

A COPTIC APOCRYPHON
OF SAINT STEPHEN THE ARCHDEACON

The text of this Apocryphon is preserved in MS. M577 of the Pierpont Morgan Collection, which is dated on fol. 49^v A.M. 611 (= A.D. 894-895)¹. It runs from fol. 2^r to fol. 12^r (pp. 3-23).

Our text is in the Saïdic dialect, though there are a few words which have Fayyūmic forms. Orthographical errors are few, and these have been recorded in the foot-notes.

The Coptic text contains :

- 1) A short exhortation by Saint Stephen.
- 2) His marriage and the birth of a daughter.
- 3) His retirement to a mountain.
- 4) The appearance of the Holy Virgin Mary to him, commanding him to go and see his daughter and to encourage her to accept her death willingly.
- 5) The conversion of three robbers by him.
- 6) His election as one of the Seven Deacons and Stewards.

Mgr Jacob Muyser has drawn my attention to a fragment of this text edited without translation or commentary by I. GUMI, *Fragments coptes*, 2 fasc. (Roma, 1887), pp. 47-52. This fragment corresponds to the text on fol. 9^v, l. 24a to fol. 10^v, l. 17a of our MS (§ 27-34). I thank my friend Dr. Burmester for his kind help.

ΝΑΙΝΣ ΝΕΡΩΑΝΤΙΑ ΜΗΖΑΓΙΟΣ ΜΗΑΡΤΥΡΟΣ ΜΠΕΧ̅Ϣ ΣΤΕΦΑ-
ΝΟΣ ΠΑΡΧΗΛΙΑΚΟΝΟΣ ΑΥΩ ΠΡΩΡΗ ΜΗΑΡΤΥΡΟΣ. ΞΝΟΥΣΙΡΗΝΗ
ΜΤΣΠΝΟΥΤΣ. ΖΑΜΗΝ.

Ⲉ ΣΩΤΗΡ ΒΡΟΙ Ⲟ ΝΕΜΑΛΙΚⲞ ΞΙΣΗΝ ΕΝΑΦΑΛⲞ ΝΕΜΑΙΟΓΟϢ

These are the affairs of the holy martyr of Christ Stephen (Stephanos), archdeacon and first martyr, in the peace of God. Amen.

L Hear me, O lovers of knowledge, listen to my words, lovers of the

¹ Cf. *Abb. VAN LANTSCHOOT, Recueil des Colophons de Manuscrits chrétiens d'Égypte*, t. I (Louvain 1929), No XXI, pp. 38-40, who gives the text of the colophon of this MS. in full with the translation in French.

ΜΠΝΟΥΤΕ · ΝΤΕΤΝΕΙΜΕ ΧΕΠΡΩΜΕ ΕΤΝΑΪΠΕΟΖΗΤ ΕΠΝΟΥΤΕ
ΜΕΘΚΑΛΩ ΝΣΩΦ ΘΑΒΟΛ ΑΛΛΑ ΘΑΩΒΕΠΗ ΝΩΤΑΝΖΟΩ ΝΩΧΑΣΤΩ
ΖΜΠΕΟΟΥ.

2. ΑΝΟΚΠΕ ΣΤΕΦΑΝΟΣ ΠΙΕΛΛΙΧΙΣΤΟΣ ΟΥΑ ΕΒΟΛ ΖΜΠΣΑΩΦ
ΝΔΙΑΚΟΝΟΣ ΝΗ ΕΒΟΛ ΖΝΝΙΚΟΝΟΜΟΣ ΝΑΪ ΝΤΑΥΚΑ-ΘΙΣΤΑ ΜΜΟΟΥ
ΝΔΙΝΕΝΕΙΟΤΕ ΝΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΟΣ · ΑΥΤΑΖΟΝ ΕΡΑΤΗ ΕΧΝΝΕΧΡΙΑ
ΕΤΤΕΝΩΕΙΠΡΟΟΥΩ ΝΝΕΧΗΡΑ ΜΗΝΟΡΦΑΝΟΣ ΜΝΟΥΟΝ ΝΙΜ ΕΤ-
ΦΑΛΤ · ΕΝΧΩΡΗΓΕΙ ΝΑΥ ΜΠΕΤΟΥΡΧΡΙΑ ΜΜΟΩ.

3. ΑΣΩΦΠΕ ΔΕ ΜΜΟΙ ΜΠΕΟΥΟΕΙΩ ΕΙΟ ΝΚΟΥΙ ΑΝΑΕΙΟΤΕ ΧΙ
ΝΑΙ ΝΟΥΣΖΙΜΕ ΚΑΤΑΠΓΑΜΟΣ ΧΕΝΝΑΠΩΤ ΖΝΤΕΖΙΗ ΝΝΙΠΑΡΑ-
ΝΟΜΟΣ. ΑΣΧΠΟ ΝΑΙ ΝΟΥΩΗΡΕ ΜΜΟΝΟΓΕΝΗΣ.

4. ΕΝΕΟΥΝΤΑΙ ΝΖΑΖ ΝΖΥΠΑΡΧΟΝΤΑ ΑΠΩΤ ΕΧΝΟΥΤΟΟΥ
ΑΙΤΑΜΙΟ ΝΑΙ ΝΟΥΣΚΥΝΗ ΖΜΠΜΑ ΕΤΗΜΑΥ ΧΕΚΑΣ ΝΝΑΕΪ ΡΩ
ΕΠΕΣΗΤ ΕΤΠΟΛΙΣ ΕΝΑΥ ΕΡΩΜΕ ΟΥΔΕ ΣΖΙΜΕ. ΑΝΟΚ ΔΕ ΛΙ-
ΕΡΑΝΑΩ ΜΠΧΟΕΙΣ ΖΝΝΑ-ΘΥΣΙΑ ΕΪΕΙΡΕ ΜΜΟΟΥ ΤΗΡΟΥ ΜΠΠΕΤ-
ΝΑΝΟΥΩ ΝΙΜ. ΕΙΧΩ ΔΕ ΝΝΑΙ ΕΙΤΑΙΟ ΜΜΟΙ ΜΜΙΝ ΜΜΟΙ.

5. ΛΟΙΠΟΝ ΡΩΜΕ ΝΙΜ ΕΤΝΑΦΟΥΨΟΥ ΜΜΟΩ ΜΜΙΝ ΜΜΟΩ
ΖΜΠΠΕΤΝΑΝΟΥΩ ΕΤΕΦΕΙΡΕ ΜΜΟΩ ΜΕΩΧΙΛΛΑΥ ΝΒΕΚΗ ΖΑΤΗ-
ΠΝΟΥΤΕ. ΜΑΛΛΩΝ ΔΕ ΘΑΩΒΩΧΕ ΖΜΠΕΩΚΕΤΑΙΟ ΖΝΤΠΟΛΙΣ
ΜΠΕΧΩ ΕΤΒΕΤΜΗΤΧΑΣΙΖΗΤ ΝΤΑΩΧΠΟΣ ΝΑΩ.

word of God, that ye may know that the man who shall give his heart to God, He is not ever wont to forsake him, but He is wont to hasten to give him life and to exalt him in glory.

2. I am Stephen (Stephanos) the *least*, one of the seven *deacons*, those of the *stewards* whom our fathers the *Apostles* appointed. They put us in charge of what was *needed* that we might have care of the *widows* and the *orphans* and of everyone who was in want, *providing* for them in their *need*.

3. *And* it happened to me, at that time, I being young, (that) my parents took for me a woman *according to* (the law of) *marriage*, so that I might not walk in the way of the *lawless*. She bore to me an *only* child.

4. I had many *possessions*; I fled upon a mountain; I made for myself a *tent* there in order that I might not come down again to the *city* to see (either) a man *or* a woman. *And* I pleased the Lord with my *sacrifices* which I made, and (with) all (my) good (works); but in saying these (things), I honour myself.

5. *For the rest*, every man who shall boast of the good (work) which he doeth, is not wont to receive any wage from God, but rather he is wont to be humbled with regard to his honour in the *city* of Christ on account of the pride which he hath assumed to himself.

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6. ΚΑΙ ΓΑΡ ΟΥΝΟΨΑΤΑ ΗΡΩΜΕ ΕΥΨΟΟΠ ΖΗΣΙΜΟΨ ΝΗΨΕ
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 ΚΕΨΨΨΨΨΕ ΝΑΨΨΟΨΑ.

7. ΕΥΨΑΝΨΨΨ ΔΕ ΕΥΨΨΟΥ ΝΨΨΕΡΨΨΕΕΥΨ ΜΨΨΟΥΨΕ ΨΑΨ-
 ΧΟΨΨ ΧΕΜΑΨΕΝΨΨΟΥΨ ΜΨΨΟΥΨ ΝΨΨΕΨΨ ΝΟΥΨΑΓΑΨΗ ΖΑΨΨΕΨΟΥ-
 ΧΑΨΨ ΜΨΨΟΥΨΧΑΨΨ ΜΨΨΕΝΨΗ ΨΗΨΨ ΨΑΨΨΨΟΥΨ ΝΨΨΕΨΑΨΨΕΨΕΨΨ
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8. ΝΑΨΨΕ ΝΨΨΕΨΨΨΕ ΑΨΨΕΨΨΨΨ ΟΥΨ ΕΨΨΨ ΜΨΨΟΨ ΝΑΨ
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 ΜΨΨΕΥΨΕΚΨ. ΝΨΨΕΝΑΨΨΨ ΑΨ ΜΨΨΑΨΟ ΝΨΨΨΨΕ ΝΨΨΕΧΙ ΜΨΑ-
 ΨΨΟΥΨΕ. ΝΑΨ ΨΗΨΟΥΨ ΝΨΑΨΧΟΨΨ ΧΕΛΙΨΨΨΕ ΜΨΨΧΟΕΨΨ ΕΨΙΡΕ
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 ΨΨΧΟΕΨΨ ΜΑΨΨΑΑΨ.

9. ΑΨΨΨΨ ΔΕ ΝΟΥΨΨΟΥΨ ΑΨΕΡΨΨΟΛ ΜΨΨΟ ΜΨΨΑΨΨΨΨΨΕ
 ΑΨΨΨΟΨ ΝΟΥΨΚΟΥΨ ΑΨΨΨΨ ΑΨΨΑΨ ΕΥΚΛΟΨΨΕ ΝΟΥΨΕΨΨ ΕΨΕ-

6. *For also* there are some men abiding in great sins, committing them until evening every day, taking usury, wronging the poor, striking the *orphans*, afflicting the *widow*, robbing the labourers of their wage, *fornicating* with women who are not theirs, and committing a multitude of other *iniquities*.

7. *And* if they reach a day (on which) they remember God, they are wont to say: « Let us arise to-day, and give *charity* for our salvation and for the salvation of all our house ». They are wont to arise and proclaim the work which they will do, to *stir* the *world*, while their servants go hither and thither, *heralding* the work which they do.

8. To these, moreover, of this kind, Our *Saviour* declared, saying to them in the *Gospel*: « Amen, I say unto you, they have already received their reward »¹. They will not be able to receive the honour of men² and to receive that of God. All these (things) I said, because I served the Lord, doing hidden *works* which no man knows *save* the Lord alone.

9. *And* it happened one day, that I was outside the door of (my)³ dwelling-place, (and) I sat for a little. I looked (and) I saw a shining cloud,

¹ *Mark*, vi, 2.

² *Lit.* 'these men'.

³ *Lit.* 'the'.

