

TWO BILINGUAL INCANTATION FRAGMENTS

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It is usually inevitable that while editing a large group of tablets, one comes across fragments which look like they belong to the series with which one is occupied, but alas, they do not fit anywhere into the text. I have copied the following two bilingual incantation fragments during the course of my work on *Utukkū Lemnūtu*, which has now been published in the SAACT series, thanks to the invitation of Simo Parpola.¹ To the best of my knowledge, both fragments are previously unpublished.² It is a pleasure to contribute this small contribution to his Festschrift.

K 4619

The first of the tablets presented here is a bilingual incantation which has one line also found in *Utukkū Lemnūtu*.

Transliteration

- 1' [x x x x x x x x x a]n- 'šú-šú-e-dè'
2' [x x x x x x x x z]a-e me-'en'
[x x x x x x x x šik-nat na-p]iš-ti at-tu-nu-ma
3' [x x x x x x x x du]ngu sa mu-un-du³
[x x x x x x x e]r-pe-ta ip-pir-ma
4' [ki-dagal-gin₇ x x x]-zu-šè níg ḥul in-bu-re⁴
[ana x x x x x x] ki-ma er-še-ti DAGAL-tì / [i-na-a]s-sa-ḥu lum-na
5' [x x x x zi-g]a-gim šà-a-ab-ba-šè íb-ta-è
[ki-ma x x x i]n-na-sa-ḥu-ma ana qé-reb tam-tì uš-te-šu-u

¹ Geller 2007. In addition to Simo Parpola's work on this volume, I am also indebted to the very many corrections of errors and inconsistencies contributed by Robert Whiting during the course his preparing the text for publication.

² These fragments are published by permission of the Trustees of the British Museum. I would like to thank Mikko Luukko for his editorial critique and assistance.

³ I can find no bilingual equivalent of sa-du₇ // apāru.

⁴ The phrase níg-ḥul ba-ab-ūr-re (var. bí-ib-bu-re) occurs in Udug-ḥul forerunners (Geller 1985: 60 l. 676), with the late duplicate Ut. Lem. 7:14, cf. Geller 2007: 136, and see Ut. Lem. 16:147 (Geller 2007: 184).

- 6^r [nam-tar su lú-u₁₈-l]ú-ke₄ i-gál a-gim h́é-en-zi-zi⁵ / [a-gi]n₇-bi h́é-en-sur-re
 [nam-ta-ru šá ina zu-mur L]ú ba-šú-ú ina zu-um-ri-šú li-in-na-si-iḫ-ma /
 [k]i-ma me-e li-iṣ-ru-ur
- 7^r [lú-u₁₈-lu-b]i h́é-en-sikil h́é-en-dadag / [šu dingir-r]a-na-šè h́é-en-š_i-in-gi₄-gi₄
- 8^r (Illegible traces at the end of the line)

Translation

- 1^r [...] overwhelms [.....]
- 2^r You (pl.) are the [..... of cre]atures.
- 3^r [.....] covers [...] in cloud, [which] uproots evil [.....] like the broad earth.
- 5^r [When the ...] are uprooted, they escape to the middle of the sea.
- 6^r May [the Namtar-demon, who is in a m]an's [body], be removed from his body, may it pass like water.
- 7^r May that [man] be purified, may he be cleansed, may he be entrusted to the [hand] of his (personal) [god].
- 8^r (Rest destroyed)

81-7-27, 89

The second tablet is a ritual embedded within a bilingual incantation and could potentially duplicate any number of different genres of such incantations. The unusual feature of this tablet is the use of a male bird in the ritual, likely to be a crow or raven.

Transliteration

- 1^r [x x x x x buru₅-n]ita^{mušen} šu u-me-ti⁶
 [x x x x x iṣ-ṣu-r]u zi-ka-ra li-qé-e-ma
- 2^r [x x x x x gu s]a₅ téš-bi u-me-ni-sir₅-sir₅⁷
 [x x x x x qa-a sa]-^ra⁷-ma iš-te-niš ṭi-me-ma

⁵ This stock phrase occurs several times in *Utukkū Lemnūtu*, cf. Ut. Lem. 7:14 (Geller 2007: 136); Ut. Lem. 7:46 (Geller 2007: 137); Ut. Lem. 7:86 (Geller 2007: 139); see also in Uduḡ-hul forerunners, Geller 1985: 60, l. 674.

