

A Stela of *Ipi* from Louvre Museum

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Abstract

This article aims to study a round-topped stela that belongs to *Ipi*. The stela was found in North Abydos El-Araba el-Madfouna, it is used to be preserved in Bibliothèque Nationale Museum with the number n. 21 and is preserved now in Louvre Museum with the number C 290 [E 13049/ CM 34]. It is on display on the Salle 636. *Ipi* of this stela does not show any relatives or personal titles. The main text of the stela is quoted from PT 25 and CT 936, although there are other similarities with other spells in both PT and CT texts. This article aims to compare between the in-question text and the original PT utterance and CT Spell to clarify these similarities while focusing on the differentiations between these variants. The in-question stela is difficult to date; especially that *Ipi* does not show any titles to clarify his personality. It has a projecting socket like another Middle Kingdom stela with the number CCG 20520.

Keywords

Ipi; Stela; Middle Kingdom; Louvre Museum; PT; CT; C 290.

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لوحة إيبى من متحف اللوفر

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الملخص

يهدف البحث إلى دراسة لوحة ذات قمة مستديرة تنتمي إلى إيبى. عثر على اللوحة في شمال أبيدوس في منطقة العراية المدفونة، ثم حُفظت في متحف المكتبة الوطنية الفرنسية تحت رقم ٢١، وهي محفوظة حالياً في متحف اللوفر تحت رقم C 290 [E 13049/ CM 34]، في صالة رقم ٦٣٦. إيبى في هذه اللوحة لا يُظهر أي أقرباء أو ألقاب شخصية. النص الرئيسي للوحة مقتبس من نصوص الأهرام فقرة رقم PT 25 ونصوص التوابيت فقرة رقم CT 936، إلا أنه هناك بعض التشابهات بين النص وبين تعاويذ أخرى في نصوص الأهرام ونصوص التوابيت. يهدف البحث إلى مقارنة النص محل الدراسة والتعاويذ الأصلية في نصوص الأهرام ونصوص التوابيت من أجل إيضاح هذه التشابهات بجانب التركيز على الاختلافات بين هذه النصوص المتباينة. يصعب تأريخ اللوحة محل الدراسة، خاصة مع عدم ظهور أية ألقاب شخصية لصاحب اللوحة إيبى في تحديد شخصيته. تحمل اللوحة اسقاطاً مشابهاً للنص في لوحة الدولة الوسطى المحفوظة في متحف القاهرة بالتحديد تحت رقم CCG20520.

الكلمات الدالة

إيبى؛ لوحة؛ الدولة الوسطى؛ متحف اللوفر؛ نصوص الأهرام؛ نصوص التوابيت؛ C 290.

3. The Owner of the Stela (B):

In the upper register there is the depiction of a large figure of the owner of the stela facing right, wearing a short bag wig that covers his ears¹, it is not clear if he is wearing a collar or not, although it seems that he is wearing a kilt². He is sitting on a chair with a low backrest not covered by a scarf with no arms, with leonine feet set on the usual truncated supports³, which is common in the Middle Kingdom stelae. The deceased is holding his left hand to his chest and stretching the other hand towards an offering table in the common shape as *h3wt*, heaped with offerings, which are represented at a large scale⁴.

4. The main Text (C):

Franke⁵ noted that the text has a projecting socket like CCG 20520. The hieroglyphic text consists of 11 vertical lines, read from right to left, as follows:

4.1. The *htp-di-nswt* formula:


The first 2 lines include the *htp-di-nswt* offering formula as follows:



(1) *htp-di-(n)sw(t) Wsir nb ddw ntr 3 nb 3bdw* (2) *prr-hrw (m) t hnkt ihw 3pdw ss mnht ht nb(t) nfr(t) w^cb(t) nh.ti ntr im n im3hy Ipi*

(1) A royal offering^(a) (of) Osiris^(b), lord of Busiris, the great god^(c), lord of Abydos, (2) (he gives) invocation offering^(d): (as) bread, beer, oxen, fowl, clothes, alabaster, and every beautiful and pure thing that the god lives on there^(e) for the favored^(f) *Ipi*”

4.1.1. Commentary:

(a) The *htp-di-(n)swt* formula appears in this column in the Middle kingdom usual form as . In this stela this formula appeared in the Type II formation as Franke’s classification⁶, this form was used most at the end of the 12th dynasty⁷.