ΜΑΡΙΑ ΤΗΛΛΥ ΜΠΧΟΕΙC ΖΜΟΟC ΕΧΩC. ΛCΜΟΥΤΕ ΕΡΟΙ ΕCΧΩ
 ΜΜΟC ΧΕCΤΑΦΑΝΟC ΠΑΡΧΗΔΙΑΚΟΝΟC ΨΗΝΗ ΝΑΚ. ΕΙΤΑ ΠΕΧΑC
 ΝΑΙ ΧΕΤΩΟΥΝ ΝΓΠΩΤ ΖΝΟΥΕΙΡΗΝΗ ΖΝΟΥΒΕΠΗ ΦΑΤΕΚΦΕΕΡΕ
 ΜΜΟΝΟΓΕΝΗC. ΜΜΟΝ ΕΙC CΑΦΩ ΝΖΟΟΥ ΕCΕΝΚΟΤΚ ΕCΦΩΝΕ
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 ΜΠΟΥΕΙΜΕ ΕΠΤΟΠΟC ΕΤΕΚΕΝΖΗΤΩ ΝCΕΤΗΝΟΟΥ ΝCΩΚ ΜΠΑ-
 ΤΕΚΟΥΕ ΜΜΟΟΥ ΝΓΝΑΥ ΕΤΕΚΦΕΕΡΕ ΜΠΑΤΕCΕΙ ΕΒΟΛ ΖΝCΩΜΑ
 ΕΒΟΛ ΧΕΜΠΟΟΥ CΝΑΠΩΤ ΕΝΕΒΙΧ ΜΠΝΟΥΤΕ ΖΝΟΥΤΕΒΟ. ΑΥΩ
 ΟΥΝΟΥΝΟC ΝΤΑΙΟ ΝΑΦΩΠΕ ΝΑC ΜΗΝΕΤΟΥΛΑΒ ΤΗΡΟΥ ΕΒΟΛ
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 ΠΙΚΟCΜΟC.

10. ΑΝΟΚ ΔΕ ΝΤΕΡΙCΩΤΗ ΕΝΑΙ ΛΙΡΙΜΕ ΜΜΑΤΕ ΕΜΑΦΑ ΑΥΩ
 ΠΕΧΑC ΝΑΙ ΧΕΜΠΕΡΡΙΜΕ ΕΤΒΕΠΙΖΩΒ ΜΑΛΛΩΝ ΔΕ ΡΑΦΕ ΝΑΚ
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 ΖΗΠΚΑΖ ΕΝΦΑΡΒΑ ΕΜΗΜΟΟΥ ΝΤΟΟΤΟΥ ΕΜΗΖΟΙΤΕ ΖΙΦΟΥ.

11. ΩΝΤΟC ΟΝ ΕΥΠΗΤ ΕΠΗΑ ΜΠΩΒΒ ΜΗΠΡΙΜΕ ΜΗΠΚΑΚΕ

(and) Mary, the Mother of the Lord, sitting upon it. She called to me, saying : « Stephen the archdeacon, peace (be) to thee ». Then she said to me : « Arise, go in peace quickly unto thy only daughter. Behold, it is seven days that she lieth sick and her mother being troubled at heart, desiring to know where thou art. They (the mother and the daughter) know not the place in which thou art that they may send for thee (while) thou art not yet far from them, that thou mayest see thy daughter ere she departeth from the body, for to-day she will go in purity into the hands of God, and there shall be great honour for her with all the Saints, because she is a great virgin, pure (and) free from every stain of this world ».

10. And when I heard these (things), I wept exceedingly much, and She said to me : « Weep not concerning this matter but rather rejoice that thou wilt give her as a gift to Christ; for it is fitting to weep for the sinners when they die, because they shall go to punishment for ever, because they have left behind their only life (and) they have gone forth from this life, being empty; and their vessels also being empty; there being no fare in their hands that they may pass over alone, there being no provision following them, and also while being parched on earth, having no water, having no garments upon them.

11. « Truly also they go to the place of cold and weeping and outer dark-

ΕΤΙΣΘΑ ΜΗΠΙΘΟΖΩΣ ΝΝΟΒΖΕ ΕΜΗΤΟΟΥΣ ΖΗΡΑΤΟΥ ΕΥΜΟΟΦΕ
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 ΕΜΗΔΑΡΩΜ ΖΗΝΕΥΔΙΧ ΑΛΛΑ ΝΑΙ ΝΕΤΟΥΦΟΡΕΙ ΜΗΟΟΥ ΛΥΦ
 ΕΣΟΥΗΖ ΝΚΩΟΥ ΝΔΙΤΠΟΡΗΙΑ ΜΗΤΓΑΤΑΛΑΛΙΑ ΜΗΤΗΜΤΧΑΣΙΖΗΤ
 ΜΗΤΗΜΤΒΑΒΕΡΩΜΕ ΜΗΠΚΕΣΕΠΕ ΝΝΕΖΥΔΟΝΗ. ΤΕΝΟΥ ΔΕ
 ΜΠΕΡΡΙΜΕ ΕΤΒΕΤΕΚΦΕΕΡΕ ΧΕΤΑΝΑΙ ΓΑΡ ΝΤΕΙΜΙΝΕΤΕ ΤΗΝ-
 ΤΡΡΟ ΝΝΗΜΠΗΥΕ. ΝΕΔΙΚΑΙΟΣ ΓΑΡ ΦΦΕ ΑΝ ΕΡΙΜΕ ΕΡΦΟΥ ΧΕ-
 ΝΤΑΥΕΙ ΕΒΟΛ ΖΗΟΥΕΦΤΕΚΟ ΕΥΜΗΤΡΡΟ ΕΣΟΥΟΦΣ ΕΒΟΛ ΦΛΕ-
 ΝΕΖ ΜΗΟΥΚΛΗΡΟΝΟΜΙΑ ΝΑΤΒΩΑ ΕΒΟΛ.

12. ΛΥΦ ΝΤΕΡΕΣΧΕΝΑΙ ΝΔΙΤΠΑΡΘΕΝΟΣ ΕΤΟΥΛΛΕ ΜΑΡΙΑ
 ΑΣΠΩΤ ΕΖΡΑΙ ΕΝΜΠΗΥΕ. ΑΝΟΚ ΔΕ ΑΙΤΦΟΥΝ ΑΙΦΑΝΑ ΑΙΜΟΟΦΕ
 ΕΠΜΑ ΝΤΑΣΖΙΜΕ ΜΗΝΑΦΗΡΕ¹ ΑΙΒΕΝΤΣ ΕΠΕССΑΦΩΠΕ ΕΣΦΩ-
 ΝΕ ΚΑΤΑΘΕ ΝΤΑΜΑΡΙΑ ΧΟΟΣ ΝΑΙ.

13. ΝΕΡΩΜΕ ΔΕ ΕΤΗΠΒΟΛ ΜΠΗ ΝΕΥΣΟΟΥΝ ΜΗΟΙ ΑΝ ΝΕΥ-
 ΡΙΜΕ ΕΥΧΩ ΜΗΟC ΧΕΠΗΟΥΤΕ ΤΗΝΟΟΥ ΜΠΕΙΩΤ ΝΤΕΙΦΕΕΡΕ
 ΦΗΜ ΧΕΛΣΟΥΦΦ ΕΝΑΥ ΕΡΟΦ ΜΠΑΤΕΣΕΙ ΕΒΟΛ ΖΗΝΩΜΑ. ΛΥΦ
 ΧΕΚΑΣ ΝΝΕΣΕΡΚΟΥΙ ΝΖΗΤ ΕCΗΗΥ ΕΒΟΛ ΖΗΝΩΜΑ ΦΑΝΤΕC-

¹ Read ΤΑΨΕΕΡΕ.

ness and gnashing of teeth, there being no shoes on their feet (with which) to walk in that way which is full of thorns and poison and every *wild beast*, there being no staff in their hands; *but* these (things) are (the things) which they *carry* and which follow them, namely, *fornication* and *slandering*s and pride and boastfulness and also the rest of the *pleasures* (of the flesh). *And now*, weep not for thy daughter, *for* she belongeth to those of this kind, (of whom) is the Kingdom of the Heavens⁴. *For* it is not fitting to weep for the *righteous*, because they go forth from a prison to a vast kingdom for ever, and to an unending *inheritance* ».

12. And when the Holy *Virgin* Mary had said these (things), she departed to the Heavens. *And* I arose (and) I prayed. I walked to the place (in which) were my wife and my daughter⁵. I found that (it was) the⁶ seventh (day) she was sick *even* as Mary had said to me.

13. *And* the men who were outside the house did not recognize me. They were weeping, saying : « God send the father of this little daughter, because she hath desired to see him ere she goeth forth from (the) *body* and so that she may not be faint-hearted, while departing from (the) *body*, until she

⁴ Cf. *Mark*, I, 14.

⁵ *MS.* reads 'children'.

⁶ *Lit.* 'her'.

ΠΑΡΑΓΕ ΝΝΕΙΧΑΧΕ ΕΤΖΕΝΝΕΖΙΟΥΕ. ΑΝΟΚ ΔΕ ΠΕΧΑΙ ΝΑΥ
 ΧΕΤΡΗΝΗ ΝΗΤΗ. ΝΤΟΥ ΔΕ ΖΩΟΥ ΟΝ ΠΕΧΑΥ ΧΕΤΡΗΝΗ ΜΠΕΚ-
 ΠΝΑ ΑΚΕΙ ΖΝΟΥΤΩΦ ΕΝΑΝΟΥΦ. ΠΝΟΥΤΕ ΠΕΝΤΑΓΤΗΝΟΟΥΚ
 ΝΑΝ ΧΕΚΑΣ ΕΚΕΝΑΥ ΕΤΕΚΦΕΕΡΕ ΝΚΕΣΟΠ ΑΥΦ ΝΣΝΑΥ ΕΡΟΚ
 ΖΩΦΚ. ΑΛΗΘΟΣ ΠΕΤΕΝΦΑΝΑ ΕΡΟΦΠΕ ΠΑΙ ΧΕΠΝΟΥΤΕ ΔΩΦΥΤ
 ΕΧΝΤΗΝΤΕΒΗΝ ΝΤΕΚΦΕΕΡΕ ΚΟΥΙ ΕΙΣ ΣΑΦΦ ΝΖΟΥ ΕΣΡΙΜΕ
 ΧΕΕΙΟΥΦΦ ΕΝΑΥ ΕΠΑΕΙΩΤ ΜΠΑΤΑΜΟΥ. ΕΚΣΟΟΥΝ ΤΩΝ ΡΩ
 ΕΙΕ ΛΦΠΕ ΠΤΟΠΟΣ ΕΤΕΚΦΟΟΠ ΝΖΗΤΦ ΕΙΕ ΝΙΜ ΠΕΝΤΑΓΤΑΜΟΚ
 ΕΠΟΥΦ. ΑΛΛΑ ΖΩΜΕΟΣ ΜΕΡΕΠΧΟΕΙΣ ΚΩ ΝΣΦΦ ΝΝΕΤΖΕΛΠΙΖΕ
 ΕΡΟΦ.