⁶ See PSD B: 205, giving buru₄-níta-mušen, “crow”, corresponding to Akk. *āribu* / *ēribu* (PSD B: 208–209).

⁷ The reading u-me-ni-nu-nu in Ut. Lem. 16: 81 should be u-me-ni-sir₅-sir₅ (Geller 2007: 181). Cf. von Weiher 1983: 25, l. 158 (Sag.gig VI), reading síg babbar síg sag₅ téš-bi u-me-ni-sir₅-sir₅.

- ³ [x x x x x buru₅-ni]ta^{mušen} u-me-ni-kéš
 [x x x x x iṣ-ṣu-r]u zi-ka-ra ru-ku-us-ma
- ⁴ [x x x x x sag lú-tu-r]a-bi-šè u-me-ni-nú
 [x x x x x x re-e]š mar-ši šu-né-el-ma
- ⁵ [x x x ki-kù⁸-g]a-^rta tu₆^r nam-bi-ta⁹ / [x x x x x én] 3-bi u-me-
 ni-šub
 [x x x x x x x]-ri ^rši^r-ip-ta / 3-šú mu-nu-ma
- ⁶ [x x x x x x x] ^ru^r-me-ni-gur-gur
 [x x x x x x x]-šú ku-up-pi-ir-ma
- ⁷ [x x x x x x x] buru₅-bi mi-ni-in-^ršub^r
 [x x x x x x x] iṣ-ṣu-r[u] / [x x x x x x x] ^ri^r-[d]i-š[u]

Translation

¹ Take [..... a m]ale bird, twist together a red [cord], bind up [..... with] a male bird, lay [.....] on the [hea]d of the patient.

⁵ [...] from a [pure place], *for this reason*, recite the incantation three times, wipe his [...] down [with].

⁷ He has tossed [..... of] the bird.

Reverse of 81-7-27,89 = Assurbanipal colophon (cf. BAK, no. 319):

5. The writing *i-ḥu-zu* instead of *i-ḥu-uz-zu* is only orthographic, see BAK 319:4.

7. IGL.KÁR as a variant of *ab-re-e* also occurs in BAK 329:6.

11. Note the plene writing of *lis-ki-pu-šú-ú-ma*.

⁸ Of course this is not the only possible restoration.

⁹ For nam-bi-šè // *ana šatti* “for this reason” see Geller 2007: 126, line 189 and CAD Š/2: 195, but I can find no other attestations of nam-bi-ta in a similar usage; cf. however ur₅-ta // *ana šatti* in Ut. Lem. 16: 37 (Geller 2007: 179).

