CHAPTER TWO

OTHER TEXT-TYPES INCLUDING THE RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES

The previous chapter focused on one text-type—the decision record—and on analyzing the different styles in which decision records were composed. This text-type, however, is not the only one that provides evidence for the final resolution of disputes. There are three other text-types that provide similar evidence: conclusions, memoranda including decisions, and settlements. Like the decision records, these three text-types include some mention of a dispute and how it was resolved. Unlike the decision records, however, they were not composed only for the purpose of recording the decision. Although these text-types mention that a dispute has ended by means of a decision, this decision is secondary to their actual purpose.

2.A Conclusions of Disputes

Like the decision records, these texts also mention a legal dispute and the decision reached by the adjudicators. Unlike the decision records, however, conclusions do not end with the authorities’ decision. Instead, they continue with some record pertaining to the subject of the case after the ruling. In most cases, the texts conclude with the transfer of the property in question to its rightful owner in compliance with the outcome of the recorded dispute. The different conclusions, which depend directly on the particulars of each case, are listed in summary table 2.1 at the end of this section.

The formulation of conclusions does not follow an identifiable outline. To be classified as a conclusion, a text must include evidence of the following: a dispute adjudicated by a legal authority and actions pertaining to the subject of the dispute subsequent to the decision. The evidence of these different elements from the texts classified as conclusions is presented in summary table 2.1 at the end of this section, as well.
In order to describe the specific legal function of the conclusion, Nbn 668 will serve as an example. This text is especially illustrative because it can be situated within a “dossier” of texts pertaining to the same case. The case surrounds "Bēl-rēmanni’s legal efforts to take possession of four slaves as compensation for having repaid a debt on behalf of "Arad-Gula. As Wunsch has noted, Wunsch, *AfO* 44/45 (1997/1998), No. 13 and TCL 12, 122 are the two “Royal Judges” decision records that indicate that "Bēl-rēmanni was entitled to receive the slaves as payment.¹ Nbn 668 was composed one month after TCL 12, 122, the second of the two decisions, by "Nādin and "Nabû-šuma-iškun, the same court scribes who wrote TCL 12, 122. The conclusion begins by presenting the basic history of the case. It then reads as follows:

9. ar₂-ki mdEN-re-man-ni
10. 'a-na-₃taš-me-tum-at-kal
   'GEME-ia
11. 'u-na-na-a-na-E₂₃-šu₂, u mdza- 
   ba₄₃-ŠU₂₅-NA
12. UN.MEŠ E₂, ša₂ mdIR₃₅₄gu-la E₂ 
   maš-ka-ni-šu₂
13. a-na ma-har ùDI.KU₃.MEŠ
   LUGAL ub-lam-ma
14. LU₂tu₂ ša a-na ku-mu 3 
   MA.NA 50 GIN₂ [KU₃. 
   BABBAR]
15. ŠAM₂₅ gam₁-ru-tu pa-ni mdEN-re-
   man-nu
16. ki-i pi-i tup-pi-šu₂ ur₂-šad-gi-[u] 
17. na-din ma-hir a-pil₃ ru-gum-ma-a 
   ul i-ši

(9–13) Afterwards, "Bēl-rēmanni brought 'Ana-Tašmētu-atkal, 'Amtiya, 'Nanaya-ana-bûšu and "Zababa-iddin, the household slaves of "Arad-Gula, which were pledged to him, before the judges of the king.

14. LU₂tu₂ ša a-na ku-mu 3 
   MA.NA 50 GIN₂ [KU₃. 
   BABBAR]
15. ŠAM₂₅ gam₁-ru-tu pa-ni mdEN-re-
   man-nu
16. ki-i pi-i tup-pi-šu₂ ur₂-šad-gi-[u] 
17. na-din ma-hir a-pil₃ ru-gum-ma-a 
   ul i-ši
(14–16) They gave the slaves instead of the full price—3 mina 50 šeql [of silver]—to "Bēl-rēmannu, in accordance with his tablet.

17. na-din ma-hir a-pil₃ ru-gum-ma-a 
   ul i-ši
(17) He is given, received, and 
quit. He has no claim.

The mention that the judges transferred the slaves to "Bēl-rēmanni is the aspect of Nbn 668 that characterizes the text as a conclusion, rather than a decision record.² The decision in this case was reached one month earlier, as is clear from the decision record TCL 12, 122. Even with this decision record in hand, however, it took one month for "Bēl-rēmanni to gain possession of the slaves. Thus, although a ruling had been reached, the matter was not closed until "Bēl-rēmanni has