

when they looked at the wall they saw that there was no dead body hanging on it; and when they looked at each other, they knew what a trick the mason's son had played them. They were dreadfully angry and terribly afraid, but there was no help except to go and tell the king. As they went, a crowd of people gathered round them, and every one shouted with laughter to see the soldiers who had half their whiskers and beards shaved off. But when King Rhampsinitos heard what the mason's son had done, he was quite furious, and he said, "What can I do to find out the man who has done these very wicked and very clever things?"

So he sent a herald all through the country, and told him to say with a loud voice that the king would not punish the man who had stolen his money, but would give him his daughter for a wife, if he would only tell him how he had got into his treasure-house. Then the son of the old mason came and told Rhampsinitos all the story, and the king looked at him earnestly, and said: "I do not believe that the Egyptians are cleverer than all other men; but you are cleverer than all the Egyptians."