

The title of the first chapter, as written on the papyri of the Mosaic age, is: "The Beginning of the Chapters of Coming Forth by Day, of the Words which bring about Resurrection and Glory and of Coming Out and Entering into Amenta" (the blessed world).

The title of the second chapter is: "Chapter for Coming Forth by Day and Living after Death." The titles of other chapters are: "For Traveling on the Road which is above the Earth;" "Chapter of the Crown of Triumph;" "Chapter whereby the Crocodiles are Repulsed, who come to Carry Off the Words of Power from a Person in the Nether World;" "Chapter whereby One Dieth not a Second Time;" "Chapter whereby Air and Water are given in the Nether World;" "Chapter whereby One is not Boiled in Water or Burned in Fire;" "Chapter whereby All Forms are Assumed which One Pleaseth," golden hawk, moon, lotus-flower, blue heron, etc.

The fifteenth chapter is a prayer that the deceased shall be permitted to reach "the Land of Ages . . . the land of Eternity . . . the land of Life."

Among the very oldest chapters—and by far the most profound in the entire collection—are the seventeenth, the forty-fourth, and the one hundred and twenty-fifth.

Chapter xvii. is preserved on a number of sarcophagi which are centuries older than the times of Abraham. It opens as follows:

Chapter xvii.—Whereby One Cometh Forth by Day out of the Nether World.

"I am he who closeth and openeth, and I am but One.

"I am Ra at his first appearance.

"I am the great god, self-produced.

"His names together compose the cycle of the gods.*

"Resistless is he among the gods.

"I who am Osiris, am Yesterday and kinsman of the Morrow."

These are strange expressions, reminding one of the Scriptures (Rev. i. 8; Heb. xiii. 8, etc.).

Chapter lxiv.

"I am Yesterday, To-day, and To-morrow, for I am born again and again; mine is the unseen force which createth the gods and giveth food to those in the Tuat. . . . I am He who cometh forth as One who breaketh through the door; and everlasting is the daylight which His will hath created. . . .

"I satisfy the desires of the glorified, who are by millions and hundreds of thousands. . . . I travel on high, I tread upon the firmament, I raise a flame with the daylight which Mine eye hath made, and I fly towards the splendors of the glorified in presence of Ra daily, giving life to every man who treadeth on the lands which are upon the earth."

* Twenty-eighth dynasty texts call Ra "creator of His names."

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