**Genealogy of King Antef** **Nubkheperre
called Amenophis by Manetho**

**INTRODUCTION**

According to a fragment of the Manetho‘s *Egyptiaca* reported by par Flavius Josephus in his book *Contra Apionem* (I, §245), the Egyptian king Amenophis had a son Sethos, also called Ramesses from the name of his grandfather Rhapsès (sic)**.**

This Rhapsès in the english translation of Josephus by Verbrugghe (F12)[[1]](#footnote-1) appears as Rampses in the french translation by Leon Blum of the greek text edited by Theodore Reinach[[2]](#footnote-2). However, it is known that there are several versions of the *Contra Apionem* compiled by later authors whose texts are often corrupted, and show many differences in the terms.

As for me I chose the name Rhapses for the grandfather of Ramesses the son of King Amenophis. Consequently I identify Rhapses with King Rahotep, father-in-law of Nubkheperre,here named Amenophis by a confusion with his brother-in-law Ameny[[3]](#footnote-3), the brother of his wife Queen Sobekemsaf. As for the Sethos also called Ramesses, the son of Amenophis, he could be the young Kamose, born by Ahhotep rapted by her father King Âaouserrê Apophis), and adopted as crowned prince by King Antef Nubkheperre (who had only a daughter called Sobekemsaf as her mother).

It was possibly several parallel dynasties during the Second Intermediary Period in Egypt. For example the XIIIth Dynasty in Thebes could be partly contemporary with the beginning of the XVIIth Dynasty in Koptos. For this reason I would propose a genealogy of King Antef Nubkheperre[[4]](#footnote-4) based both on the *Contra Apionem* of Josephus and on the text of the stela of Prince Ameny found in Koptos.

**I. King Amenophis’story reported by Flavius Josephus** (C.A., I, §232-247).

In short, the Egyptian king Amenophis was confronted with a revolt of the lepers whom he had relegated to the desert. These ones allied with the Pastors and Solymites (probably Hurrian mercenaries from Anatolia) in order to form a powerful army that surpassed the capacities of the Egyptian army. King Amenophis, fearful of succumbing in the confrontation, fled to Ethiopia (Nubia) with all his court and his pregnant wife. This exile was facilitated by the king of Ethiopia who was indebted to him for an unspecified reason. In any case, Amenophis was warmly welcomed by the king his friend who camped an army on the borders of Egypt to protect the refugees and ensured their subsistence for thirteen years.

This account is in many ways obscure, but thanks to certain details it is quite possible to situate the event at the time of the progression of the Hyksos threatening the kingdom of Thebes, that is to say under the 17th dynasty (at its beginning or at its end depending on the reign where it is supposed to begin).

As for the identity of the mysterious king Amenophis unknown by Egyptologists in the 17th dynasty, the Ameny’s stela found in Coptos offers us a hypothesis. For we know a prince Ameny, brother of Queen Sobekemsaf, (the wife of King Antef Nubkheperre) who could be confused by Manetho with his brother-in-law.

**II. The Ameny’s stela**

This stela found in Koptos, probably come from Denderah[[5]](#footnote-5), reports that Prince Ameny the son of Queen Haankhes (the wife of King Rahotep Sekhemre Wah khaou) had married Princess Sobekemheb, a daughter of Queen Nubemhat and King Sekhemre Wadj khau (who can only be Sobekemsaf II, succeessor of his father King Sekhemre Shedtawi Sobekemsaf I). Consequently it appears that Sekhemre Wadj khau and Rahotep Sekhemre Wah kau could be two brothers, the first one reigning in Koptos (17th Dynasty) and the second one in Thebes (13th Dynasty ?). Their reigns thus, had been contemporary.

**CONCLUSION**

The wife of Antef Nubkheperre, Queen Sobekemsaf thus had a brother Ameny, what could explain why the King Amenophis in Flavius Josephus’ Contra Apionem was in fact Antef Nubkheperre confused with his brother-in-law.

Consequently Antef Nubkheperre, Sobekemsaf II’son, had succeded his father-in-low Rahotep of Koptos to reign on Egypt in the whole, excepted on the Delta occupied by the Asiatics (Hyksos).

Assuming that Antef Nubkheperre had adopted Kamose, the elder son of Ahhotep, we understand why the grandfather of Kamose-Ramesses was named Rhapsès, aka Rahotep, the father of Queen Sobekemsaf, the wife of Antef. Because of the adoption of Kamose by Antef and his wife, Rahotep thus was the maternal grandfather of Kamose.

We can also consider that Ahhotep was a secondary wife of Antef, as Ahhotep and the great royal wife are shown tenderly entwined[[6]](#footnote-6), and later Queen Ahhotep had repaired the tomb of Queen Sobekemsaf[[7]](#footnote-7).

The family ties uniting all these royal characters are shown on my diagram on the next page (It is known that the kings of Egypt married their cousins and even their half-sisters).

**ANTEF NUBKHEPERRE’S FAMILY**

His grandmother : Nub-khaes khnemet neferhedjet(born in Kerma ?)

