

- 2 Ah Death ! how good is thy sentence,
To a man perishing and with failing
strength ;
To an old man stumbling along—
An eccentric in despair.
- 3 Be not afraid of death, thy doom;
Remember that men of the past and
future (will be) with thee.
- 4 This is the portion of all flesh from God;
Then why rejectest thou the law of the
Most High ?
Whether for a thousand years, an hundred
or ten,
There are n[o] adjustments [of life] in
Sh[co]l.
- 5 A reprobate progeny is a gen[er]ation of
evil [do]ers,
And a foolish brood [are the whelps of
the wick]ed.
- 6 By an evil son is government shattered,
And [with his] seed is [constant want.]
- 7 An ungodly father doth a bo[y] c]urse,
For [on his [ac]count he is put to shame.
- 8 [Woe] to [you, ye men of evil],
[Who forsake the law of the Most High].
- 9 If ye are fr[ui]tful, it shall be for] mis-
fortune ;
And if ye beget, it shall be for sighing :
If ye stumble, it shall be for perpetual joy;
And if ye die, it shall be for a curse.
- 10 Everything (arising) from nothing unto
nothing returns;
So the profane (proceed) from emptiness
to emptiness.
- 11 The vanity of man is in his body ;
But a pious name shall not be cut off.
- 12 Have a care over (thy) name, for it will
be more constant
Than thousands of precious treasures.
- 13 Goodness of life (consisteth) in number
of [days].
But goodness of name, in days with-
out number.
- 14b Concealed wisdom, and a hidden treasure!