

Egypt

If you go to Egypt,

Many magnificent animals you will see.

A hungry crocodile swimming in the Nile,

Or a slithering snake hanging from a tree.

You may spot an ibis with a fish in its mouth,


Or a tiny scarab beetle with its dungball heading south.


There are so many animals, like sheep, goats, and cats,


So keep your eyes wide open and loo out for a bat!

Hieroglyphics

Egyptians had no A-B-C;
They didn't read like you and me.
Instead they made up hieroglyphics.
Every picture was quite specific.



 This is a foot, and

 This is a hand.

What does this mean— ?

It's the sign for a queen.


 A horse;  a mouth;

 An owl;  a cat

 A loaf;  a snake;

 A gate;  a mat.

Sometimes the pictures were all in a line,
Sometimes on top of each other.

And using different symbols was perfectly fine—
Here  is just one sign for “mother.”

Each symbol presented a challenge—
How to place it, and face it, and space it.
After all, when you're carving in stone,
There's just no easy way to erase it.

Queen Nefertiti

Spin a coin, spin a coin
All fall down;
Queen Nefertiti
Stalks through the town.

Over the pavements
Her feet go clack,
Her legs are as tall
As a chimney stack.

Her fingers flicker
Like snakes in the air,
The walls split open
At her green-eyed stare.

Her voice is thin
As the ghosts of bees
She will crumble your bones,
She will make your blood freeze.

Spin a coin, spin a coin,
All fall down;
Queen Nefertiti
Stalks through the town.