ESARHADDON'S SUCCESSION TREATY AT TELL TAYINAT: TEXT AND COMMENTARY

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The Assyrian institution of the loyalty oath (adê) was an important mechanism by which the kings of the Neo-Assyrian Empire expanded their influence and maintained internal stability (for detailed introductions to the adê as instrument of empire with many textual references, see Parpola and Watanabe 1988: xv-xxv and Radner 2006a). In addition to stabilizing borders with other major powers allowing resources and attention to be focused elsewhere (e.g., Esarhaddon's adê with Urtaku, king of Elam), an oath of loyalty by a lesser king to the Assyrian king afforded the former the military protection of the mighty empire at the same time as it allowed the latter to expand its sphere of influence at relatively little cost. Within Assyria, royal officials such as governors, priests, and scribes—and theoretically all "servants of the king"—swore oaths of loyalty that were invoked as justification for the reports and denunciations these officials sent to the king.

In addition to the references to the institution of the *adê* in royal inscriptions, letters, oracle queries, and other genres, the text of actual loyalty oaths are preserved on a handful of tablets (collected in *SAA* 2). Most of these tablets seem to be archival copies that were stored in Nineveh, but one group of at least eight tablets from Nimrud is different. These tablets record oaths taken in 672 B.C.E. promising support for the succession of Esarhaddon's son Assurbanipal to the throne on Esarhaddon's death. Because the tablets are sealed with three divine seals of the god Assur and were found in the throne room of the Ezida, the temple of Nabû, they seem to be the actual "oath tablets" known from contemporary references (*tuppi adê*) that were elevated by the act of sealing to the status of "tablets of destinies" (George 1986).

In all eight examples of "Esarhaddon's Succession Treaty" from Nimrud, the person taking the oath is a subject king (*bēl āli*) from Assyria's eastern periphery and so is conventionally referred to as "Median." Scholarly opinion

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^{1.} For the original composite edition with copies of most of the fragments, see Wiseman 1958; in addition to another composite edition and translation, *BaM Beiheft* 3 provides a score as well as copies and photographs of additional identified fragments; for the most recent composite edition see *SAA* 2 6; three fragments of the oath are also know from Assur, see *AfO* 13, 215 and now *KAL* 3, 70–71.



obv.



has varied as to whether or not the fact that extant tablets record oaths with exclusively Median subject kings is significant. For some, it is significant that the tablets were composed for "newly acquired vassal[s]" so that they acquired a secondary function as "vassal treaties" (Parpola and Watanabe 1988: xxix–xxxi), or restricted to a special group of Medes who served in the Assyrian heartland as the crown prince's royal bodyguard (Liverani 1995). For others, Assurbanipal's claim in his royal inscriptions that the oath was taken by "the people of Assyria, great and small, from the Upper to the Lower Sea" (Borger *Asb.* 15 A i 18–19) is enough to suggest that many more examples of Esarhaddon's Succession Treaty must have existed in antiquity, and the Median focus of the extant manuscripts is only an accident of preservation (Watanabe 1987: 4; Grayson 1991: 129).

The discussion has taken a decisive new turn with the discovery in 2009 of a new exemplar of the oath (ms T) by the Tayinat Archaeological Project as one of eleven tablets and fragments found in the inner sanctum of Building XVI, a Neo-Assyrian temple at Tell Tayinat, ancient Unqi, capital of the Neo-Assyrian province of Kullania, in the Republic of Turkey's Hatay Province. For an overview of the entire tablet collection, a discussion of some of the historical implications raised by the discovery of ms T, and the argument that ms T and at least two manuscripts of the Mesopotamian scholarly text *Iqqur īpuš* found with it were actually displayed in antiquity in the temple's inner sanctum, see Lauinger 2011. For a detailed study of the tablets' archaeological context, see the accompanying article in this volume by Harrison and Osborne. The aim of this article is to provide a preliminary edition of the new manuscript of Esarhaddon's Succession Treaty.²

The primary work of this edition was completed during three weeks' study of the tablet at the Hatay Arkeoloji Müzesi in July 2011 (see Lauinger 2011: 5–6 for a description of the work done in the 2009 and 2010 seasons). One of the more significant discoveries during 2011 season was that some clay fragments originally found loose in the soil underneath the tablet joined to the tablet's obverse and preserve part of the impression of the seal of Sennacherib known from the Nimrud manuscripts, being located in the same place on ms T as in those manuscripts. The seal impression is not the only physical feature that ms T has in common with the Nimrud manuscripts. It is similar in size, measuring 40×28 cm (ms $27 = 45 \times 30$ cm; ms $31+51 = 42.5 \times 28.4$ cm, and ms $36 = 42 \times 28$ cm, see Parpola and Watanabe 1988: xlviii), and like the Nimrud manuscripts, must be rotated along its vertical axis in order to read the reverse (note that ms T is also pierced through its horizontal axis, see Lauinger 2011: 11 with fig. 8). The text of ms T is also almost identical to that of the Nimrud manuscripts, containing the same stipulations, curses, and colophon and exhibiting the same variation in orthography and line breaks that exists between the individual Nimrud manuscripts, although one unsurprising difference is still worthy of comment here: In ms T, the treaty partners are the anonymous $b\bar{e}l$ $p\bar{a}hiti$ of the province of Kullania, sixteen additional anonymous individuals or groups designated by occupation, and finally, as in the Nimrud manuscripts, "all the men of his hands, great and small, as many as there are."

The tablet's reverse is in much better condition than the obverse. Because the obverse was face down against the sanctum's plaster-tiled podium, it was less exposed to the fire. Only the clay along the tablet's top and left side was baked sufficiently to preserve text (see fig. 1). Fortunately, this area includes all of §1, and enough signs remain on the tablet's left side that most of column i can be restored with confidence. Because the reverse faced up when the tablet toppled over in the fire that destroyed the temple, it was completely baked. It preserves most of *SAA* 2 6 344–670 as well as two additional curses (designated here § 54 A and B) that are lost from the Nimrud manuscripts, the first invoking the pair Adad and Šāla of Kurba'il and the second invoking the goddess Šarrat-Ekron (a

^{2.} Ms T will be published more fully in the future with hand copies and photographs alongside full editions of the ten other texts with which it was found. In this regard, a brief justification of the decision to publish a preliminary edition of the text is in order. The justification is three-fold. First, the Tayinat Archaeological Project desires to provide a published record of the work on the Tayinat tablets at each stage of the process in order that the process itself be documented in a scientific manner (a record begun with Lauinger 2011); second, in recognition of the fact that work on the tablet may not resume for an unknown duration until further conservation is complete (see below), it seems appropriate to make the contents of the text available to the scholarly community without delay; and third, in further recognition of the fact that this conservation necessarily carries with it some small chance of damage to the text, it seems responsible to produce an edition of the text as soon as possible after autopsy.

goddess unattested in cuneiform to my knowledge but undoubtedly to be identified with the Lady of Ekron known from the Ekron inscription, see the note to line vi 47).

However, because of the accidental and incomplete firing of the tablet, its physical condition is very unstable. The tablet consists of a core of unbaked and disintegrating clay that is held in place by a thin, partial shell of baked clay (i.e., the reverse and those portions of the obverse that remain). For this reason, the conservators decided that once the tablet had been studied during the 2011 season, it should remain in stable storage until long-term protection measures can be put in place.

Text and Commentary³

Transliteration

```
obv.
Caption
                      NA<sub>4</sub>.KIŠIB <sup>d</sup>a-šur<sub>4</sub> LUGAL DINGIR.MEŠ
T caption 1
T caption 2
                      EN KUR.KUR ša [la šu-un-né-e]
iii
T caption 3
                      [NA<sub>4</sub>].KIŠIB 'NUN-e GAL-e<sup>1</sup> AD DINGIR.MEŠ
iv
T caption 4
                      ša [l]a <sup>r</sup>pa<sup>¬</sup>-qa-a-ri
§ 1
1
                      a-de-e ša maš-šur-PAP-AŠ MAN KUR aš-šur
T i 1
2
                      DUMU <sup>md</sup>30-PAP.MEŠ-SU MAN KUR aš-šur
Ti2
3
Ti3
                      TA lúEN.NAM KUR ku-na-<sup>r</sup>li<sup>¬</sup>-a
T i 4
                      TA lú2-e lúGAL É
4
T i 5
                      <sup>rlú</sup>A¹.BA.MEŠ <sup>lú</sup>DIB.PA.MEŠ <sup>lú</sup>3.U<sub>z</sub>.MEŠ
4
                      lúGAL URU.MEŠ lúmu-tir ţè-me
T i 6
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^{3.} Section numbers follow the composite edition SAA 2 6, and section rulings (not indicated) are present in ms T as in SAA 2 6 unless otherwise noted. Each line of text is accompanied by two numbers. The first refers to the corresponding line number in SAA 2 6, the second refers to the line's position in ms T. As ms T duplicates the text of the Nimrud manuscripts, I have generally taken the liberty of restoring missing text for the sake of intelligibility. The restoration follows SAA 2 6, but the possibility of orthographic variants must be acknowledged. In some lines where spacing has made restoration uncertain, I have offered none, and these uncertainties are discussed in the comments to such lines. I have tried to follow SAA 2 6 in transliterating and normalizing signs and words that are ambiguous with regard to dialect as Assyrian (e.g. le-kul not li-kul). Translation and commentary appears after the transliteration of the entire text, although I translate only those portions of the text that are not preserved or are poorly preserved in SAA 2 6 and commentary has been kept to a minimum (e.g., orthographic variants of the sort that exist between the Nimrud manuscripts are generally not mentioned). I have tried to be consistent with SAA 2 6 and the glossary of SAAo more generally in the terms chosen for translation (i.e., DUMU MAN GAL šá É UŠ-ti is translated as "the great crown prince designate"). Manuscripts from Nimrud are referred to by the abbreviated excavation numbers listed in Wiseman 1958: 92–99 and Watanabe 1987: 47–52.

