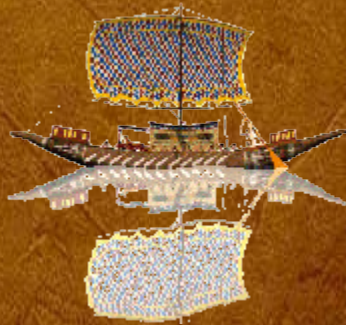
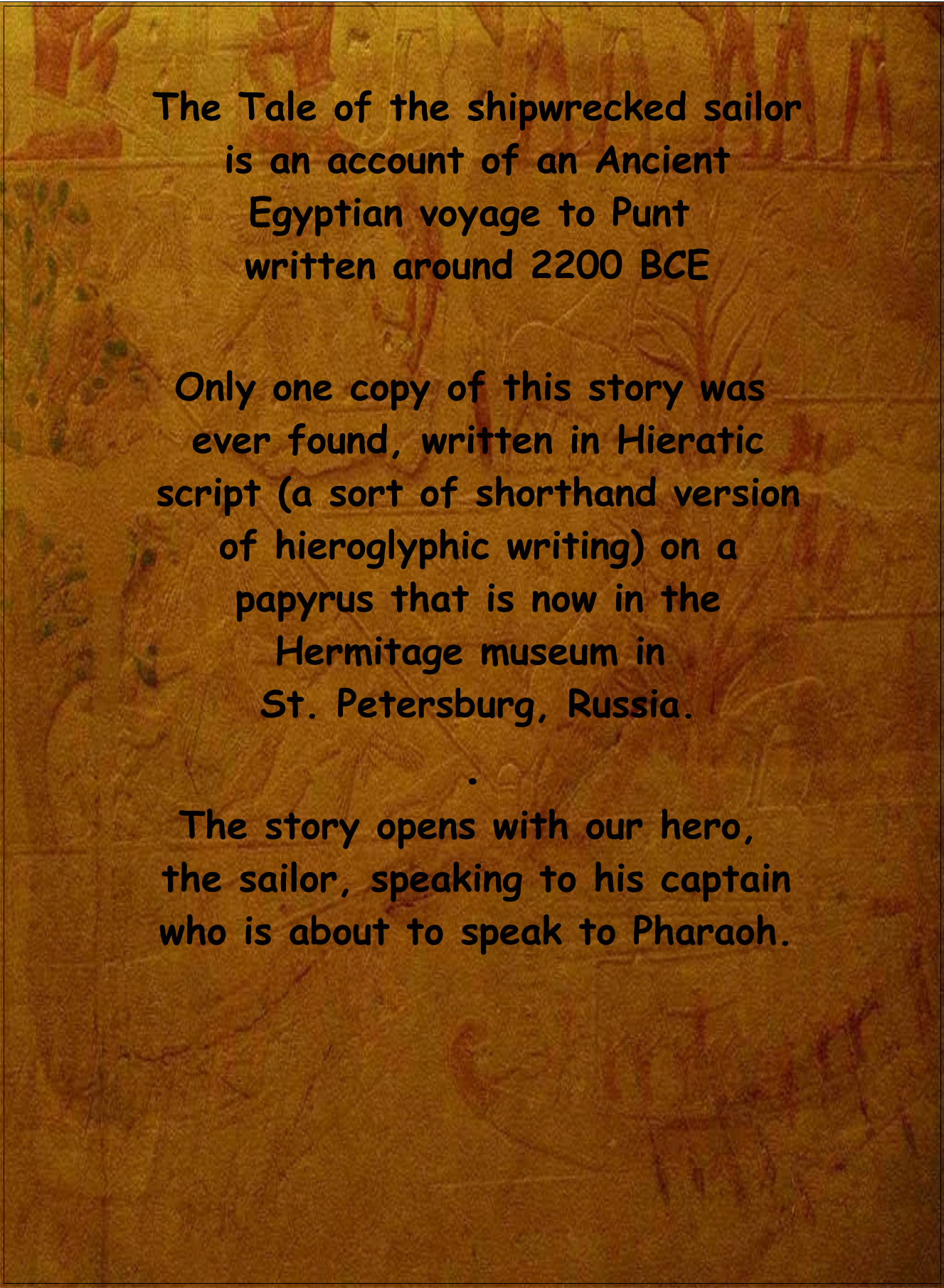


# Tales of Ancient Egypt



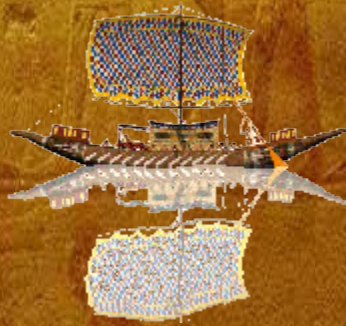
## The Shipwrecked Sailor (2200 BCE)



The Tale of the shipwrecked sailor  
is an account of an Ancient  
Egyptian voyage to Punt  
written around 2200 BCE

Only one copy of this story was  
ever found, written in Hieratic  
script (a sort of shorthand version  
of hieroglyphic writing) on a  
papyrus that is now in the  
Hermitage museum in  
St. Petersburg, Russia.

The story opens with our hero,  
the sailor, speaking to his captain  
who is about to speak to Pharaoh.

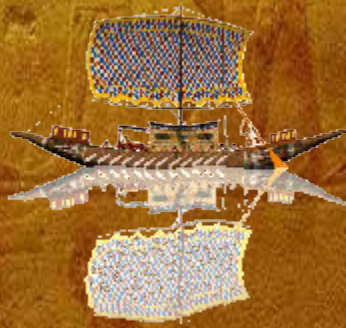


The wise servant said, "Let thy heart be satisfied, O my lord, for that we have come back to the country; after we have been long on board, and rowed much, the prow has at last touched land. All the people rejoice and embrace us one after another.

Moreover, we have come back in good health, and not a man is lacking;

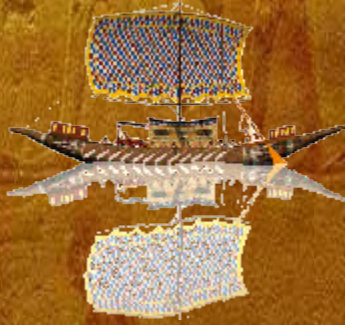
although we have been to the ends of Wawat [Nubia], and gone through the land of Senmut [Kush], we have returned in peace, and our land---behold, we have come back to it. Hear me, my lord;

I have no other refuge. Wash thee, and turn the water over thy fingers; then go and tell the tale to the majesty."



His lord replied, "Thy heart continues still its wandering words! But although the mouth of a man may save him. His words may also cover his face with confusion. Will you do then as your heart moves you? This that you will say, tell quietly."

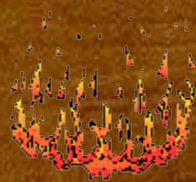
The sailor then answered, "Now I shall tell that which has happened to me, to my very self. I was going to the mines of Pharaoh, and I went down on the sea in a ship of one hundred and fifty cubits long and forty cubits wide, with one hundred and fifty sailors of the best of Egypt who had seen heaven and earth, and whose hearts were stronger than lions. They had said that the wind would not be contrary, or that there would be none. But as we approached the land, the wind arose, and threw up waves eight cubits high.

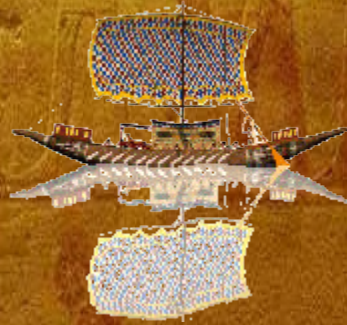


As for me, I seized a piece of wood; but those who were in the vessel perished, without one remaining. A wave threw me on an island, after that I had been three days alone, without a companion beside my own heart.

