TEXTS OF GROUP NINE

ANTI-WITCHCRAFT INCANTATIONS WITHIN BĪT RIMKI AND RELATED TEXTS

TEXT 9.1
THE AKKADIAN ŠAMAŠ PRAYER OF THE SECOND HOUSE OF BĪT RIMKI

Content

The Šamaš prayer šamaš šar šanē u erṣetī bēl ktti u mšari was recited by the king as the second incantation in the second house of the Bīt rimki ritual (according to the count of the houses in PBS 1/1, 15 and some of the incantation tablets). The structure and phraseology of the prayer are typical of first-millennium anti-witchcraft incantations addressed to Šamaš (cf. here especially texts 8.3–5). The thematic focus of the prayer lies on returning the miasma of witchcraft to the witch by washing oneself over a figurine representing her; as to be expected, the brief ritual instruction prescribes hand-washing over a figurine of the witch.

The sources E and F certainly represent Bīt rimki manuscripts in the strict sense. In both the text of the prayer is followed by the specific Bīt rimki rubrics, and ms. F had the text of the Sumerian (bilingual) ki-ṣuṭu prayer of the second house on the obverse (cf. also in ms. F the addition of l. 45a which restricts the use of the text to the person of the king). In contrast, ms. A, G and the almost identical sources B and C — probably the product of two students working on the same assignment — give only the text of the Akkadian Šamaš prayer with its ritual instruction; the same may well be true for ms. d. This manuscript situation may indicate that the ritual segment was also performed outside the Bīt rimki context as a self-contained anti-witchcraft ritual. Ms. A obv. 3 shows that the recitation of this text was envisaged in a bathhouse, probably the bathhouse of the ‘bathhouse ritual’; but note that this phrase is absent from ms. B, where it is replaced by anāku annanna mār annanna.

List of Manuscripts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Manuscript</th>
<th>Tablet Number(s)</th>
<th>Script</th>
<th>Century</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>K 2563 + 2820 + 2821 + 2843 + 5750 + 9601 + 10537 + 16716</td>
<td>NA script</td>
<td>7th cent.</td>
<td>Nineveh, ‘Ashurbanipal’s Library’</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>SU 51/67</td>
<td>STT 76</td>
<td>coll.</td>
<td>Single-column tablet, NA script, 7th cent.</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>SU 51/94</td>
<td>STT 77</td>
<td>coll.</td>
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<tr>
<td>d</td>
<td>CBS (Kh1) 458</td>
<td>PBS 1/2, 129</td>
<td>pls. 111–12</td>
<td>Single-column tablet, NB/LB script, 7th–5th cent.</td>
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<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>Sm 94</td>
<td>BRi, pl. 1</td>
<td>coll.</td>
<td>Frg. of a single-column tablet, NA script, 7th cent.</td>
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<tr>
<td>F1</td>
<td>K 2368 + 9830 + 11661 + 11768 + 20281 (+)</td>
<td>BRi, pl. 2 (without K 9601 and K 16716)</td>
<td>pls. 113</td>
<td>Frgs. of a single-column tablet, NA script, 7th cent.</td>
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<tr>
<td>F2</td>
<td>K 13305 (+)</td>
<td>BRi, pl. 1</td>
<td>pl. 113</td>
<td>Frgs. of a single-column tablet, NA script, 7th cent.</td>
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<td>F3</td>
<td>K 4819 (+)</td>
<td>IV R. 23/3</td>
<td>pls. 114</td>
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<td>F4</td>
<td>DT 120</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>pl. 114</td>
<td>Frgs. of a single-column tablet, NA script, 7th cent.</td>
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<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>1932-12-10, 319 = BM 123376</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>pls. 115</td>
<td>Frgs. of a single-column tablet, NA script, 7th cent.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Synopsis of Text Units

Prayer for washing over figurines of the sorcerers, ritual segment of \textit{Bti rimki} ......................1–58

1. Incantation: Šamaš šar šamē u erseti bel ktti u mtšari..............................1–57
   A obv. 1–rev. 20 // B obv. 1–rev. 17 // C obv. 1′–rev. 21 // d obv. 1′–rev. 20′ //
   E obv. 1′–rev. 3′ // F rev. 1′–32′ // G obv. 1′–rev. 14′