T i 7	lúGAR-nu.MEŠ lúGAL-ki-şir.MEŠ
4	***
T i 8	lúEN gišGIGIR.MEŠ lúEN pet- ^r hal-la ¹ -ti
4	V
T i 9	lúzak-ku-e lúkal-la-b[a]-「ni ¹
4	W
T i 10	$l^{i}[u]m$ -ma-a-ni $l^{i}a^{\dagger}-[ri^{?}-ti^{?}]$
4–5	Vote and the second sec
T i 11	^{lú} rkit¹-ki-tu-u TA lúÉRIN.MEŠ [ŠU ^{II} -šú gab-bu]
5	
T i 12	'TUR u GAL¹ mal ba-[šú-u]
(Seal of Sennach	nerib)
§ 1 (continued)	
9–10	r. 1. v. 4
T i 13	[is-s]i-šú-nu ÉRIN.MEŠ-šú-nu ša EGIR a-de-e
10 and 6	
T i 14	ina [u4]-me ^r ṣa¹-a-ti ib-ba-šu-ni TA na-pa-aḫ dUTU-ši
6–7	[] I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I
T i 15	[x] a-di e-reb dUTU-ši am-mar ™aš-šur-PAP-AŠ
7–8	MANUFULD VV HUGHT (/FN -//- HOLLINY
T i 16	MAN KUR aš-šur LUGAL-u-tú EN-u-tú ina UGU-ḫi-šú-nu
8 and 11	
T i 17	up-pa-áš-u-ni ina UGU ^m aš-šur-DÙ-A DUMU MAN GAL-u
11-12	VÁLIŠ (DIIMII m. V.V. DAD AŠMANI KIID. V.V.
T i 18	šá É UŠ-te DUMU ™aš-šur-PAP-AŠ MAN KUR aš-šur
12 T: 10	Y4 [: LICIT] 1: Y4 - 1 :. : 1 4 :Y 1 [.:i]
T i 19	šá [ina UGU]-ḫi-šú a-de-e is-si-ku- <nu> iš-kun-u-[ni]</nu>
§ 2	
13–14 T i 20	[ina IGI mulSAG].「ME.GAR mul¬dil-bat mulUDU.IDIM.SAG.[UŠ]
14-15	[mu IGI SAG]. WE.GAR "un-out "UDU.IDINI.SAG.[US]
T i 21	^[mul] UDU.IDIM.GU ₄ .UD ^{mul[} sal-bat-a-nu ^{1 m[ul]} GAG.SI.SÁ]
16	ODO:IDINI.GO ₄ .OD şui-oui-u-nu [GAG.SI.SA]
T i 22	[ina IGI d]aš-šur ^{rd1} a- ^r num¹ dBAD ^{rd1} [É.A]
17	[IIII IOI]us-sui u- IIIII DAD [L.M]
T i 23	d30 dUT[U] dIM dMES dPA d[]
19	
T i 24	dše-ru-u- ^r a ¹ dbe-let-DINGIR.MEŠ DINGIR []
21–22	
T i 25	AN-e KI. TIM¹ DINGIR.MEŠ ina KUR 「aš-šur¹ [DINGIR.MEŠ]
22–23	
T i 26	「KUR ¹ šu-me-ri 「u ¹ URU.KI 「DINGIR ¹ .[MEŠ KUR.KUR]
23	
T i 27	ka-li-šú-n[u u]-dan-nin-[u-ni]
24	t t t t t t t t t t t t t t t t t t t
T i 28	iș-ba-tú (space) [iš-ku-nu-ni]
§ 3	

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25
T i 29
                       <d><d>aš-šur AD DINGIR.MEŠ EN KUR.KU[R ti-tam-ma]
26-27
                       ^{\mathsf{Fd}}a^{\mathsf{T}}-num ^{\mathsf{d}}\mathrm{BAD}\ ^{\mathsf{d}}\mathrm{\acute{E}}.\mathrm{A}\ ^{\mathsf{d}}\mathrm{3[0}\ ...]
T i 30
28
T i 31
                       <sup>rd1</sup>[...] <sup>d</sup>URAŠ <sup>dr</sup>U<sup>1</sup>.[GUR MIN]
29
T i 32
                       <sup>rd¹</sup>NIN.L[ÍL <sup>d</sup>še-r]u-u-a <sup>rd¹</sup>[be-let-DINGIR.MEŠ MIN]
30
                       d15 「šá¬ ur[uNINAk]i d15 「ša arba¬-[il MIN]
T i 33
?
T i 34
                       DINGIR.MEŠ \(^ka-li^1-\)sú-nu \(^ka^{\text{uru}}[\dots]\)
31
T i 35
                       DINGIR.MEŠ <sup>r</sup>ka-li-šú<sup>1</sup>-nu šá <sup>uru</sup>ŠÀ-U[RU ...]
32-33
                       DINGIR.MEŠ DÙ-šú-nu š[a <sup>uru</sup>NIN]A<sup>?ki</sup> MIN DINGIR.MEŠ 「DÙ¹ [...]
T i 36
34?
T i 37
                       \lceil x \ x \rceil \ [\dots] \lceil x \ x \rceil \ [\dots]
35?
                       DINGIR.MEŠ [...]
T i 38
(Approximately five lines not preserved)
40A?
T i 44'
                       [DINGIR]. MEй [...]
40B?
                       「DINGIR.MEй[...]
T i 45′
§ 4
41
                       a-de-e [ša <sup>m</sup>aš-šur-PAB-AŠ MAN KUR aš-šur ina IGI DINGIR.MEŠ GAL.MEŠ]
T i 46′
42
T i 47′
                       šá AN-e [ u KI.TIM is-si-ku-nu iš-ku-nu-u-ni]
43
T i 48′
                       ša ina U[GU ...]
44?
T i 49'
                       ša <sup>m</sup>[...]
45?
                       ša <sup>r</sup>É<sup>?</sup>¹ [...]
T i 50'
47?
                       ina? giš? [GU.ZA ...]
T i 51'
T i 52′
                       ^{\Gamma}X X^{1} [...]
(approximately 9 lines missing)
58
T i 62'
                       <sup>r</sup>te<sup>¬</sup>-[na-a-ni tu-šá-an-na-a-ni šum-ma <sup>m</sup>aš-šur-DÙ-A]
58
T i 63′
                       DUMU [MAN GAL-u šá É UŠ-ti]
59
                       ša <sup>m</sup>[aš-šur-PAP-AŠ MAN KUR aš-šur EN-ku-nu]
T i 64′
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60
T i 65'
                     Γú¬-k[al-lim-(u)-ka-nu-ni ḥa-an-nu-um-ma la ta-da-gal-a-ni]
61
                     LUGAL-u-t[u EN-u-tu šá KUR aš-šur]
T i 66'
61
T i 67′
                     ina 'UGU-hi'-[ku-nu la ú-pa-áš-u-ni]
§ 5
62
T i 68'
                     <sup>r</sup>šum-ma<sup>1</sup> [...]
T i 69'
                     \lceil x \rceil \lceil \dots \rceil
                     <sup>г</sup>х<sup>¬</sup> [...]
T i 70′
                     <sup>г</sup>х<sup>¬</sup> [...]
T i 71'
65-66
                     <sup>r</sup>la ta-na-ṣar-a-ni<sup>1</sup> [ina ŠÀ-bi-šú tu-ta-ḥa-ṭa-a-ni]
T i 72′
66-67
                     ſŠU<sup>II</sup>¬-ku-ſnu¬ ina HUL-t[i ina ŠÀ-bi-šú tu-bal-a-ni]
T i 73'
67-68
T i 74′
                     [ep-šú] bar-tú a-bu-tú l[a DÙG.GA-tú la SIG<sub>5</sub>-tú]
68-69
                     <sup>r</sup>te-pa-šá-niš-šú-ni<sup>¬</sup> ina LUGAL-t[i KUR aš-šur tu-nak-ka-ra-šú-u-ni]
T i 75′
69-70
                     「TA¹ ŠÀ-bi ŠEŠ.MEŠ-šú GAL.MEŠ 「TUR.MEй [ina ku-mu-šú gišGU.ZA]
T i 76'
70 - 71
T i 77′
                     KUR aš-šur<sup>ki?</sup> t[u-šá-aṣ]-bat-a-[ni LUGAL MAN-ma]
71
T i 78'
                     「EN<sup>1</sup> MAN-ma ina 「UGU<sup>1</sup>-ḥi-ku-nu 「ta-šá-kan-a<sup>1</sup>-[ni]
72
T i 79′
                     a-na 「LUGAL¹ MAN-ma EN MAN-ma ma-[mì]-tú ta-tam-ma-a-n[i]
§ 6
73
T i 80'
                     ršum-ma at-tu<sup>1</sup>-nu ra-bu-tú la x (x)-tú la ba-ni-tú<sup>1</sup>
(end column i)
74
T ii 1
                     la ta-ri-is-su šá [e-peš LUGAL-te ina UGU <sup>m</sup>aš-šur-DÙ-A]
75
                     DUM[U] LUGAL <GAL> šá É UŠ-te l[a tar-ṣa-tú-u-ni la ṭa-bat-u-ni]
Tii 2
76-77
                     lu-u ina pi-i ŠEŠ.M[EŠ-šú ŠEŠ.MEŠ AD.MEŠ-šú DUMU ŠEŠ.MEŠ AD.MEŠ-šú qin-ni-šú
Tii 3
                     NUMUN É AD-šú]
77-78
T ii 4
                     lu-u ina pi-<sup>r</sup>i<sup>1</sup> [lúGAL.MEŠ lúNAM.MEŠ lu-u ina pi-i lúšá ziq-ni]
78-79?
T ii 5
                     lúS[AG ...]
(The remainder of the column is not preserved)
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§ 15?
T iii 1
                    [\dots]
T iii 2
                    [...]
T iii 3
                    [...]
T iii 4
                    [...]
178-179?