¹ Freed 1976: 59.

² Michel 1985: 217-228.

³ Killen 1994: 37; Donovan and McCorquodale 2000: 133.

⁴ Scott 1965: 129-150.

⁵ Franke 2003a: 116.

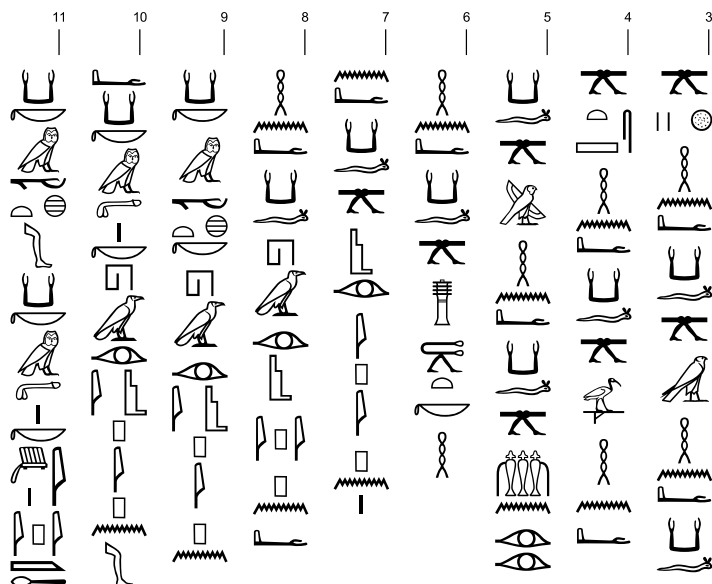
⁶ Franke 2003b: 54-55.

⁷ Eltoukhy 2020: 1584.

- (b) The determinative A 40 is often used in the early 12th dynasty, and usually dropped later¹.
- (c) It was used in rarely examples during Middle kingdom until the 12th dynasty², it was also added in the combination of Osiris titles under the reign of Sesostri I³.
- (d) Bennett noted that *pṛt-hrw* was commonly used during the 11th Dynasty, then the *di.f pṛt-hrw* “he may give an invocation offering” was preferred since 12th Dynasty⁴, hence, in the in-question text, *pṛt-hrw* was used alone with omitting of *di.f*⁵.
- (e) The first known mentioning of *ḥn.ti ntr im* formula is under the reign of Senowsret I⁶.
- (f) *n im3hy* without *n k3 n* was not commonly used within the *ḥtp-di-nswt* formula after the early Middle Kingdom⁷

4.2. The quoted part of the text:

The quoted text from the religious texts continues as:



(3) *si si ḥnᶜ k3.f si Hr ḥnᶜ k3.f* (4) *si Stš ḥnᶜ k3.f si Dḥwty ḥnᶜ* (5) *k3.f si Dwn-ᶜnwy ḥnᶜ k3.f si Hnt-irty* (6) *ḥnᶜ k3.f si.ti ddk* (7) *ḥnᶜ k3.f si Wsir Ipi pn* (8) *ḥnᶜ k3.f h3 Wsir Ipi pn ᶜ* (9) *k3.k m-ḥt.k h3 Wsir Ipi pn* (10) *ᶜ k3.k m-b3h.k h3 Wsir Ipi pn rd* (11) *k3.k m-ḥt.k rd k3.k m-b3h.k im3h Ipi*

¹ Bennett 1941: 78.

² Bennett 1941: 78.

³ Bennett 1941: 79-80; Baines 1983: 13–28; Derchain-Urtel 1997: 52; Saied 2002: 1058 no. 25; Leitz 2002b: 395; Eltoukhy 2021: 3.

⁴ Bennett 1941: 77-78; Clère 1961: 778f.

⁵ Stefanovic 2010: 314.