I laid me in a thicket, and the shadow covered me. Then stretched I my limbs to try to find something for my mouth. I found there figs and grain, melons of all kinds, fishes, and birds. Nothing was lacking. And I satisfied myself; and left on the ground that which was over, of what my arms had been filled withal.

I dug a pit, I lighted a fire, and I made a burnt offering unto the gods.



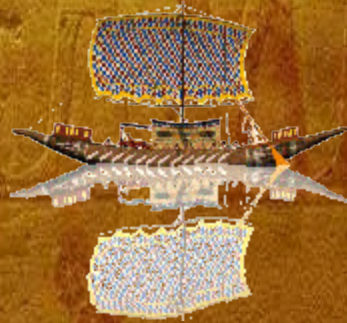


"Suddenly I heard a noise as of thunder, which I thought to be that of a wave of the sea. The trees shook, and the earth was moved. I uncovered my face, and I saw that a serpent drew near.



He was thirty cubits long, and his beard greater than two cubits; his body was as overlaid with gold, and his color as that of true lazuli.

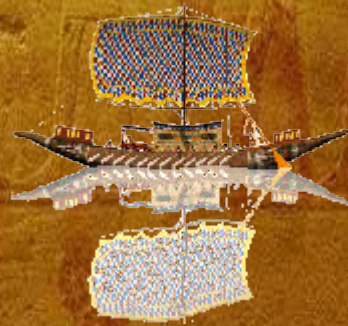
He coiled himself before me. "Then he opened his mouth, while that I lay on my face before him, and he said to me, "What has brought you, what has brought you, little one, what has brought you?"



If you say not speedily  
what has brought you  
to this isle, I will make  
you know yourself; as a  
flame you shall vanish,  
if you tell me not  
something I have not  
heard, or which I knew not, before you.'

"Then he took me in his mouth and carried me  
to his resting-place, and laid me down without  
any hurt. I was whole and sound, and nothing  
was gone from me.

Then he opened his mouth against me, while  
that I lay on my face before him, and he said,  
"What has brought you, what has brought you,  
little one, what has brought you to this isle  
which is in the sea, and of which the shores  
are in the midst of the waves?'



"Then I replied to him, and holding my arms low before him, I said to him, "I was embarked for the mines by the order of the majesty, in a ship, one hundred and fifty cubits was its length, and the width of it forty cubits.

It had one hundred and fifty sailors of the best of Egypt, who had seen heaven and earth, and the hearts of whom were stronger than lions. They said that the wind would not be contrary, or that there would be none. Each of them exceeded his companion in the prudence of his heart and the strength of his arm, and I was not beneath any of them.

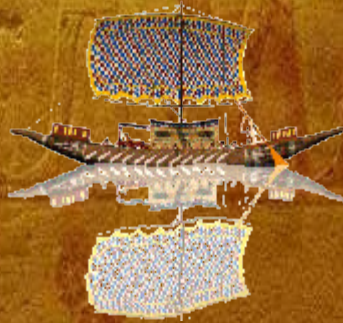
A storm came upon us while we were on the sea. Hardly could we reach to the shore when the wind waxed yet greater, and the waves rose even eight cubits.



As for me, I seized a piece of wood, while those who were in the boat perished without one being left with me for three days. Behold me now before you, for I was brought to this isle by a wave of the sea.'

"Then said he to me, "Fear not, fear not, little one, and make not your face sad. If you have come to me, it is God who has let you live. For it is He who has brought you to this isle of the blest, where nothing is lacking, and which is filled with all good things.

See now, you shall pass one month after another, until you shall be four months in this isle. Then a ship shall come from your land with sailors, and you shall leave with them and go to your country, and you shall die in your town.'



"Converse is pleasing, and he who tastes of it passes over his misery. I will therefore tell you of that which is in this isle.

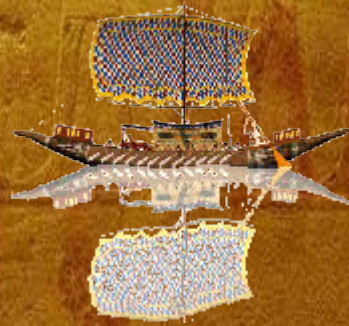


I am here with my brethren and my children around me; we are seventy-five serpents, children, and kindred; without naming a young

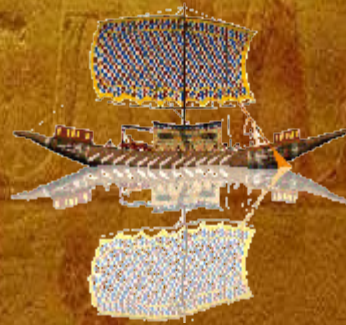


girl who was brought unto me by chance, and on whom the fire of heaven fell, and burned her to ashes.

As for you, if you are strong, and if your heart waits patiently, you shall press your infants to your bosom and embrace your wife. You shall return to your house which is full of all good things, you shall see your land, where you shall dwell in the midst of your kindred.'

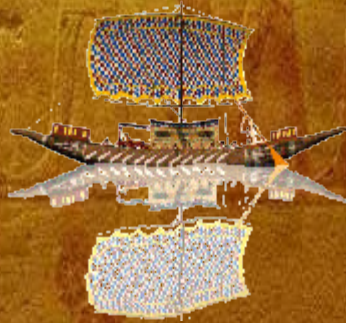


# THE FAREWELL



"Then I bowed in my obeisance, and I touched the ground before him.

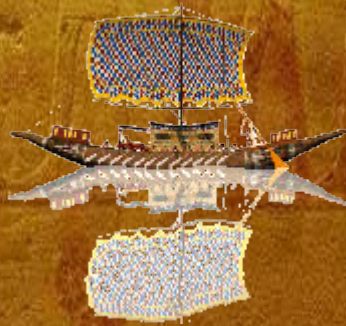
"Behold now that which I have told you before. I shall tell of your presence unto Pharaoh, I shall make him to know of your greatness, and I will bring to you of the sacred oils and perfumes, and of incense of the temples with which all gods are honored. I shall tell, moreover, of that which I do now see (thanks to him), and there shall be rendered to you praises before the fullness of all the land. I shall slay asses for you in sacrifice, I shall pluck for you the birds, and I shall bring for you ships full of all kinds of the treasures of Egypt, as is comely to do unto a god, a friend of men in a far country, of which men know not.'



"Then he smiled at my speech, because of that which was in his heart, for he said to me: "You are not rich in perfumes, for all that you have is but common incense.

As for me, I am prince of the land of Punt, and I have perfumes. Only the oil which you say you would bring is not common in this isle. But, when you shall depart from this place, you shall never more see this isle; it shall be changed into waves.'

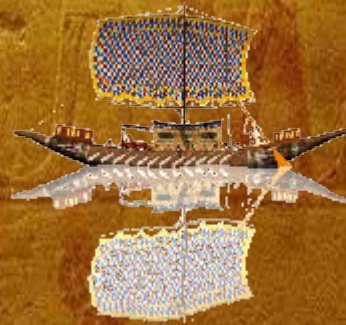
"And behold, when the ship drew near, according to all that he had told me before, I got up into an high tree, to strive to see those who were within it. Then I came and told to him this matter, but it was already known unto him before.



Then he said to me,  
"Farewell, farewell, go  
to your house, little  
one, see again your  
children, and let your  
name be good in your  
town; these are my  
wishes for you.'

