

Book of the Dead Chapter 125B

The 'negative Confession' is one of the most distinctive, innovative and best known features of the Book of the Dead. The deceased declares innocence of one sin in turn before each of forty-two assessors. There are no written sources earlier than the New Kingdom (about 1550-1069 BC). Later temple oaths are modelled on the same lines, and it is possible that the denial of sins in this manner derives from a ritual of taking an oath of purity before entering temple service. Affirmations of righteousness are known from earlier monuments, and presented on one Twelfth Dynasty Abydos stela in a graphic form that anticipates the Book of the Dead tabulation.

These 42 declarations are found in the papyrus of Maiherperi, mid-Eighteenth Dynasty:

(upper register)

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| <i>i.wsh nmt m iwnw</i> | <i>n ir.i isft</i> | O broad of step who comes from Iunu | I have done no evil |
| <i>i.hpt sdt pr m hr-ḥ3</i> | <i>n ʕw3.i</i> | O flame embracer who comes from Kheraha | I have not robbed |
| <i>i.fndy pr m hmnw</i> | <i>n ʕwn ib.i</i> | O beaked god who comes from Khemenu | Hermopolis I have not been greedy |
| <i>i.ʕm-šwt pr m ʕrt</i> | <i>n t3.i</i> | O swallower of shades who comes from the cavern | I have not stolen |
| <i>i.nh3-hr pr m r-st3w</i> | <i>n sm3.i rmt</i> | O flaming faced who comes from Rosetjau | I have not killed anyone |
| <i>i.rwty pr m pt</i> | <i>n ḥd.i dbḥw</i> | O Double Lion who comes from the sky | I have not taken from offering lists |
| <i>i.irty.fy-m-ḏs ḥt pr m hm</i> | <i>n ir.i ḥbt</i> | O fiery eyed who comes from Khem | Letopolis (im Delta) I have not committed corruption |
| <i>i.nbi pr m ḥtht</i> | <i>n t3.i ḥt-ntr</i> | O flaming one who comes from Khetkhet | I have not stolen gods offerings |
| <i>i.sd-ḳsw pr m ḥnn-nswt</i> | <i>n dd.i grg</i> | O breaker of bones who comes from Henennesut | I have not told lies |
| <i>i.wd-nsr pr m ḥwt-k3-ptḥ</i> | <i>n nḥm.i wnm</i> | O flame thrower who comes from Hutkaptah | I have not removed food |
| <i>i.ḳrrty pr m imnt</i> | <i>n nkn.i</i> | O cavern-dweller who comes from the West | I have not injured |
| <i>i.ḥd-ibḥw pr m t3-š</i> | <i>n th3.i</i> | O white of teeth who comes from Fayyum | I have not broken rules |
| <i>i.wnm-snf pr m nmt</i> | <i>n sm3.i ʕwt n ntr</i> | O blood eater who comes from the slaughterhouse | I have not slain gods cattle |
| <i>i.wnm-bskw pr m mʕb3yt</i> | <i>n ir.i hnyt</i> | O entrails eater who comes from the court of thirty | I have not mismeasured |
| <i>i.nb-m3ʕt pr m m3ʕty</i> | <i>n ʕw3.i ḥnt-t</i> | O lord of truth who comes from the Two Truths | I have not waylaid rationing |
| <i>i.tnmy pr m b3st</i> | <i>n smtmt.i</i> | O wanderer who comes from Bast | I have not informed |
| <i>i.ʕ3dy pr m iwnw</i> | <i>n šm r.i</i> | O pale one who comes from Iunu | I have not gossiped |
| <i>i.dwdw pr m ʕndty</i> | <i>n šḥwn.i nis hr ḥt.i</i> | O weak one who comes from Andjety | I have not sued except for my own |
| <i>i.w3mnty pr m ḥbt</i> | <i>n nk.i ḥmt t3y</i> | O Wamemty who comes from the tribunal | I have not slept with a mans wife |
| <i>i.m33-int.f pr m pr-mnw</i> | <i>n d3d3.i</i> | O watcher of his bringing who comes from Permin | I have not masturbated |
| <i>i.ḥry wrw pr m i3mt</i> | <i>n ir.i hrw</i> | O head of the great gods who comes from Imu | I have not terrorised |