14. ΕΥΧΩ ΔΕ ΝΝΑΙ ΛΙΠΩΤ ΕΖΟΥΝ ΕΠΑΝΙ ΛΙΝΑΥ ΕΤΑΦΕΕΡΕ
 ΕΡΕΟΥΜΗΝΗΦΕ ΣΟΥΖ ΕΖΟΥΝ ΕΥΚΩΤΕ ΕΡΟΣ. ΝΤΕΡΟΥΝΑΥ ΔΕ
 ΕΡΟΙ ΤΗΡΟΥ ΑΥΡΙΜΕ ΖΝΟΥΝΟΔ ΝΝΕΖΠΕ. ΑΝΟΚ ΔΕ ΠΕΧΑΙ ΝΑΥ
 ΧΕΜΠΕΡΡΙΜΕ ΟΥΔΕ ΗΠΕΡΦΦ ΕΒΟΛ ΕΤΒΕΤΔΙΝΕΙ ΕΒΟΛ ΖΝΣΩΜΑ
 ΝΤΑΦΕΕΡΕ ΚΑΙΓΑΡ ΚΑΤΑΠΣΩΜΑΤΙΚΟΝ ΜΠΕΣΦΦΩΤ ΝΑΛΛΑΥ.
 ΠΕΙΚΕΟΥΑ ΟΝ ΜΗΦΔΟΜ ΜΜΟΝ ΕΚΦΑΥ ΜΜΟΦ ΚΑΤΑΠΦΑΧΕ

has passed those enemies who are in the ways ». And I said to them :
 « Peace (be) to you ». They moreover, themselves also said, « Peace (be)
 to thy spirit. Thou hast come at the right ⁷ time. God (it is) Who hath sent
 thee to us, so that thou mightest see thy daughter once more, and that she
 might also see thee. In truth, what we pray to Him is this : « God, look
 upon the wretchedness of Thy little daughter. Behold, it is seven days that
 she weepeth, saying : I desire to see my father ere I die. Whence dost thou
 know, indeed what is the place in which thou art (sic) ⁸ living, or who
 hath told thee the news? But, however, the Lord is not wont to forsake
 those who hope in Him ».

14. And while they were saying these (things), I went into my house,
 (and) I saw my daughter, a multitude being assembled around her. And when
 they saw me they all wept in great mourning but I said to them : « Weep
 not, neither cry aloud on account of the departure from (the) body. For
 she was not in need of any thing with regard to the body. This other matter,
 also, we are not able to avert according to the word of our spirit bearing
 fathers : « Who shall be able to hinder flowing water or who shall be able
 to restrain the spirit of God that He might not cause it to go to Him ⁹ ».

⁷ Lit. 'good'.

⁸ Read 'he is'. This question is apparently addressed to the daughter.

⁹ Cf. Job, xxxviii, 25 and xxxiv, 14. E. PORCHER, *Le Livre de Job. Version copte bohairique*, in P.O., t. XVIII, fasc. 2, pp. [116] 324, [102] 310 and also P. A. CIASCA, *Sacrorum Bibliorum fragmenta Copto-sahidica Musei Borgiani* (Romae 1889), Vol. II, pp. 62, 56.

ΝΙΝΕΝΣΙΟΤΕ ΜΠΙΛΑΤΟΦΟΡΟΣ. ΝΙΜ ΠΕΤΗΛΕΦΚΩΛΥ ΝΟΥΜΟΟΥ
 ΕΓΚΩΚ Η ΝΙΜ ΠΕΤΗΛΕΦΑΜΑΖΤΕ ΜΠΕΠΙΔ ΜΠΠΟΥΤΕ ΕΤΗΚΑΛΩ
 ΕΠΩΤ ΕΡΑΤΩ. ΝΤΩΤΗ ΓΑΡ ΑΤΕΤΗΜΕΡΙΤΣ ΜΠΕΙΚΟΥΙ ΝΟΥΟΕΩ
 ΑΥΩ ΝΤΩΤΗ ΑΝ ΝΤΕΤΗΝΟΥΩΩ ΑΝ ΕΤΡΕΣΠΩΡΧ ΕΡΩΤΗ ΑΛΛΑ
 ΠΠΟΥΤΕ ΕΤΣΟΟΥΝ ΜΠΤΒΒΟ ΜΠΕΣΖΗΤ ΝΤΟΩ ΑΩΩΙΝΕ ΝΩΩ.
 ΑΥΩ †ΣΟΟΝ ΧΕ ΑΥΟΥΩ ΕΥΣΟΒΤΕ ΝΝΕΣΜΑΝΩΩΠΕ ΑΥΩ ΝΕΣ-
 ΚΕΠΥΛΗ ΕΤΤΑΕΙΝΥ ΑΥΣΤΕΦΑΝΟΥ ΜΠΟΟΥ ΕΤΡΕΣΠΩΤ ΕΖΟΥΝ
 ΝΖΗΤΟΥ ΑΥΩ ΝΣΕΡΑΩΕ ΝΜΜΑΣ ΝΣΙΝΕΩΗΡΕ ΜΠΟΥΟΕΙΝ.

15. ΕΤΕΙ ΔΕ ΕΡΕΠΜΗΝΩΕ ΡΙΜΕ ΑΩΚΟΤΩ ΝΣΙΠΖΑΠΙΟΣ ΑΠΑ
 ΣΤΕΦΑΝΟΣ ΕΧΝΤΕΩΦΕΕΡΕ ΑΩΝΑΥ ΕΡΟΣ ΕΣΩΤΡΤΩΡ ΕΛΤΕΥ-
 ΝΟΥ ΝΑΝΑΓΚΗ ΜΠΠΟΥ ΤΑΖΟΣ. ΑΝΕΪΥΧΗ ΝΝΩΗΡΟΝ ΕΤΕΝΑΙΝΕ
 ΝΕΝΤΑΥΕΙ ΝΩΩ ΕΕΙΝΕ ΕΒΟΛ ΝΤΕΣΪΥΧΗ. ΑΥΩ ΝΤΕΥΝΟΥ
 ΑΣΩΕΙ ΝΝΕΣΒΑΛ ΕΖΡΑΙ ΖΑΝΟΥΙ ΑΣΝΑΥ ΕΡΟΙ ΑΝΕΣΒΑΛ ΪΡΜΕΙΝ.
 ΑΝΟΚ ΔΕ ΠΕΧΑΙ ΝΑΣ ΧΕΜΠΕΡΡΙΜΕ ΤΑΩΕΕΡΕ ΟΥΔΕ ΜΠΕΡΕΜ-
 ΚΑΖ ΝΖΗΤ ΕΡΚΩ ΝΩΩ ΜΠΕΙΚΟΣΜΟΣ ΕΤΗΕΖ ΝΧΙΝΔΟΝΣ. ΑΝΟΝ
 ΓΑΡ ΤΗΡΗ ΤΕΝΝΑΕΝΚΟΤΚ ΝΤΕΝΕΙ ΩΑΡΟ. ΠΕΝΤΑΩΤΑΖΟ Ω
 ΤΑΩΕΕΡΕ ΩΝΑΤΑΖΟΝ ΤΗΡΕΝ ΕΡΕΠΟΥΑ ΠΟΥΑ ΔΕΕΤ ΕΤΕΩΟΥ-
 ΝΟΥ. ΝΕΤΟΥΩΜ ΓΑΡ ΑΥΩ ΕΤΩΩ ΖΜΠΙΚΟΣΜΟΣ ΜΕΥΚΑΛΥ
 ΖΝΤΕΥΤΡΟΦΗ. ΝΕΤΟΥΝΟΩ ΔΕ ΟΝ ΜΠΟΟΥ ΝΣΕΝΑΚΑΛΥ ΑΝ
 ΖΜΠΕΥΟΥΝΟΩ. ΝΤΑΝΙΜ ΓΑΡ ΕΝΕΖ ΩΩ ΝΑΤΗΟΥ ΧΕΚΑΣ ΝΝΑ-

For ye loved her for a short time and ye desire not that she should be separated from you. But God Who knoweth the purity of her heart, Himself hath asked for her. And I know that her dwelling-places are already prepared, and her glorious gates too are garlanded that she may enter within them, and that the children of light may rejoice with her».

15. *And the multitude were still weeping, (when) Saint Apa Stephen turned to his daughter. He saw her troubled, the time of the agony of death having come upon her. The rational souls, namely those who came for her to bring forth her soul...¹⁰, and immediately she lifted up her eyes towards mine. She saw me (and) her eyes shed tears. And I said to her: «Weep not, my daughter, nor be grieved to leave behind thee this world which is full of iniquity, for we all shall sleep, and come to thee. That which hath come upon thee, O my daughter, will come upon us all; everyone awaiteth his hour. For those who eat and drink in this world are not wont to keep their food and those also who rejoice will not keep their joy. For who hath remained for ever without death that we our-*

¹⁰ Verb missing.

ΘΑΡΙΝ² ΖΩΦΩΝ ΝΤΕΝΧΟΟΣ ΧΕΝΤΕΝΝΑΜΟΥ ΑΝ. ΕΦΧΕΤΠΕ
 ΜΝΠΚΑΖ ΜΝΝΕΣΤΟΙΧΙΟΝ ΜΝΝΙΤΟΟΥ ΣΕΝΑΒΩΑ ΕΒΟΑ ΑΝΟΝ
 ΖΩΦΩΝ ΕΙΕ ΝΤΕΝΝΑΒΩΑ ΕΒΟΑ ΑΝ. 16. ΕΙΣΟΟΥΝ ΡΩ Ω ΤΑΦΕΕΡΕ
 ΧΕΜΕΝΖΗΥ ΖΗΠΚΟΚΜΟΣ ΝΣΑ-ΘΑΙΨΙΣ. ΕΤΒΕΠΑΙ ΜΠΙΩ ΖΑΤΝ-
 ΤΗΥΤΝ ΑΛΛΑ ΛΙΑΝΑΧΩΡΕΙ ΝΑΙ ΕΖΟΥΝ ΕΠΤΟΟΥ ΕΥΜΑ ΝΧΑΙΕ
 ΦΑ ΕΖΟΥΝ ΕΠΟΟΥ ΝΖΟΟΥ. ΕΛΙΕΜΠΦΑ ΜΠΕΙΝΟΒ ΝΤΑΙΟ ΑΣΕΙ
 ΦΑΡΟΙ ΝΒΙΜΑΡΙΑ ΤΠΑΡ-ΕΝΟΣ ΤΜΑΛΥ ΜΠΑΧΟΕΙΣ ΙΣ ΑΣΤΑΜΟΙ
 ΕΤΒΗΗΤΕ ΦΑΝΤΑΚΕΡΑΤ ΕΒΟΑ ΝΤΑΕΙ ΕΒΟΑ ΦΑΡΟ ΤΑΦΕΕΡΕ
 ΜΜΕΡΙΤ. 17. ΜΠΕΡΕΡΖΟΤΕΣΕ ΤΑΦΕΕΡΕ ΕΡΕΤΜΑΛΥ ΜΠΧΟΕΙΣ
 ΜΕ ΜΜΟ ΖΝΟΥΜΕ. ΛΙΕΙ ΓΑΡ ΕΣΑΣΩΔΕ ΕΤΒΕΤΟΥΣΙΝΕΙ ΕΒΟΑ
 ΖΝΣΩΜΑ ΑΛΛΑ ΟΥΝΤΑΙ ΜΜΑΥ ΝΟΥΚΟΥΙ ΝΑΥΤΗ ΧΕΜΠΕΛΑΛΥ
 ΖΝΝΕΤΟΥΑΛΣ ΝΑΥ ΕΠΜΟΥ ΜΝΕΥΦΗΡΕ ΝΣΕΡΙΜΕ ΕΧΦΟΥ ΑΛΛΑ
 ΝΕΦΗΡΕ ΝΤΟΟΥ ΝΕΦΑΥΡΙΜΕ ΕΧΝΝΕΥΕΙΟΤΕ. ΟΥΝΟΒ ΝΑΥΤΗ
 ΑΛΗΘΩΣΠΕ ΖΝΕΙΟΤΕ ΕΥΡΙΜΕ ΕΧΝΝΕΥΦΗΡΕ ΕΥΝΗΥ ΕΒΟΑ
 ΖΝΣΩΜΑ. ΠΑΛΙΝ ΟΝ ΤΡΑΦΕ ΜΠΟΟΥ ΕΠΕΖΟΥΟ ΧΕΛΧΟΟΥ
 ΝΟΥΚΑΡΠΟΣ ΖΑΤΑΖΕ ΕΖΡΑΙ ΕΝΜΠΗΥΕ.