Fig. 1

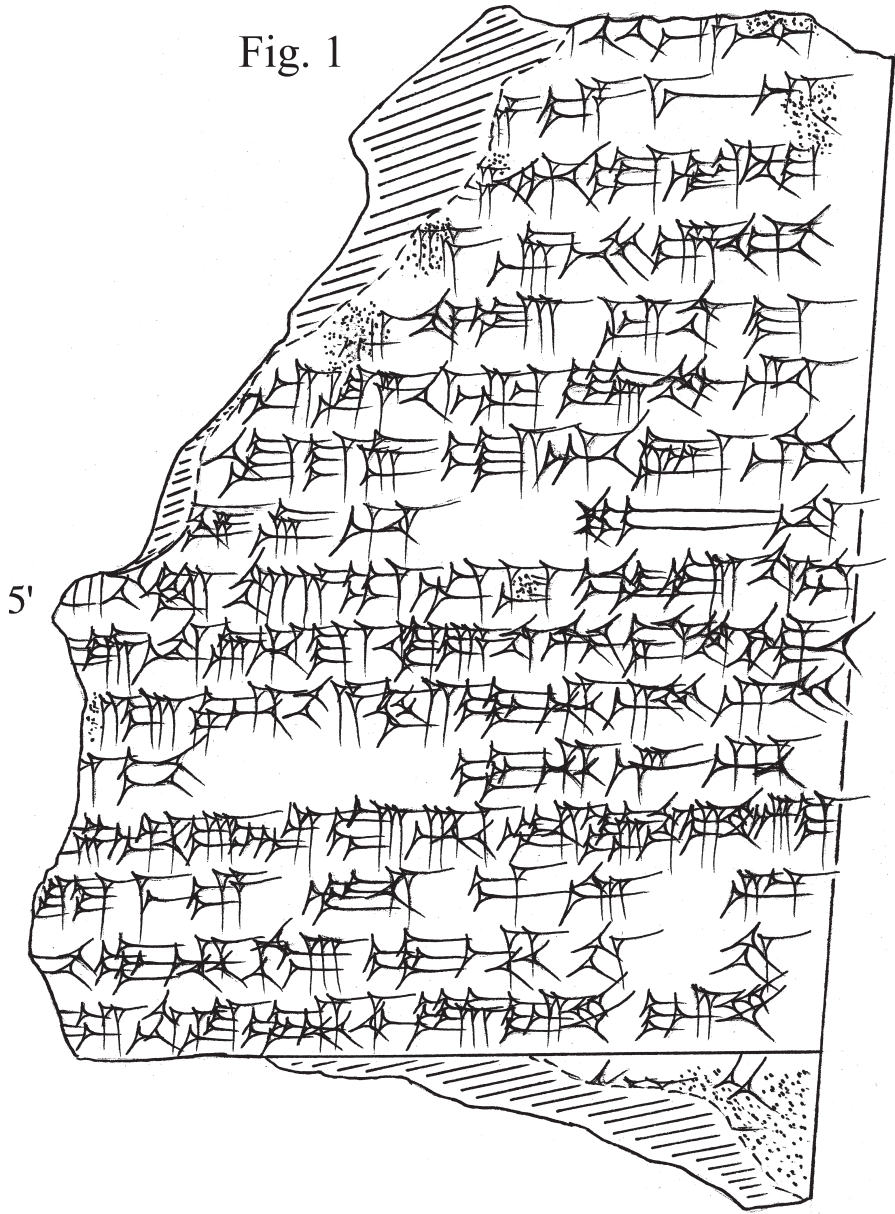


Fig. 1. K 4619

Fig. 2

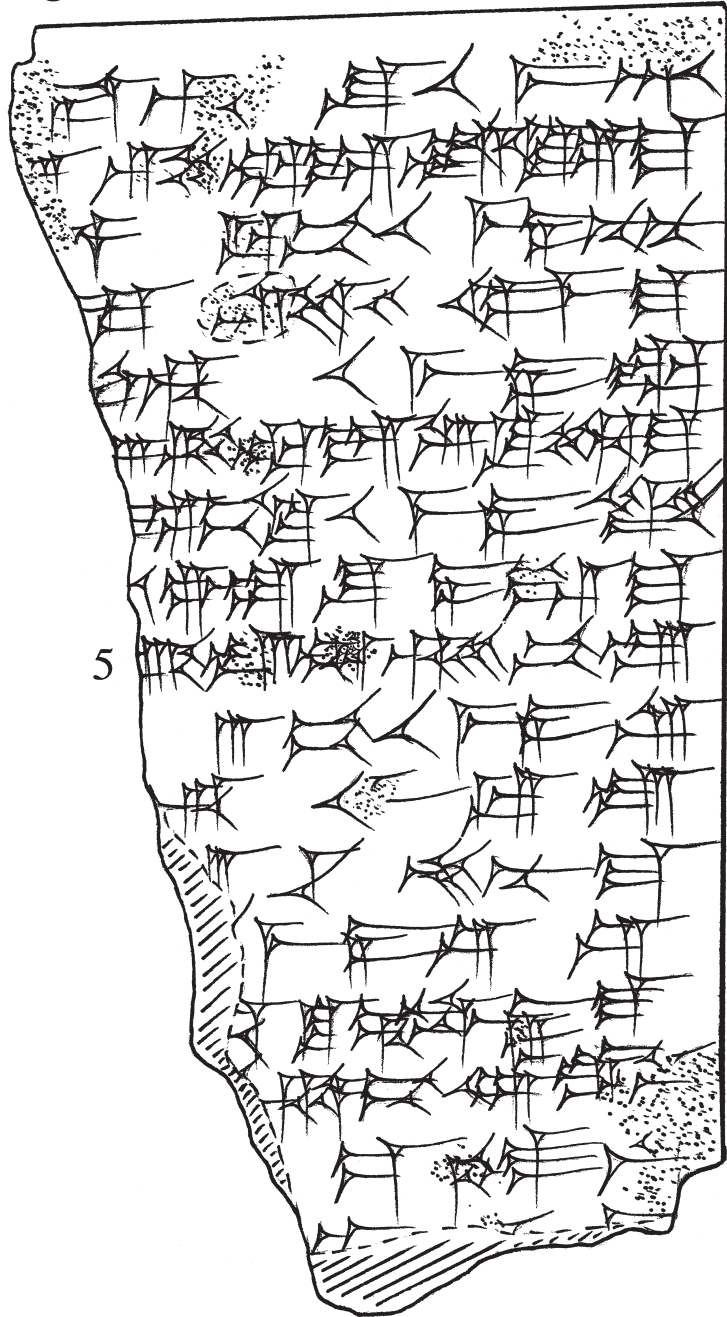