⁶ Bennett 1941: 80; Bazin and El-Enany 2010: 2-3; El-Shal 2016: 458 figs. 1-2; Vernus 1991: 149; Leprohon 1996: 524-25, figs. 1-2; Ilin-Tomich 2011: 26.

⁷ Bennett 1941: 79; Ilin-Tomich 2017: 31; Rosati 1980: 270.

“(3) He goes¹ who goes with his *ka*, Horus goes with his *ka* (4) Seth goes with his *ka*, Thoth goes with his *ka* (5) *Dwn-ꜥnwy* (the wing spreader)² goes with his *ka*, He-with-two-Eyes³ goes (6) with his *ka*. May you likewise go with his *ka*, goes with (7) his *ka*, this deceased *Ipi* goes (8) with his *ka*. O This deceased *Ipi*, the arm (9) of your *ka* is behind you. O this deceased *Ipi*, (10) the arm of your *ka* is before you. O this deceased *Ipi*, the leg of (11) your *ka* is behind you, the leg of your *ka* is before you, the revered *Ipi*”


4.2.1. Commentary:

The rest of the text in lines (3-11) is fully quoted from PT, and CT, as follows:

4.2.1.1. PT:

The full text is quoted from PT 25, although parts of the utterance were repeatedly occurred in PT 447, 450, and 568, as follows:

4.2.1.1.1. PT 25 §17a-18b (N):

The text in PT 25 §17a -18b appeared in five different variants; 3 from W and the other 2 from N, the below text is the only one that shows the name of Seth in the same writing as the in-question stela as , as follows:



(N333) *dd-mdw si si ḥnꜥ k3.f si Hr ḥnꜥ k3.f si Stš ḥnꜥ k3.f si Dḥwty ḥnꜥ k3.f* (N334) *si ntr ḥnꜥ k3.f si Wsir ḥnꜥ k3.f si Hnt-irty ḥnꜥ k3.f* (N335) *si.ti ddk ḥnꜥ k3.k h3 N ʕ k3.k m-b3ḥ.k* (N336) *h3 N ʕ k3.k m-ḥt.k h3 N rd k3.k m-b3ḥ.k* (N337) *h3 N rd k3.k ḥt.k*

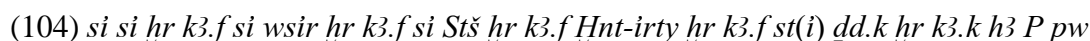
¹ I preferred to read this verb as *sbi* instead of *si*, that the same verb appeared throughout the PT texts followed by the sign *b* and until the greco-roman period cf. Wb III, 429. 10

² This God's name appeared since the old kingdom cf. Leitz 2002c: 525-526; Kamel 2017: 381-396




³ It differs from *imi-ḥnt-n-irty* cf. Leitz 2002a: 394 ff

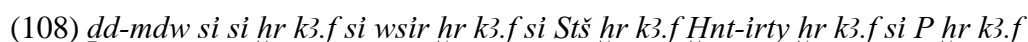
4.2.1.1.2. PT 447 §826a-827a (P):

The text in PT 447 §826a-827a appeared in three different variants; P, M, and N; the text in P is much more typical to the in-question text; it doesn't show *dd-mdw* at the beginning, the writing of *Hnt-irty* came in M as *Mhnt-n-irty*, although the three variants doesn't show *dd.k* in an identical writing, the text in P reads as:



4.2.1.1.3. PT 450 §832-833a (P):

appeared as  in P, as  in M, and as  in N., the most typical writing

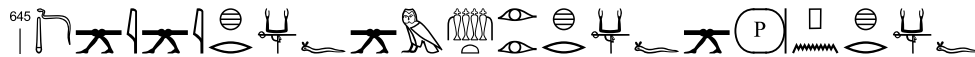


³ Hays 2012: 525; 592.