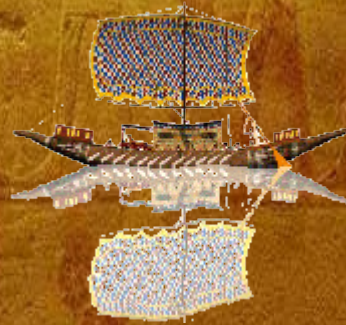
"Then I bowed myself before him, and held my  
arms low before him, and he, he gave me gifts  
of precious perfumes, of cassia, of sweet  
woods, of kohl, of cypress, an abundance of  
incense, of ivory tusks, of baboons, of apes,  
and all kinds of precious things.

I embarked all in the ship which was come, and  
bowing myself, I prayed God for him.



Then he said to me, "Behold you shall come to your country in two months, you shall press to your bosom your children, and you shall rest in your tomb.' After this I went down to the shore unto the ship, and I called to the sailors who were there. Then on the shore I rendered adoration to the master of this isle and to those who dwelt therein.

"When we shall come, in our return, to the house of Pharaoh, in the second month, according to all that the serpent has said, we shall approach unto the palace. And I shall go in before Pharaoh, I shall bring the gifts which I have brought from this isle into the country.

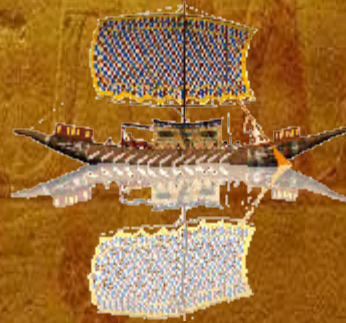


Then he shall thank me before the fullness of the land. Grant then unto me a follower, and lead me to the courtiers of the king.

Cast your eye upon me after that I have both seen and proved this. Hear my prayer, for it is good to listen to people. It was said unto me, "Become a wise man, and you shall come to honor," and behold I have become such."

This is finished from its beginning unto its end, even as it was found in a writing.

It is written by the scribe of cunning fingers, Ameni-amenaar; may he live in life, wealth, and health!



### NOW FOR THE FUN PART

This story was written in fairly clear Hieratic, whose style is close to being a norm for the Middle Kingdom.

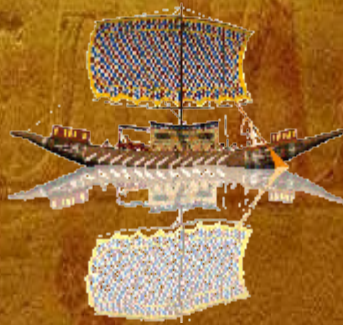
Its language is also pretty standard Middle Egyptian, with little or no evidence of Late Egyptianisms.

Most of the language and vocabulary is straightforward, although there are a few passages that have scholars arguing still!

The text is written from right to left.

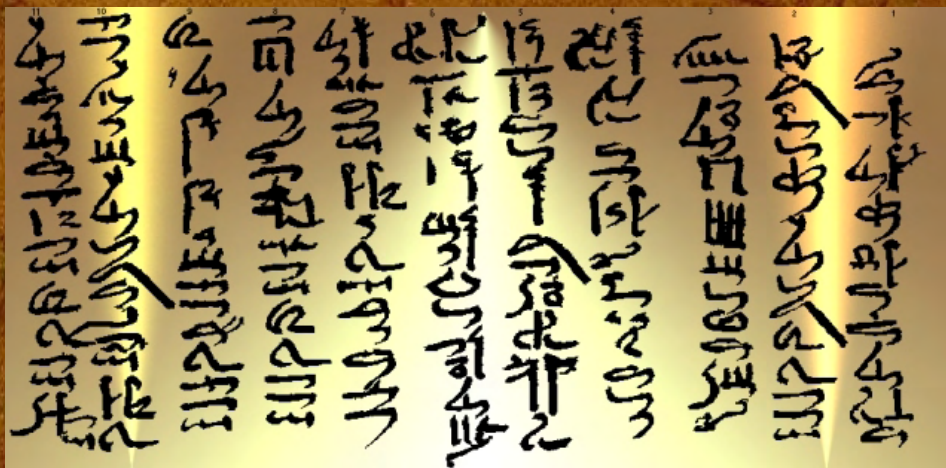
The first nine pages are written in columns, as is the last page also. The rest is written in horizontal lines, also from right to left.

So here is the story in  
Hieratic and Hieroglyphic  
Have fun reading it!