\textit{Bti rimki} rubrics........................................57a–b

2. Ritual instructions................................................58
   A rev. 21 // B rev. 18 // C rev. 22 // E rev. 5′ // F rev. 35′

Previous Editions


Transliteration


\begin{verbatim}
1 A obv. 1 ĖN a UTU MAN AN-e u KI-ti [m ki-t]i [ mi-ša-r]i
   B obv. 1 [ ] 4 UTU i LUГAL 3 AN-e u KI-tim EN 3 kīr 3-ti u [ ]
2 A obv. 2 mul 3 li 3 lu DINGIR u [L]U a[t-]a-ma
   B obv. 2 [ ] mul 3 li 3 lu DINGIR u LÜ a[t-]a-ma
3 A obv. 3 4 UTU ina šu-tuk-ki ĕ ri[m-ki in]a 1GI-ka  \textasciitilde{a}z 3-zu-zi
   B obv. 3 4 UTU an a-k'nu NENN[NI] an NENNI 3 ina [ma]\h-[r]i-[k]\a\GU[B]-1 a\3
4 A obv. 4 4 UTU ša šab-tan-ni ul i-di [e] 1u MUNUS an 5 nu 3 u NU-šá
   B obv. 4 4 UTU ša šab 3-tan -N[NI] ul i-de 3 lu 3 u MUNUS 3 an nu-3
   C obv. 1′ [ ] \textasciitilde{a}nu 3 me [-] [u-ti]
5 A obv. 5 4 UTU ina 4 nissaba KU-tim [ba-n]a-at a-mi-lu-ti
   B obv. 5 4 UTU ina nissaba KU-tim [ba-n]a-at a-me-lu-ti
   C obv. 2′ [ ] \textasciitilde{a}n 3 me [-] [u-ti]
6 A obv. 6 NU a-na NU ma-šil SAG.D[U] \textasciitilde{a}3-na SAG.DU ma-šil
   B obv. 6 NU a-[n]a NU ma-ši\textasciitilde{a} SAG.D[U] a-na \textasciitilde{a}3 AG.DU ma-šil
   C obv. 3′ [ ] \textasciitilde{a}nu \textasciitilde{a}3 ma-šil
7 A obv. 7 šuk-lul-ti ADDA a-na šuk 3-lul 3-ti ADDA ma-šil
   B obv. 7 šuk-lul[t]-ti \textasciitilde{a}šuk-lul-ti ADDA ma-šil
   C obv. 4′ \textasciitilde{a}šuk-lul-ti ADDA ma-šil
   d obv. 1′ [ ] \textasciitilde{a}šuk-lul-ti
8 A obv. 8 4 UTU an-nu U NU \textasciitilde{a}3 nu\textasciitilde{a}3-š[6\textasciitilde{a}]1 ZU š[6\textasciitilde{a}]1 iš-šu-ra i-š-e 3-a-a
   B obv. 8 4 UTU \textasciitilde{a}3 nu\textasciitilde{a}3-š[6\textasciitilde{a}]1 ZU š[6\textasciitilde{a}]1 iš-šu-ra i-š-e 3-a-am
   C obv. 5′ [ ] 5 iš-šu-ra iš-šu-ra a iš-šu-ra a
   d obv. 2′ [ ] 5 iš-šu-ra iš-šu-ra a
9 A obv. 9 a-na e-piš-ti ep-[ši]-ma iq-bu-[u
   B obv. 9 \textasciitilde{a}3 na \textasciitilde{a}3 e-[ši]-ti ep-[ši]-ma \textasciitilde{a}1 iq-bu-[u]
   C obv. 6′ [ ] ep-ši-ma iq-bu-u
   d obv. 3′ [ ] iq-bu-[u]
10 A obv. 10 a-na sa-[šir]-ti su-šu-ri-ma iq-bu-[u
   B obv. 10 \textasciitilde{a}3 na 3 sa-šir-ti su-šu-ri-ma \textasciitilde{a}1 iq-bu-[u]
   C obv. 7′ [ ] su-šu-šir-ma iq-bu-[u
   d obv. 4′ [ ] iq-bu-[u]
\end{verbatim}