“(108) Recitation: The one who would go is gone to his *ka*: Osiris is gone to his *ka*: Seth is gone to his *ka*: Khentirti is gone to his *ka*: let Pepi go to his *ka*”¹

4.2.1.1.4. PT 568 §1431a-b (P):

The text in PT 568 §1431a-b appeared in only two variants; P and N, although the text in N is almost completely damaged, so it is impossible to compare with both variants in this utterance, the text in P reads as follows:



(645) *dd-mdw si si hr k3.f si Mhnt-n-irty hr k3.f si P pn hr k3.f*

“(645) Recitation: The one who would go is gone to his *ka*: Mekhentirti is gone to his *ka*. Let this Pepi go to his *ka*”²

4.2.1.2. CT:

Almost the full text is quoted from CT 821; 936, although the text order differs here that the first part of the in-question text came later in CT, as follows:

4.2.1.2.1. CT 821 (CT VII 22f-i):



(21) *si si hr k3.f* (22) *si Hr hr k3.f si Stš ih[r k3.f si Dhwtj h]r k3.f si Dwn-ḥnwy [hr k3.f si] wsir*
hr k3.f si (23) *Mhnty-n-irty hr k3.f h3 [N]*

“(21) Someone has gone to his *ka*, (22) Horus has gone to his *ka*, Seth has gone to [his *ka*, Thoth has gone] to his *ka*, Dwn-anwy has gone [to his *ka*, Osiris has gone] to his *ka*, (23) the Eyeless One has gone to his *ka*. Ho [N]!”

4.2.1.2.2. CT 936 (CT VII 142q-v):



¹ Hays 2012: 129

² Hays 2012: 525; 591

(587) *si si ḥnꜥ k3.f sb Wsir ḥnꜥ k3.f si si ḥnꜥ k3.f sb Dhwtj ḥnꜥ k3.f* (588) *si si ḥnꜥ k3.f si Stš ḥnꜥ k3.f si si ḥnꜥ k3.f si Dwn-ḥnwy ḥnꜥ k3.f* (589) *si si ḥnꜥ k3.f si Mḥnty-n-irty ḥnꜥ k3.f si si ḥnꜥ k3.f si Npn ḥnꜥ k3.f*

“(587)Someone goes with his *ka*, Osiris goes with his *ka*, Someone goes with his *ka*, Thoth goes with his *ka*, (588) Someone goes with his *ka*, Seth goes with his *ka*, Someone goes with his *ka*, Dwn-anwy goes with his *ka*, (589) Someone goes with his *ka*, The Eyeless one goes with his *ka*, Someone goes with his *ka*, N goes with his *ka*”¹

4.2.1.2.3. CT 936 (CT VII 137k-l):

³⁸⁸ 

(388) *i Wsir Npn is ddk ḥnꜥ k3.k i Wsir Npn ḥwy.k k3.k m-b3ḥ.k rdwy.k k3.k m-ḥt.k*

“(388) O N, go also with your *ka*. O N, your hands of your *ka* are before you, your feet of your *ka* are behind you”


4.2.2. Discussion:

As it is clear now that Ipi quoted ritual spells on his stela, which is not uncommon in Ancient Egyptian private stelae, that there are other funerary stelae such as CG 20093 where the owner of the stela quoted from PT 249; and CG 20520 where the owner quoted from few different spells PT 204; 205; 207; 209; 210; CT 788; and BD 148. Thus, Ipi in his stela, preferred to quote from specific spells to guarantee that the offerings, he is willing to have, will remain for eternity.

Comparing the in-question text with that of PT and CT shows a few major points that could be cleared through the followings:

4.2.2.1. Philological study:


4.2.2.1.1.

The verb  (O35) has appeared repeatedly in the text, it could be read as *sbi*² (3ae-inf.) or *si*³ (2ae-inf.) both readings give the same meaning as “Go”; Allen noted that the verb *zi* is























¹ Faulkner 1978: 75

² Wb III: 429, 10 - 431, 28

³ Wb III: 424, 13

usually written with the monogram  alone¹ and that it is an intransitive verb², however, he didn't mention this case with *sbi*.

4.2.2.1.2.





