

BIG FLOOD BRINGS JOY TO MILLIONS

People throughout Sudan and Egypt were jumping for joy last night as the mighty River Nile swelled impressively and sent water gushing over its banks.

The flooding is a result of melting snow and heavy rain in the Ethiopian Highlands. Water has poured down from the mountain slopes into the Nile, and the river channel just cannot hold this amount of water. Already, much of the land on either side of the river - known as the floodplain - is covered in water.

The Egyptian people have thanked the God 'Hapy' for this recent flood. One local woman, Halima Nanu told us, "Thanks be to Hapy, God of the Nile! It is he that has brought us this wonderful flood. His swollen belly and breasts are the symbols of abundance and fertility and we thank him deeply."

Another local farmer, Ahmose Zuberi, was so happy that he was dancing in his flooded field. When he was back on dry land, he explained his happiness. "We have been waiting for Akhet (the flooding season) with great eagerness. The water from the flooded river brings silt and mud to our lands that will soon become rich, black soil. Now we will be able to grow many crops when the floodwaters have disappeared. Thanks to Hapy we will not go hungry this year."