

AKHENATEN

HYMN TO THE SUN GOD ATEN

The praise of the sun-god
Thou appearest beautiful in the horizon of the sky,
O living Disk, beginning of life!
When thou risest in the eastern horizon,
Thou fillest every land with thy beauty.
Thou art beautiful, great,
Resplendent and exalted over every land.
Thy rays encompass the lands
To the extent of all things which thou hast made;
(Since) thou art Re, thou bringest them all,
Thou subjectest them to thy beloved son
(though) thou art afar, thy rays are on earth;
Thou art on their faces (and thus they feel?) thy steps.

(When) thou goest to rest in the western horizon,
The earth is in darkness, in the condition of death.
(Men) lie in their chambers with their heads wrapped up;
One eye seeth not the other.
Their belongings are stolen (even when) lying under their heads,
And they notice it not.
Every lion cometh from his den,
All serpents bite,
Darkness (is their protection?)
The earth (resteth) in silence
(While) he who made them is in his horizon.

The earth is bright when thou risest on the horizon,
Resplendent as the sun-disk in day-time.
Thou removest darkness
(When) thou sendest thy rays.
Both lands are in festival joy,
Awakening and standing on (their) feet;
Thou hast raised them up.
Their limbs being bathed, they take (their) clothing;
Their arms are (lifted) in worship at they rising;
(Thereupon) all the land perform their toil.

All cattle rejoice in their grass;
Trees and herbs are greening
The birds are flying from their nests (seshu)
Their wings are (lifted) in worship to thy being;
All (wild) animals skip on their feet;
The birds and all things fluttering
(Feel) alive when thou hast arisen for them.
The ships sail (on) the stream up and down alike;
Every way is open when thou arisest.
The fish in the rivers leap before thee;
Thy rays are in the innermost of the great ocean.

Creator of issue in women,
Maker of seed in men,
Who preserveth alive the son in his mother's womb
And keepeth him quiet that he weep not,
A nurse (for him even) in the (maternal) womb.
Who giveth breath to keep alive all that he maketh;
(When) it descendeth from the womb on the day of its birth;
Thou openest its mouth, giving it voice;
Thou makest what it doth need.

The young bird crieth in the shell
(Because) thou givest it breath within to preserve its life.
When thou hast given it strength to open the egg,
It cometh from the egg
To cry with full strength.
It runneth on its feet
When it cometh forth from it.

How manifold are (the things) which thou hast made!
They are mysteries before
Thou only god,
Whose place none else can take!

Thou hast created the earth according to thy heart
Thou being alone
Men, flocks, and all animals,
Whosoever is on earth,
Going on feet,
Whatsoever is high in the air, flying with its wings,
The foreign lands, Syria and Ethiopia,
(And) the land of Egypt.

Thou assignest every man to his place,
Thou makest what they need.
Each one hath his food,
And his lifetime is counted.
The tongues are distinguished in speech;
Their forms and also their skins are differentiated;
(Thus) thou didst distinguish the strange nations.

Thou madest the Nile in the lower world.
Thou bringest him according to thy liking.
For furnishing life to mankind,
As thou hast made them for thyself,
Thou, their lord, (lord) of them all,
Resting among them,
Thou lord of every land
Who ariseth for them,
O sun-disk of the day, great of power!

All foreign countries, the remote,
Thou makest life for them;
(Because) thou has placed a Nile in the sky,
It descendeth for them,
It maketh waves on the mountain like the great ocean,
Irrigating their fields in their towns.

How excellent are thy plans, O lord of eternity!
Thou (hast established) the Nile in the sky for the foreign lands
And for the wild beasts of every mountain country wandering on
their feet;
(But) the Nile cometh from the underworld for Egypt.

Thy rays nourish every green spot;
(When) thou risest, they live
And they grow for thee.

Thou hast made the seasons
To produce all that thou makest;
The winter to cool them,
The (season of) heat (when) they (really) taste thee.
Thou didst make the sky far away to rise in it
And to behold all that thou makest.

Thou art alone, rising in thy forms as a living disk,
Appearing, shining, departing, and (again) drawing nigh.
Thou makest millions of forms from thyself alone,
Cities, villages, and tribes,
Highways and rivers;
Every eye beholdeth thee before them
(When) thou art the disk of day-tiem above (them).

"Thou art in my heart.
None other is there who knoweth thee
Except thy son, Akh-en-aten;
Thou hast made him wise in thy plans and in thy power.

The (whole) earth is at thy command
As thou hast made them.
When thou hast risen, they (feel) alive.
When thou hast set, they (feel) deed.
(Thus) in thyself thou art lifetime;
People live from thee;
(All) eyes (are fixed) on they beauty until thou settest;
All work is stopped (when) thou settest in the west.

Arising, thou makest (everything good) grow for the king
Who hath been a servant following thee
For thou hast founded the earth
And raised it up for thy son,
The one who came forth from thy limbs,
The king of Upper and Lower Egypt,
Living in truth, lord of both countries,

Nefer-khepru-re (The Best of the Forms of the Sun)
Ua-n-re (The Only One of the Sun)
Son of the sun, living in truth,
The lord of diadems, Akh-en-aten.
Long (be) his life,
And the chief royal wife, beloved of him,
The mistress of both countries,
Nefer-nefru-aten, Nefert-iti,
Who liveth and flourisheth for ever and for eternity.