Sethe³ noted that this particle gives the meaning of “also” with several writings    *ddk*,    *ddt*, and    *ddkt* that appeared in PT 35 §27c, the last writing gives the most similar sound to the one in the stela, in which could be replacing *t* for *t*. Although, Edel⁴ noted that *dd* followed by suffix-pronoun was used much rarer than *ds*, to express the meaning “self/also”, and he mentioned several writing examples;  ,   ,  ,   , and   , and Sander-Hansen⁵ mentioned that *ddt* is used to give the meaning of “also”, and it has two different forms *ddt* and *ddk* (Wb V, p.628, no. 2-5).

4.2.2.1.3. *hn* vs *hr*:

It is notable that the utterance in PT 25 and CT 821 gives the same meaning, although there is a clear difference in using the preposition *hr* after the verb *si* in CT 821 instead of *hn* in PT 25.

Thus, there could be a similar usage of *hr* and *hn*, in their function and meaning, that in the in-question stela, the preposition *hn* was used following the verb *si*, also in PT 25 and CT 936, however *hr* was used in the other texts (PT 447, 450, and 568).

4.2.2.1.4. Vocative:

The vocative particle that was used in the stela, is the same in PT 25, PT 447, and CT 82 as  , although it has been changed in CT 936 into  .

4.2.2.1.5. *ʿ* and *rd*:

There is a notable change in order for the part that Ipi wishes for his Ka's arm and foot to be behind or before him, as follows:

¹ Allen 1984: 21

² Allen 1984: 572

³ Sethe 1928: 53

⁴ Edel 1955: 82

⁵ Sander-Hansen 1956: 140













Text		1	2	3	4
Stela		ꜥ k3.k m-ḥt.k	ꜥ k3.k m-b3ḥ.k	rd k3.k ḥt.k	rd k3.k m-b3ḥ.k
PT	25	ꜥ k3.k m-b3ḥ.k	ꜥ k3.k m-ḥt.k	rd k3.k m-b3ḥ.k	rd k3.k ḥt.k
	447	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø
	450	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø
	568	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø
CT	936	ꜥwy.k k3.k m-b3ḥ.k	rdwy.k k3.k m-ḥt.k	Ø	Ø
	821	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø

4.2.2.1.6. *sp-sn*:

The only variant for the text on stela in-question that includes *sp-sn* after the verb *si* in the main text, is that of CT 936.

4.2.2.2. Paleographical study:

The hieroglyphic inscriptions are in a very poor handwriting, the below table shows these signs:

N	Perfect sign	Sign in text
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		

4.2.2.3. Order of Gods through the text:

The below table shows the Gods whose names appeared in the different texts and their order within the text:

Text		1	2	3	4	5	6
Stela		<i>Hr</i>	<i>Stš</i>	<i>Dḥwty</i>	<i>Dwn-ᵑnwy</i>	Ø	<i>Hnt-irty</i>
PT	25	<i>Hr</i>	<i>Stš</i>	<i>Dḥwty</i>	<i>Dwn-ᵑnwy</i>	<i>Wsir</i>	<i>Hnt-irty</i>
	447	<i>Wsir</i>	<i>Stš</i>	<i>Hnt-irty</i>	Ø	Ø	Ø
	450	<i>Wsir</i>	<i>Stš</i>	<i>Hnt-irty</i>	Ø	Ø	Ø
	568	<i>Mḥnt-n-irty</i>	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø
CT	936	<i>Wsir</i>	<i>Dḥwty</i>	<i>Stš</i>	<i>Dwn-ᵑnwy</i>	<i>Hnt-irty</i>	Ø
	821	<i>Hr</i>	<i>Stš</i>	<i>Dḥwty</i>	<i>Dwn-ᵑnwy</i>	<i>Wsir</i>	<i>Mḥnt-n-irty</i>

There are many examples that emphasize the order of the gods Horus - Seth - Thoth - Dwen-anwy as follows:

Ex. 1 PT 35 §27a-b



ntr.k ntr Hr ntr.k ntr Stš ntr.k ntr Dḥwty ntr.k ntr Dwn-ᵑnwy

“Your purification is the purification of Horus, your purification is the purification of Seth, purification is the purification of Thoth, your purification is the purification of Dwn-anwy”