T iii 5
                    <sup>r</sup>ina UGU <sup>m</sup>aš-šur-DÙ-A DUMU MAN GAL¹ [šá É UŠ-ti la tal-lak-a-ni-ni]
§ 16?
T iii 6
                    [\dots]
T iii 7
                    [...]
T iii 8
                    [...]
T iii 9
                    [\ldots]
Tiii 10
                    [...]
T iii 11
                    [\ldots]
T iii 12
                    [...]
(The remainder of the column is not preserved)
§ 22
257-258
                    la ta-[t]a-bak-a-ni <sup>r</sup>gi<sup>¬</sup>-[im]-lu [šá <sup>m</sup>]aš-šur-DÙ-A
T iv 1
258-259
                    DUMU LU[GAL G]AL-u šá É UŠ-te la 「tu-tar-ra¹-a-ni-ni
T iv 2
§ 23
259-260
                    「šum-ma¹ [at]-「tu-nu m¹ [aš-šu]r-DÙ-[A DUMU] MAN GAL šá É UŠ-te
T iv 3
261-262
T iv 4
                    「DUMU<sup>1</sup> [<sup>m</sup>aš-šur-PAP]-AŠ MAN KUR aš-šur [EN-ku]-nu šam-mu šá mu-a-<sup>r</sup>ti-šú<sup>1</sup>
262-263
T iv 5
                    [tu-šá-kal]-[a]-[šú]-u-ni [ta]-[šá]-[qi-a-šú]-ú-ni
263-264
T iv 6
                    [ta-pa-šá-šá-šú-u-ni kis-pi] <sup>r</sup>te<sup>¬</sup>-[p]a-šá-niš-šú-u-ni
264-265
                    [DINGIR.MEŠ u dIŠ.TAR is-si-šú tu-šá-za]-na-a-ni
T iv 7
§ 24
266
T iv 8
                    [\check{s}um-ma at-tu-nu] \lceil a \rceil-na ^m a \check{s}-\check{s}ur-[D\grave{U}]-A
266
T iv 9
                    [DUMU MAN GAL-u] <sup>r</sup>šá É Uй-te
267
T iv 10
                    [DUMU maš-šur-PAP-AŠ MAN KUR aš-šur EN]-ku-nu
268
T iv 11
                    [ki-i nap-šá-te-ku-nu la tar-ʾa-ma-a]-ni
(The remainder of the column is not preserved)
rev.
§ 29
344-345
T v 1
                    at-tu-nu ta-šam!-ma-a-n[i l]a DÙG.GA-<sup>r</sup>tú<sup>1</sup> šá ŠEŠ.MEŠ-šú
345-346
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	• • • • • • •
T v 2	ina IGI-šú ta-qab-ba-a-ni 「TA IGI¹ ŠEŠ.「MEй-šú
346–347	
T v 3	ta-par-ra-sa-šú-u-ni šum-ma qa-bi-a-[n]u-ti
347–348	
T v 4	šá a-bu-tú an-ni-tú iq-ba-ka-nu-u-ni
348-349	V/ 1V 1.1115 4.5
T v 5	tu-ra-ma-šú-u-ni šum-ma la tal-lak- ^r a-ni-ni ¹
349-350	
T v 6	a-na ^m aš-šur-DÙ-A DUMU MAN GAL-u šá É UŠ-te
350-351	
T v 7	la ta-qab-ba-a-ni ma-a AD-ka a-de-e
351–352	
T v 8	ina UGU-ḥi is-si-ni is-sa-kan ú-tam-ma-na-a-ši
\$ 30	
353	v
T v 9	šum-ma ta-da-ga-la a-na [™] aš-šur-DÙ-A DUMU MAN
353-54	CAL VIÉTIC OPCATO VII . 11 V
T v 10	GAL-u šá É UŠ-te ŠEŠ.MEŠ-šú la pal-ḫu-uš
354–355	1-1 * * ENINITINI */ 1- :4 4 []
T v 11 356	la kan-šu-uš EN.NUN-šú la i-na-ṣu-ru at-tu- ^r nu [¬]
	hi na ma ni hu mu aa a li la ta aa na */ mu ni
T v 12 357	ki ra-ma-ni-ku-nu ṣa-a-li la ta-ga-ra-šú-nu-ni
T v 13	pu-luḥ-tú NÍG.BA.MEŠ-te ina ŠÀ- ^r bi¹-šú-nu
358	pu-uug-tu NG.DA.WE5-te tuu 5A- 01 -su-tu
T v 14	la tu-še-rab-a-ni ma-a AD- ^r ku-nu ¹ ina ŠÀ-bi
358-359	ш tu-se-ruo-u-m mu-u 11D- ки-пи - mu 011-от
T v 15	a-de-e is-sa-tar is-sa-kan ú-[t]am-ma-na-a-ši
\$ 30a	a de e le eu par le eu lant le [v]ant hau la el
353	
T v 16	šum-ma ta-da-ga-la a-na < ^m >aš-šur-(erasure)-DÙ-A
353-354	8
T v 17	DUMU LUGAL GAL-u šá É UŠ-ti ŠEŠ.MEŠ-(erasure)-šú
354-355	,
T v 18	^r la pal-ḫu-uš la¹ kan-šú- ^r uš¹ EN.NUN-šú la i-na-ṣu-[r]u
355-356	
T v 19	at-tu-nu ki ra-[ma-ni-ku-nu] şa-a-li
356-357	
T v 20	la ta-ga-ra-šú-nu-ni pu- ^r luḥ-tú NÍG.BA.MEŠ-te ¹
357-358	
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T viii 5	[ki]-i ḥa-an-ni-e la-an-ku-nu ina dGIŠ.BAR liq- ^r mu ¹ -[u]				
611					
T viii 6	[ina] A.MEŠ li-ṭa-bu-[u]				
§ 90					
612-613					
T viii 7	[k]i-i šá gišGIGIR a- $^{\Gamma}$ di $^{\Gamma}$ sa-se-šá ina ÚŠ.MEŠ $^{\Gamma}$ ra $^{\Gamma}$ -[a h -sa-tu-u-ni]				
613-614					
T viii 8	[k]i-i ḥa-an-ni-e gišGIGIR.MEŠ-ku-[nu]				
614-615					
T viii 9	[in]a MÚRU lúKÚR-ku- <nu> ina ÚŠ.MEŠ šá ra-ma-ni-ku-^rnu li¹-[ra-aḫ-ṣa]</nu>				
§ 91					
616					
T viii 10	ki-i pi-laq-qi lu-šá-aş-bir-ku-n[u]				
617					
T viii 11	[k]i-i MUNUS ina IGI \(\text{i}\)K\(\text{UR-ku-nu le-pa-s\(\text{i}\)-k[u-nu]				
§ 92	* * *				
618					
T viii 12	[K]IMIN.KIMIN a-na ka-a-šú-nu ŠEŠ.MEŠ-ku- ^r nu ¹				
618-619					
T viii 13	DUMU.MEŠ-ku-nu ki-i al-lu-t[i]				
619-620	•				
T viii 14	[a]-na qí-in-niš lu-šá-di-lu-ku- ^r nu ¹				
§ 93					
621					
T viii 15	ki-i IZI la DÙG.GA-tú la SIG ₅ -tú lu-šal-bu-ku-[nu]				
§ 94	,				
622					
T viii 16	ki-i šá Ì.MEŠ ina ŠÀ-bi UZU.MEŠ e-rab-u-ni				
623					
T viii 17	[t]a-mì-tú an-ni-tú ina ŠÀ!-bi UZU.MEŠ-ku-nu				
624-625					
T viii 18	[UZ]U.MEŠ šá DUMU.MEŠ-ku-nu lu-še-ri-bu				
§ 95					
626					
T viii 19	ki-i šá a- ^r ra ¹ -ru a-na ^d EN iḫ-ṭu-u-ni				
627	• •				
T viii 20	[k]ap-pi šá Á.MEŠ-šú-nu GÌR ¹¹ .MEŠ-šú-nu				
627-628					
T viii 21	^r ú¹-bá-ti-qu-u-ni IGI.MEŠ-šú-nu				
	1				

628-629

T viii 22	^r ú¹-ga-lil-u-ni ki-i ḫa-an-ni-e
629-630	
T viii 23	[l]ig-ma-ru-ku-nu ki-i 「GI¹.AMBAR.MEŠ ina A.MEŠ
630–631	
T viii 24	[l]u-ni-šú-u-ku-nu ki-i GI.MEŠ ina rik-si
631	
T viii 25	[¹] ^ú KÚR-ku-nu li-šá-lip-ku-nu
\$ 96	
632	
T viii 26	[šu]m-「ma¹ at-tu-nu ™aš-šur-PAP-AŠ MAN KUR aš-šur
633	
T viii 27	「ù¹ ^m aš-šur-DÙ-A DUMU MAN GAL-u 「šá ɹ UŠ-te
633B-C	*
T viii 28	'ù' re-eḫ-ti DUMU.MEŠ ṣi-it ŠÀ-bi
633C-634	
T viii 29	「šá¹ ™aš-šur-PAP-AŠ 「MAN KUR aš-šur tu-ram¹-ma-a-ni
634–635	
T viii 30	a-na ZAG 「GÙB¹ tal-lak-a-ni šá a-na ZAG
635	
T viii 31	il-lak-u-ni GÍR.MEŠ le-ku-la-šu
636	IVI CÔT HILL CÓT MUNĂ LI IVI
T viii 32	[š]á a-na GÙB il-lak-u-ni GÍR.MEŠ-me le-ku-l[a-šu]
\$ 96A	
636A-B	
T viii 33	^r a¹-na ka-a-šú-nu DUMU.MEŠ-ku-nu DUMU.MUNUS.MEŠ-ku-nu
636C	
T viii 34	[k]i-i UDU.NIM ga- ^r de ¹ -e li-qi-lu-ku-nu
§ 97	
637	1.: : *
T viii 35 637–638	ki-i šá ki-il-lu šá su-ʾe-e an-ʿnu¹-[te]
T viii 36	^r i¹-ḥal-la-lu-u-ni at-tu- ^r nu MUNUS.MEй-ku-nu
638–639	1'-ŋai-ia-ia-ia-ia ai-ia-' na MONOS.MES'-ka-na
T viii 37	[D]UMU.MEŠ-ku-nu DUMU.MUNUS.MEŠ-ku-nu la ta-nu-ḫa
639–640	[D] 0 N 0.1 N E 3 - Ku - N u D 0 N 0 1 N 0 1 N 0 5.1 N E 3 - Ku - N u I u - N u - N u
T viii 38	[l]a ta-ṣa-la-la eṣ-mat-「eʰ-ku-nu
640	
T viii 39	^r a¹-na a-ḥe-iš lu la i-qar-ri-ba
§ 98	a mange is tallat qui it on
641	
T viii 40	ki-i šá lib-bu šá hup- <pi> ra-^rqu¹-u-ni</pi>
642	in reason carea gup qui ia ia
T viii 41	ki ḥa-an-ni-e lib-ba-ku-nu li-ri-iq
§ 99	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
643	
T viii 42	KIMIN.KIMIN ki-i ¹½KÚR-ku-nu ú-pa-taḫ-u-「ka¹-[nu-ni]
644	1

T viii 43 645	[L]ÀL Ì.MEŠ zi-i [^] -za-ru- [^] u ÚŠ.MEŠ ^{giš} ERIN
T viii 44	a-na šá-kan ^r pi-it ¹ -ḥi-ku-nu li-iḥ-liq-qi
§ 100	The second of th
646-647	
T viii 45	ki-i šá mar-tú mar-rat-u-ni ^r at-tu-nu ¹
647	
T viii 46	[MUNUS].MEŠ-ku-nu DUMU.MEŠ-ku-nu DUMU.MUNUS.MEŠ-ku-nu
648	It livery to the
T viii 47	[ina] UGU a-ḫe-iš lu mar-ra-ku-nu
§ 101 649	
T viii 48	rd 'UTU ḥu-ḥa- ^r ru' šá ZABAR ina UGU-ḥi-ku-nu
649–650	o to gu gu tu su zhizhkimi odo gi ku nu
T viii 49	[DU]MU.MEŠ-ku-nu li-is-ḥu-up ina giš-par-ri
650-651	
T viii 50	[l]a na-par-šu-di li-di-ku-nu a-a ú-še-și
651	
T viii 51	[n]ap-šat-ku-un
§ 102	
652	1
