Sîn-iqîšam and the Fourteen Statues for Nippur

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A recent study of the year names of Sîn-iqîšam by M. Stol1 has determined that the name of what is probably the fourth year of the king reads:

u 14 urudu.alam nibru.ki-(šē) (ù) 3 ošt.gu.za bāra-maḥ (var. kū-gi) [(x)] alam.4utu 5šē-ri-da kū-gi šu-đu-a ... ē-
dutu-šē (var. ra) (var. čš-č-babbar-šē/ra)
i-ni-in-ku-re (and vars.)2

The year: he brought fourteen copper statues into Nippur (and) three lofty (var. golden) throne daises, (and) perfect golden statues of Utu and Šerida into the temple of Utu (var. into the shrine E-babbar).

During the reign of Sîn-iqîšam of Larsa, Nippur was firmly under the control of Larsa, and the introduction of the 14 statues into the city was a way of symbolizing that control. That statues were indeed brought into the city at this time is confirmed by the evidence of the tablet NBC 11203 = 5NT 91, a tablet from the archives of the Ešumēša temple in Nippur studied by M. Sigrist.3 This contains an offering: urudu.alam 4en.zu-i-qiš-ša-am lugal 4-bi, 'for the four copper statues of Sîn-iqîšam'.4 The tablet itself is dated to year five of Sîn-iqîšam, that is to the year after the year named for the introduction of the statues into Nippur.

The introduction of a large number of statues into Nippur is described in a copy of a royal inscription of a Larsa king known from a hitherto unpublished tablet from Nippur in the University Museum in Philadelphia. The king's name in the text is incomplete, but should be restored Sîn-iqîšam. The text is offered here through the courtesy of A. Sjöberg, curator of the tablet collection. The text, a join of two fragments, CBS 7861 + 7865, is not completely preserved. The remains of six columns on the obverse and six columns on the reverse are extant (see copy), and probably indicate the full width of the original tablet. From the thickness at the break, it can be estimated that approximately one half of the tablet is missing at the bottom. The preserved portion measures 10.0 × 12.4 × 1.7 cm. The edition offered here, prepared by M. W. Green, is an important new addition to the corpus of Larsa inscriptions. Apart from a copy of a short text dealing with Kudur-mabuk,5 this is the only copy of a Larsa king's inscription known from Nippur, and with an original length which must have been at least 480 lines, is the longest royal inscription of the Larsa corpus.

CBS 7861 + 7865

TRANSLITERATION

Col. i

1 [š]/en-lil,7
2 en-u,s-ru
3 aš-a-ni maḥ
4 za,-dib an-ki-a
5 sipa-da edin
6 [k]ilib, zi-gal, / tum,-tum,-mu
7 nig,-a-na
8 mu sa,-a
9 en, tar-ra
10 ṟ x 1-na-us,
11 [x] ṟ x 1 ni
12-15 [...] 16 [...] 17 [...] ṟ x 1 di
18 [...] ni
19 [...] ṟ x 1

1See D. Edzard, AJO 20 pp. 159-61.
Green and Frayne: Sin-iqīšam

20 [...] f'x1
(broken)

Col. ii
1-2 [...]  
3 en f'x1 [...]  
4 kalam-du16-ga [x (x)]  
5 me kibib,-ba za2,-k[eš]  
6 lugal-mu-ra  
7 <zu-i-qig3>{Sa-am}  
8 nita-kalag-ga  
9 šipa ša1-du2,-du16 / nibr-ki-k[eš]  
10 u2,-a [ri2,-k]i-ma  
11 lugal [ar-rk]-i-ma  
12 lug[al-ki-]en-[gi]  
13 [k]-ur[li]-me-en

14 lu1 bad1-gal  
15 arar-ki-ma mu-du12-a  
16 arar-ki uru-ul f'x1 an-[ki]  
17 mu-maḫ bi3,-in-tuku-tuku/-me-f'en1  
18 sipa ni2-tuku  
19 f'lu1, e1-x-x1  
20 [mu-du2]-fa1
(broken)

