KTU/CAT 1.3

Other numbers: RS 2.014 + RS 3.363. KTU 1.3 = CTA 3 = V AB (Virolleaud 1938: *editio princeps*) = ’nt I (Gordon 1965)


Find Spots: The larger fragment, RS 3.363, was found in 1931 (third campaign) at “point topographique” 339, in the northeast quadrant of the southern entry room of the House of the High Priest, (see the plan in Bordreuil and Pardee 1989: 25, fig. 7). The fragment RS 3.364 = CAT 1.8, which is now identified as the upper part of 1.3 VI (Pardee i.p.) was found at the same location and is also listed under “point topographique” 339. See the introductory material on 1.3 VI for detailed discussion of 1.8 (pp. 408–9). The small fragment, containing a few lines of columns III, IV, and V, was found the previous year, in a different location. Unfortunately, the inventory list for the second season has been lost, and the locations of the tablets found in this season can only be narrowed to the topographical points numbered 210–264. These points comprise finds that were made in several different places across the house, including the room directly to the west of the one in which the larger fragment was found, the room at the far west side of the house where the first season’s tablets were discovered, a room in the northeastern corner of the house, and in the street outside the southern door (“Rue de la bibliotheque”). This fragment could have been found in any of these locations. In any case, it was discovered several meters away from the main body of the tablet.

When found, the main fragment was in good company. The area composing the southern entry room, the southern doorway and the street just outside the door was the location where CAT 1.1, 1.2 III,
probably 1.2 I, II, IV (see the discussion above, p. 10, n. 4), two frag-
ments of 1.4, and parts of the Kirta and Aqhat Epics were found.

It appears that many of the tablets in the House of the High Priest
were found in the rubble of the collapse, rather than on the floor (cf.
Schaeffer’s description of the finds of the third season 1932:22). This
indicates that the tablets had been located on the second floor of the
house (cf. Pardee 2002:8 n. 3). The fact that fragments of 1.3 (as well
as fragments of 1.4, 1.6, and probably 1.16) were widely dispersed
across the house suggests that the tablets had already been ransacked
and broken in pillaging that occurred before the house collapsed.

The three fragments of 1.3 (including 1.8) preserve slightly over
half of the text originally written on the tablet. RS 3.363 contains the
lower parts of columns I–III on the obverse, and the upper sections
of columns IV–VI on the reverse. The small fragment preserves part
of the top lines of column III and the last few lines of column IV,
while RS 3.364 contains at least parts of the first seventeen lines of
column VI. Each column probably held ca. 65–70 lines of text, giv-
ing the tablet approximately 390 to 420 lines, of which at least part
of 239 lines remain. As is characteristic of Ilimalku, the first column
on the obverse is narrower than the other two columns. The middle
column is the widest of the three, but the right-hand column has the
advantage that the scribe may continue around the right edge of the
tablet to finish a long line. On the reverse, the pattern continues, with
column IV (on the right side) making use of the right edge, column V
the widest on the side, and column VI the narrow one. One can see
the same pattern on CAT 1.4 and 1.5, and to a lesser extent, 1.6.

In his editio princeps (1938), Virolleaud chose to divide his presenta-
tion of the tablet into six units that do not always correspond to the
columns of text. He designated them with the letters A–F. Section A
corresponded to column I, but B contained column II, plus the opening
three lines of column III, preserved on the small fragment, RS 2.[014].
Section C was made up of column III 4–31, ending with the double
line that marks a jump in the narrative. Section D picked up with III
32 and went to IV 46, while E included the end of column IV from