T viii 52	ki-i šá na-a-du an-ni-tú šal-qa-tu-u-ni
652–653 T viii 53	A.MEŠ-šá ṣa-pa-ḥu-u-ni ina kaq-qar ṣu-ma-mì-ti lap-[lap]-[tu]
654–655	A.MES-sa şa-pa-ţiu-u-ni ina kaq-qar şu-ma-mi-ti tap-`tap`-[tu]
T viii 54	na-da-ku-nu lu ta-ḥi-bi ina ṣu-um me-e m[u-u-ta]
§ 103	
656	
T viii 55	KI.MIN KI.MIN ki-i šá kušſ E¹.SIR an-ni-tú bat-qa-tu-u-n[i]
657	
T viii 56	ina kaq-qar pu-qut-ti ga-zi-ri ^{kuš} E.SIR-ku-nu
658	×>
T viii 57	lib-tu'-qu ina UGU ŠÀ-bi-ku-nu piš-la
§ 104	
659 T viii 58	dEN.LÍL EN gišG[U].ZA-e gišG[U].ZA-ku-nu lu-šá-bal-kit
\$ 105	EN.EIE EN - G[0].211-e - G[0].211-ku-nu tu-su-out-ku
660–661	
T viii 59	rd AG ¹ na-ši ṭup-pi NAM.MEŠ DINGIR.MEŠ MU-ku-nu
661	
T viii 60	lip-šiṭ NUMUN-ku-nu ina KUR li-ḫal-líq
\$ 106	
662	
T viii 61	^{giš} IG ina IGI-e-ku-nu lu-šar-ḫi-ṣu
663	GISTO MEČ a lu, uu lu la i pat ti a
T viii 62	gišIG.MEŠ-e-ku-nu lu la i-pat-ti-a
§ 107: Colophon	

664 T viii 63

itiGU₄.SI.SÁ UD.「16¹[+x][?].KÁM

665

665

T viii 65 lúGAR KUR uruBÁD-LUGAL-uk-ka

666

667

T viii 67 DUMU LUGAL GAL-u šá É ri-du-ti

667-668

T viii 68 ša KUR aš-šur $\lceil \dot{u} \rceil$ mdGIŠ.NU₁₁-MU-GI.NA

669

T viii 69 DUMU LUGAL ša É ri-du-ti

669

T viii 70 ša KÁ.DINGIR.RA^{ki}

670

T viii 71 $[\check{s}]a$ -ak-nu

Translation

§ 1

"The *adê* of Esarhaddon, king of Assyria, son of Sennacherib, king of Assyria, with the governor of Kunalia, with the deputy, the majordomo, the scribes, the chariot drivers, the third men, the village managers, the information officers, the prefects, the cohort commanders, the charioteers, the cavalrymen, the exempt, the outriders, the specialists, the shi[eld bearers (?)], the craftsmen, (and) with [all] the men [of his hands], great and small, as many as there are—[wi]th them and with the men who are born after the *adê* in the [f]uture, from the east [...] to the west, all those over whom Esarhaddon, king of Assyria, exercises kingship and lordship, concerning Assurbanipal, the great crown prince designate, the son of Esarhaddon, king of Assyria, on whose behalf he established the *adê* with you."

\$ 30

"You will not look at Assurbanipal, the great crown prince designate, or his brothers without reverence or submission. If someone does not protect him, you will fight them as if fighting for yourselves. You will bring frightful terror into their hearts, saying: 'Your (pl.) father wrote (this) in the *adê*, he established it, and he has made us swear (it)."

\$ 35

"Whoever changes, neglects, violates, or voids the oath of this tablet (and) transgresses against the father, the lord, (and) the *adê* of the great gods(?) (and) breaks their entire oath, or whoever discards this *adê*-tablet, a tablet of Aššur, king of the gods, and the great gods, my lords, or whoever removes the statue of Esarhaddon, king of Assyria, the statue of Assurbanipal, the great crown prince designate, or the statue(s) of his brothers (and) his sons *which are over him*—you will guard like your god this sealed tablet of the great ruler on which is written the *adê* of Assurbanipal, the great crown prince designate, the son of Esarhaddon, king of Assyria, your lord, which is sealed with the seal of Aššur, king of the gods, and which is set up before you."

§ 54

"May Aramiš, lord of the city and land of Qarnê (and) lord of the city and land of Aza'i, fill you with green water."

\$ 54 A

"May Adad (and) Šāla of Kurba'il create piercing pain and ill health everywhere in your land."

§ 54 B

"May Šarrat-Ekron make a worm fall from your insides."

\$ 67

"Just as a shoot is [...], (and) seed(s) and the *sikkitu* of beer are placed within, (and) just as these seeds do not sprout, and the *sikkitu* of beer does not turn to its ..., may your name, your seed, (and) the seed of your brothers (and) your sons disappear from the face of the earth."

§ 96A

"May they strike down you, your sons, and your daughters like a spring lamb or kid."

§ 106

"May they cause the door to be soaked (in blood?) before your eyes. May your doors not open."

Commentary

i 1–12: Ms T follows the general pattern of *SAA* 2 6 1–5 in a tripartite hierarchical presentation of the individuals who take the oath, with the preposition *issi* marking each level of the hierarchy. In the Nimrud manuscript, the hierarchy is as follows:

- A named bēl āli;
- his unnamed sons and grandsons (although three of six manuscripts omit the TA before DUMU.MEŠ-šú);
- the residents of his city and "all the men of his hands, as many as there are."

In ms T, the hierarchy consists of:

- An unnamed *bēl pāḥiti*;
- sixteen additional unnamed officials or groups of officials, all connected to the civil or military provincial
- and "all the men of his hands, great and small, as many as there are."

In contrast to the Nimrud manuscripts, two features of ms T stand out: The anonymity of the $b\bar{e}l$ $p\bar{a}hiti$ and other officials, intended perhaps to ensure that the text of the $ad\hat{e}$ remained applicable even as personnel changed; and the undoubtedly intentional omission of any mention of sons and grandsons, reflecting the non-hereditary nature of the governorship, cf. line i 13 below.

- i 10: For the restoration ${}^{\text{lór}}a^{1}$ -[ri^{2} - ti^{2}], compare the list of personnel whom Esarhaddon adds to his army in his "Gottesbrief," see *RINAP* 4 84 iii 16'–18', and cf. also Borger *Asb*. 58 A vii 2.
 - i 11: I owe the reading $\frac{1}{4}$ kit^{-1} -ki-tu-u to the suggestion of Karen Radner.
- i 13–19: The sequence of these lines follows the sequence of ms 27 against all other extant manuscripts. Ms T also follows ms 27 against all other extant manuscripts in appending the qualification "concerning Assurbanipal, the great crown prince designate, the son of Esarhaddon, king of Assyria, on whose behalf he established the *adê*

with you" (*SAA* 2 6 11–12) to the end of the section. This qualification represents the first mention of Assurbanipal in the text, that is, the subject of the specific *adê*. Perhaps § 1 in the other extant manuscripts presents a basic template for the preamble of an *adê* to which the names of the contracting parties can simply be added (cf. *SAA* 2 5 1–3, *SAA* 2 8 1–8, and *SAA* 2 11 1–5, other *adê*'s whose opening text is preserved), while § 1 in manuscripts 27 and T presents that preamble adapted to the particular circumstances. Why the addition of a qualification at the end of the section should be accompanied by a different order of the lines prior is unclear to me.⁴

- i 13: As in the previous lines, ms T omits any mention of "sons and grandsons," as in the Nimrud manuscripts. The parallel line in the Nimrud manuscripts also marks the commencement of 2nd m. pl. forms to refer to the oath takers. In contrast, 3rd m. pl. forms continue here in ms T, with the 2nd m. pl. not appearing until line i 19.