18. ΝΑΙ ΔΕ ΕΦΧΩ ΜΜΟΥ ΕΡΕΝΕΦΒΑΑ ΤΡΜΕΙΝ ΑΥΩ ΝΕΤΖΜ-
 ΠΕΦΚΩΤΕ ΤΗΡΟΥ ΕΥΡΙΜΕ. ΜΝΝΣΩΣ ΑΦΚΟΤΦ ΕΧΝΤΕΦΦΕΕΡΕ

2 Read ΠΠΠΠ.

selves¹¹ shall dare to say that we shall not die? If the heaven and the earth and their *elements* and the mountains shall be dissolved, shall we ourselves also not be dissolved? 16. I know, indeed, O my daughter, that there is no profit in this *world*, apart from *tribulation*. Therefore I did not stay with you, but *withdrew* myself to a mountain in a desert place until this day. I have been worthy of this great honour : Mary the *Virgin* the Mother of my Lord Jesus Christ, came to me. She informed me about thee so that I set forth (and) came out to thee, my beloved daughter. 17. Therefore, fear not, my daughter, since the Mother of the Lord loveth thee in truth. For I came to console thee on account of thy departure from the *body*, but I have little *grief*, for none among the Saints saw the death of his children and wept over them, on the *contrary* the sons themselves were wont to weep over their parents. A great *grief* is it, in truth, that parents should weep over their children, when they depart from (the) *body*. On the *contrary*, rather I rejoice to-day that I have sent a *fruit* before me to the heavens ».

18. And while saying these (things) his eyes shed tears and all those who were round him were weeping. Afterwards, he turned to his daughter (and)

¹¹ Coptic reads ΠΠΑ = I shall not.

ΠΕΧ
 ΑΑΑ
 ΜΠΕ
 ΟΕΙΝ
 ΕΤΝ
 ΝΝΕ
 ΝΑΖΙ
 ΖΑΒΟ
 ΨΥΧ
 19.
 ΝΤΕ
 ΑΦΤ
 ΠΕΧ
 ΠΕΝ
 ΤΕΦ
 ΜΜΟ
 ΖΑΒΟ
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 ΕΡΩ
 ΦΑΡ

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ΠΕΧΛΑΓ ΝΑC ΧΕΝΠΕΡΑΥΠΕΙ Ω ΤΑΦΕΕΡΕ ΝΤΕΕΙ ΕΒΟΛ ΧΕΜΕΡΕ-
 ΛΛΑΥ ΝΩΦΛΕ ΑΝΑΓΤΕ ΜΜΟ ΕΡΝΗΥ ΕΒΟΛ ΖΝCΩΜΑ ΕΤΕC ΧΕ-
 ΜΠΕΡCΟΥΕΝΜΑΝΕΝΚΟΤΚ ΝΖΟΟΥΤ ΕΝΕΖ ΖΜΠΤΡΕΧΙΠΠΕ ΜΠΟΥ-
 ΟΕΙΝ ΜΠΝΟΥΤΕ ΜΝΠΕΖΛΟΒ ΜΠΛΡΘΕΝΙΑ. ΕΠΕΙΔΗ ΠΟΥΟΕΙΝ
 ΕΤΝΑΝΟΥΓ ΕΦΕΙΡΕ ΝΤΗΝΤΟΥΟΕΙΕ ΜΠΚΑΖ ΚΑΛΩC ΦΑΦΠΩΡΚ
 ΝΝΕΝΤΗΔ ΜΠΚΑΖ ΝΦΩΠΠΕ ΕΦΤΕΒΗΥ ΕΤΗΜΕΛΛΑΥ ΝΧΖΙΝ ΝΖΗΤΓ
 ΝΑΖΡΜΠΕΦΧΟΕΙC. ΤΑΙΤΕ ΤΟΥΖΕ ΖΩΩΤΕ Ω ΤΑΦΕΕΡΕ ΕΑΡΤΒΕΟ
 ΖΑΒΟΑ ΝΤΩΛΗ ΝΙΜ ΑΥΩ ΜΗΑΛΛΑΥ ΝΧΖΙΝ ΖΝΤΟΥΚΑΛΑΖΗ ΜΗΤΟΥ-
 ΎΧΗ ΝΑΖΡΜΠΧΟΕΙC ΙC ΠΟΥΠΑΤΦΕΛΕΕΤ ΝΑΤΗΟΥ ΦΑΕΝΕC.

19. ΑΥΩ ΝΤΕΡΕΦΧΕΝΑΙ ΠΕΧΛΑΓ ΧΕΤΩΟΥΝ ΝΤΕΝΦΑΝΑ ΑΥΩ
 ΝΤΕΝΤΩΕΖ ΜΠΝΟΥΤΕ ΕΧΝΤΑΙΝΕΙ ΕΒΟΛ ΖΝCΩΜΑ ΝΤΕΎΧΗ.
 ΑΦΤΩΟΥΝ ΔΕ ΑΦΦΑΝΑ ΕΠΝΟΥΤΕ ΕΦΧΩ ΜΜΟC ΧΕΠΑΧΟΕΙC ΙC
 ΠΕΧC ΠΙΑΤΗΟΥ ΜΑΥΛΑΓ ΠΜΟΝΟΓΕΝΗC ΝΦΗΡΕ ΝΤΕΠΙΩΤ
 ΠΕΝΤΑΓΠΛΑCCE ΜΠΦΟΡΠ ΝΡΩΜΕ ΔΔΑΗ ΚΑΤΑΠΕΦΕΙΝΕ ΜΗ-
 ΤΕΦΖΙΚΩΝ ΠΕΤΕΜΠΛΑΛΥ ΜΗΝΤΑΤΒΟΗ ΖΑΖΤΗΓ ΤΕΝΠΑΡΑΚΑΛΕΙ
 ΜΜΟΚ ΠΜΑΙΡΩΜΕ ΝΑΓΑΘΟC ΜΠΕΡΟΦΚ ΕΡΟΝ ΟΥΔΕ ΜΠΕΡΟΥΕ
 ΖΑΒΟΑ ΝΤΕΙΚΟΥΙ ΝΦΕΕΡΕ ΑΛΛΑ ΔΩΦΤ ΕΖΡΑΙ ΕΧΩC. ΜΠΕΡΤΡΕC-
 ΦΤΟΡΤΡ ΖΝΤΕCΔΙΝΕΙ ΦΑΡΟΚ ΜΑΡΕΠΧΑΧΕ ΧΙΦΠΕ ΝCΕΦΤΟΜ
 ΕΡΩΦ. ΜΑΡΕΠΓΑΤΗΓΟΡΟC ΧΙΦΠΕ ΝΦΠΩΤ ΕΠΟΥΕ. ΜΑΡΕΦΕΙ
 ΦΑΡΟC ΖΝΟΥΒΕΠΗ ΝΔΠΕΓΑΓΓΕΛΟC ΝΑΓΑΘΟC ΜΙΧΑΗ ΝΦΧΙΤC

said to her : « Grieve not, O my daughter, that thou departest, for no weakening will take hold of thee, while departing from (the) body, because thou hast never known the couch of a man when thou hast a taste of the light of God and the sweetness of virginity. When the good husbandman prepareth well the cultivation of the earth, he is wont to pluck out the weeds of the earth that it may be clean, in order not to have any blemish in it before his lord. This is even thy condition, O my daughter. Thou art purified from every defilement and there is no blemish in thy womb and thy soul before the Lord Jesus, thine Immortal Bridegroom for ever ».

19. And when he had said these (things), he said : « Arise and let us pray and beseech God on account of departure of this soul from (the) body ». And he arose (and) prayed to God, saying : « My Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Immortal (and) the Only begotten Son of the Father, Who fashioned the first man Adam according to Thy ¹² likeness and Thine ¹² image, Whom nothing is impossible, we beseech Thee, God Lover of man, forget us not, neither be far from this little daughter, but look upon her, cause her not to be troubled in her coming unto Thee. Let the enemy be ashamed, and his mouth be shut. Let the accuser be ashamed and flee far

¹² The Coptic reads 'His'.

ΕΖΟΥΝ ΕΤΦΑΙΡΕ ΝΝΕΚΕΣΟΥ. ΜΠΕΡΑΑΣ ΝΦΜΜΟ ΕΠΕΚΜΑΝ-
ΦΕΛΕΕΤ ΑΛΛΑ ΜΑΡΕΣΟΥΝΟΦ ΜΜΟΣ ΖΝΤΕΚΚΛΗΡΟΝΟΜΙΑ ΕΤΝΑ-
ΜΟΥΝ ΕΒΟΛ ΦΑΕΝΕΖ ΧΕΠΩΚΠΕ ΠΕΟΟΥ ΜΗΠΑΜΑΖΤΕ ΦΑΕΝΕΖ
ΝΕΝΕΖ ΖΑΜΗΝ.

20. ΝΖΩΣΟΝ ΔΕ ΕΥΦΑΝΑ ΑΤΚΟΥΙ ΝΦΕΕΡΕ ΕΜΤΟΝ ΜΜΟΣ
ΖΝΟΥΑΝΑΠΑΥΣΙΣ ΑΣΤ ΜΠΕΣΠΝΑ ΕΝΕΔΙΧ ΜΠΧΟΕΙΣ ΝΣΟΥ-
ΦΟΝΤ ΜΠΟΟΠΕ. ΑΡΖΜΟΟΣ ΕΖΡΑΙ ΑΡΤΡΕΥΚΩΦΟΣ ΜΜΟΣ ΑΥΧΙΤΣ
ΕΠΤΑΦΟΣ ΖΝΟΥΕΟΟΥ. ΝΤΕΡΕΦΚΩ ΔΕ ΜΠΕΣΣΩΜΑ ΖΗΠΤΑΦΟΣ
ΑΡΚΟΤΦ ΕΠΕΦΜΑΝΦΩΠΕ ΕΦΖΗΠΤΟΟΥ ΕΦΤΕΟΟΥ ΜΠΝΟΥΤΕ
ΕΧΝΖΩΒ ΝΙΜ ΝΤΑΥΦΩΠΕ ΑΥΦ ΝΕΦΠΟΛΙΤΕΥΕ ΚΑΤΑΤΕΦΑΣΚΗ-
ΣΙΣ ΝΦΟΡΠ.