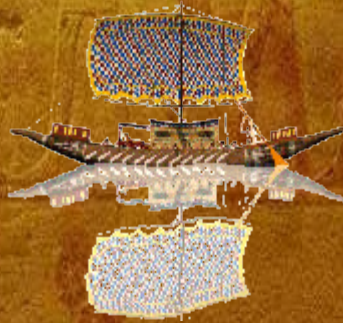
PAGE 1

### Hieratic



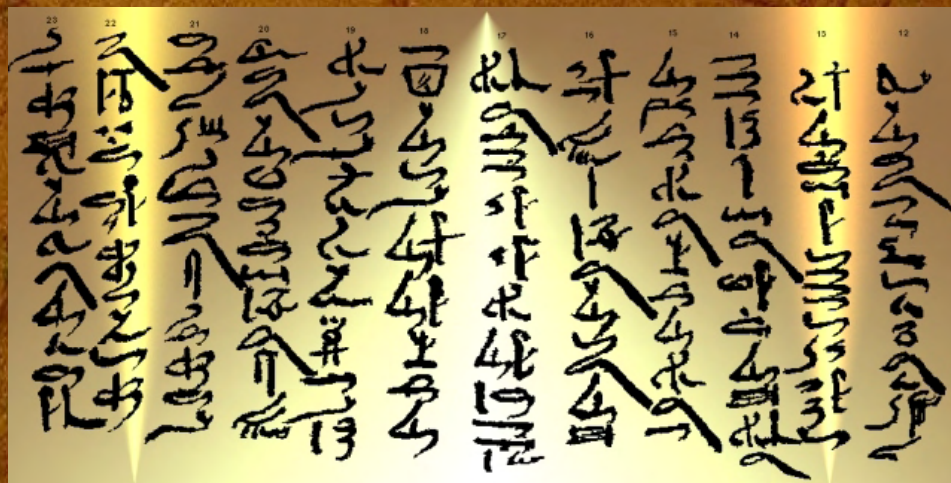
### Hieroglyphic Transcription





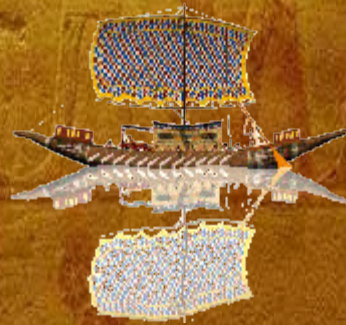
PAGE 2

## Hieratic



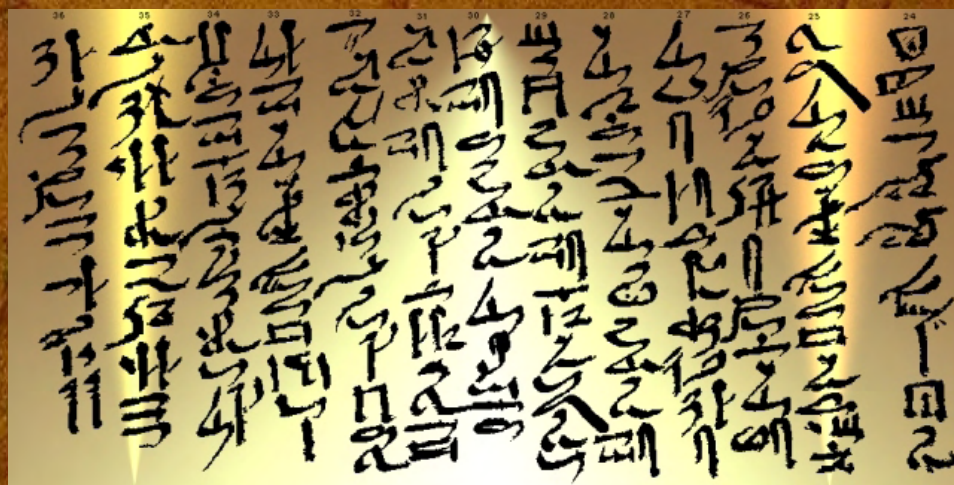
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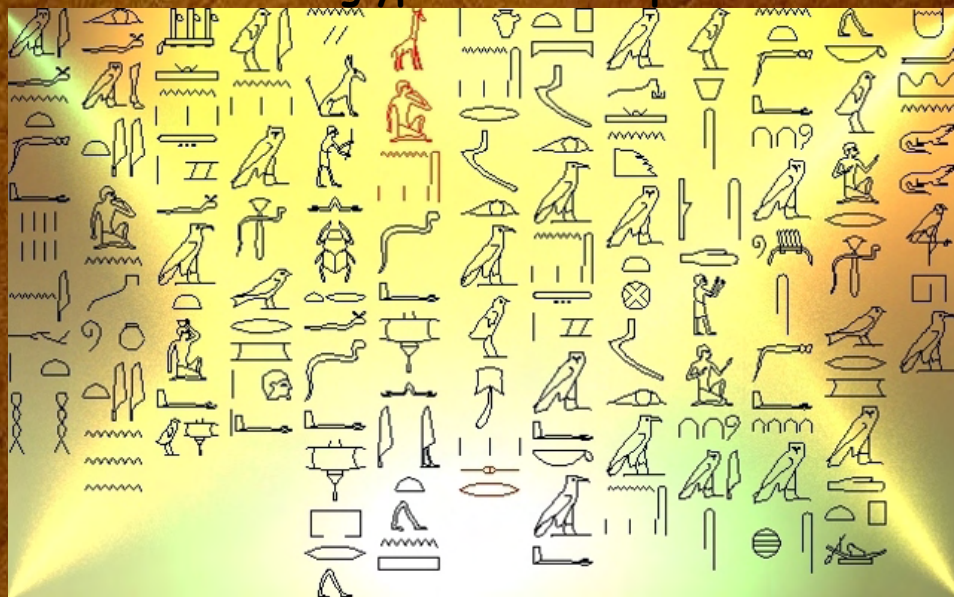


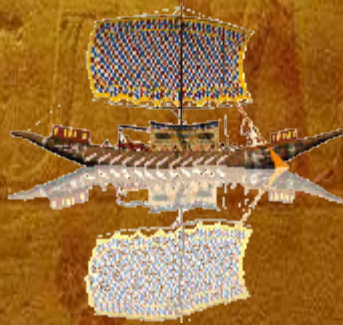
PAGE 3

### Hieratic



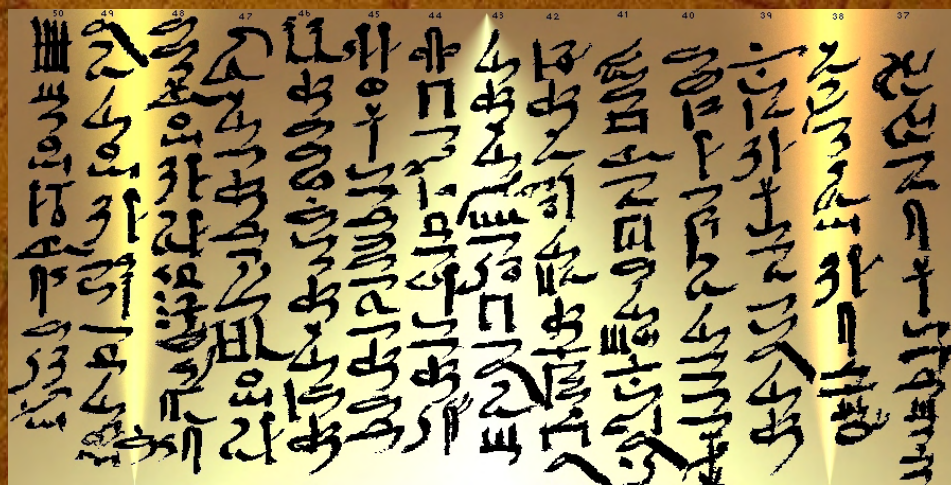
### Hieroglyphic Transcription



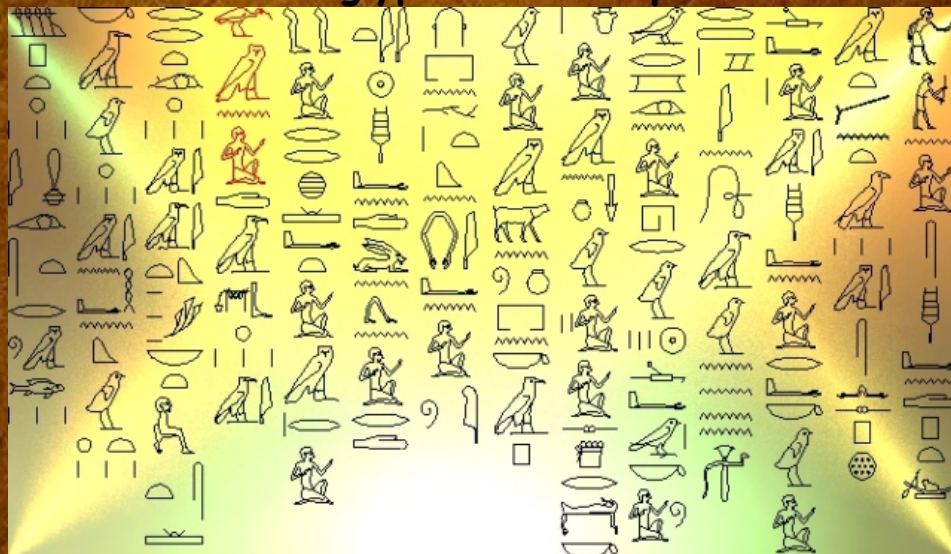


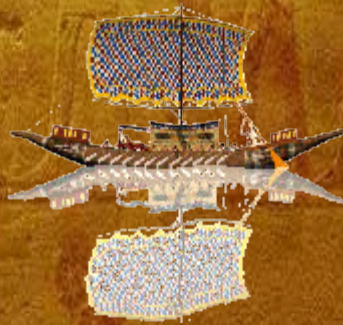
PAGE 4

### Hieratic



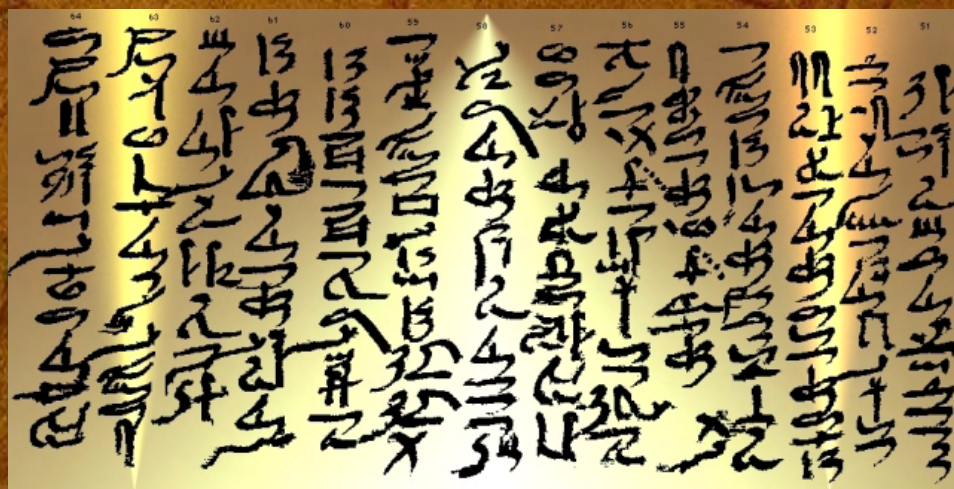
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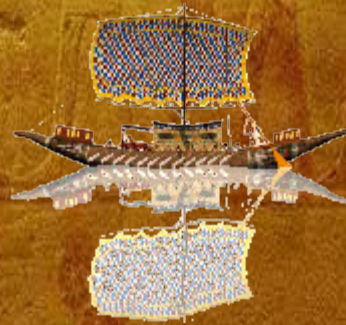
PAGE 5

