׁחִין בְּחֲרָטְמָם וּבְכָל־מִצְרָיִם:

And the magician-priests could not stand before Moses, because of the boils, for there were boils on the magician-priests and in all of Egypt.

Exodus 8:20 / Fourth Plague

וַיַּעַשׂ יְהוָה כֵּן וַיִּבֹא עָרָב כְּכֹד בֵּיתָה פְּרַעֲהַ וּבֵית עֲבָדָיו
 וּבְכָל־אֶרֶץ מִצְרָיִם תִּשְׁחַת הָאָרֶץ מִפְּנֵי הָעָרָב:

And YHWH did thus, and the heavy insect-swarm came into the house of Pharaoh and the house of his servants; and in all the land of Egypt, the land was destroyed on account of the insect-swarm.

Herodotus, 2.95: Gnats are abundant.

Exodus 10:22 / Ninth Plague

וַיִּט מֹשֶׁה אֶת־יָדוֹ עַל־הַשָּׁמַיִם וַיְהִי חֹשֶׁךְ־אֲפֹלָה
 בְּכָל־אֶרֶץ מִצְרָיִם שְׁלֹשַׁת יָמִים:

And Moses stretched-forth his hand towards the sky, and there was deep darkness in all the land of Egypt for three days.

Ostracon Petrie 38
 19th Dynasty



Prophecy of Neferti

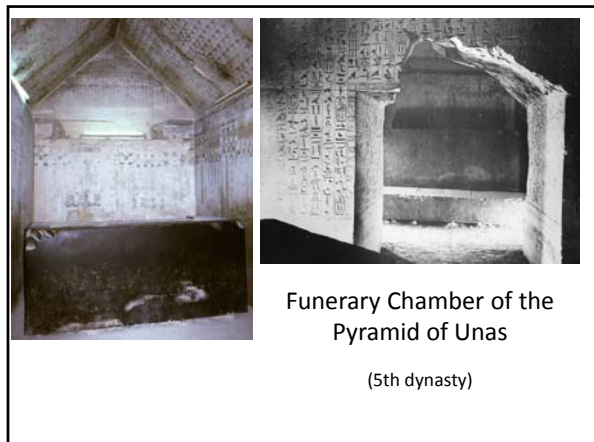
Egyptian Hall / Hermitage
 St. Petersburg
 Location of P. Petersburg 1116B



SETNE KHAMWAS AND SI-OSIRE
 (SETNE II)
 Demotic text, P. BM 604

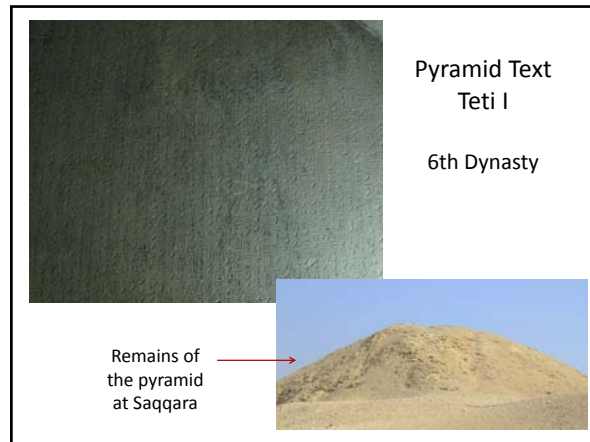


Pyramid of Unas at Saqqara



Funerary Chamber of the Pyramid of Unas

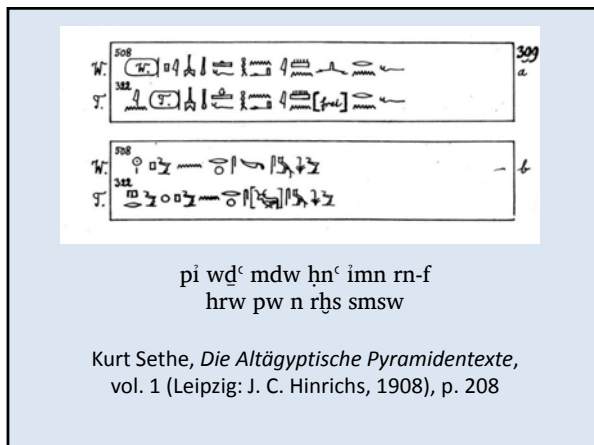
(5th dynasty)



Pyramid Text Teti I

6th Dynasty

Remains of the pyramid at Saqqara



pi wdꜥ mdw hnꜥ imn rn-f
hrw pw n rḥs smsw

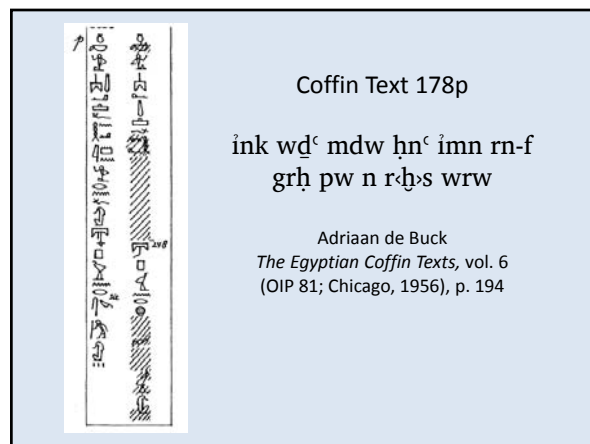
Kurt Sethe, *Die Altägyptische Pyramidentexte*, vol. 1 (Leipzig: J. C. Hinrichs, 1908), p. 208



Asyut Coffin
Middle Kingdom



Coffins from Deir el-Bersha
Middle Kingdom
(British Museum)