21. ΔΣΦΩΠΕ ΔΕ ΟΝ ΝΟΥΖΟΟΥ ΕΙΕΙΡΕ ΝΝΑΣΥΝΑΞΙΣ ΑΙΦΕΙ
ΝΝΑΒΑΑ ΕΖΡΑΙ ΑΙΝΑΥ ΕΜΑΡΙΑ ΤΜΑΑΥ ΜΠΧΟΕΙΣ ΠΕΧΑΣ ΝΑΙ
ΧΕΣΤΕΦΑΝΟΣ ΜΠΕΡΑΥΠΕΙ ΕΤΒΕΤΕΚΦΕΕΡΕ ΚΑΙΓΑΡ ΑΣΕΜΠΦΑ
ΝΟΥΤΟΠΟΣ ΕΦΤΑΙΝΥ ΑΣΚΛΗΡΟΝΟΜΕΙ ΜΜΟΦ. ΝΤΟΚ ΔΕ ΖΩΦΚ
ΣΩΤΗ ΕΠΕΙΦΑΧΕ ΕΤΝΑΧΟΟΦ ΝΑΚ. ΕΙΣΖΗΗΤΕ ΓΑΡ ΟΥΝΦΟΜΗΝΤ
ΝΡΩΜΕ ΝΗΥ ΝΑΚ ΝΡΑΣΤΕ ΕΛΥΕΙΡΕ ΝΖΕΝΝΟΦ ΜΠΑΡΑΠΤΩΜΑ
ΦΟΠΟΥ ΕΡΟΚ ΝΓΚΑΦΗΓΕΙ ΜΜΟΟΥ ΖΝΤΕΣΒΩ ΜΠΧΟΕΙΣ ΕΒΟΛ
ΧΕΛΠΧΑΧΕ ΕΦΟΟΥ ΡΑΦΕ ΕΖΡΑΙ ΕΧΦΟΥ ΑΦΟΥΝΟΦ ΕΧΜΠΖΩΒ

away. Let Thy *good Angel* Michael come in haste to her that he may take her into the fold of Thy sheep. Cause her not be a stranger to Thy bride-chamber, *but* her rejoice in Thy perpetual *inheritance* for ever, for Thine is the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen ».

20. *And as* they were praying, the little daughter went to (her) rest in *repose*. She gave her *spirit* into the hands of the Lord on the third of Poope ¹³. He sat down (and) he caused them to prepare her for burial, (and) they took her to the *tomb* in glory. *And* when he had laid her *body* in the *tomb*, he returned to his dwelling-place which was on the mountain, giving glory to God for every thing that had happened and he *conducted himself according* to his former *asceticism*.

21. *And* it happened again one day that while I was performing my *synaxis*, I lifted up my eyes (and) I saw Mary the Mother of the Lord. She said to me : « Stephen, *grieve* not on account of thy daughter *for* she hath merited an honourable *place*, (and) hath *inherited* it. *And* thou thyself hearken to this word which I shall say to thee. *For* behold, three men are coming to thee to morrow who have committed great *transgressions*, receive them unto thee (and) *instruct* them in the teaching of the Lord, because the evil enemy hath rejoiced over them (and) hath been glad at the deed

¹³ *I.e.* month of Bābeh 4. (ΠΑΟΠΕ).

ΝΤΑΦΑ
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ΝΤΑΦΑΛΔ ΠΟΥΑ ΠΟΥΑ ΚΑΤΑΠΕΦΝΟΒΕ ΜΑΡΟΥΣΟΥΕΝΠΕΥΧΟ-
ΕΙΣ ΝΣΕΕΙΡΕ ΝΟΥΚΑΡΠΟΣ ΕΦΕΠΦΑ ΝΤΗΕΤΑΝΟΙΑ ΧΕΚΑΣ
ΝΤΕΠΧΑΧΕ ΧΙΦΙΠΕ ΝΤΕΠΝΟΥΤΕ ΖΩΦΩ ΧΙΕΘΟΥ ΕΛΔΧΙ ΝΤΗΕΤ-
ΑΝΟΙΑ ΝΗΡΕΦΕΡΝΟΒΕ ΝΤΟΟΤΟΥ. ΟΥΦΗΓΤΗΦΠΕ ΠΝΟΥΤΕ ΑΥΩ
ΟΥΝΑΗΤΠΕ ΝΦΟΥΦΩ ΑΗ ΕΤΡΕΑΛΛΑΥ ΝΡΩΜΕ ΜΟΥ ΖΗΝΕΥΤΟΒΕ.

22. ΑΣΦΩΠΕ ΔΕ ΜΠΕΦΡΑΣΤΕ ΑΥΕΙ ΦΑΡΟΙ ΝΔΗΦΩΜΗΤ ΝΡΩΜΕ.
ΑΝΟΚ ΔΕ ΝΕΠΡΟΣΚΑΡΤΗΡΕΙ ΕΙΔΩΦΤ ΕΒΟΑ ΖΗΤΟΥ ΚΑΤΑΦΕ
ΝΤΑΥΧΟΟΣ ΝΑΙ. ΑΥΕΙ ΕΥΖΟΣΕ ΕΥΗΘΩΦΕ ΖΗΤΕΖΗΝ ΑΥΖΗΟΣ
ΜΠΕΟΑ ΜΠΡΟ ΑΥΩ ΝΤΕΡΟΥΕΝΤΟΝ ΜΜΟΟΥ ΝΟΥΚΟΥΙ ΑΥΩ ΛΙ-
ΣΩΤΗ ΕΡΟΟΥ ΕΥΕΝΖΟΥΝ ΕΥΦΑΧΕ ΕΖΕΝΠΑΡΑΝΟΜΙΑ ΝΤΑΥΑΛΥ
ΕΥΦΑΧΕ ΜΗΝΕΥΕΡΗΥ ΕΥΧΩ ΜΜΟΣ ΧΕΜΑΡΕΝΠΩΤ ΕΖΟΥΝ ΕΠΙ-
ΜΑ ΜΠΗΝΑΥ ΝΤΕΝΕΝΚΟΤΚ ΦΛΦΩΡΠ ΧΕΛΡΟΥΖΕ ΦΩΠΕ. ΑΥΩ
ΕΡΦΑΝΦΩΡΠ ΦΩΠΕ ΤΕΝΝΑΠΩΤ ΕΠΗΙ ΜΠΗΡΗΜΑΟ ΝΤΕΝΣΥΛΑ
ΜΜΟΦ ΚΕΠΕΡ ΕΝΟΗΖ ΕΠΙΖΩΒ ΠΑΙ ΝΧΙΝΤΕΝΗΜΗΤΚΟΥΙ.

23. ΑΝΟΚ ΔΕ ΛΙΟΥΦΗ ΜΠΡΟ ΛΙΕΙ ΕΒΟΑ ΦΑΡΟΥΥ ΠΕΧΑΙ ΝΑΥ
ΧΕΤΡΗΝΗ ΝΗΤΗ ΝΑΣΝΗΥ, ΠΧΟΕΙΣ ΕΦΕΦΩΠΕ ΝΗΜΗΤΗ. ΠΕΧΑΥ
ΧΕΚΗΑΦΟΠΗ ΕΡΟΚ ΜΠΗΝΑΥ. ΠΕΧΑΙ ΝΑΥ ΧΕΣΕ ΑΥΩ ΛΙΧΙΤΟΥ
ΕΖΟΥΝ ΕΠΑΜΑΝΦΩΦΠΕ. ΛΙΠΩΤ ΕΖΟΥΝ ΕΠΗΑ ΕΥΕΝΚΟΤΚ

which each one hath done *in* his sin. Let them know their Lord and produce *fruit* worthy of repentance¹⁴ so that the enemy may be shamed and God Himself be glorified Who hath accepted the *repentance* of sinners. God is merciful and compassionate, and He desireth not that any man die in his sins »¹⁵.

22. *And* it happened on the morrow (that) three men came to me. *And* I was *persevering* in looking out for them *even* as it had been said unto me. They arrived being weary (from) walking in the way, (and) they sat outside the door. And when they rested themselves a little and I, being within, heard them talking about the *transgressions* which they had committed, saying to one another : « Let us enter this place at this hour and let us sleep until morning, as evening has come, and when it is morning, we will go to the house of this rich man and rob him, for also¹⁶ we are living by this means, since our childhood ».

23. *And* I opened the door, (and) I went out to them. I said to them, « *Peace* (be) unto you, my brethren, the Lord will be with you ». They said : « Wilt thou receive us unto thee at this hour? ». I said to them : « Yea ». *And* I took them inside my dwelling-place. I entered the place in which they

¹⁴ Cf. *Matth.*, III, 8.

¹⁵ Cf. *Jes.*, XVIII, 23.

¹⁶ Read probably *καὶ γάρ*.

ΝΖΗΤΩ ΠΕΧΑΙ ΝΑΥ ΧΕΝΑΦΗΡΕ ΜΑΤΑΜΟΙ ΧΕΝΤΕΤΝ ΖΕΝΕΒΟΑ
ΤΩΝ ΕΙΕ ΕΤΕΤΝΠΗΤ ΕΤΩΝ.

24. ΝΤΟΟΥ ΔΕ ΑΥΚΑΡΦΟΥ ΤΗΡΟΥ. ΠΕΧΕΟΥΑ ΕΒΟΑ ΝΖΗΤΟΥ
ΧΕΦΝΤΟΣ ΠΑΕΙΩΤ ΝΤΑΝΕΙ ΕΝΧΙΟΥΕ ΑΥΦ ΕΝΣΥΛΑ ΜΠΕΤΜ-
ΠΩΝ ΑΝΠΕ. ΑΝΑΥ ΧΕΟΥΠΕ ΠΕΚΖΩΒ ΝΗΜΑΝ ΤΕΝΟΥ. ΑΥΕΙΝΕ
ΔΕ ΕΒΟΑ ΝΟΥΣΚΕΟΣ ΜΠΕΝΠΕ ΕΦΕΝΤΟΤΟΥ ΕΥΟΥΦΩ ΕΜΟΥ-
ΟΥΤ ΗΜΟΙ ΑΥΦ ΝΤΕΥΝΟΥ ΑΝΕΥΔΙΧ ΤΩΣ ΑΥΕΡΘΕ ΝΝΙΩΝΕ
ΗΠΟΥΕΦΟΚΟΥ ΕΡΟΥ ΕΠΤΗΡΩ ΜΗΝΣΩΣ ΔΕ ΑΥΡΙΜΕ ΕΥΤΩΒΖ
ΗΜΟΙ ΧΕΠΕΝΕΙΩΤ ΝΑ ΝΑΝ.

25. ΑΝΟΚ ΔΕ ΠΕΧΑΙ ΝΑΥ ΧΕΕΣΟΜΟΛΟΓΕΙ ΝΝΕΤΝΝΟΒΕ ΝΤΑ-
ΤΕΤΝΑΛΥ ΑΥΦ ΑΝΟΚ †ΝΑΤΩΒΖ ΜΠΝΟΥΤΕ ΝΦΝΑ ΝΗΤΝ ΑΠΦΟΡΠ
ΟΥΦΩΒ ΕΦΧΩ ΜΜΟΣ ΧΕΚΩ ΝΑΙ ΕΒΟΑ ΠΑΕΙΩΤ ΜΠΕΡΖΩΒ ΕΝΑ-
ΝΟΥΦ ΕΝΕΖ ΝΣΑΠΕΘΟΥ ΕΙΣΥΛΑ ΜΠΕΤΜΠΩΙ ΑΝΠΕ ΕΠΟΡ-
ΝΕΥΕ ΕΙΦΗΦΕ ΜΠΡΗ ΜΠΠΟΥΖ.