- i 15: There is space for a single sign in the damage before *adi*, although we expect simply *issu napāḫ šamši adi erēb šamši*, as in all Nimrud manuscripts that preserve the line (with some semantic variation of the second infinitive).
- i 17: In contrast to the sole other ms preserving this line, 27, ms T omits *ša* before *ina muḫḫi*. Emendation is not necessary to preserve the sense of the passage.
- i 23: There is space for approximately four signs in the damaged end of the line. However, in the Nimrud manuscripts, four DNs requiring eleven signs appear between Nabû (the last preserved DN of i 23) and Šerua (the first DN of i 24). It seems likely, therefore, that i 23 ends with Nusku (^d[NUSKU]) and that Uraš, Nergal, and Mullissu are omitted in ms T, cf. ms 45 A, which omits a line (*SAA* 2 6 28, consisting of Nabû, Nusku, Uraš, and Nergal) in the parallel list of deities in § 3.
- i 24: The situation is similar to the preceding line: There is space for approximately five signs in the damaged end of the line, yet restoring the text in parallel to the Nimrud manuscripts requires 17 signs. Given that i 25 begins with the genitive nouns *šamê kaqqiri*, perhaps one should restore [MEŠ *a-ši-bu-ti*] at the end of i 24 and understand d15 *šá* uruNINA^{ki} d15 *šá* arba-il to have been omitted? Depending on the method of the text's transmission, however, it is equally possible to restore d[15 *šá* uruNINA^{ki}] and understand d15 *šá* arba-il DINGIR.MEŠ a-ši-bu-ti to have been omitted.
- i 28: Ms T confirms the sequence of verbs *udanninuni iṣbatu iškununi* as read in Wiseman 1958 and *SAA* 2 6 against the various attempts to achieve the phrase well-attested elsewhere in the text *udanninuni issikunu iškununi*, for example, the suggested emendation in ms 45 A of *iṣ-ṣi-bat-tu* to *is-si-ku-nu* (Frankena 1965: 126 n. 2, followed by Reiner 1969: 534 with n. 3); or the deletion of *-ṣi-bat-tu* and subsequent emendation of *iš-* to *-si-* (Watanabe 1987: 59 and 178, after collation).⁵ Syntactically, the verb *ṣabātu*, like *dunnunu* and *šakānu*, is part of a relative clause that goes back to the *ša* in line i 1, the antecedent of which is the preceding *adê*, cf. Parpola and Watanabe 1987: xxxvi, "This latter meaning ["treaty which"] occurs in the second paragraph of no. 6 (divine witnesses), where the words *adê ša* have been omitted as unnecessary but are implied by the subjunctive predicates concluding the paragraph." For other examples of *adê* as the direct object of *ṣabātu* in the G and Š-stems, see Watanabe 1987: 14–15
- i 30–31: It is difficult to see how the four DNs preserved in the Nimrud manuscripts could fit in the damaged area at the end of i 30 and the beginning of i 31, and so one or more may have been omitted, cf. lines i 23–24 above.
- i 34–36: These lines are very poorly preserved, but it is apparent from the position of Libbi-āli that the sequence of Assyrian cities in ms T differs in some degree from that preserved in the Nimrud manuscripts. But see *SAA* 2 6 37–40B, in which the presence and arrangement of lines in the extant Nimrud manuscripts also shows considerable variation.

^{4.} Cf. the opinion of Frankena (1965: 126): "In l. 12 [of ms 27] he writes automatically after the name of Ashurbanipal a stock phrase we find often after the name of the crown-prince. It is interesting to see that all the duplicates avoid the anakalouth by placing ll. 6–7 after 10a and by omitting the lines 10b–12."

^{5.} See also the suggestion of Borger (1961: 175) to read *iṣ-ṣi-bat-tu* as ^{giṣ}ṣ*i-mit-tu*, "Abmachung, Bestimmung." The form *iṣ-ṣi-bat-tu* in *SAA* 2 6 24 is cited by Luukko (2004: 104) an example of an anaptyctic vowel before the stress.

- i 44′–45′: The length of the section implies that these lines be identified with *SAA* 2 6 40A and B, which appear in only two of the four Nimrud manuscripts preserving the end of the section.
- i 47': While only the leftmost signs are preserved for each line in the beginning of this section, the text can still be confidently restored for in the preceding three lines. However, the sign combination $\dot{s}a + a$ single horizontal wedge, which should be the *Personenkeil* as it is followed by space before the break, does not appear in the corresponding text as known from the Nimrud manuscripts.
- i 50′-51′: If the signs are read correctly, and they are poorly preserved, then some text present in the Nimrud manuscripts must have been omitted ms T, or else i 50′ would comprise 33 signs.
- i 66': The spacing of the line suggests that *šá* KUR *aš-šur*, present in four of the five Nimrud manuscripts, was present in ms T as well.
- i 80': Only traces of the sign(s) following the first $l\bar{a}$ are preserved, and it is unclear whether the traces fit better DÙG.GA or SIG, (each of which occurs in the parallel line in a ms from Nimrud).
- ii 3: Ms 36 has *lu-u* UN.MEŠ-šú in place of ŠEŠ.MEŠ AD.MEŠ-šú *qin-ni-šu* found in the two other Nimrud manuscripts, 27 and 49 I (*SAA* 2 6 76–77). Such a restoration is also possible in ms T and may fit the line's spacing better.
- iii 1–12: Column iii is very poorly preserved, with twelve almost entirely illegible lines divided into two sections of five and seven lines by two rulings. Assurbanipal's name is preserved in the line immediately before the first ruling, which allows for a tentative identification of the section. The name is similarly situated before the end of a section in *SAA* 2 6 178–179 and the following section, § 16, is approximately the same number of lines as the second "section" in column iii of ms T. However, the identification of ms T iii 1–5 with § 15 must remain tentative. First, the identification requires column ii to consist of approximately 100 lines (barring the omission of lines), whereas column i, preserved in full, consists of only 80 lines and even the columns on the reverse—uninterrupted by a seal impression—consist of 90 to 100 lines. Second, strictly speaking, the second ruling does not demarcate a section but rather the top of the seal impression, and the seal impression is not necessarily coterminous with a section break in the Nimrud manuscripts (e.g., ms 27, in which the seal impression in column iii occurs in the middle of § 14).
- iv 5: This line presents the only occurrence in ms T of a plene spelling of the 3rd m. s. accusative suffix with $-\dot{u}$ and not -u-, perhaps under the influence of the writing $\dot{s}am$ -mu, which occurs almost directly above it on the tablet.
 - v 1: The sign šam! lacks the final two horizontal wedges.
- v 8: The writing of the verb, which was previously extant in only one ms from Nimrud, x 15+, is confirmed as present tense by ms T, and so the writing in x 15+ cannot be a mistake for the perfect as suggested by Watanabe (1987: 160). Should the form be understood as an aspectual use of the present? Cf. Parpola 1974: 275 note to line 16
- v 10–11: The phrase *lā palḥuš lā kanšuš* is only partially preserved in the Nimrud manuscripts. It is a variant of the common adverbial pair *palḥiš kanšiš*, for example, *palḥiš kanšiš tāmartašu kabittu uštanebbala*, "He continually brings to me his substantial audience gift reverently and submissively" (Borger *Asb.* 71–72 A x 49–50).
- v 11: The phrase massartušu $l\bar{a}$ inassuru is only partially preserved in one Nimrud ms. 27. The reading massart[u] in that ms goes back to Borger (1961: 185) who transliterated massart[tu(?)]. Watanabe (1987: 105) and Parpola and Watanabe (1988: 43) transliterate the the traces preserved before the break as -t[u]. In addition to the

^{6.} However, column iv starts at line 257, so that columns ii and iii should have contained a total of 183 lines or an average of 91.5 lines. The Nimrud manuscripts show a wide divergence in line counts per column. For example, with respect to column iii, ms 27 begins at line 155, ms 39 at line 163, and ms 46 E at line 171 (or at least, column ii ends at line 170). Ms 45 D may begin column iii as early as line 129 (as preserved, the column's text begins at line 141, but this line is below the seal impression and there are typically about twelve lines before the seal impression). Cf. Parpola and Watanabe 1988: xlviii: "the average number of lines per column is only 80 on the obverse of A [= ms 27] and 85 on that of B [= ms 35+]. The many dividing lines reduce the average number of lines per column to about 90 on the reverse of A; data for B and C [= ms 29] are not available."

case vowel, this sign can also be the auxiliary vowel a > u before a no-longer-preserved 3rd m. s. pronominal suffix, that is, ma-sar-t[u-su]. For a discussion of instances in SAA 2 6 where a single summa serves a double function, introducing both a conditional clause and also a following "solemn statement," see Watanabe 1987: 30 (although the designation "solemn statement" follows the interpretation of Parpola and Watanabe [1988: xl]). On the irregular use of the subjunctive after summa in the $ad\hat{e}$, see Parpola 1987: 173. The pronoun summa at the end of the line emphasizes the transition from a 3 m. s. subject back to a 2 m. pl. subject.

v 12: The infinitive *ṣâli* is not preserved in the Nimrud manuscripts.

v 13: Following the suggestion of Karen Radner (personal communication), NÍG.BA.MEŠ-te is understood as a pseudo-logogram for *namurrate*, derived from the occasional use of NÍG.BA as a logogram for *nāmurtu*, "audience-gift."

v 15: The verb *issaṭar* is partially preserved in ms x 15+ (*is-sa-ṭ*[ar]) but has been restored by Parpola and Watanabe (1988: 43) as *is-sa-k*[an?] in parallel with ms 45c, and so the verb is absent from their composite edition.

