

## A Short Form Egyptian Morning Hymn – Handout

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English translation:

**Be awake! Be at peace!**

**May you awake beautifully in peace!**

**May [God/Goddess Name] awake in life!**

**May [God/Goddess Name] awake in peace!**

Morning hymn for a God:

***rassáta! ḥatpáta! rassák náfir ma ḥátap!***

*rassá [God Name] ma ‘ánaḥ!*

*rassá [God Name] ma ḥátap!*

Morning hymn for a Goddess:

***rassáti! ḥatpáti! rassát náfrat ma ḥátap!***

*rassá [Goddess Name] ma ‘ánaḥ!*

*rassá [Goddess Name] ma ḥátap!*

**Key:**

Key to pronunciations of Egyptian words in italics above. The ones needed for the hymn as shown are shown in **bold typeface**. The others are useful for our discussion:

**a, i, u = short pure vowels: the ‘a’ of “father”, ‘ee’ of “beet”, ‘u’ of “Luke” but short in duration.**

**´ = primary syllable stress, no vowel quality change, though perhaps a bit longer in**

## **duration**

: = long vowel duration, hold the vowel preceding the colon longer – about twice as long

' = glottal stop, a catch in the throat that stops the sound momentarily, like the transition between the two syllables of English “Uh-oh” or the way a person speaking British Cockney slang would say the two ‘t’ in “bottle”

‘ = a consonant with the sound of the Arabic letter `ain – not present in English or related languages. It is common in languages of the Afro-Asiatic language phylum, to which Egyptian, Arabic, Aramaic, Syriac, Somali, and many others belong. It is made by constricting the throat and forcing air past the blockage. To give a rough idea of the sound, try saying ‘ah’ and slowly (carefully!) pushing your throat just above the Adam’s apple with your fingers to restrict the airflow. Here is a video which may help:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y0ro6b50-Lk>

ḥ = an h stronger than English, sort of like a cat or iguana hissing, similar to the strong ‘j’ in Latin American Spanish “Juan”

ḥ = like ‘ch’ in German “Ach”, Scottish “Loch”, or Hebrew “la-Chayim”

ḥ = a soft ch sound - like the ‘ch’ in southern German “ich”

ḵ = a sound like English ‘k’ but further back in the throat.

ḏ = dj like English “just”

ṭ = ch like English “chip”

## **Note:**

You can hear a recording of a longer version of the Morning Hymn on the Healing Hearts at Wounded Knee Global Ceremony site:

<http://healingheartsatwoundedknee.com/morning-hymn-for-seven-goddesses/>