Amarna letter EA 1

The men who you send me are non-entities. One was the [...] of Zaqara, the other was an ass herd of the land of [...]. There was not one among them who knows her, who was close to your father and can identify her.

Moreover, as for the envoys that returned to you and said she is not your sister, there was none among the two who knew her, and could tell you. Moreover, she is well and alive. Was there given something into his hand in order to deliver it to her mother?

And as for your writing, saying "You spoke to my envoys while your wives were assembled, standing before you, saying 'Behold your mistress who is standing before you' while my envoys did not recognise her, was it my sister who is like her? And now you wrote, saying "My envoys did not recognize her," and you say, "So who has identified her?" Why don't you send your dignitary who will tell you the truth, the welfare of your sister who is here? Then you can trust the one who enters

Now I have heard the message you sent to me concerning it, saying "You seek my daughter for your wife and my sister who my father gave to you is there with you but no one has seen her now, whether she is alive whether she is dead." This is what you sent me in your tablet; these are your words. When have you sent your dignitary who knows your sister, who can converse with her and identify her and let him converse with her?

And when you write saying: "Perhaps it was the daughter of some lowly person either one of the Kaskeans or a daughter of the land of Khanigalbat, or perhaps of the land of Ugarit which my envoys saw. Who can trust those that she is like her? This one did not open her mouth. One cannot trust them in anything." These are your words. And if your sister is dead then why would they conceal her death and why would we present another? Surely the great god Amon knows your sister is alive!

I have appointed her sister to the queen mother as the mistress of the house one bride of [...].

[...] concerning all of my wives [...] which the kings of the land of Egypt in the land of Egypt. And as you wrote saying, "As for my daughters who are married to kings they are neighbours, if my envoys go there, they converse with the m[and they se]nd to me a present. The one that is thus [...]" These are your words.Perhaps the kings who are [your neighbours are rich and mighty; your daughters acquire something with them and they send it to you, but what does she have, your sister who is with me? But as soon as she acquires something, then she will send it to you. Is it fitting that you give your daughters in order to acquire a garment from your neighbours?

And as you wrote, saying, "You said to my envoys, 'Has your master no troops? The girl he gave to me is not beautiful!' " These are your words. Not so! Your envoys are speaking untruths to you in this manner! If there are warriors or if there are not, it is known to me. Why is it necessary to ask him if you troops or if you have horses? No! Don't listen to your two envoys that you send here in whose mouths are lies! Perhaps they are afraid of you, so that they tell lies to escape your punishment?

Speak to Kardasman-Enlil, king of the land of Karaduniash, my brother! Thus Nibmu'are'a, the great king, king of the land of Egypt, your brother. With me all is well:may all be well with you. With your house, with your wives, with your sons, with your senior officials, with your chariotry, and in the midst of your territories, may all be exceedingly well. With me all is well, with my house, my wives, my senior officials, my horses, my chariotry and my troops, it is all very well and within my territories it is all very well.

As you spoke, saying, " He placed my chariots among the chariots of the city rulers, you did not review them separately! You humiliated them before the throng which is thus and you did not review them separately." Verily the chariots are here; verily the horses of my country are here! All the chariot horses had to be supplied.

When you sent to my hand a vessel to anoint the head of the girl, you sent to me one gift of pure oil. Are we to laugh?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

And as for you citing the words of my father, leave it! Don't speak of his words! Moreover, "Establish friendly brotherhood between us." This is what you wrote; these are your words. Now, we are brothers, I and you, both of us, but I got angry concerning your envoys because they speak to you, saying, "Nothing is given to us who go to Egypt." Those who come to me, does one of the two go [without] taking silver, gold, oil, garments, everything nice [more than from] another country, but he speaks untruth to the one who sends him? The first time your envoy went off to your father and their mouths were speaking untruths. The second time they went forth [and] they are speaking lies to you. So I myself said, "if I give them something or if I don't give them, they will speak lies likewise," so I made up my mind about them; I did not give them further.

LIVEWORKSHEETS