CHAPTER THREE

PHILOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

The preserved text of the Debate contains four interchanges between its two characters, the Man and his Soul. The missing beginning had perhaps three more sections, including an introductory passage that was probably spoken by the Man. In all, the divisions of the text can be analyzed as follows:

*1–x  Introduction (lost)
x–*12  The Soul’s first (preserved) speech
*12–y  The Man’s first (preserved) speech
y–3   The Soul’s second speech
3–55  The Man’s second speech
55–68  The Soul’s third speech: rebuttal
68–80  The Soul’s third speech: first parable
80–85  The Soul’s third speech: second parable
85–103 The Man’s third speech: first litany
103–30 The Man’s third speech: second litany
130–42 The Man’s third speech: third litany
142–47 The Man’s third speech: fourth litany
147–54 The Soul’s fourth speech
154–55  Colophon

The remainder of this chapter provides a hieroglyphic transcription, transliteration, and relatively literal translation of each of these sections, with philological commentary. Epigraphic features, treated in Chapter Two, are noted only where they have a bearing on the interpretation of the text.

1 Since the transitions in the text are all spoken by the Man, the same was probably true for the missing introduction.

2 Ending perhaps in col. *24 (see below).
1. INTRODUCTION AND THE SOUL’S FIRST SPEECH (*1–*12)

*1–*8 (lost)

*9

[ ... d] wt

[ ... ] evil.

(*9)

jrt st [ ... ]

Doing it [ ... ]

Assuming that the first word of col. *9 is correctly restored as [d] wt, that the final two signs are the dependent pronoun st, and that the word preceding is the infinitive jrt rather than the imperfective participle jrr, the preserved signs probably contain the end of one sentence and the beginning of another, with st “it” referring to d wt “evil.”

*10–*12 (lost)

In Parkinson’s reconstruction (2003, 126), there is a gap of perhaps two columns between his Frags. I and L, the latter containing part of the final four columns of the first sheet.

(*12)

[ ... w3h.k m3jr.j]

[ ... ] that you might set down my misery.

The suffix pronoun in this column may be the subject of a verb, and the sign following, part of the word m3jr “need” that recurs in cols. 22 and 128. In col. 22, the “misery” is that of the Soul, while in col. 128 it is the Man’s. Both because the first of these is more proximate to col. *12 and because of the dynamic of the text (discussed in Chapter Six), it is possible that col. *12 contains the speech of the Soul, with the suffix pronoun k addressed to the Man: thus, perhaps, as restored here, based on col. 22 w3h m3jr.j “set down my misery” (discussed in Section 4, below). In that case, the trace above the suffix pronoun belongs to a bookroll rather than to the r suggested by Parkinson.