v 16–23: This section, designated here § 30a, duplicates lines v 9–15 with different line breaks and some variant orthography (e.g., LUGAL in place of MAN and UŠ-*ti* in place of UŠ-*te* in v 17). A preliminary comparison of the forms of the signs (e.g., ŠEŠ) indicates that these two sections may have been written by different hands, but the matter requires further study.

v 37: The trace of the sign going into the break could be equally BU or ŠE and provides no help in deciding whether to read *sar-bu* (Wiseman 1958: 57; Borger 1961: 185; *AHw* 1029a; *BaM Beiheft* 3 108, see Watanabe 1987: 187–88; and *SAA* 2 6 373, see Parpola and Watanabe 1988: 43–44 n. to lines 373–376) or *šar-še-rum* (Reiner 1969: 537 with n. 13; *CAD* S s.v. *sīqu*; *CAD* Š/2 s.v. *šaršerru* usage b; and *CAD* Š/3 s.v. *šupuḥru* usage b). Other extant manuscripts omit *attunu* at the beginning of the line.

v 40: -ri has one vertical before the Winkelhaken and two after.

v 42: The reading "me¹-me-né in ms T allows us to discard the restoration [ina I]GI-ni in the only other extant ms, x 14, as in BagM Beiheft 3 and SAA 2 6. Note that the copy of ms x 14 in Wiseman 1958: plate 37 shows no damage to the signs ina IGI-ni, but the ms was collated by Watanabe.

v 55: The adjective modifying mur su, which is well preserved among the Nimrud manuscripts only in ms 37 (with traces remaining in ms 27), has presented a challenge to the text's different editors. Wiseman copied and read $la\ is\ ba\ tu$ but offered no translation (Wiseman 1958: 57), about which Borger (1961: 186) remarked "Die Lesung ... dürfte sicher falsch sein; doch gelang es mir nicht, sie nach den Photos zu verbessern" (he did not translate the signs in Borger 1983: 169). Reiner (1969: 538 n. 16) suggested restoring [NÍG].GIG? at the beginning of the line, but it is unclear to me from her translation how she interpreted the signs that follow. Watanabe (1987: 189) read LA IS LA $^{r}x^{1}$ after collation and emended the text to $la\ pa^{l}\ -at^{l}\ -ru^{l}$. After collation, Parpola and Watanabe (1988: 44 n. to line 389) read $la\ pa^{l}\ -la^{l}\ -ru^{l}$. In ms 37 and $[pa\ -a]\ -lu$ in ms 27 (the latter from the photo), and so the composite edition reads $la\ pa\ -at\ -ru^{l}$. In ms T, the sign following GIG is clearly SIKIL for $mur\ su\ la\ ellu$, "an unclean disease." On the basis of the published photos, it seems possible to read $^{r}SIKIL^{1}$ in ms 27 but less so in ms 37.

v 57: Ms T follows this line with a ruling, not present in the other manuscripts according to the plates in Wiseman 1958.

v 61–72: Ms T accords with Watanabe's (1987: 190) observation that the section as preserved in the Nimrud manuscripts falls into two parts, the first distinguished by the Babylonian subjunctive and the second by the Assyrian subjunctive.

RN₃, the kings whom (my) father, who engendered me, established in Egypt, transgressed against the *adê* of Aššur and the great gods and broke their oath."

v 64: The demonstrative pronoun *anniè* (gen. s.) agrees with neither *tuppi* (acc. s.) nor *adê* (pl.). The sole extant manuscript from Nimrud, 37, shows a similar lack of agreement: [tu]p-pi a-de-e an-ni-i (line 401). To my knowledge, a similar lack of agreement between *anni'u* and a noun it modifies does not occur elsewhere in the Nimrud manuscripts (in ms. 37 l. 385, tamītu annītu agree, even if the nominative case is unexpected), but cf. the comment to v 68.

v 67: The sense of *ina muhhišu* in this context is unclear to me.

v 68: The emendation <NUN> seems justified on two accounts. First, a word must be missing between NA₄·KIŠIB and GAL-*e* as the latter is explicitly marked as genitive with the phonetic complement -*e* yet NA₄·KIŠIB is in the accusative case as the direct object of *naṣāru* (v 72; I understand *anniè* to modify *kunuk* despite the lack of agreement; cf. the comment to v 64). Second, the corresponding line in ms 27, the only other extant ms, reads NA₄·KIŠIB NUN-^r*e*¹ [...] (*SAA* 2 6 405), and cf. the description of the seals of Aššur with which the *adê* tablets are sealed in the caption as NA₄·KIŠIB NUN-*e* GAL-*e* (*SAA* 2 6 iii–iv). However, I extend a Babylonian meaning, "sealed tablet," to NA₄·KIŠIB in line v 68. This meaning derives from the context of the passage, for the NA₄·KIŠIB has the text of the *adê* written on it (*ina libbi šaṭiruni*, v 70), after which it is sealed (*kanikuni*, v 71) before being set up (*šakinuni*, v 72). All of these actions suggest that NA₄·KIŠIB in the phrase NA₄·KIŠIB <NUN> GAL-*e* should refer to the tablet itself while NA₄·KIŠIB *šá aš-šur* LUGAL DINGIR.MEŠ (v 71) should refer to the divine seals with which the tablet was impressed (following Watanabe 1985: 388 in understanding NA₄·KIŠIB *šá aš-šur* in *SAA* 2 6 407 to refer collectively to all three seals, just as the caption mentions only NA₄·KIŠIB *da-šur₄*, see also George 1986: 140). In this regard, the self-designation of the text as a "sealed tablet" is obviously quite significant, providing further support for George's convincing argument that "the document ratified by Aššur's sealing is, on the mythological plane, the Tablet of Destinies" (1986: 141).

v 72: The semantic range of *naṣāru* in conjunction with the prepositional phrase makes this stipulation ambiguous. The verb is well attested with *adê* as its direct object with the meaning "to keep an *adê*-oath," e.g., *adê annûte uṣrā* "(You will speak to your sons and your grandsons, your seed and your seed's seed ... saying:) Keep this *adê*!" (SAA 2 6 291–292) and see Watanabe 1987: 13–14 for additional references. But the object of the verb in v 72 is the sealed tablet and not the *adê*. Perhaps, then, the stipulation refers to safeguarding the physical tablet as one would safeguard the statue of one's god. Or, more provocatively, the verb might convey the sense of obeying or heeding the (divine) sealed tablet's stipulations as if they were divine commands, for example, compare *aššu ša amat Aššur ili bāniya lā iṣṣuru*, "because he did not obey the word of Aššūr, the god who created me (he trusted in his own power)" (Borger *Asb*. 31 A ii 112–113). A section ruling following this line, present in all three extant manuscripts from Nimrud, is absent from ms T.

v 78–79: Like ms 29, this section in ms T lacks an additional curse (present in ms 27, the only other ms with this section preserved).

v 79: HUL lacks its IGI-component.

v 81: The sole other extant ms, 27, has the variant *a-mat* KA-*šu* "(May Mullissu … make evil) the utterance of his (Aššur's) mouth."

v 82: For the writing *i-ṣi-ba-ta* with an anaptyctic vowel, cf. the writing *iṣ-ṣi-bat-tu* for *iṣbatu* in *SAA* 2 6 24 (ms 45 A) and see the commentary to line i 28 above.

vi 2: The appearance of the i-prefix transforms an expected D-preterite (as in the three extant Nimrud manuscripts) into a G-present and is unexpected in two ways: The verb *kullumu* is not attested in the G; and the vetitive is built on the preterite and not the present. Perhaps the form reflects a scribal slip between the literary vetitive and the more vernacular prohibitive, cf. vi 40?

vi 3: Only 35+ has no break between *ai ukallimkunu* and *liḥalliqa*, and it lacks the *mā* of ms T. The presence of *mā* fixes the meaning of the curse, which must be translated "May Jupiter ... not show you the entrance of Bēl into

the Esagil, saying 'May he (Bēl) destroy your life." Absent *mā* as in ms 35+, the subject of *liḥalliqa* can be either Jupiter or Bēl.

vi 8: Evidently, ms T indicates a stressed auxiliary vowel in the writing NUMUN-*a-ku-nu* (or else a Babylonian acc. case vowel before the suffix reflecting the historical final aleph) while the four other extant manuscripts have simply NUMUN-*ku-nu*. Ms T presents the Babylonian form of the precative with final auxiliary vowel, which the three other extant manuscripts lack. The prefix is preserved for the verb in only one Nimrud ms, 39, where it is damaged and read by Borger (1961: 188), as 'lu'-, followed by Watanabe (1987: 113) and Parpola and Watanabe (1988: 46), but which should be collated (the ms is in Baghdad and so was not collated by Watanabe).

vi 11: For the emendation of *la*- to *li*-, see line vi 15. Ms T confirms the restoration of the verb in the one extant Nimrud ms, 39, to *liza*[*mmâ*] in *CAD* I/J s.v. *ikkillu* usage d against the restoration *li-za-a*[*m-mi/e*] by Borger (1961: 188); Watanabe (1987: 114); Parpola and Watanabe (1988: 46); and *CAD* T s.v. *tarītu* A s. mng 1, although cf. HKL I, 610 s.v. *AfO* 8 (1932/33) IV 12, (correcting Borger 1961: 188, cited by Reiner 1969: 538 n. 21 misattributed to line 441). As to my knowledge the verb is unattested in the N-stem, the writing in ms T is probably best analyzed as a D-precative with consonantal gemination of the initial radical, cf. Parpola 1974: 274 note to line 11. The ending in -a supports understanding a transitive and not factitive use of the verb with *tarêtkunu* as its subject, "may your nurses be deprived of the cries of little children in the streets and squares," cf. v 15 and *ikkil Adad lizamme* "maa, "may they (Mati'-ilu's subjects) be deprived of Adad's thunder" (*SAA* 2 2 r. iv 12).