### Hieratic



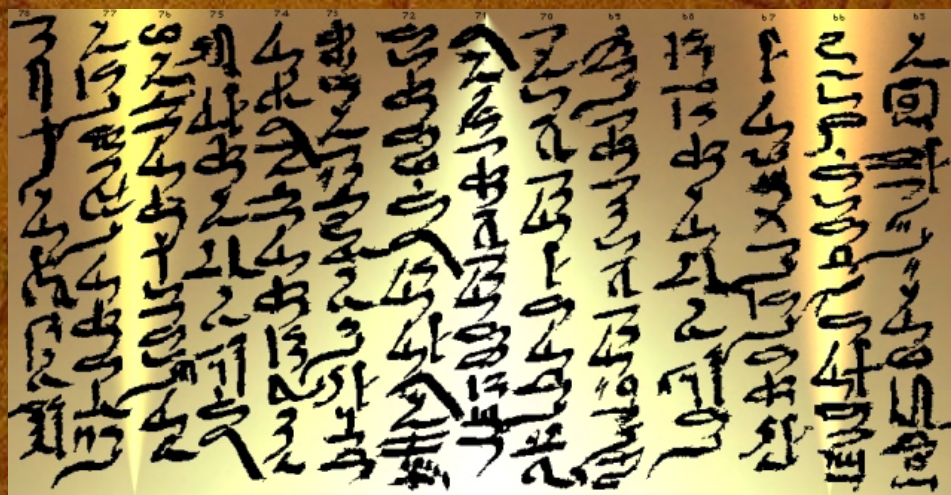
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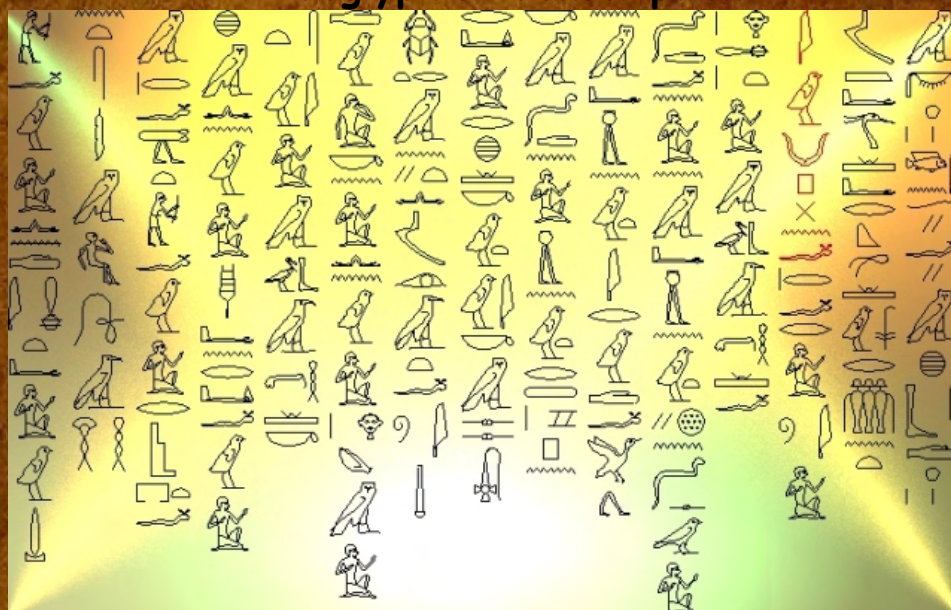


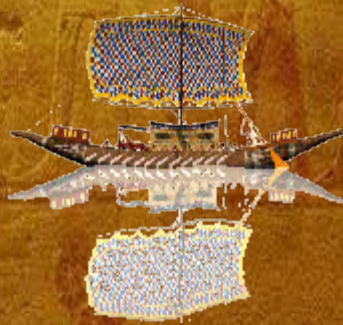
PAGE 6

### Hieratic



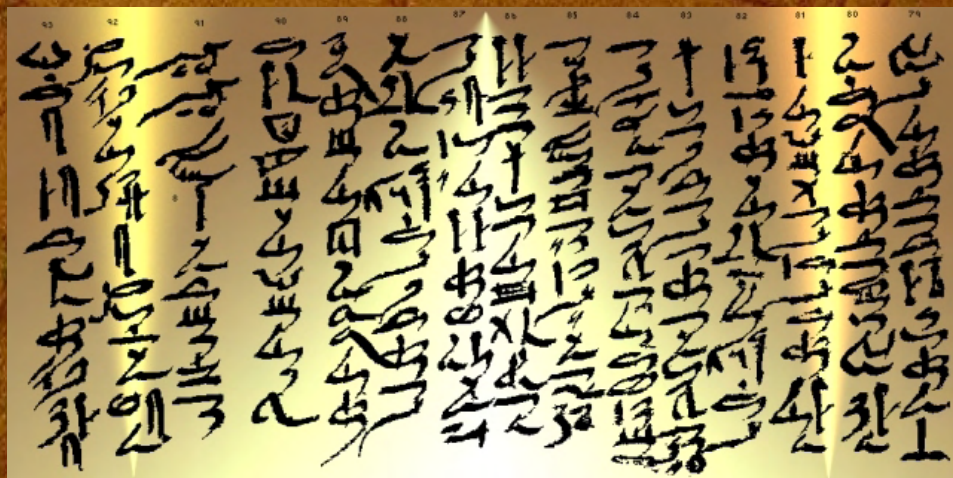
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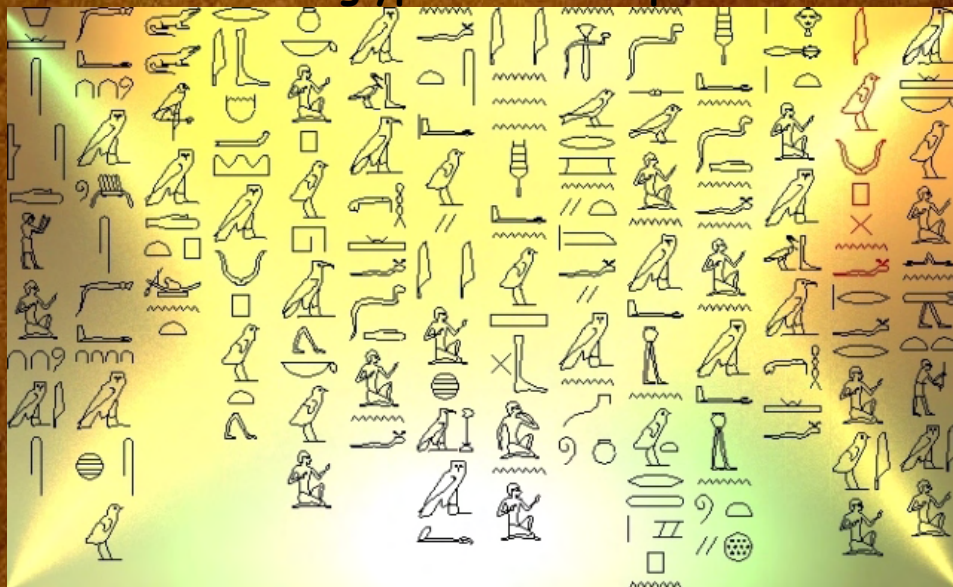