26. ΑΠΚΕΟΥΑ ΔΕ ΟΥΦΩΒ ΕΦΧΩ ΜΜΟΣ ΧΕΑΝΟΚ ΖΩΦΤ ΟΝ
Φ ΠΑΕΙΩΤ ΕΤΟΥΛΛΕ ΑΙΖΩΤΕ ΝΟΥΡΩΜΕ ΕΤΒΕΤΕΦΣΖΙΜΕ ΦΑΝ-
ΤΑΕΝΚΟΤΚ ΝΗΜΑΦ ΧΩΡΙΣΖΕΝΚΕΝΟΒΕ ΕΙΕΙΡΕ ΗΜΟΟΥ ΜΠΕΖΟΥ
ΗΝΤΕΥΦΗ ΕΜΕΪΤΣΟ ΖΝΑΛΛΥ ΝΝΟΒΕ ΝΦΑΙΛΑΦ. ΜΑΡΕΝΕΚΦΑΝΑ
ΕΤΟΥΛΛΕ ΤΑΖΟΙ ΧΕΑΝΑΝΟΒΕ ΑΦΑΙ ΕΠΕΖΟΥΟ. ΦΑΝΑ ΜΕΦΑΚ
ΝΤΕΠΝΟΥΤΕ ΕΡΟΥΝΑ ΝΗΜΑΙ.

were lying down (and) I said to them : « My sons, inform me whence ye are, or whither ye are going ? ».

24. *But* they all remained silent. One of them said : « *Really*, my father we have come stealing and robbing that which is not ours. Behold, what is thy business with us now ? » *And* they brought out an iron tool which they had with them, wishing to kill me. *And* immediately their hands became stiff and were like stones, (and) they could not move them at all. *And* afterwards they wept beseeching me, saying : « Our father, have pity upon us ».

25. *And* I said to them : « *Confess* your sins which ye have committed; and I shall pray to God to have pity upon you ». The first answered, saying : « Forgive me, my father, I have never done a good deed but rather evil (ones), robbing that which was not mine, fornicating (and) worshipping the Sun and the Moon ».

26. *And* the other one answered, saying : « I, myself also, O my holy father, have killed a man on account of his wife so that I might sleep with her, apart from other sins which I have committed by day and by night, (and) I am not wont to refrain from any of the sins which I am accustomed to commit. Let thy holy prayers touch me, because my sins have multiplied exceedingly. Pray, perhaps God may have mercy upon me ».

27. ΑΠΚΕΟΥΑ ΖΩΩΨ ΟΥΨΨΕ ΕΦΧΩ ΗΜΟΣ ΧΕΟΥΟΙ ΝΑΙ ΠΛΕΨΤ
 ΟΥΝΟΒΤΕ ΠΝΟΒΕ ΝΤΑΙΛΛΑΨ. ΑΝΟΚ ΓΑΡ ΝΨΟΡΠ ΑΝΟΚ ΟΥΟΕΙΕ
 ΕΙΕΡΨΩΕ ΝΟΥΡΩΜΕ ΖΑΠΑΒΕΚΗ· ΑΠΧΟΕΙΟ ΜΠΚΑΨ ΕΤΗΜΑΥ
 ΗΨΩΕ ΝΗΜΑΙ ΝΟΥΖΟΥ ΕΤΒΕΟΥΚΑΤΑΦΡΟΝΗΟΙΟ ΕΑΙΛΑΟ ΕΑΠ-
 ΔΙΑΒΟΛΟΟ ΝΟΧΟ ΕΠΑΖΗΤ ΑΙΤΨΟΥΝ ΝΤΠΑΨΕ ΝΤΕΥΨΗ ΑΙΨ-
 ΚΩΨΤ ΕΤΕΦΟΥΟΙΑ ΝΟΟΥ· ΝΕΨΤΒΝΟΟΥΕ ΑΙΧΙΤΟΥ ΕΥΠΟΑΙΟ
 ΝΨΗΜΟ ΑΙΤΑΛΥ ΕΒΟΑ ΑΙΤΨΟΥΝ ΑΙΕΙ ΕΠΕΙΜΑ ΑΙΟΥΨΤ ΝΟΑΠ-
 ΚΕΡΨΜΕ ΟΝΑΥ ΗΠΑΡΑΝΟΜΟΟ ΑΜΕΤΕΧΕ ΝΗΜΑΥ ΕΠΧΙΟΥΕ
 ΗΝΖΕΝΚΕΝΟΨ ΝΨΨ ΝΑΟΕΒΗΟ ΤΕΝΟΥ ΔΕ ΕΙΟ ΝΕΝΟΒΕ ΝΤΑ-
 ΝΑΛΥ ΑΝΖΟΜΟΛΟΓΕΙ ΗΜΟΟΥ ΗΠΗΤΟ ΕΒΟΑ ΗΠΗΟΥΤΕ ΝΗΜΑΕ
 ΤΕΝΟΥΔΕ ΜΑΡΕΠΕΚΝΑ ΤΑΖΟΝ ΝΤΕΝΨΨ ΖΑΤΗΚ ΗΠΕΙΜΑ ³ ΑΥΨ
 ΝΓΚΑΛΗΝ ΖΑΨΑΙΕΟ ΗΝΕΚΨΑΝΑ ΕΤΟΥΑΛΕ.

28. ΑΝΟΚ ΔΕ ΑΙΤΨΟΥΝ ΝΗΜΑΥ ΑΨΑΝΑ ΕΖΡΑΙ ΕΠΠΟΥΤΕ ΑΥΨ
 ΝΤΕΥΝΟΥ. ΑΝΕΥΔΙΧ ΟΟΥΤΗΝ ΕΒΟΑ ΑΥΕΡΨΕ ΝΨΟΡΠ. ΑΝΟΚ
 ΔΕ ΖΨΨΤ ΑΨΜΟΟΟ ΑΙΚΑΨΗΓΕΙ ΗΜΟΟΥ ΕΒΟΑ ΖΗΝΕΓΡΑΦΗ
 ΕΤΟΥΑΛΕ ΕΙΧΨ ΗΜΟΟ ΝΑΥ ΧΕΕΡΨΑΝΠΡΨΜΕ ΕΡΝΟΒΕ ΗΗ ΝΨ-
 ΚΟΤΨ ΕΠΠΟΥΤΕ ΝΕΨΨΕΨΠ ΝΗΜΑΨ.

29. ΑΥΨ ΑΨΨΗΝΕ ΝΟΑΝΕΥΡΑΝ ΕΒΟΑ ΖΙΤΟΟΤΟΥ ΑΥΤΑΜΟ:

³ § 27 des. - 34 inc. cf. I. GUDI, in Rendiconti della R. Accad. dei Lincei. Classe di scienze morali, storiche e filol., 1887, p. 47-52.

27. The other one also answered, saying: «Woe unto me, my father. Great is the sin which I have committed, for I was, at first, a husbandman, working for a man for my wage. The master of that land chided me one day, on account of *disdain* which I showed, which the Devil had put into my heart. I arose at mid-night and I set fire to all his *crop*¹⁷ of wheat, his beasts I took to a different¹⁸ city (and) I sold them. I arose (and) I came to this place. I followed the two other *lawless* men, (and) I *took part* with them in stealing and in many other *godless* deeds. And now, behold, the sins which we have committed, we have *confessed* before God and thee. Now, moreover, let thy mercy reach us, that we may stay with you in this place. And place us beneath the shadow of thy holy prayers».

28. And I arose with them (and) I prayed to God, and immediately their hands stretched out and became as before. And I myself sat down (and) *instructed* them in the Holy Scriptures, saying to them: «If a man commit every sin and turn to God, He (God) is not wont to make a reckoning with him».

29. And I asked them their names (and) they informed me. The first

¹⁷ Lit. 'property'.

¹⁸ Lit. 'foreign'.

ΠΩΡΡΠΠΕ ΕΡΑΣΤΟΣ ΠΜΕΖCΝΑΥΠΕ ΩΝΗΣΙΜΟΣ ΠΜΕΖΩΜΝΤ-
ΠΕ ΤΡΟΦΙΜΟΣ. ΑΥΩ ΝΤΟQ ΠΕΝΤΑQΩΠΠΕ ΝΜΜΑΙ ΖΗΠΜΑΝ-
ΩΠΠΕ ΝΟΥΩΤ ΕΝΩΜΩΕ ΜΠΝΟΥΤΕ.

30. ΜΝΝCΑ ΝΑΙ ΑΥΠΩΤ ΕΤΠΟΛΙC ΝΟΥΖΟΟΥ ΕΩΩΠ ΝΤΕΝΧΡΙΑ.
ΕΙCΖΗΗΤΕ ΑCΕΙ ΦΑΡΟΙ ΝΒΙΜΑΡΙΑ ΤΜΑΛΥ ΜΠΧΟΕΙC ΠΕΧΑC ΝΑΙ
ΧΕΝΑΙΑΤΚ ΝΤΟΚ CΤΕΦΑΝΟC ΠΩΩC ΝΡΕQΜΟΟΝΕ ΝΝΕCΟΟΥ
ΜΠΕΧ̄C ΕQΚΩΤΕ ΜΠΟΟΥ ΕΠΧΟΕΙC · ΕΙCΖΗΗΤΕ ΓΑΡ ΟΥΝΩΜΝΤ
ΝΚΛΟΗ CΕΤΩΤ ΝΑΚ ΖΗΝΗΠΗΥΕ ΕΠΜΑ ΜΠΩΜΝΤ ΝΡΩΜΕ ΝΡΕQ-
ΕΡΝΟΒΕ ΝΤΑΚΤCΑΒΟΟΥ ΕΠΧΟΕΙC ΦΑΝΤΕΥΟΥΧΑΙ ΧΩΡΙC ΠΕ-
ΚΛΟΗ ΕΤΕΚΝΑΧΙΤQ ΖΙΤΗΠΝΟΥΤΕ ΖΑΤΕΚΜΑΡΤΥΡΙΑ. ΚΑΙ ΓΑΡ
ΟΥΝΖΕΝΝΟC ΝΤΑΛΔΟ ΝΑΩΠΠΕ ΕΒΟΛ ΖΗΝΕΚΔΙΧ ΝΓΚΤΟ ΝΟΥ-
ΜΗΗΩΕ ΦΑΠΧΟΕΙC ΕΒΟΛ ΖΗΝΗΟΥΔΑΙ ΜΗΝΕΖΕΛΛΗΝ. ΜΝΝCΩC
CΕΝΑΔΩΠΤ ΕΡΟΚ ΝΒΙΝΙΟΥΔΑΙ ΧΕΑΚΚΥΡΙΖΕ ΜΠΡΑΝ ΜΠΧΟΕΙC
ΝCΕΤΩΟΥΝ ΕΖΡΑΙ ΕΧΩΚ ΝCΕΖΙΩΝΕ ΕΡΟΚ ΝΓΧΩΚ ΕΒΟΛ ΝΤΕΚ-
ΜΑΡΤΥΡΙΑ. ΠΝΟΥΤΕ ΝΑΪΟΥΝΟC ΝΕΟΟΥ ΜΠΕΚΡΑΝ ΜΠΠΕΚCΩΜΑ
ΕΒΟΛ ΧΕΑΚΩΠΖΙCΕ ΕΧΜΠΕQΡΑΝ QΝΑΤΡΕΥΚΩΤ ΝΑΚ ΝΟΥΜΑΡ-
ΤΥΡΙΟΝ ΕΥΕΡΠΜΕΕΥΕ ΝΑΚ ΝΩΛΕΝΕΖ. ΟΥΝΖΕΝΝΟC ΝΔΟΜ
ΝΑΩΠΠΕ ΖΗΠΜΑ ΕΤΟΥΝΑΤΑΥΕΠΕΚΡΑΝ ΕΧΩQ ΑΥΩ ΟΥΝΖΕΝ-
ΝΟC ΝΤΑΛΔΟ ΝΑΩΠΠΕ ΝΝΕΤΠΙCΤΕΥΕ ΕΡΟΚ. ΤΩΟΥΝΔΕ ΤΕΝΟΥ
ΜΠΠΕΙΚΕΦΟΜΝΤ ΝΡΩΜΕ ΕΤΗΝΜΑΚ ΩΝΗΣΙΜΟC ΜΝΑΡΑCΤΟC

was Erastus, the second was Onesimus and the third was Trophimus, and it was he who dwelt with me in this very dwelling-place (and) were serving God.

