

## "LOYALIST TEACHING," CA. 1550-1000 BCE

An Egyptian set of instructions, this text speaks as a father to his children. Two subjects are advised on: first, that loyalty and obedience to the pharaoh are absolutely necessary (because the pharaoh will protect his supporters), and second, that a member of society must also be respectful of his fellow citizens and participate in civic duty. Thus, all the teachings encourage order in the face of chaos. Although fragmented, these teachings exude the zeal and devotion of the "father" for a harmonious society.

Praise the king within your bodies! Be close to His Majesty in your hearts! Put terror on him throughout the day! Create acclamation for him at every season! He is the Perception which is in breasts: his eyes probe everybody. He is the Sun god under whose governance one lives: the man under his shade will have great possessions.

He is the Sun god by whose rays one sees: he illuminates the Two Lands more than the sun. The king is Sustenance; his speech is Plenty. The man he makes is someone who will always exist. He is the heir of every god, the protector of his creators.

They strike his opponents for him. Fight for his name! Respect his oath! 6 Make no opposition against a reward of his giving. Acclaim the Red-king! Worship the White Crown! Pay homage to the uplifter of the Double Crown! You should do these things so that your limbs may prosper! You will find this good for all time being on earth, without sorrow, passing lifetime in peace!

Enter into the earth which the king gives! Rest in the place of all time! Join with the eternal cavern! -With your children's homes full of love for you, your heirs remain in your positions. Conform [to] my example! Do not neglect my words! Make good the rule of my making! May you speak to your children! Speech has been taught since the time of God. I am a noble to be listened to, whose understanding is recognized by his lord. Do not overstep my example! Do not be indifferent to my pattern! You should be free from disloyal action! The son who hears will be a faultless man. Can any plan of his not succeed? You will praise these things after years, for this soundness gives landfall.

Another method for developing your hearts -which is even better concerning your servants: care for men, organize people, that you may secure servants who are active! It is mankind who create all that exists; one lives on what comes from their hands. They are lacking, and then poverty prevails. The professions are what provide provisions. A house is empty, with its foundations uprooted, and the very sound of them re-establishes its walls! The man who sleeps until dawn is a lord of many; there will be no sleep for the solitary man. No one sends a lion on a mission. No herd can isolate himself from the walled enclosure: its voice is like the thirsty creature's outside the well, with (decay) around it, and the wailing of birds. One must long for the Nile flood, then one profits by it; no ploughed field exists of itself. The cattle that belong to a cowherd are great: it is the cattle herd that can drive the wild bull. It is (the herdsman) who brings (the animals) across to land.

(The shepherd) will be a plentiful flock without a number! To God, [these are] excellent professions. Someone who is capable in them is a clever man. Do not make a field worker wretched with taxes; let him be well off, and he will still be there for you the next year. If he lives, you have his hands; you ruin him, and then he plans to turn vagabond. It is the evil man who destroys his own mound, and a town is founded for the man who is loved. Patience is a man's monument. Quietness is excellent, [calmness] is good. The man who foresees what will come [has never been thwarted]; the man with powerful authority prevails. The merciful- the cow bears for him; the bad herdsman- his herd is small. Fight for men in every respect!

They are a flock, good for their lord. Evidently, one lives by the when joining the earth. You should look to [your ... who ...]! You should watch over your funerary priests: the son is disloyal, but the priest remains! It is a kind man who is named "heir." Lay the noble dead to rest; make invocations in their name; [honor] the blessed dead; bring food-offer[ings]! [This is better for] the doer than for the man for whom it is the beneficiary protects the man who is still on earth."

So, it ends, from start to finish, as found in writing.

### **STUDY QUESTIONS**

1. Why should a man be loyal to the pharaoh, and what specific benefits can he expect to gain?
2. How does the document elevate seemingly ignoble professions and relate them to the king's job?