The story of Apophis

‘... Now it so happened that the land of Egypt was in distress. There was no lord or king of the time. However, it happened that King Seqenenre was ruler of Thebes. Distress was in the town of the Asiatics, for Prince Apophis was in Avaris, and the entire land was subject to him with their taxes, the north as well, with all the good produce of the Delta. Then King Apophis made Seth his lord, and he would not serve any god who was in the land except Seth. And he built a temple of good and eternal work beside the House of King Apophis and he appeared every day to have sacrifices made to Seth. And the officials of the King carried wreaths, just exactly as is done in the temple of Re-Harakhte. Now, then, King Apophis wanted to send an irritating message to King Seqenenre the prince of Thebes ... The messenger told Seqenenre: ‘It is King Apophis who has sent me to you in order to say, ‘Let there be a withdrawal from the canal of hippopotami which lies to the east of the city, because they don’t let sleep come to me in the daytime or at night’ for the noise of them is in his citizens’ ears’. So the Prince of Thebes has his high officials summoned, as well as every ranking soldier of his, and he repeated to them every issue concerning which King Apophis had sent him. Then they were uniformly silent for a long time, without being able to answer him, be it good or bad ...’

– Adapted from W.K Simpson, The Literature of Ancient Egypt, pp. 78-80