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The Role of Malevolent Demon Troops with the Livings in Ancient Egypt

PhD Thesis in Language, history and civilizations of ancient worlds

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English Summary

The present study The Role of Malevolent Demon Troops with the Livings in Ancient Egypt aims to determine the criteria that defines the role of the category of demons who manifest in troops to affect people in the earthly life.

The subject of this study is discussed in nine chapters and an annex including the corpora.

It is better to start by displaying the contents of the corpora.

The first chapter of the thesis entitled Arising of the Role of Demon Troops in Terrestrial Life and Aspects Identifying its Nature identifies three main points: Sources Recording the Role of Demon Troops with Mortals on Earth, The Role of Demon Troops: When and Why? And Preliminary Notes about Demon Troops.

Chapter two bears the title Identification of Demon Troops. The troops studied in this chapter are arranged according to their importance, that aspect is determined upon the analysis of the roles attributed to each of these troops regarding the time of appearance and the diversity of roles. These troops are: #Atyw“The Executioners, Wpwtyw“The Messengers”, ^mAw “The Wanderers”, @nTtyw“The Butchers”, awAw“The Robbers”, %wAw“The Passers-by”, and @rytyw“Those Who Spread Terror”. Details about the connotations of the name, the main roles and tasks are discussed under each troop of demons.

Chapter three entitled Designations: The Ontology of Identity and Character discusses the different titles and epithets that appeared in the corpora as designation for the troops of demons identified in chapter two. The most important of these designations are: NTrw“Divine”, NDstyw“minor Divinities”, Mdwt“Words (of Gods)”, Prryw m Irt Re“Who Go Out from the Eye of Re”, &pyw-a-%xmt“Vaunguards of Sekhmet”, Imyw-xt%xmt“Rearguards of Sekhmet”, ^msw“The Retinues”, Wpwtyw“Messengers”, NTrwmDAwt“Gods of Books”, Apdw“Birds”, TAw“Winds”, %bAw“Stars”, Imyw-spspw“Those with the knives”, %tyw“Those who shoot arrows”, ^srw“Arrows”, bin“The Bad”, _Sr“The red”, +Aw“The Adversaries”, +ww“The Evil”. These designations are presented classified according to thematic categories identifying them.

Chapter four bears the title Propagation and Provocation of Demon Troops on Earth: Superordinate Deities and Threat Zones. It deals with the main aspects that control the

manifestation of demons on earth. The most important element is the deities who control demons.

Chapter five deals with Nature of Task of the Demon Troops on Earth. The rubrics of this chapter study the aspects that identify the role of demons in the earthly life and how the demonic task can be defined regarding the elements of duality and enmity and so on.

Chapter six presents Plan and Course of the Task. The aim of this chapter is identifying the actions that demons follow in order to affect people.

Chapters seven and eight deal with the Impact of Demon Troops in Terrestrial Life. They respectively discuss the Death and the Disease.

Finally chapter nine comes to define The Role of Magic in the Protection of Mortals against Demon Troops on Earth. The aspects connected to time, location and the targeted are also entailed.

Concerning the corpora, the sources of the study are arranged in four parts, each of which deals with a group of texts from the same category. The order of presenting the categories is according to their importance. In the first part the Magical Prophylactic Incantations are firstly introduced as the apogee of the Egyptian thought concerning the capacity of demons to affect the different aspects of the life of people on earth. The texts of the first part are classified into sections, the first includes the Individualistic Incantations and the second introduces the Magical Books. The second part of the corpora is for another kind of magical texts Oracular Amuletic Decrees; those are presented in a separate section because they constitute special categories of magical texts. The third part includes the Calendars of Lucky and Unlucky Days. Finally, the fourth part deals with selections from literary, historical and mythological texts; that part is introduced under the title Miscellaneous Texts. As the role of demon troops comes in these texts in a comprehensive view of animism where they participate the same role with other genres of demonic entities, the selection of passages from texts take principally into account the translation of passages referring to the role of demons.