Ex. 2 PT 36 §28a-b



ntr.k ntr Hr ntr.k ntr Stš ntr.k ntr Dḥwty ntr.k ntr Dwn-ᵑnwy

“Your purification is the purification of Horus, your purification is the purification of Seth, purification is the purification of Thoth, your purification is the purification of Dwn-anwy”¹

¹ Allen translated it as “Your natron is Horus’s natron, your natron is Seth’s natron, your natron is Thoth’s natron, your natron is the Dwn-anwy’s natron” cf. Allen 2005: 19-20.

Ex. 3 CT 354 = CT IV 402b



ntr.t ntr Hr Stš Dhwtj Dwn-ꜥnwy

“Your purification is the purification of Horus, Seth, Thoth, and Dwn-anwy”¹

Ex. 4 CT 528 = CT VI, 120c



ntr.k ntr Hr Stš ntr.k ntr Dhwtj Dwn-ꜥnwy

“Your purification is the purification of Horus and Seth, your purification is the purification of Thoth and Dwn-anwy”²

All the previous examples, although they give the same meaning, they show the same order that appeared in the stela, despite the difference of the context.

5. Conclusion

There are a few points that are remarkable. There are no protection symbols in the lunette of the stela, which is uncommon within the time of Middle Kingdom, instead of that, only a horizontal line of text that includes the name Ptah-Soker. The texts of the stela don't show any titles or relatives of *Ipi*. Furthermore, as usual he is shown seated on a chair on the left, facing right, in front of an offering table in large scale.

The main text includes the offering formula followed by a quoted spell from PT and CT; in the offering formula, only Osiris's name and his titles; Lord of Busiris, the great god, and Lord of Abydos, also *di.f* and *n k3 n* are missing in the formula.

The quoted spell has noticeable changes comparing with the original utterance in PT 25, as follows:

1- He kept the same order of gods names in the text, although the name of Osiris is missing.

¹ Faulkner 1973: 285

² Faulkner 1977: 152

2- The usage of the demonstrative pronoun following the name of the deceased, which is not the case in all the variants in PT 25, however, there was a demonstrative pronoun following the name of the deceased in CT 936.

3- The vocative particle *h3* in the stela is the same in PT 25, PT 447, and CT 82, although in CT 936 *i* was used instead of *h3*.

4- The utterance shows a change in order in which, *ʾipi* changed the praying in which he wishes that his Ka's arm will be behind him, then it will be before him. The same situation is in his Ka's foot/ leg to be behind him, then it will be before him. This differs from PT 25 in which the King preferred to have his Ka's arm and leg before him then behind him, also CT 936 in which the deceased shortened the utterance to just wish for his arms of his Ka to be before him, and for his feet of his Ka to be behind him.

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Figure 1. Stela Louvre C290 (Courtesy of Louvre Museum)



Figure 2. Stela Louvre C290 (Line drawing by © Hossam Yasser)

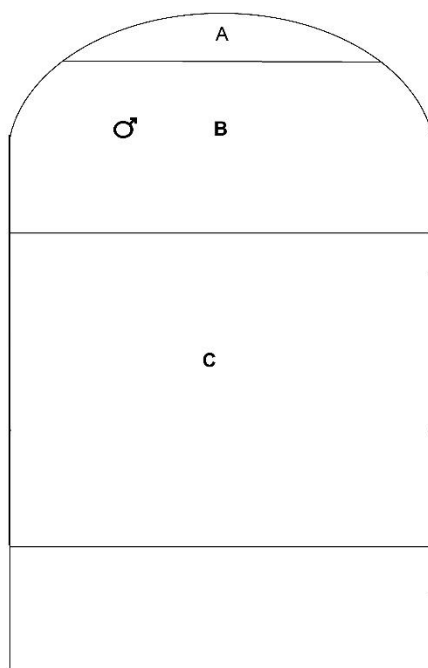


Figure 3. Stela Louvre C290 (Schematic by the author)