vi 13: For the abnormal syllabification of *šamūte*, see Luukko 2004: 27–29. The form of UD written here and in vi 20 (with two superimposed vertical wedges) differs from the form elsewhere on the tablet and may provide another piece of evidence that the text of this tablet was written by at least two scribes, cf. the note to v 16–23.

vi 15: As in vi 11, the verb is written with the first radical explicitly doubled, and the ending in -a suggests the 3 f.pl. morpheme and so a transitive but not factitive use of the verb, that is, that *tamerātikunu* and not Adad is the verb's subject so that we should translate "may your fields lack (grain)."

vi 22: The only other ms preserving "finger(s)," 50 A, has the singular ŠU.SI-*ku-nu*. One might expect the phonetic complement to the plural form *ubānāte* to be written as *-te*, but cf. the previous line where the phonetic complement to *mar ātikunu* is written similarly as *-e*, and cf. also line viii 62.

vi 23: The subject of $l\bar{e}kul$ is not preserved in any other extant ms. It seems unlikely that the word should be identified with the $qaq\bar{a}nu$ -bird, known to me only from Hg., as $q\bar{a}q\bar{a}nu$ is equated there with the $pa^{3}\hat{u}$ -bird, described as $i\bar{s}\bar{s}ur$ $Ti\bar{a}mat$, that is, a sea bird, in the bird-call text KAR 125 obv. 19 (and cf. its Sumerian equivalence u_{5} -mun-mušen, which also points to its aquatic nature, see Veldhuis 2004: 297). Perhaps it is better to normalize $q\bar{a}q\bar{a}nu$, understanding a variant of $q\bar{u}q\bar{a}nu$, for Uruanna equates the $q\bar{u}q\bar{a}ni$ qaqqari with the $i\bar{s}qippu$ worm and the $q\bar{u}q\bar{a}ni$ eqli with the devouring insect known as $mubattir\ eqli$.

vi 31: TA is cramped but recognizable. Still, the sign must be in error given that it follows an infinitive in construct. The two other manuscripts preserving this phrase have *na-aq* A.MEŠ, "the pouring of libations."

vi 34: 46 M, the only other ms preserving the end of the line in full, lacks *lu*.

vi 40: ai išakkan is grammatically unexpected form, see the comment to vi 2. The form may be preserved in the other extant manuscripts. Ms 27 has only [...]-kan preserved, so one cannot tell if the text had the expected prohibitive. Ms 35+ preserves only the head of a vertical before i-šá-kan. Watanabe (1987: 116), followed by Parpola and Watanabe (1988: 48) restores [lu l]a! for the expected prohibitive, but the traces equally support the restoration [a]- $^{\Gamma}a$, in parallel to ms T. The last extant ms, X 17, preserves only $^{\Gamma}a$ 1 at the beginning of the line. Watanabe (1987: 116) restores the grammatically expected form $^{\Gamma}a$ 1-[a iš-kun2], but again a restoration paralleling ms T, $^{\Gamma}a$ 1-[a i-šá-kan3] is equally possible.

vi 42: Note the form $zu^3rikunu$ where other extant manuscripts have zumru or write the word logographically. The sign read as $-r[i^{i?}]$ starts with two horizontals followed by a vertical before the break. The verb is a precative of $\check{s}ub\check{s}\hat{u}$ and not $\check{s}ak\bar{a}nu$ as in another extant ms, X 17. That ms. preserves only $li\check{s}-k[un]$, but the use of the sign $li\check{s}$ -would seem to preclude a precative of $\check{s}ub\check{s}\hat{u}$, no matter how little of -k[un] is preserved (only a single horizontal wedge). In a second ms, 48 U, the verb clearly begins with l[i]-, but of course either verb can be restored. Both

verbs are attested elsewhere with this traditional curse, which also appears in Esarhaddon's treaty with Ba'al of Tyre (SAA 2 5 r. iv 3'-4') although the verb is no longer preserved in that text.

vi 44: Ms T omits § 53 (*SAA* 2 6 464–465). The god Aramiš (or Aramis), is known primarily from a few personal names (*PNEA* s.v. Aramiš). Scattered attestations in Neo-Assyrian sources of names such as Aramiš-et[el]-il[āni] (*RA* 65 85 6) and especially Aramiš-šar-ilāni (*SAA* 16 105 obv. 11) suggest that Aramiš was the head of a local pantheon (Aynard and Nougayrol 1971: 87 n. 1). The fact that persons bearing these and other theophoric names mentioning Aramiš are associated with northern Syria led Aynard and Nougayrol (1971: 87) to suggest that "les rares noms propres en Aramis-, encore que bien assyriens dans leur structure, *puissant* être originaires de cette region." The designation of Aramiš in ms T as "lord of the city and land of Qarnê (and) lord of the city and land of Aza'i" supports a location farther to the south, as Qarnê/Qarnīna is the name of the Assyrian province to the south of Damascus (Radner 2006b: 61–62), whose eponymous capital should be identified with Šēḫ Saʿd (biblical Qarnaim and classical Carneas), see Lipiński 2000: 353 and 365–366. For a suggested identification of Aza'i with Rasm et-Tanjara in the Ghab Plain, see Athanassiou 1977: 327 n. 7.

vi 45–46: I am grateful to Karen Radner for her assistance in reading these lines. The section is not known from the Nimrud manuscripts. The transition from § 54 to § 55 is not preserved on any extant Nimrud manuscripts, and Watanabe (1987: 116 and plates 12–13) published a fragment, ms 85 (mislabeled as ms 88 in plate 13), that belongs in between the two sections (her § 54 A, renamed § 54 C here), noting that "Das neue Fragment 85 läßt erkennen, daß der VTE-Text zwischen 54–55 mindestens noch einen weiteren Paragraphen enthielt" (p. 196, see already Borger 1961: 190). Ms T demonstrates that two more sections, designated here as § 54 A and § 54 B are not preserved in the Nimrud manuscripts. For Adad and Šāla of Kurba'il, see Schwemer 2001: 595–600 and cf. *SAA* 2 2 r. vi 17. The verb is singular despite having two subjects, cf. vi 51 and perhaps also vi 48–49.

vi 47: The -am- and the -qár- are cramped, as if the scribe was anticipating having to fit many signs into the line. This writing of the toponym Ekron is otherwise unattested in cuneiform to my knowledge. In particular, the other writings use QAR or QA, not KAR (= qár). A plene writing of the initial vowel is also unattested, but cf. uru a-am-qa- $[ar^2]$ -ru-na (Fuchs, Sargon 277 V:10). Šarrat-Ekron should be identified with Ptgyh, the Lady of Ekron known from the Ekron inscription (Gitin, Dothan, and Naveh 1997: 9; on the reading of the divine name, see now Press 2012, discussing previous literature).

vi 48: Watanabe (1987: 116) and Parpola and Watanabe (1988: 49) restore MEŠ after DINGIR in both DNs in ms 85, the only other extant ms with this curse, in accordance with *SAA* 2 5 r. iv 6′ but nothing in the spacing of the line requires these restorations. In ms T, the absence of the divine determinative before Anath-Bethel is perhaps due to haplography. Similarly, does the AN before TI represent a scribal error in a line with numerous DINGIR signs?

vi 49: *lim*- is written with an initial horiztonal wedge, that is, << *ina*>> *lim*-.

vi 50: Ms T confirms the reading of the divine name in the only other extant ms, 37, by Watanabe (1987: 116) as ${}^{d}k\dot{u}$ -KÁ and not ${}^{d}15$ as in previous editions. Following ms T, the subsequent signs in ms 37 read by her as ${}^{d}1[5]$ are better read as ${}^{d}k[ar]$, the beginning of Karhuha, the divine name. The sign read $ri^{l?}$ lacks a vertical wedge and has three *Winkelhaken*. Perhaps it is a different sign altogether? To my knowledge, the word rimtu is a hapax, only attested in ms 37.

vi 51: The -tuk sign is defective, although differently so than in other extant ms for this line.

vi 55: The verb in the only extant Nimrud manuscript, 37, is written *li-kel-mu-ku-nu*, showing Babylonian vowel harmony.

vi 58: Note the writing Ú.DA instead of the expected writing UD.DA as in the sole other extant manuscript, 37. vi 66: Ms T confirms the emendation in ms 37 suggested by Reiner (1969: 539 n. 22) of SAH.MEŠ-ku-nu to SAH.MEŠ lu. The sign in ms T emended to $\lceil aq^{1} \rceil$ is $\lceil na^{1} \rceil$ or $\lceil qa^{1} \rceil$. The former would present an instance of dittography, while the latter might reflect an alternate pronunciation of the rarely attested word naqbaru (written as naq-bar-<<qa>>-ku-nu in ms 37, one of two extant ms from Nimrud).

vii 7: Ms 46 C, the only other ms to preserve the epithet of Aššur omits the qualification of the gods as "great." vii 11: The verb in the two extant Nimrud manuscripts is *šaqû*. Ms T has *šutēšuru*, a verb used elsewhere in connection with gods and springs, for example, the name of a gate at Khorsabad, *Ea-muštēšir-nagbišu*, "Ea-is-the-one-who-keeps-his-spring-in-order" (*Fuchs Sargon* 43: 70 and 71: 88). But this sense does not seem to fit the context of the curse in ms T and perhaps represents an inadvertent substitution of another word commonly written with *nagbu*.

vii 15: Only one ms from Nimrud, 28 A, preserves the end of this line, and it reads TUR.MEŠ GAL.MEŠ. As Watanabe (1987: 198) notes, the sign TUR is unexpected, given the relatively common epithet born by gods *nādin nindabê ana ilāni* or similar, see for example the many references presented under *CAD* N/2 s.v. *nindabû* usage a-4' and especially, with reference to Girra, *Maqlu* II 138, cited by Watanabe (1987: 198). Watanabe suggests therefore that ms 28 may be better translated as "der den kleinen und großen Göttern Speiseopfer (Brandopfer) verschafft." The appearance of the expected DINGIR in place of TUR in ms T implies that TUR was written in error in ms 28 A, although whether that error should be understood to have been an ocular slip (TUR for DINGIR?) or anticipatory (TUR with GAL?) is unclear. Ms 28 A may have an error in the following line as well, see the comment below.