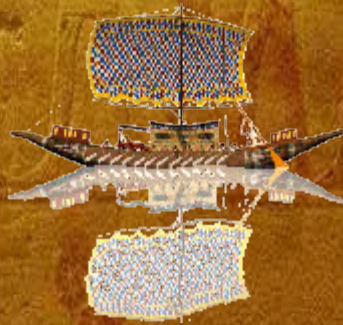
PAGE 7

### Hieratic



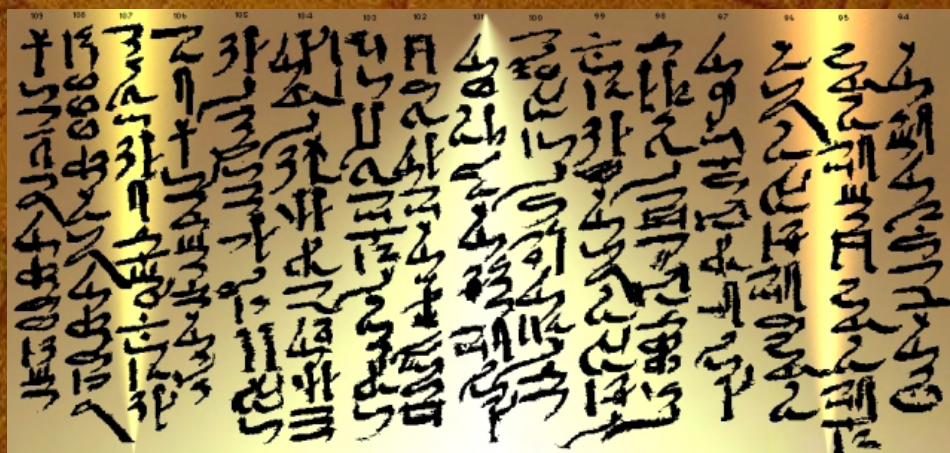
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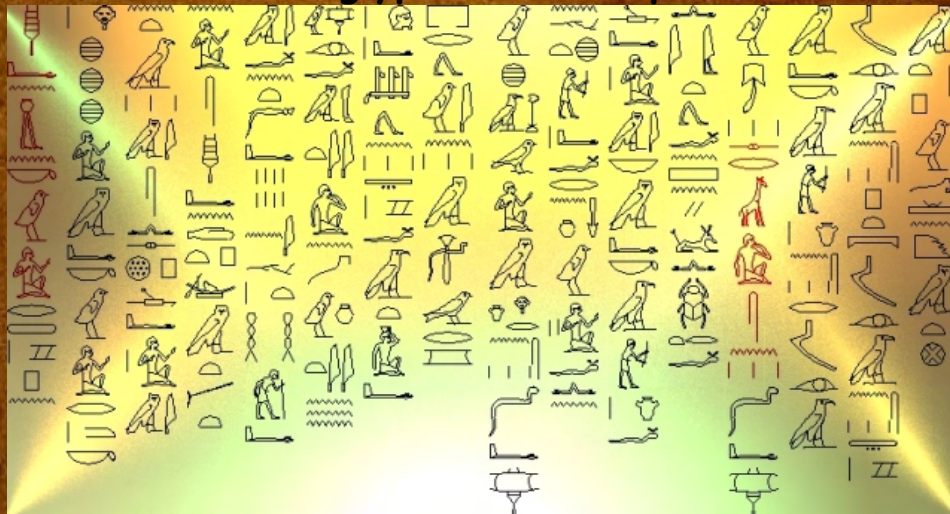


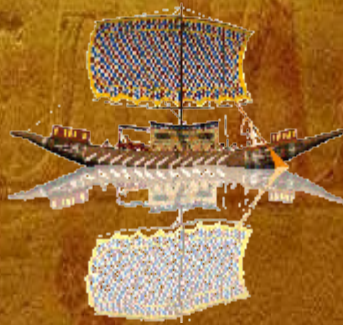
PAGE 8

### Hieratic



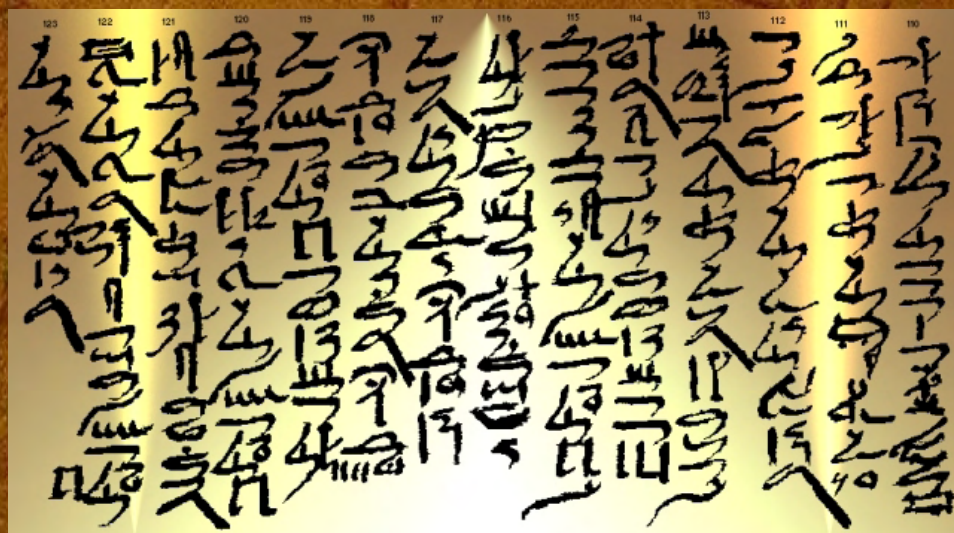
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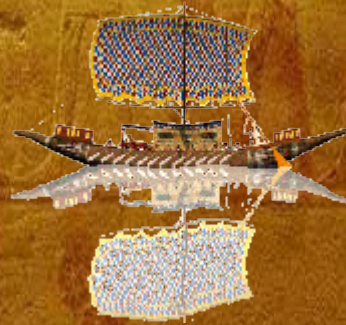
PAGE 9

### Hieratic



### Hieroglyphic Transcription





PAGE 10

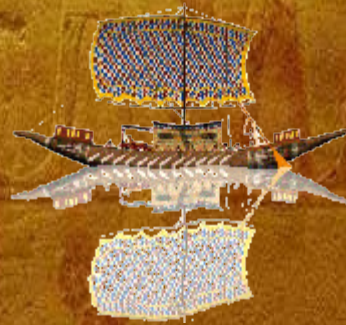
### Hieratic

124  
125  
126  
127  
128  
129  
130  
131  
132

Handwritten Hieratic script, consisting of cursive, stylized characters arranged in approximately 10 horizontal lines. The script is dense and difficult to decipher without specialized knowledge.