30. After these things, they went to the *city* one day to buy our *deeds*, (and) behold, Mary the Mother of the Lord came to me. She said to me : « Blessed art thou, Stephen, shepherd who pastureth the flock of Christ, turning them to the Lord. *For* behold, three crowns are prepared for thee in the Heavens in the place of these three sinful men whom thou hast instructed in the Lord until they have been saved, *apart from* the crown which thou wilt receive from God for thy *martyrdom*. *For* also there shall go forth great cures through thine hands, (and) thou shalt bring back a multitude to the Lord of the Jews and of the *Greeks*. Afterwards, the Jews will look to thee, for thou hast *preached* the Name of the Lord, and they will rise up against thee, and stone thee, and thou shalt accomplish thy *martyrdom*. God will give great glory unto thy name and thy *body*, because thou hast endured suffering for His Name. He will cause them a *Martyrium* to be built for thee (as) a memorial unto thee for ever. There shall be great miracles in the place in which thy name shall be invoked and there shall be great cures for those who *believe* in thee. Arise, moreover, now with these three other men who are with thee. Onesimus

ΜΗΤΡΟΦΙΜΟΣ ΝΤΕΤΝΠΩΤ ΦΑΝΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΟΣ ΝΤΕΤΝΕΡΜΑΘΗ-
ΤΗΣ ΝΑΥ ΝΤΕΤΝΤΑΦΘΕΟΘΕΩ ΜΠΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΟΝ ΝΤΗΝΗΤΡΩ.

31. ΝΤΕΡΕΣΩΣΚ ΔΕ ΕΣΖΗΘΟΣ ΖΜΠΗ ΕΣΦΑΧΕ ΝΜΗΑΙ ΖΗΚΕ-
ΝΟΔ ΜΗΥΣΤΗΡΙΟΝ ΕΤΕΙ ΕΣΖΗΘΟΣ ΖΑΤΗ ΕΣΦΑΧΕ ΝΜΗΑΙ ΑΥΕΙ
ΕΖΟΥΝ ΝΔΙΝΕΤΝΗΜΑΙ ΑΥΔΩΦΤ ΑΥΝΑΥ ΕΜΑΡΙΑ ΤΠΑΡΘΕΝΟΣ
ΕΣΖΗΘΟΣ ΖΑΤΗ ΝΤΕΥΝΟΥ ΝΤΑΣΝΑΥ ΕΡΟΟΥ ΑΣΤ ΝΑΙ ΝΤΡΗΝΗ
ΑΣΠΩΤ ΕΖΡΑΙ ΕΝΜΠΗΥΕ ΖΝΟΥΕΘΟΥ.

32. ΝΤΟΥ ΔΕ ΑΥΔΩ ΕΥΠΑΡΑΧΕΙ ΜΜΟΙ ΖΝΖΕΝΝΟΔ ΝΣΟΠΣ
ΜΝΖΕΝΝΟΔ ΝΚΩΡΦ ΧΕΜΑΤΑΜΟΝ Ω ΠΕΝΕΙΩΤ ΧΕΝΗΝΤΕ ΤΕΙΣ-
ΖΙΜΕ ΕΤΦΑΧΕ ΝΜΗΑΚ ΝΤΕΡΟΥΕΝΩΧΛΕ ΝΑΙ ΕΠΕΖΟΥΟ ΕΥΑ-
ΝΑΓΚΑΖΕ ΜΜΟΙ ΑΙΤΑΜΟΥΥ ΧΕΤΕΙΣΖΙΜΕ ΝΤΑΤΕΤΗΝΑΥ ΕΡΟΣ
ΕΣΦΑΧΕ ΝΜΗΑΙ ΤΑΙΤΕ ΜΑΡΙΑ ΤΜΑΑΥ ΜΠΧΟΕΙΣ. ΑΥΩ ΑΙΤΑΜΟΥΥ
ΕΝΕΦΑΧΕ ΝΤΑΣΧΟΥΥ ΝΑΙ ΑΥΠΠΘΕ ΕΧΗΝΕΣΦΑΧΕ ΑΥΤΕΘΟΥ
ΜΠΠΟΥΤΕ.

33. ΑΝΤΩΟΥΝ ΑΝΠΩΤ ΦΑΝΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΟΣ ΑΝΜΑΘΗΤΕΥΕ ΖΑΡΑ-
ΤΟΥ ΑΥΩ ΑΝΩΠΠΕ ΖΝΤΗΠΕ ΜΠΩΦΕΣΗΘΟΥΣ ΜΜΑΘΗΤΗΣ.
ΜΗΝΣΑΟΥΘΕΙΩ ΔΕ ΑΥΚΡΗΡΗ ΦΩΠΕ ΖΝΤΗΝΤΕ ΝΝΕΟΥΕΣΙΝΗ
ΜΗΝΕΖΕΒΡΑΙΟΣ ΧΕΝΣΕΤΖΤΗΥ ΑΝ ΕΝΕΤΕΡΔΡΩΖ ΜΗΠΩΦΩΤ
ΝΝΕΧΗΡΑ ΖΝΤΑΙΑΚΟΝΙΑ.

and Arastus and Trophimus and go to the *Apostles* and become *disciples* to them, and preach the *Gospel* of the Kingdom ».

31. *And* when She (the *Virgin*) had continued sitting in the house (and) speaking with me about other great *mysteries* (and) She was still sitting beside me speaking with me; those who were with me entered in. They looked (and) they saw Mary the *Virgin* sitting beside me, and immediately She saw them, She gave me the *peace* (and) departed to the Heavens in glory.

32. *And* they remained beseeching me with many prayers and many entreaties, saying: « Inform us, O our father, who was this woman who was speaking with thee? ». When they oppressed me exceedingly and compelled me, I informed them that this woman whom ye saw speaking to me was Mary the Mother of the Lord. And I informed them of the words which She had said to me. They were convinced of her words (and) they glorified God.

33. We arose (and) went to the *Apostles*. We became *disciples* at their feet and we were in number seventy-two *Disciples*. And after a time a murmuring happened among the *Greeks* and the *Hebrews*, because they were not attending to those who were in need and want among the *widows* in the *ministry*.

34. ΑΠΗΝΤΕΣΝΟΥΣ ΝΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΟΣ ΜΟΥΤΕ ΕΠΙΦΕΣΝΟΥΣ
 ΗΜΑΘΗΤΗΣ ΠΕΧΑΥ ΝΑΝ ΖΙΟΥΣΟΠ ΧΕΣΩΠΤ ΝΦΑΦΩ ΝΡΩΜΕ
 ΝΖΗΤΤΗΥΤΗ ΗΜΑΙΣΩ ΕΖΕΝΧΑΙΖΗΤ ΑΝΝΕ ΕΖΕΝΡΕΚΑΤΑΛΛΑ-
 ΛΕΙ ΑΝΝΕ ΑΛΛΑ ΕΖΕΝΕΡΓΑΤΗΣΝΕ ΝΟΙΚΟΝΟΜΟΣ ΝΣΕΦΩΠΕ
 ΕΖΡΑΙ ΕΧΝΝΕΧΡΙΑ ΤΗΡΟΥ ΜΝΝΕΧΡΗΜΑ ΜΝΤΕΧΡΙΑ ΤΗΡΣ ΝΤΕΚ-
 ΚΑΝΣΙΑ ΝΣΕΦΠΡΟΥΦΩ ΝΝΕΧΗΡΑ ΜΝΝΕΤΕΡΩΡΩΖ ΑΥΩ ΝΣΕ-
 ΤΡΥΦΑ ΜΗΟΟΥ ΖΝΟΥΔΙΝΩΝΖ ΕΣΕΡΦΑΥ. ΤΕΝΣΡΒΕ ΕΠΕΦΑΝΑ
 ΖΩΦΩΝ ΜΝΤΔΙΑΚΟΝΙΑ ΜΠΝΟΥΤΕ.

35. ΑΥΣΩΠΤ ΝΣΟΥ ΝΡΩΜΕ ΝΗΜΑΙ ΕΤΕΝΑΙΝΕ ΝΕΥΡΑΝ ΠΑΡ-
 ΜΕΝΑΣ ΑΥΩ ΝΙΚΟΛΑΟΣ ΜΝΠΡΟΧΟΡΟΣ ΑΥΩ ΦΙΛΙΠΠΟΣ ΜΝΔΙΜΩΝ
 ΑΥΩ ΝΙΚΑΝΩΡ. ΝΑΙ ΔΕ ΤΗΡΟΥΝΣ ΖΕΝΡΕΦΩΜΩΕΝΟΥΤΕ ΕΥΜΟΟ-
 ΦΣ ΖΝΟΥΤΕΒΟ ΕΥΣΟΥΤΩΝ ΖΜΝΕΥΖΒΗΥΣ ΤΗΡΟΥ.

36. ΑΝΟΚ ΔΕ ΑΝΓΟΥΡΩΜΕ ΝΡΕΦΕΡΝΟΒΕ ΝΤΕΜΠΩ ΑΝ ΕΔΙΑ-
 ΚΟΝΕΙ ΖΝΝΚΑ ΝΤΕΠΝΟΥΤΕ. ΡΩΜΕ ΝΙΜ ΕΤΝΑΡΟΕΙΣ ΕΝΕΝΚΑ
 ΜΠΗΙ ΜΠΝΟΥΤΕ ΝΣΕΔΙΗΚΕ⁴ ΜΗΟΟΥ ΚΑΛΩΣ ΝΣΕΤΑΥ ΝΝΕΤ-
 ΦΑΛΤ ΝΣΕΤΜΧΟ ΕΒΟΛ ΝΖΗΤΟΥ ΚΑΚΩΣ ΝΣΕΤΗΤ⁴ ΝΝΕΑΡΧΩΝ
 ΜΠΡΟΣΧΑΡΙΣ ΝΣΕΤΜΖΕΠΑΛΑΥ ΝΖΗΤΟΥ ΑΛΛΑ ΝΣΕΕΡΠΕΥΡΟΥΦΩ

⁴ Sic. Bead ΔΙΑΚΟΝΕΙ

34. The twelve *Apostles* called the seventy-two *Disciples*¹⁹ (and) said to us all together : « Choose seven men among you, lovers of instruction, not being proud, not being *slanders*, but being workers (and) *stewards*, that they may have chance²⁰ of all the *wants* and the *money* and all the *needs* of the *Church*, and may have care of the *widows* and *nourish* them in a fit manner²¹. We, ourselves, (shall) persevere unto the prayer and the ministry of God²² ».

35. They chose six men together with me, whose names are : Parmenas, and Nicolas (Nikolaos), and Prochoros, and Philip (Philippos), and Timon (Dimôn), and Nicanor (Nicanôr). And all these were ministers of God, walking in purity, and being upright in all their deeds.

36. And I, I am a sinful man (and) am not worthy to minister to the things of God. All men who shall watch over the things of the house of²⁴ God, shall minister them well (and) shall give them to those who are needy, (and) shall not spend them ill (and) shall not give (them) to the chiefs as (?) a gratification, (and) shall not hide anything of them, but

¹⁹ Cf. *Acts*, vi, 1-3.

²⁰ Lit. 'that they may be upon... ».

²¹ Lit. 'life'.

²² Cf. *Acts*, vi, 4.

²⁴ In a different order in *Acts*, vi, 5.

