The Book of the Twelve Caverns is a cosmographic composition whose main content is an illustrated enumeration of the deities who dwelled in these regions of the mythical topography of the Beyond. Names, actions and depictions of some groups of these supernatural beings may be related to mourning. Gesture poses in the vignettes exhibit some similarities with that of the professional mourners in the funerals. The main aim of this article is to analyse them to better comprehend their meaning within the context of the book.

"Los que se lamentan por Re". Duelo y regeneración en el Libro de las Doce Cavernas

El Libro de las Doce Cavernas es una composición cosmográfica cuyo contenido principal es una enumeración ilustrada de las divinidades que habitaban en estas regiones de la geografía mitica del Más Allá. Los nombres, acciones y las representaciones de algunos grupos de estos dioses parecen hacer alusión a un contexto de lamento. Su gestualidad en las viñetas presenta similitudes con la del duelo que aparece asociada a las plañideras en los cortejos fúnebres. El objetivo principal de este artículo es realizar un análisis con vistas a comprender mejor su significado en el contexto de la obra.

Keywords: Book of the Twelve Caverns, mourning, regeneration, gesture.

Palabras clave: Libro de las Doce Cavernas, duelo, regeneración, gestualidad.

This article is a tribute to Covadonga Sevilla Cueva, one of the most pleasant and affective figures in the ranks of Egyptology that I have ever met. Even when I was never officially her student, she taught me many remarkable academic and non-academic issues. It is a privilege to have shared so many joyful moments with her in the temple of Debod, in Madrid, and during the archaeological seasons of the Proyecto dos cero nueve in Egypt.

The Book of the Twelve Caverns—an henceforth BTC—is one of the cosmographic texts known as the Books of the Netherworld. It consists of a litany of deities who dwelled in the regions of the Egyptian Underworld which were crossed by the sun-god during his nightly journey. The composition offers not only textual information but also it was also illustrated with vignettes depicting these cavern-divinities. Several groups of deities seem to be related to mourning or grief due to their names and actions, expressed in texts

1 The most recent study concerning this composition is the unpublished PhD thesis by the author (Méndez-Rodríguez 2016) which is currently under preparation for its publication. Prior to this, the most complete research was published by Piankoff andJacquet-Gordon (1974). For a general view about the book: Hornung 1999 (1997): 54-55; Méndez Rodríguez 2012, Müller-Roth and Weber 2010, Roberson 2016: 314-315.

2 This text was previously known as spell 168 from the Book of Going forth by Day (aka Book of the Dead) until several scholars such as Alexandre Piankoff (Piankoff and Jacquet-Gordon 1974) and Thomas George Allen (Allen 1974) suggested it should be considered as an independent composition. For a general view about the history of its research: Müller-Roth and Weber 2010: 64-65; Méndez Rodríguez 2012: 656-658, Müller-Roth 2012: 36-38, 40-43, Méndez-Rodríguez 2016: vol. I, 29-68, Méndez-Rodríguez 2017b: 405.

"Those Who Mourn for Re": Mourning and Regeneration in the Book of the Twelve Caverns

Daniel Miguel MÉNDEZ-RODRÍGUEZ

Plañidera. Isabel Sánchez Marqués.