(lower register)

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| <i>i.ḥmy pr m st-wrt</i> | <i>n th.i</i> | O overturner who comes from the great place | I have broken no rules |
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| <i>i.sd-ḥrw pr m wryt</i> | <i>n ʿ3.i</i> | O raiser of discord who comes from the shrine | I have not stolen |
| <i>i.nḥn pr m ḥḳꜥ-ʿnd</i> | <i>n šḥ.i ḥr mdt nt m3ꜥt</i> | O Child who comes from Heqaandj | I was not deaf to words of truth |
| <i>i.sr-ḥrw pr m wnsy</i> | <i>n ḥnn.i</i> | O predictor of the voice who comes from Wensy | I have not been turbulent |
| <i>i.b3sty pr m š3yt</i> | <i>n srm.i</i> | O one of Bast who comes from the sanctuary | I have not turned an eye |
| <i>i.ḥr.f-ḥ3.f pr m tḫt</i> | <i>n nwh.i n nknk</i> | O face behind him who comes from the hollow | I have not defiled or debauched |
| <i>i.ʿB-rdwy pr m iḥḫw</i> | <i>n ʿm ib.i</i> | O scorch-legged who comes from the twilight | I have not been dishonest |
| <i>i.knnty pr m knmt</i> | <i>n šnt.i</i> | O one of darkness who comes from the darkness | I have not slandered |
| <i>i.in-ḥtp.f pr m s3w</i> | <i>n pr ʿ.i</i> | O bringer of his offering who comes from Sais | I have not been violent |
| <i>i.nb-ḥrw pr m dnft</i> | <i>n 3s ib.i</i> | O lord of faces who comes from Nedjfet | I have not been quick tempered |
| <i>i.shry pr m twnt</i> | <i>n th.i iwn n iꜥ ntr</i> | O accuser who comes from Tjunet | I have not broken rules of purity |
| <i>i.ʿbwy pr m s3wty</i> | <i>n ʿš3 ḥrw.i ḥr mdt</i> | O horned one who comes from Asyut | I have not multiplied voice in speech |
| <i>i.nfr-tm pr m ḥwt-k3-ptḥ</i> | <i>n iwyt.i n ir.i bin</i> | O Nefertem who comes from Hutkaptah | I have not been evil, not done evil |
| <i>i.tm-sp pr m ddw</i> | <i>n ir.i šnt nswt</i> | O Temsep who comes from Djedu | I have not conspired against the king |
| <i>i.ir-m-ib.f pr m tḫw</i> | <i>n rhn.i mw-dī-mw (?)</i> | O wilful one who comes from Tjebu | I have not been disloyal |
| <i>i.ihy pr m nw</i> | <i>n ḳꜥ ḥrw.i</i> | O watery one who comes from Nun | I have not raised my voice |
| <i>i.ḥd-rḫyt pr m wnn.f</i> | <i>n šnt.i ntr</i> | O light of the people who comes from his being | I have not blasphemed |
| <i>i.nḥbt-nfrt pr m gm</i> | <i>n ir.i sfw</i> | O yoker of good who comes from Gem | I have not taken airs |
| <i>i.nḥb-k3w pr m niwt</i> | <i>n ir stnt r.i</i> | O Nehebkau who comes from the town | I have not selected just for my good |
| <i>i.dsr-tp pr m niwt</i> | <i>n wr ḥrt n is ḥr ḫt.i</i> | O distinct of head who comes from the town | I have been rich only on my own |
| <i>i.inn-ʿ.f pr m niwt</i> | <i>n s3t.i ntr m niwt.i</i> | O bringer of his armful who comes from the town | I have not been impious at my town |