

from "Hymn to the Nile" (c 2100 BCE)

Praise to thee, O Nile, that issueth forth from the  
earth and comest to nourish the dwellers in Egypt . . .  
That maketh barley and createth wheat, that maketh  
the temples to keep festival . . .

When he arises earth rejoices and all men are glad;  
every jaw laughs and every tooth is uncovered.  
Bringer of nourishment, plenteous of sustenance,  
creating all things good.

Lord of reverence, sweet of savour, appeasing evil.  
Creating herbage for the cattle, causing sacrifice to  
be made to every god.

He is in the Underworld, in heaven, and upon earth,  
Filling the barns and widening the granaries; giving  
to the poor.  
Causing trees to grow according to the uttermost desire,  
So that men go not in lack of them.

Source:

From: Oliver J. Thatcher, ed., The Library of Original Sources (Milwaukee: University Research Extension Co., 1907), Vol. I: The Ancient World, pp. 79-83.