Coffin Text 178p

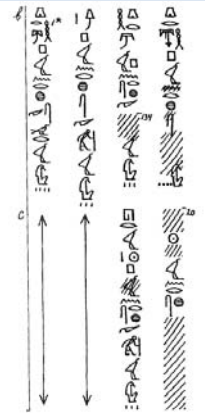
ink wdꜥ mdw hnꜥ imn rn-f
grḥ pw n rḥs wrw

Adriaan de Buck
The Egyptian Coffin Texts, vol. 6 (OIP 81; Chicago, 1956), p. 194

Coffin Text 163b-c

. . . grḥ pw n rḥs wrw
hrw pw n rḥs wrw


Adriaan de Buck
The Egyptian Coffin Texts, vol. 2
(OIP 49; Chicago, 1938), p. 177



Egyptian Museum
Cairo

Location of P. Cairo 30646

Setne I


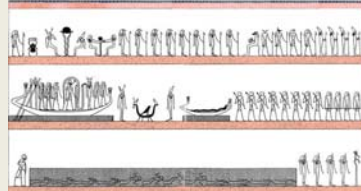
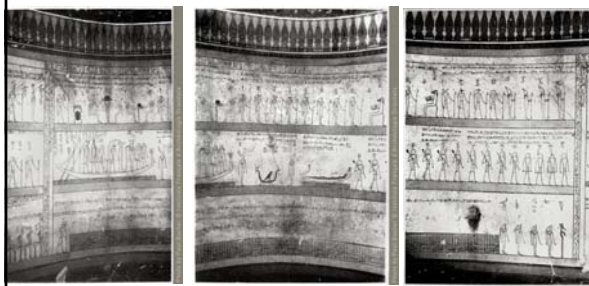



Papyrus Westcar
with the Boating Party story
(Ägyptisches Museum Berlin 3033)

Amduat
10th hour

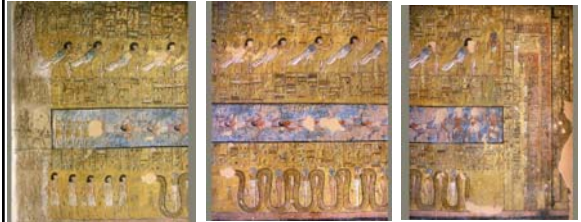
KV-34

Tomb of
Thutmose III

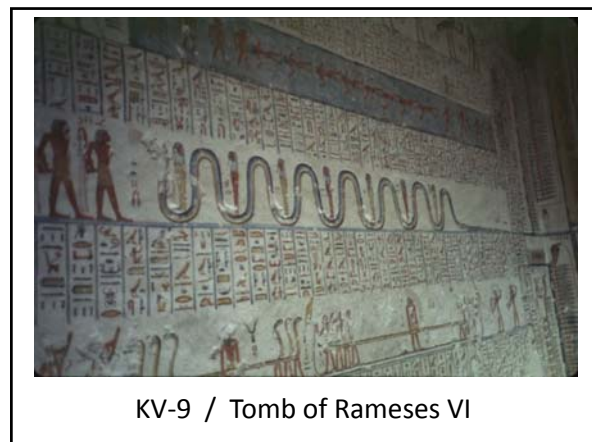
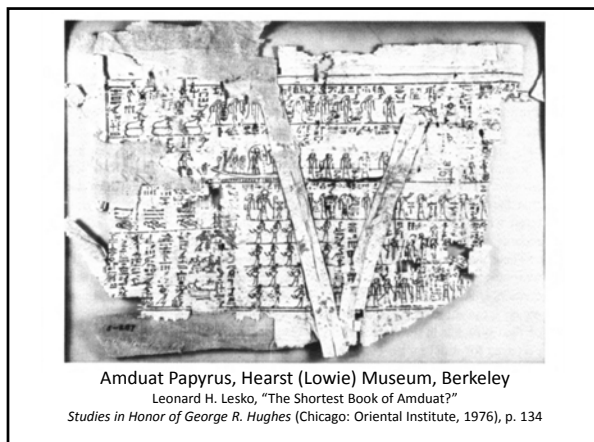
Amduat 10th hour

Images from Theban Mapping Project



Book of Gates – Ninth Hour
KV-14

Dynasty 19, Tausert / Dynasty 20, Setnakht



AMDUAT – 10th hour

You are those who are within Nun, the drowned who are in his following. May life belong to your *bas*!

Translation of Colleen Manassa, *The Late Egyptian Underworld: Sarcophagi and Related Texts from the Nectanebid Period* (Wiesbaden: Otto Harrassowitz, 2007), p. 350.

The Egyptian Magicians in the Book of Exodus

Exodus 7:11
 וַיִּקְרָא גַם־פַּרְעֹה לַחֲכָמִים וְלַמְכַשְׁפִּים
 וַיַּעֲשׂוּ גַם־הֵם חֲרָטְמֵי מִצְרַיִם בְּלִטְיָהֶם כֵּן:
 And Pharaoh called the wise-men and the sorcerers, and they also did, the magician-priests of Egypt, by their spells likewise.

Exodus 7:22
 וַיַּעֲשׂוּ־כֵן הַחֲרָטְמֵי מִצְרַיִם בְּלִטְיָהֶם
 And the magician-priests of Egypt did likewise by their spells.

Exodus 8:3
 וַיַּעֲשׂוּ־כֵן הַחֲרָטְמִים בְּלִטְיָהֶם
 And the magician-priests did likewise by their spells.

Exodus 8:14
 וַיַּעֲשׂוּ־כֵן הַחֲרָטְמִים בְּלִטְיָהֶם
 And the magician-priests did likewise by their spells.