Col. iii
1 nam-ši-ta-aš gub-ba-me-en  
2 f'alam-zabar1 7-ta f'x1  
3-6 [...]  
7 [...] f'x1  
8 [...] f'x1  
9 [...] f'x1  
10 s[ul]-du1  
11 [...] f'x1  
12 [...] f'x1  
13 [eš,-e1]-kur-ra-ka  
14 sag-a2 tuku-tuk-[ku-dje]  
15 inim-du10 za3,-mi; nam-lugal-ga2  
16 f'x1 ki ga2,-ga2,-de2  
17 [alam-ne2-ne2]  
18 dumu-f'ne2,-ne21  
19 ir1, lu1, ki-f'x1-[x]  
20 bi3,-in-dim2  
21 mu du-ri1, gi1,-de2  
22-24 [...]  
(fragment)

Col. iv
1 [n +] 6 siša, ninda-ta  
2 [n s]iša, kaš-ta  
3 [n s]iša, kurun-ta  
4 [n siša] ninda-duḫ-ta  
5 [sa21]-du11  
6 [alam-ne2]-ne2  
7 ir3,-ga2,-ka  
8 u2,-aš-a ur,-gin; ḫu-mu-ni-gar  
9 u2,me-da u2-da egir-bi-še1  
10 lu1, alam-ne2,-ne2  
11 dumu-ne2,-ne2  
12 ir3,-ga2  
13 nig2, mu-sa2,-a  
14 an-zil i-ni-in-gar-ra  
15 nu-ub-zi-re-a  
16 mu-ni li-bi1,-ib2/-ba-lam-e-a  
17 ki-gub-ba-bi  
18 [n]u-ub-da-ab/-kur2,-ru-a  
19 e1-nig2,-ga2-ra  
20 nu-b2[-i]b2/-[ku3,-ku2,-a]  
21-22 [...]  
(fragment)

Col. v
1 u2 f'x11 [...]  
2 enkar giš-[-]  
3 nam-sipa-kalam-ma-še2  
4 ib2,-ši-ga2,-ga2,-a  
5 tukum-bi  
6 alam-a-ni ḫe2,-a  
7 alam-i3,-da-ši-a  
8 e1-kur  
9 e12,-en-lil2,-la2,-še2  
10 1-ni3-in-ku2,-ku2  
11 alam-i3,-ga2  
12 ki-gub-ba-bi  
13 nam-ba-da-ab-kur3,-re  
14 alam-a-ni  
15 i3-gal-alam-i3,-da-ši-a  
16 ki-bi3,-da-ši,-ga2,-a  
17 ki-bi-še2, na-ab-gub-be2  
18 bar-bi-še2, ḫe2,-bi2,-ib2,-gub-be2  

19 lu,-a,-nig,-ḫul-dim,-ma
20 ib,-ši-a₂,g,-ga,-e
21 alam-zabar-
22 ne,-ne₁
23 dumu-ne₂-ne₂
24 ir,-ga₂
25 nig₂ mu-sa,-a
26 [an]-zil i-ni-in-gar-ra
27 [...] (fragment)
28 [...] ni
29 [...] a
30 ki-g[ub-ba-b]i
31 ib,-da-ab,kur,-ru-al
32 alam-a-ni
33 igi-alam-
34 ne₂-ne₂
35 ir,-ga₂-ka
36 bi,-ib,-gub-bu-a
37 e₂-nig,-Ga-ra
38 alam-[ne,-ne₂]
39 [i,-ga₂]
40 [bi,-ib,-ku₂-ku₂-a] (broken)

Col. vi
1-2 [...] (fragment)
3 r x₁ [...] (broken)
4 r x₁ [...] (broken)
5 ib,-t[a,...]
6 mu-s[ar-ra-ba]
7 šu b[i,-ib,-ur₃,-ru-a]
8 mu-n[bi bi,-ib,-sar-re-a]
9 aš₂-b[al-a-ba-ke,-eš lu₂,-kur₁]
10 š[u ba-an-zi-zi-a]
11-14 [...] (broken)
15 r x₁ [...] (broken)
16 lu₁-[bi lugal ḫe₂,-a en ḫe₂,-a]
17 u₁ [u₁-u₁u₁, sag-zigal₁]
18 mu-s[a,-a ḫe₂,-a]
19 lu₁-[ba]
20 m[u na-an-tuku-tuku]
21 d[...]
22 d[...]
23 n[am ḫa-ba-an-da-ku₂,-ru-ne]
24 k[i,...]
25 [...] (broken)
26 r x₁ [...] (broken)
27 ḫu-m[u,...]
28 d[en-[ki lugal-abzu]
29 nun r x₁ [...] (broken)
30 i,-r x₁ [...] (broken)
31 r a x₁ [...] (broken)
32 r u₂₁ [...] (broken)
33 r x₁ [...] (broken)