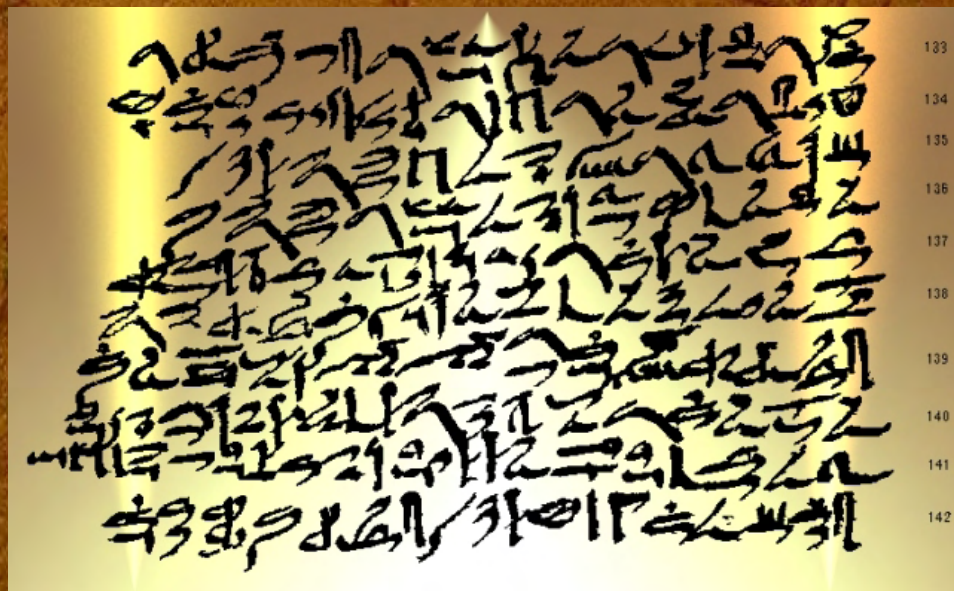
### Hieroglyphic Transcription

Handwritten Hieroglyphic transcription, consisting of stylized, pictorial characters arranged in approximately 10 horizontal lines. The characters are more recognizable than the Hieratic script, though still highly stylized and difficult to decipher without specialized knowledge.

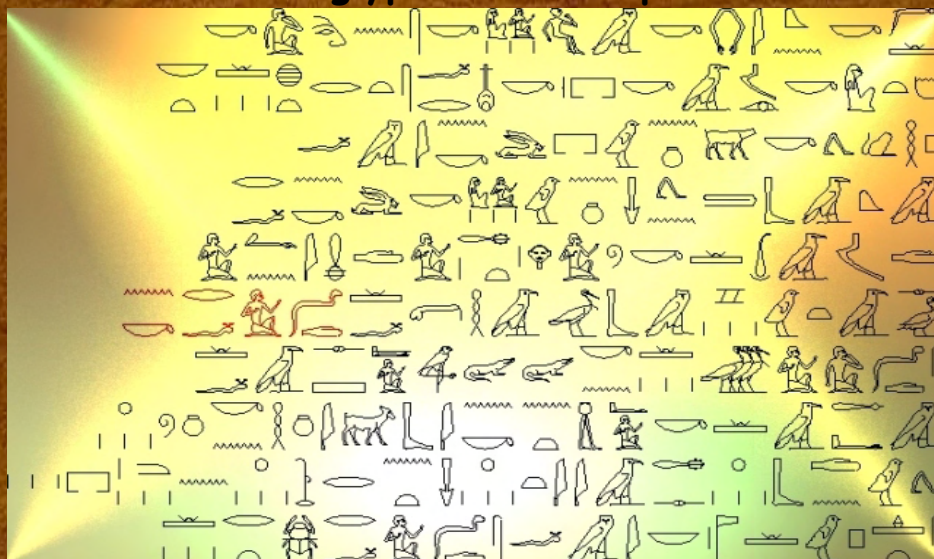


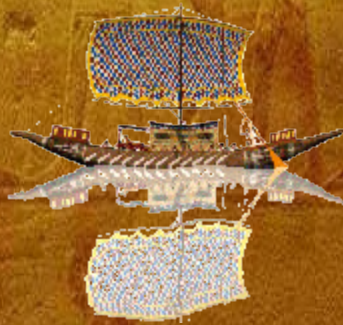
PAGE 11

### Hieratic



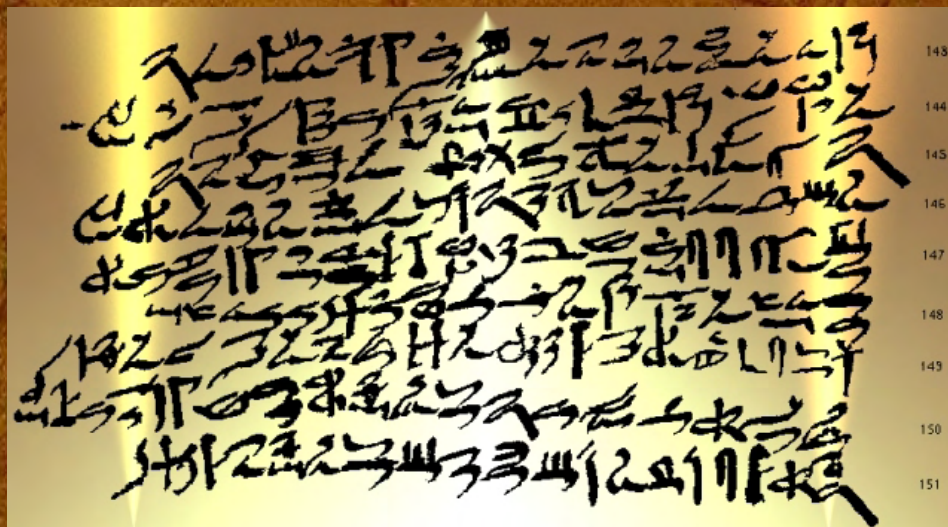
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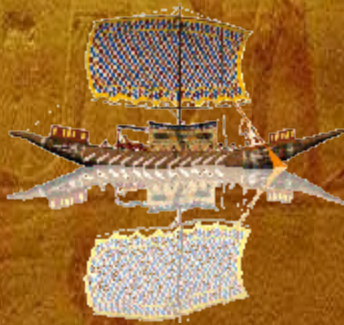
PAGE 12

### Hieratic



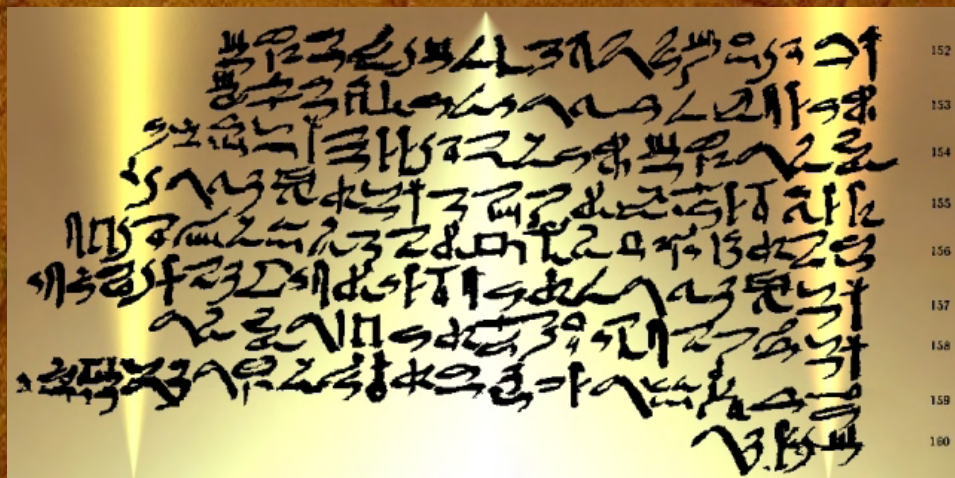
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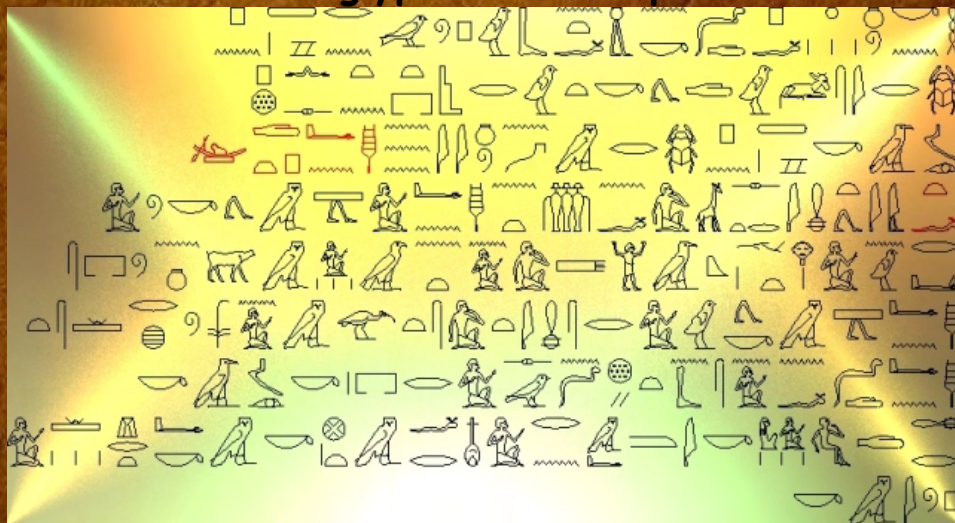