Fig. 2. 81-7-27, 89: Obverse

Fig. 3

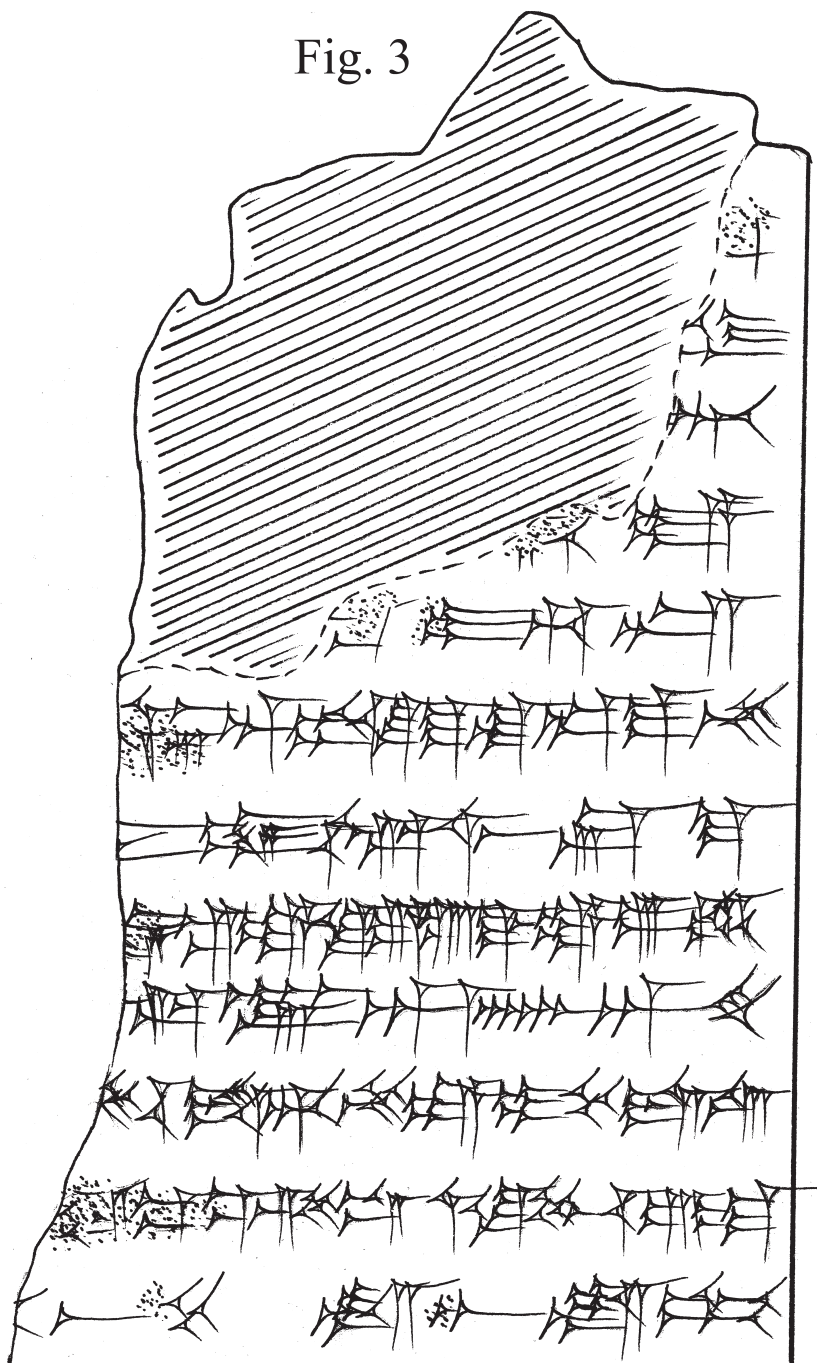


Fig. 3. 81-7-27, 89: Reverse; colophon = BAK, no. 319