Rev. i
1' f x₁ [...] / in-n[a,-...]
2' ki ḫub f x₁ [...] / f[u₂,...]
3' lu₂,-erim,-ni [...]
4' ka-a ki [...] / DU [...] (broken)
5' gir₁ šu [...]
6'-10' [...] (broken)
11' ša₂- [...]
12' gam [...] / f x₁ [...] (broken)
13' igi-la₂ mu-u-
14' ḫe₂-e[n,...]
15' a kal [...]
16' nam-tar f x₁ [...] (broken)
17' f x₁ [...] / [...] (broken)
18' f x₁ [...] (broken)

Rev. ii
1' f x₁ [...] (broken)
2' un-un-bi
3' f giš-tukul₁ ḫe₂-en-da-šub-be₂
4' uru-ni e₂,-ri-a
5' f ar₁,-ar₂,₁ ḫe₂-im
6' kalam-ma-ni ḫe₂-en-šub
7' du₂,-du₂-ra ḫe₂-en-šid
8' lu₂,-šuen-a
9' ₄nanna-gin
10' lu₂, mu-ši-da-b[e₁]
11' sag ḫe₂,-f x₁ [...] / [...] (broken)
12' šu-maḥ-ni ḫe₂,-f x-x₁
13' su₁-da ḫa-ra-ab-dab₂
14' nig,-tuku nig,-sa₂-ga
15' a-ba-da-an-tak₂
16' uru ki nu-zu-na
17' šu ḫe₂,-en-dag-ge₁
18' ḫe₂-gal₁, si,-si₂-ga₁
19' f x šu ḫe₂,-en-da-an-dab₂₁
20' ₂kam-ma-še, tukum-bi
21' f u₂-da₁ lu₂
22' [...] f x₁ (broken)

Rev. iii
1' [x] f na x x₁
2' f x ak-a-gin,₁
3' ₄utu-ra ḫe₂-en-ta-gi,₁-gi,₁
4' kar f x x x₁
5' lu₂, kaš₂,-a-aš / ḫa-ba-an-ku₂-ku₂
6' [x] f e₁,gal-la-ke₁
TRANSLATION

Col. i
1 (For) Enlil,
2 the mighty lord
3 who is uniquely exalted,
4 who surpasses (all) in heaven and earth,
5-6 the one who, (like) the shepherd of
6 the steppe, protects all living creatures
7 and to everything
8 which can be named
9 gives direction,
10-20 ... (continuation of epithets
10 in praise of Enlil)
(broken)

Col. ii
1-4 ...
5 who keeps in order all the divine ordinances
6 for him, my king, (I dedicate this).
7 I am Sin-iqifam,
8 the mighty hero,
9 the shepherd who pleases Nippur well,
10 the provider for Ur,
11 king of Larsa,
12 king of Sumer
13 and Akkad.
14-15 I am the man who
14 built the great wall of Larsa
16 and (for) Larsa, the ancient city, the ... of
17 heaven and earth,
18 gained exalted fame.
19 (I am) the pious shepherd,
20 the one who built the temple of ... ,
(broken) ... (continuation of
20 epithets in praise of the king)

Col. iii
1 I am the one who presents ... as a dedicatory
2 prayer.
3-8 ...
9-10 had them expertly fashioned of bronze
11-12 ...
13-14 to make the ... of the shrine Ekur
14 outstanding
15-16 and ... to establish inspiring words in
16 praise of my kingship,
17 he(?) had the statue of so-and-so,
18 son of so-and-so,
19 servant of the man who ..., 
20 fashioned.
21 To ... for everlasting years
22-29 ...
(fragment)
(broken)

