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Egyptian Writing System

PHONOGRAMS OF KEMET
THE MONOLITERAL SIGN LIST

Kemetu Symbol			IPA Symbol	Object Depicted	Sound Value
Formal	Cursive	Popular			
			3	African Vulture	a as in English "father"
			i	Flowering Reed	e as in English "easy"
			y	Two Flowering Reeds	y as in English "happy"
			'	Forearm & Hand	"ian" as in southern English "I'm gon do it"
			w, u	Quail Chick	In the beginning of a word "w." In the middle or the end "u"
			b	Foot & Calf	b is pronounced with implosion
			p	Foot Stool	As with English "p", but more fully aspirated.
			f	Horned Viper	"f" as in English fight
			m	Horned Owl	"m" bilabial nasal occlusive
			n	Ripple Of Water	"n" more apicodental nasal occlusive.
			r	Mouth	"r" apico-alveolar vibrant
			h	Reed Shelter In Field	"h" as in the English horn.
			ḥ	Twisted Flax	Emphatic "h"
			ḫ	Placenta	"kh" soft uvularic implosion
			ẖ	Animals Belly With Teats	"kh" hard uvularic implosion
			s, (z)	Door Bolt	"s" as in the English see
			s	Folded Cloth	same as above
			š	Pool Of Water	"sh" palatoalveolar fricative consonant as in "she"
			ḳ	Hill Slope	"q" without the u: qat
			k	Basket	"k" muffled dorso-velar occlusive

"The Egyptian language"

The language consists of approximately 121 bi-literals, 75 tri-literals, and various determinants and phonetic complements. The bi-literals were individual symbols which expressed two sounds and the tri-literals were individual symbols which express three sounds. Phonetic complements are monoliterals found in front of and/or behind multi-consonantal signs in order to provide clarity and also to complete the meaning of the word. They normally repeat sounds already found in the word, but have no separate sound value.

Special attention was given to the Aesthetics of the language. The sentences were not written with one individual symbol after another. All words took a quadrangular form which some scholar call the square principle; the symbols are placed in an imaginary square and the upper ones take precedence over the lower. The majority of the language was written from right to left except for occasional specific purposes. The determinants were symbols which had no sound value and were used at the end of the word to decipher the meaning between two words with the same symbols. The determinant normally came at the end of the word and demonstrated the meaning of the entire word. Many of the determinants which were added to the words (sometimes more than one per word) did not seem to be relevant to the word's meaning to most European scholars, but I will show that there is a connection with the language to the spiritual beliefs of the people who spoke the language.

These symbols, "Medu Netcher" [Mdw Ntr], cannot be understood without understanding African spirituality and African spirituality cannot be understand without understanding Medu Netcher. The language had to be deciphered in two ways; first it had to be transliterated from symbols to orthographic text and then translated into English.

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