vii 20: Ms T provides further support for Watanabe's (1987: 198) observation that "nur Text 27 zwischen §63 und §64 einen Trennungsstrich aufweist, d.h. die beiden Paragraphen gehören zusammen."

vii 16: Ms 28 A, the only other extant ms with the end of the line preserved, omits ina girri.

vii 32: There is no reason to read M[UNU₄] in the three extant Nimrud manuscripts as originally suggested by Watanabe (1987: 199) and accepted by Parpola and Watanabe (1988: 51). Only the slightest trace of the sign remains in all three manuscripts, and the -ni preserved after the break in ms T may imply that a subjunctive verb should be restored. Whether the sign $\dot{s}a$ preserved before the break in all three extant Nimrud manuscripts but not in ms T should be understood as the relative particle or as the first sign of this verb is unclear. Previously, the end of the line was preserved only in ms 31, restored by Watanabe (1987: 199) as [ti]-ta-bé, but now to be restored as [sík]-kit KAŠ (Watanabe's -ta- is clearly -kit- according to Wiseman's copy). Sikkitu should be a variant of sikkatu, which has been understood to be a type of beer yeast (MSL 8/2 108 followed by Röllig 1970: 25 and 43 [as šikkatu]) or alternatively a plant utilized in the fermentation process (Stol 1971: 168). Evidently, the curse refers to the method by which the germination of barley is halted during the malting process.

vii 43: The signs written at the end of the line are very cramped. The verb is formed with a Babylonian precative (in contrast to Assyrian precatives in the three other extant manuscripts) with apocopation of the 3 m. pl. morpheme (attested in one other ms). The final $-^{\Gamma}nu^{\Gamma}$ is written over the vertical ruling that divides the column.

vii 47: The three extant manuscripts from Nimrud have the grammatically expected form *likkarkū*.

vii 50: The two extant ms from Nimrud have i-da-ba-bu-u-ni, that is, without consonantal gemination of the initial radical but with regressive dissimilation of u > a, cf. viii 36.

vii 56: -nap!- is written with the final two verticals side by side instead of superimposed.

vii 59: The three other extant manuscripts all have the verb *lušālikū*.

vii 62: Ms T supports the reading *šaṣbutu* put forward by Parpola and Watanabe (1988: 53). On *šaṣbutu*, "cheese," see Stol 1993: 106–7.

vii 65: Ms T agrees with ms 37 against three other manuscripts and omits an explicit subject for the verbs.

vii 68: Three of the four extant Nimrud manuscripts add the phrase (*ina qātī*) *bēl dāmīkunu*, while a fourth is too poorly preserved to tell.

vii 70: On the basis of the line's spacing, very little text can have been lost after $-^rni^1$ and before -tu- (no more than the -[t]a of previous line), and so $k\bar{i}$ $hanni^*e$, present in all other extant manuscripts, must have been omitted in ms T. Note that at least two Nimrud manuscripts omit the following word attunu. Both ina muhhi and $mar^*\bar{a}tikunu$ have also been omitted in ms T. In the case of the prepositional phrase, emendation is necessary for the sense of the passage. With regard to $mar^*\bar{a}tikunu$, no emendation is necessary as this word or others in the common sequence "your brothers, your women, your sons, and your daughters" are omitted on multiple occasions in both ms T and the Nimrud manuscripts (e.g., ms 37 omits both $mar^*\bar{i}kunu$ and $mar^*\bar{a}tikunu$ in this line).

vii 73: The verb in ms T is *sapāku* instead of *ṣabātu* as in all five other extant manuscripts. Is this possibly an error of anticipation in light of same verb in vii 77? On the other hand, *sapāku* and *ṣabātu* are synonyms, as both § 82 and *SAA* 9 2 i 11′ demonstrate (see Parpola 1997: 14 n. to line i 11′ for a suggested connection to Syriac **sbk*) so perhaps the use of the verb in this line is simply a matter of semantic variation.

vii 74: Ms T has MKÚR where the five other extant manuscripts have EN ÚŠ.MEŠ.

vii 77: Watanabe (1987: 203) reconstructs *ḫaerušḫu* from *ḫa-e-*[...] (ms 37) and [...]-*ru-uš-ḫi* (ms 47 D), in which she is followed by Parpola and Watanabe (1987: 54). Ms T shows that -*pa*- is missing from both manuscripts. The verb *sapāku* is written with gemination of the initial radical in the only other extant ms. On the verb, see the comment to line vii 73.

vii 80: With a G-precative of *gamāru*, Ms T supports Parpola and Watanabe's (1988: 54 n. to line 593) interpretation of *li-ga-am-ru* in the only other preserved manuscript, 30 C, as an N-precative of *gamāru* against Watanabe's (1987: 130 and 203–4) reading *li-ga gàr-ru*.

vii 81: In contrast to the other three extant manuscripts from Nimrud, the final radical of *palāšu* is written in ms T with the sign ZA here and in vii 83. This writing should be seen as an example of the Neo-Assyrian allophone /z/ for /s/ typically written with Š, see Hämeen-Anttila 2000: 10.

vii 82: Ms T omits ina ŠÀ-bi before UZU.MEŠ, which is present in all other extant manuscripts. It also includes $k\bar{\imath}$ hanni e at the beginning of the main clause. On the basis of spacing, this phrase seems to have been omitted in four of the extant Nimrud manuscripts but was clearly present in ms 90 against the transliteration of the text by Watanabe (1987: 130).

vii 83: The final radical of *palāšu* is again written with the sign ZA, see the comment to vii 81 above.

vii 84–85: Besides ms T, only two extant manuscripts (27 and 51 C), contain this section. Manuscripts 30 C, 32, 50 P, and 90 omit it.

vii 84: The reading *bar*- follows the collation of *SAA* 2 6 for ms 27 (absent in the copy of Wiseman 1958: plate 8), but the sign as written in ms T is clearly ME.

vii 85: Ms T may omit *ākilu*, which is preserved in the two other extant manuscripts, as there doesn't seem to be room for more than three signs in the line's damaged opening. Ms T has A.ŠÀ.MEŠ in place of *na-gi-ku-nu* in the two other extant manuscripts.

vii 91: The different manuscripts offer a number of variant writings of the verb, and it is possible that, with ms X 21, the form in ms T should be restored as a D precative.

(Although the lower edge of the tablet is destroyed, no text is missing.)

viii 3: The other extant manuscripts vary as to whether the verb is in the G- or N-stem. The N-stem is restored here on the basis of the following line, where the parallel verb is in the N-stem.

viii 4: The three other manuscripts in which the verb is fully preserved show G-stem forms (i-ma-ah/mah). The verb is ms T is in the N-stem with consonantal gemination of the final radical.

viii 17: ŠÀ! has only one Winkelhaken and two verticals.

viii 28: Two of eight extant Nimrud ms add the common phrase "his brothers, sons of the same mother as Assurbanipal, the great crown prince designate (and) the other sons, the offspring of Esarhaddon, king of Assyria" (*SAA* 2 6 633A–C) as third and fourth direct objects of the verb *turammâni*. Ms T omits the third but includes the fourth (i.e., it has the second half of 633B and all of 633C)

viii 32: In contrast to all six extant manuscripts from Nimrud, the enclitic -ma in ms T is written -me.

viii 33–34: Although the section is present in all extant manuscripts except ms 27, the verb is preserved in none. Ms T has a Babylonian D-precative of a verb *q $^{\circ}l$ (that the verb is in the D-stem seems clear from ms 31, which preserves the prefix of an Assyrian precative). On $q\hat{a}lu$, "to fall," see von Soden 1967: 295–96 and Richter 1992: 20.

viii 36: Unlike in the one other extant ms, 27, the verb in ms T shows regressive dissimilation of u > a, cf. vii 50, where the two extant Nimrud manuscripts, 27 and 37, show such dissimilation and ms T does not.

viii 39: Ms T lacks a horizontal ruling separating § 97 from § 98.

viii 55: The verb is *batāqu*, not *šalāqu* as in the only other ms to preserve this verb, 30 B.

viii 56: No ms from Nimrud preserves the transition from *pu-qu-ti* to kušE.SIR-*ku-nu*, so *ga-zi-ri* is absent from earlier composite editions. The word *gāziru* should be a loan word from WSem. **gzr*, "to cut." For possible occurrences of this root in the Akkadian lexicon "mit geringen lautlichen Abwandlungen," see Dietrich and Loretz 1977: 55–56 and add *SAA* 3 16 obv. 26. The word perhaps designates a sharp stone, cf. the description of the land of Bāzu in Esarhaddon's inscriptions as *kaqqar bāṣi puqutti u šinni ṣabīti*, "(120 leagues) of desert, thorns, and 'gazelletooth'-stones," (*RINAP* 4 20 iv 55 *et alibi*).

viii 57: -tu[!]- has two initial horizontal wedges instead of one and two horizontals before the vertical wedge instead of three. The precative in ms T, *libtuqū*, repeats the verb two lines prior and has "they" (the gods) as the subject, while ms 51 H, the only other ms to preserve this passage, has *lipparmā* with kuš E.SÍR as the subject. The concluding imperative, preserved only in ms T, finds parallels in royal inscriptions, for example, *mīrânuššun ina muḥḥi libbīšunu ipšilūnimma illikūni adi Ninua*, "Nakedly they crawled here on their bellies and came to Nineveh" (Borger *Asb.* 43 A iv 26–27).

viii 61-62: The verbs are not preserved in any Nimrud manuscripts.

viii 63: The top of the numeral designating the day is damaged. The numeral is at least 16 but could be as high as 19. This date is in accordance with the Nimrud manuscripts, two of which date to the 18th and one of which dates to the 16th.

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