Col. iv
1 n + 6 sila of bread,
2 n sila of beer,
3 n sila of wine,
4 and n sila of bran bread
5 as regular offerings
6 for the statue of so-and-so,
7 my servant,
8 I hereby establish on a daily basis.
9 From this day on and unto all future time,
10 (concerning) the statue of so-and-so,
11 son of so-and-so,
12 my servant,
13 which has been empowered by a name
14 and placed under the protection of a taboo:
15 whoever does not smash it,
16 does not deface its inscription,
17-18 does not remove it from
its dedicatory location,
19-20 does not put it away in
a storehouse,
21 (does not) ...
22 ...
(fragment)
23-27 whoever does not discontinue the beer and
bread rations which have been
established to honor the statue
of so-and-so, my servant—
28 may that man’s reign
29 be long lasting.
30 In the field of battle may his weapon
31 have no rival.
32-33 May he defeat
his ...

Col. v
1 In the time of (any future king)
2-4 who has been granted the staff
and ... for the shepherding of
the country—
5 if
6-10 he has either his own statue or
a statue of one of his servants
brought into the Ekur, the temple
of Enlil,
11-13 let him not displace
the statue of my servant

from its dedicatory location.
14-16 Let him not stand his own statue
in that place in front of the statue
of his servant.
17-18 Let it be kept in its place and let
him stand (his own statue) behind it.
19-20 (As for) whoever inflicts
evil-intentioned violence
21 upon the bronze statue
22 of so-and-so,
23 son of so-and-so,
24 my servant,
25 which has been empowered by a name
26 and placed under the protection of a taboo,
27 (or) ...
(fragment)
28-29 ...
30-31 or removes it from its
dedicatory location
32-36 or places his own statue
in front of the statue of
so-and-so, my servant,
37-40 or puts the statue of so-and-so,
my servant, away in a storehouse,
(broken)

Col. vi
1-5 ...
6-7 or erases its written inscription
8 and writes his own inscription,
9-10 or because of this curse incites
someone else (to do so),
11-15 (or) ...
16 that man, be he king or en-priest
17 or be he ordinary citizen or any living person
18 of any name,
19 may that man’s
20 name never be remembered.
21 May the god ...
22 and the goddess ...
23 lay their curses upon him.
24-27 (May) ...
(fragment)
28 May Enki, the king of the Abzu,
29 the prince of ...
30 ... the river ...
31-33 ...
(broken)

Rev. i
1’ ...
2’ At a place of defeat ...
3’ may his enemy ...
4’-18’ ... (continuation of curses)
(broken)
Rev. ii
1' ...
2'-3' May ... strike down his people with weapons.
4'-5' May his city become rubble in a wasteland.
6' May ... attack his countryside and turn it into ruin mounds.
8'-11' ...
12' May his powerful strength be ...
13' May he be held captive forever.
14'-15' May the wealthy man abandon his fine possessions
16'-17' and wander through the city, a place which will no longer know him.
18'-19' May ... seize all the abundance with which he had been endowed.
20' Secondly, if 21' at any time, anyone 22' ...
(broken)

Rev. iii
1' ...
2' like one who has done ...
3' may he be delivered up to Utu.
4'-5' May ... come to the ... quay like a runner.
6' May the ... of the palace
7' thus be turned into a place of treachery.
8'-9' May he bring (punishment for) sacrilege to the palace.
10'-11' May his city drive him away like a common dog.
12' May his name be ...
13' May memory of him
14' never be established in the country.

15'-19' ...
(broken)

Rev. iv
1' Regarding(?) the (statue?) of ..., my servant,
2' which he had fashioned,
3' Zariku,
4' an illustrious man,
5' said nothing.
6' He repaid the favor of my servant
7' and fashioned a statue in his likeness.
8' Forever
9' afterward, until this day,
10'-11' a servant who would repay a favor of his king
12' has had a statue fashioned in his likeness.
(broken) ...

Rev. v
1'-2' (If anyone) ...
3' enters a temple,
4' even if it be the temple of the water of life,
5' and (that) jealous man
6'-7' damages the statue of so-and-so, my servant,
8'-11' or by ... the features of his statue or any of its beautiful adornments (thereby) does harm to it,
12'-16' or who discontinues the beer and bread rations which have been established to honor the statue of so-and-so, my servant,
(broken) ...

Rev. vi
1'-8' (continuation of curses)
(broken)