A Shamshi-ilu Dedication

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The British Museum

BM 89106 (84-2-11,490)
Inscribed rock-crystal bead. Length 2.3 cm, maximum diameter 1.3 cm. Purchased from Spartali & Co., among a large collection of Babylonian tablets. The bead was presumably deposited at Aššur in the temple of the god Aššur, from which it may have been removed at any date in antiquity or later; Hormuzd Rassam's workmen were there in 1878-1879.

The inscription (Figure 1), cut with a drill, reads:

TRANSLITERATION
1) ana aš-šur bēlī(UMUN)-šū
2) mdšamšī(UȚU)-i/u(DINGIR)
3) i̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯̯...