

The Dream of King Thutmes IV

History of Egypt - Derived Entirely from the Monuments.

by Henry Brugsch-Bey (1827-1894)

A26

We will consider the contents of the stone inscription (fourteen feet high, placed directly on the breast of the gigantic form of the sphinx at Gizeh).

The inscription begins: "In the year 1, in the month Athyr, on the nineteenth day," and here follow the name of the king, and sentences in honor of the new ruler who had just ascended the throne of Egypt. Then follows literally:

"On one of these days it happened when the Prince Thutmes was come on his wandering about the time of mid-day, and had stretched himself to rest in the shade of the great god, that sleep overtook him.

He dreamt in his slumber at the moment when the sun was in the zenith, and it seemed to him as though this great god spoke to him with his own mouth, just as a father speaks to his son, since he thus spoke:

"Behold me, look at me, thou, my son Thutmes. I am thy father Hormakhu, Khepra, Ra, Room. The kingdom shall be given to thee. . . And thou shalt wear the white crown and the red crown on the chair of the earth-god Seb, the youngest (among the gods). The earth shall be thine in its length and in its breadth as far as the light of the eye of the lord of Alls shines; plenty and riches shall be thine; the best from the interior of the land, and rich tributes from all nations; long years shall be granted thee as thy term of life. My countenance is gracious



towards thee, and my heart clings to thee; I will give the best of all things.

The sand of the district in which I have my existence has covered me up. Promise me that thou will do what I my hear wish; then will I acknowledge that thou art my son, that thou art my helper. Come on; let me be united to thee.'

"After this (Thutmes awoke, and he repeated all these speeches) and he recognized (the meaning) of the words of the god and laid them up in his heart, speaking thus with himself: 'I see how the inhabitants of the temple of the city honor this god with sacrificial gifts (without thinking of freeing from sand the work of King) Khafra, the statue which was made to Toom-Harmakhu. . .!'"

Although the following lines of this inscription are entirely destroyed, yet it was not too difficult to guess the conclusion of the narrative.

When Thutmes IV came to the throne, he thought it incumbent on him, as a holy duty of gratitude, to keep the promise made to Hormakhu; he cleared away the sand and freed the whole gigantic body of the sphinx. After this had been done, in the very first days of his reign, the memorial stone of the nineteenth of Athyr in the first year of the reign of Thutmes IV was at once erected on the spot.