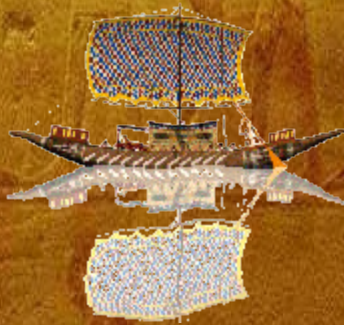
PAGE 13

### Hieratic



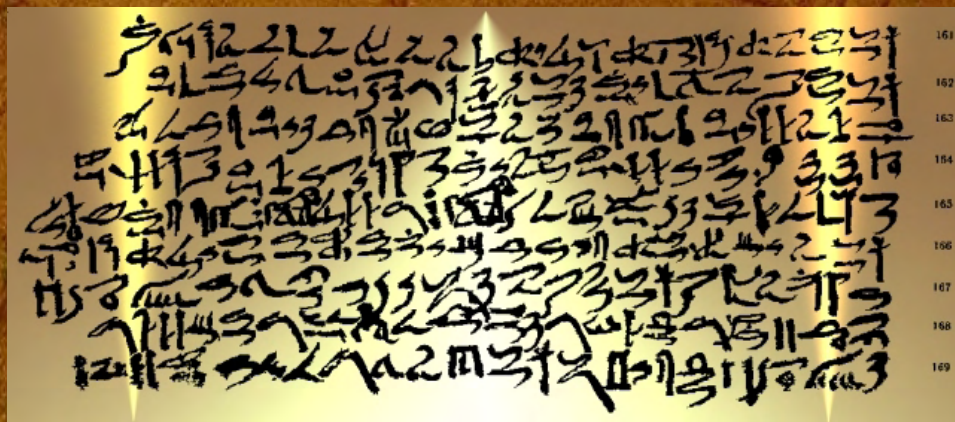
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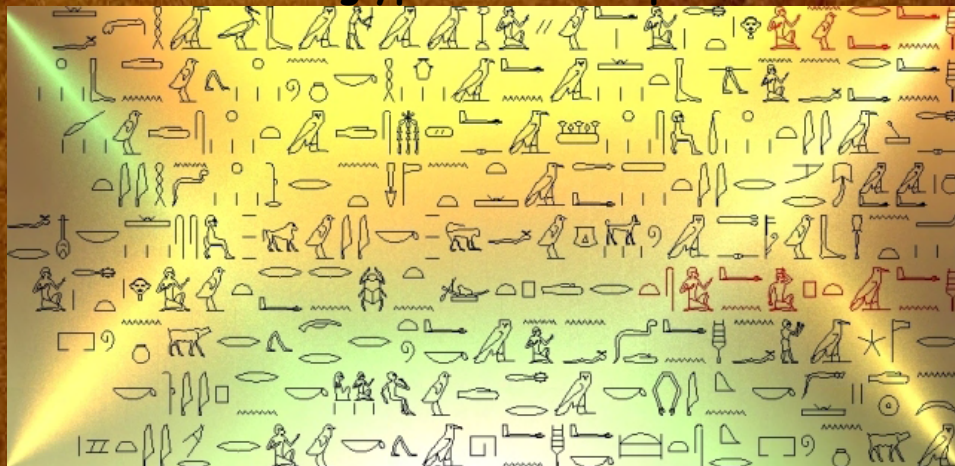


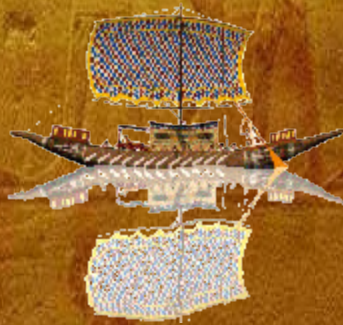
PAGE 14

### Hieratic



### Hieroglyphic Transcription





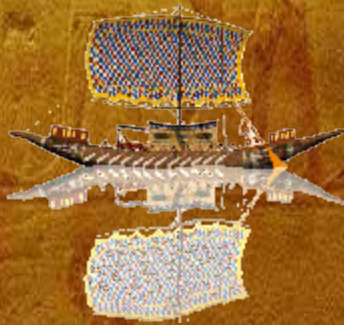
PAGE 15

### Hieratic

Handwritten hieratic script, likely a transcription of the text on the previous page. The script is written in black ink on a light background. The text is arranged in several lines, with some characters appearing to be in a different script or dialect. The lines are numbered on the right side: 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, and 176.

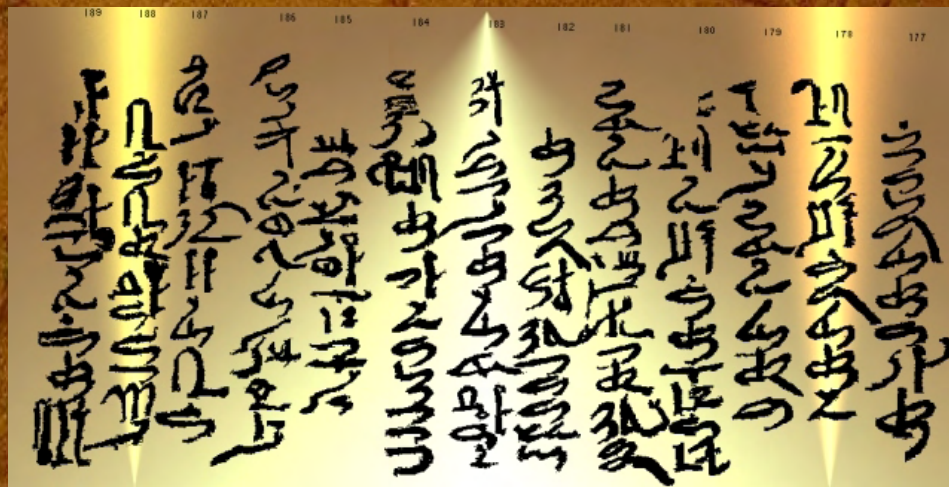
### Hieroglyphic Transcription





PAGE 16

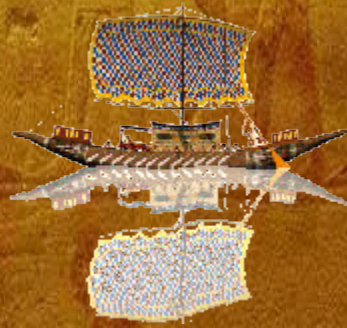
## Hieratic



## Hieroglyphic Transcription







**My tale is done..  
hope you had some fun!**

**Join the Fearless Crew on  
all our adventures!**

**This book brought to you by:  
Captain Bootsie's Magic Time Portal to Adventure  
<http://www.cptbootsiesmagictimeportal.com/>**

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