His frandfather : Sekhemre Shedtawi Sobekemsaf I (13thDynasty ?)
de la 17e dynastie

His mother-in-law : Sobekemsaf (1) **Haankhaes.** A daughter : Sobekemsaf II

His mother : **Nubemhat (**niece of Nub-khaes ?**) :** Her daughterSobekemheb Ameny’s wife

His father-in-law : **Rahotep** **Sekhemre** **Wah-kkau** (17th Dynasty of Koptos)

His father **: Sekhemre Wadj khau** Sobekemsaf II

**2e wife of Antef VII** : **Ahhotep** elder daughter of Apophis Âa-ouserre and Queen Tetisheri (aka Tjaroudjet of Buto). She followed Antef to Nubia where she gave birth to Kamose, then returned to Egypt where she married her brother Seqenenre Tao.

**Son beau-frère Ameni** (Antef Amenemhat ?)
époux de **Sobekemheb**

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**First wife : Queen Sobekemsaf** (II). A daughter : Sobekemsaf (III).

**Antef Nubkheperre** (17th Dynasty) thus succeeded to his father-in-law Rahotep. Faced with the advance of the Hyksos armies, he took refuge in Nubia thanks to a king of Kerma who was his friend.  **He adopted Ahhotep's son, Kamose (**abandoned by his mother) as crown prince when he was 5 years old and raised him in Nubia (among the Kuru?) for 13 years, to make him a warrior prince able to reconquer the kingdom of Egypt.

**Kamose Wadjkheperre, grandson** (by adoption) **of Rahotep (Rhapses) the father of Queen Sobekemsaf (II)**

**Queen’s brother: Ameny**
husband of Sobekemheb(his cousin ?)

As a result, I see the succession of the kings of the Seventeenth Dynasty in the following order[[8]](#footnote-8) :

1. Sekhemre Shedtawi (or Shedwaset) Sobekemsaf I in Thebes.
2. Sekhemre Wadjkhau Sobekemsaf II in Thebes and his brother Sekhemre Wahkhau Rahotep in Coptos.
3. Antef Nubkheperre in Thebes (fleeing the Hyksos, then refugee in Nubia for 13 years.
4. Senakhtenre Ahmose (I) in Thebes (Asiatic[[9]](#footnote-9) brother of Ahhotep) died prematurely, short reign in Thebes.
5. Seqenenre Tao (Ahhotep's second brother who became her 2nd husband) [[10]](#footnote-10)
6. Regency of Ahhotep after the assassination of her husband.
7. Kamose Wadjkheperre (eldest son of Ahhotep, returned from Nubia to Egypt at the age of 18 to fight the Hyksos, then driven out of Egypt ten years later for rebellion against his half-brother Ahmose).
8. Early Eighteenth Dynasty: Nebpehtyre Ahmose (II) husband of Ahmose-nefertari, eldest daughter of Kamose (considered an orphan, himself presumed dead in a fire and buried in a pyramid in Dra-Aboul-Naga).
9. His son : Amenophis I, died without a male heir.
10. Thuthmose I (aka Kamose returned to Egypt at 67 years-old to access the throne of Thebes become vacant).
1. G.P. Verbrugghe et J.M. Wickersham – *Berossos and Manetho. Introduced and translated. Native traditions in ancient Mesopotamia and Egypt*. The University of Michigan Press, Ann Harbor, USA, 2001, p.162. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Flavius Josèphe *– Contre Apion*. Texte grec établi et annoté par T. Reinach et traduit par L. Blum. Les Belles Lettres, Paris, 1972. p. 46. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. We know of an Ameny son of Queen Haahkhes and an Ameny possible son of King Rahotep who gave him a bow. There could be therefore only one Ameny son of King Rahotep and Queen Haankhes. So Queen Sobekemsaf’s brother. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Voir schéma en page 4. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. H.M. Stewart. *Egyptian Stelae, Reliefs and Paintings from the Petrie Collection*. *Part Two: Archaic to Second Intermediate Period.* Warminster, 1979.
<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/museums-static/digitalegypt//denderah/moscow.gif> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Ryholt, K.S.B. *The Political Situation in Egypt during the Second Intermediate Period.* 1997 : Museum Tuxculanum ; § 3.8.4.5. The two Queens named Ahhotep, pp. 275-278. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Breasted J . H. *Ancient Records of Egypt*. Vol II, Chicago 1906, pp. 44-46, § 109−114 (Musée égyptien du Caire, stèle trouvée à Edfou n ° inv. CG 34009), JdE 27091. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. To simplify, I ignored the two elder brothers of Antef Nukheperre who had only short reigns. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. According to Eusebius of Caesarea quoting Manetho: "The seventeenth dynasty was a dynasty of shepherds and brothers. They were foreigners, from Phoenicia, who took Memphis (the same in both versions of Eusebius). [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. The two brothers of Ahhotep (Asiatics like her) appear from the reign of Antef Nubkheperre : under the name of Nakht royal son, leader of the archers, for Senakhtenre Ahmose on a stele of Abydos (W.M.F. Petrie: Abydos I. EEF Memoir 22. London 1902, pp. 28, 41-42, pl. LVII); under the name of Qinen, royal son, commander of the troops in the decree of Koptos ([James Henry Breasted, Ancient Records of Egypt, Chicago 1906, Part One, §775-780](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CAnimateur%5CDownloads%5CArticle%20g%C3%A9n%C3%A9alogie%20d%27Antef%20VII.docx)) for Seqenenre Tao. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)