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ΧΕΛΥΓΑΝΖΟΥΤΟΥ ΚΛΑΩΣ ΝΣΕΤΑΔΥ ΝΝΕΤΦΑΛΤ ΜΝΗΕΤΕΡ-
 ΔΡΩΖ. †ΖΟΜΟΛΟΓΕΙ ΝΗΤΗ ΧΕΣΕΝΑΦΩΠΕ ΝΚΑΗΤΟΝΟΜΟΣ ΖΝΤ-
 ΜΗΤΡΡΟ ΝΝΗΠΗΥΕ.

37. ΕΦΩΠΕ ΝΤΟΦ ΕΣΦΑΝΦΩΠΕ ΝΣΕΚΑΤΑΨΡΟΜΕΙ ΝΝΟΕΙΚ
 ΝΤΕΚΚΑΝΣΙΑ ΜΠΝΟΥΤΕ ΑΥΩ ΝΣΕΤΗ† ΝΝΗΕΤΦΑΛΤ ΝΖΗΤΟΥ
 ΜΝΗΕΤΕΡΔΡΩΖ ΑΛΛΑ ΝΣΕΟΥΟΜΟΥ ΝΣΕΣΟΟΥ ΑΥΩ ΝΣΕΧΟΟΡΟΥ
 ΕΒΟΛ ΖΝΟΥΣΠΑΤΑΛΛΑΙΑ ΤΕΝΖΟΜΟΛΟΓΕΙ ΝΗΤΗ ΑΝΟΜΠΕ ΠΣΑΦΩ
 ΝΟΙΚΟΝΟΜΟΣ ΧΕΝ-ΕΣ ΝΤΑΥΧΩΦΡΕ ΕΒΟΛ ΝΝΕΝΚΑ ΝΤΕΚΚΑΝ-
 ΣΙΑ ΠΝΟΥΤΕ ΝΑΧΩΦΡΕ ΕΒΟΛ ΜΝΕΥΚΕΕΣ ΑΥΩ ΠΕΤΟΥΝΑΕΙΤΩ
 ΝΖΗΤΟΥ ΝΦΝΑΕΡΦΑΥ ΝΑΥ ΑΝ ΑΛΛΑ ΕΥΝΑΦΩΠΕ ΖΑΖΕΝΑΥΠΕΙ
 ΜΝΖΕΝΦΩΠΕ ΕΥΩΦ ΝΤΕΝΕΥΚΕΕΣ ΣΡΟΦΡΕΩ ΖΝΟΥΪΕΠΗ ΧΕΝΕ-
 ΕΝΚΑΝΕ ΝΤΕΚΚΑΝΣΙΑ ΑΥΣΡΒΡΩΦΟΥ ΑΥΟΥΟΜΟΥ ΝΧΙΝΧΗ. ΕΦΧΕ
 ΠΝΟΥΤΕ ΝΑΚΡΙΝΕ ΜΝΕΠΙΤΡΟΠΟΣ ΜΝΝΕΤΖΙΧΗΝΕΑΡΧΩΝ ΧΕΛΥ-
 ΤΑΚΟ ΝΝΕΥΕΝΚΟ ΑΥΧΟΟΡΟΥ ΕΒΟΛ ΚΑΚΩΣ ΜΑΛΛΩΝ ΔΕ ΠΕΪΩΤ
 ΜΠΕΝΧΟΕΙΣ ΙΪ ΠΕΧΪ ΝΤΟΦ ΠΕΤΝΑΚΡΙΝΕ ΜΠΟΙΚΟΝΟΜΟΣ ΧΕΛΥ-
 ΤΑΚΟ ΜΠΕΥΦΩΠΕ ΑΥΩ ΑΥΧΩΦΡΕ ΕΒΟΛ ΝΝΕΖΙΣΕ ΜΠΕΝΧΟΕΙΣ
 ΙΪ ΠΕΧΪ ΠΛΟΓΟΣ ΜΠΕΪΩΤ ΚΑΤΑ-ΕΕ ΝΤΑΦΧΟΟΣ ΝΪΠΙΑΥΛΟΣ
 ΠΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΟΣ ΧΕΝΑΙ ΕΤΦΟΟΠ ΖΑΖΕΝΕΠΙΤΡΟΠΟΣ ΜΝΖΕΝΟ-
 ΚΟΝΟΜΟΣ ΦΑΤΕΠΡΟ-ΘΕΣΝΙΑ ΜΠΕΪΩΤ. ΤΑΙ ΖΩΦΩΤΕ ΘΕ ΕΛΑ-

shall watch over them because they were *well* entrusted to them (and) they shall give them to those who are needy and to those who are in want. I confess to you that they shall be *heirs* in the Kingdom of the Heavens.

37. If, again, it happen that they *despise* the bread of the Church of God and do not give to those who are needy and who are in want among them but eat of them (the things) (and) drink of them (the things) and spend them in *wantonness*, we confess to you, we the seven stewards, that as they dispersed the things of the Church, God shall disperse their bones, and that which they shall take away from them, shall not profit them, but they shall be in *grief* and in much sickness (and) their bones shall wither speedily, because they are the things of the Church (and) they have dissipated them, (and) have devoured in vain. If God shall judge the guardians and those who are above the *chiefs*, because they have destroyed their things (and) have wasted them *ill*, how much more the Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ. He it is Who shall judge the stewards²⁸ because they destroyed their ministry and brought to nought the labours of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Word of the Father, even as saith Paul the Apostle: « These who are under guardians and stewards unto the term appointed of the Father²⁹ ».

²⁸ MS. reads 'steward'.

²⁹ Cf. Gal., iv, 2.

ΣΠΟΥΔΑΣΕ ΕΛΡΙΣΚΕ ΜΠΧΟΕΙΣ ΑΥΩ ΝΤΕΝΕΡΖΜΖΛΛ ΝΑΩ
ΖΝΟΥΜΕ ΑΥΩ ΝΤΕΝΦΗΦΕ ΝΑΩ ΖΝΟΥΔΙΚΑΙΟΣΥΝΗ.

38. ΑΝΑΥ ΕΙΩΣΗΦ ΝΤΕΡΕΠΕΦΧΟΕΙΣ ΤΑΖΟΦ ΕΡΑΤΦ ΕΧΜΠΕΦΗ
ΜΗΝΕΤΦΟΟΠ ΝΑΩ ΤΗΡΟΥ. ΑΥΩ ΜΠΕΝΣΩΤΗ ΖΕΝΕΓΡΑΦΗ ΧΕ-
ΛΑΤΑΚΕΛΛΑΥ ΖΗΝΕΕΝΚΑ ΜΠΕΦΧΟΕΙΣ ΜΑΛΙΣΤΑ ΕΛΝΣΩΤΗ
ΧΕΛΠΕΣΜΟΥ ΦΩΠΕ ΖΗΠΗ ΜΠΡΜΚΗΜΕ ΕΤΒΕΙΩΣΗΦ.

39. ΑΝΑΥ ΕΙΑΚΩΒ ΝΤΑΛΛΑΒΑΝ ΤΑΝΖΟΥΤΦ ΕΠΕΦΟΖΕ ΝΕΣΟΟΥ
ΑΥΩ ΛΦΕΡΜΗΤΡΕ ΝΑΩ ΧΕΜΠΕΙΝΕ ΝΑΚ ΕΖΡΑΙ ΜΠΕΝΤΑΟΥΦΥ-
ΡΙΟΝ ΤΑΚΟΦ ΑΥΩ ΜΠΗΤ ΕΒΟΛ ΝΟΥΖΙΕΙΒ ΖΗΝΕΚΟΖΕ ΝΕΣΟΟΥ Η
ΟΥΜΑΣ ΝΒΟΟΗΠΕ ΝΧΙΟΥΕ. ΑΥΩ ΝΦΕΡΜΗΤΡΕ ΟΝ ΧΕΛΝΟΚ
†ΦΟΟΠ ΖΗΠΚΑΥΜΑ ΜΠΕΖΟΟΥ ΜΗΤΕΥΦΗ ΕΦΖΜΠΧΑΦ ΑΥΩ ΟΝ
ΑΠΖΙΝΗΒ ΣΑΖΩΦΦ ΕΒΟΛ ΜΗΟΙ ΕΙΡΟΕΙΣ ΕΝΕΚΕΣΟΟΥ ΝΤΕΥΦΗ.

40. ΑΝΑΥ ΕΜΦΥΧΗ ΕΦΡΟΕΙΣ ΕΝΑΠΑΡΧΗ ΜΗΝΡΕΜΗΤ ΝΤΑ-
ΝΕΦΗΡΕ ΜΠΗΛ ΤΑΛΥ ΝΑΦ. ΑΝΟΝ ΔΕ ΖΩΦΝ ΜΑΡΕΝΔΙΗΚΕ⁵
ΗΕΝΚΑ ΝΙΜ ΝΦΑΥΤΑΛΥ ΜΠΕΧ̄ ΝΑΦΡΟΝ ΕΝΣΟΟΥΝ ΧΕΜΗΝΣΑ-
ΝΑΥ ΝΙΜ ΕΝΠΗΤ ΕΖΡΑΙ ΕΝΕΦΔΙΧ ΝΦ† ΜΠΟΥΑ ΠΟΥΑ ΚΑΤΑΝΕΦ-
ΖΗΥΕ. ΕΣΕΦΩΠΕ ΔΕ ΕΤΡΕΝΔΙΗΕ ΝΟΥΝΑ ΜΠΕΦΕΜΤΟ ΕΒΟΛ
ΝΤΟΦ ΠΕΝΧΟΕΙΣ Ῑ ΠΕΧ̄ ΠΑΙ ΕΒΟΛ ΖΙΤΟΟΤΦ ΕΡΕΟΟΥ ΝΙΜ

⁵ Sic. Read ΔΙΑΚΟΠΕΙ.

And thus we have hastened to please the Lord and serve Him in truth and worship Him in righteous.

38. Behold Joseph, when his Lord set him over his house and all his belongings. We did not hear in the Scriptures that he destroyed anything of the things of his lord; rather we heard that blessing was in the house of the Egyptian on account of Joseph ²⁷.

39. Behold Jacob to whom Laban entrusted his flock of sheep. And he bore witness to him saying: « I did not bring up unto thee that which a wild beast had destroyed, and I did not sell a sheep of thy flocks of sheep or a kid stealthily ». And he bore witness also, saying: « I was in the heat of the day and in the frost of the night and also sleep departed from me as I watched over thy sheep at night ²⁸ ».

40. Behold Moses watching over the first-fruits and the tithes which the Children of Israel gave to him ²⁹. And let us, ourselves minister in all things which they are wont to give to Christ as a gift, knowing that after every time we go unto His hands. He gives to every one according to his works. May it now be (given to us) to find mercy before Him, He, Our

²⁷ Cf. Gen., xxxiii, 5.

²⁸ Cf. Gen., xxxiii, 40.

²⁹ Cf. Deut., xiv, 22.

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ΠΡΕΠΕΙ ΜΑΧ ΜΗΠΕΦΕΩΤ ΠΑΓΑΘΟΣ ΜΗΠΕΪΝΑ ΕΤΟΥΔΑΞ
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 ΦΑΝΑΙΩΝ ΤΗΡΟΥ ΗΝΕΩΗ ΖΑΜΗΝ.

Lord Jesus Christ through Whom is *due* unto Him with His *Good* Father
 and the Holy, Lifegiving and *Consubstantial Spirit* all glory now and at
 every time unto all ages of the ages Amen.

Cairo,
 Coptic Museum.

YASSÈ 'ABD AL-MASIH.