The Kudurru Fragment VA 213

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The purpose of this brief note is an edition of the kudurru fragment VA 213, hitherto unedited.1 It was found in Nippur and assigned to the period of the Second Dynasty of Isin.2 The fragment is the upper part of a black boundary stone having the following dimensions: length 33 cm, width 38 cm, and thickness 20 cm. Thus only a few divine symbols and 11 lines of the inscription still remain. The latter, however, deserves some attention for in the first column the description of the field, the object of the grant, is included. As usual, the different sides are determined with reference to the adjoining properties. Moreover, the exact length of each side is added, which is rarely the case.3 The preserved lines of the second column are a part of the curses upon anyone who would damage the kudurru. The actual curse formulae and invocations to deities are missing.

TRANSLITERATION

Col. i
1) 1 uš 20 NINDA 5 NINDA putu(SAG.KI) elittu(AN.TA) amurr(u(IM.MAR.TU))
2) teḫ(di) bit(ē) sn(30)-ašarēd(SAG.KAL) 1 uš 40 NINDA putu(SAG.KI) šaplītu(KLT.A)
3) šadū(IM.KUR.BA) teḫ(di) bit(ē) md sn(30)-ašarēd(SAG.KAL) 5 uš 10 NINDA
4) šiddu(uš) elāu(AN.TA) ilīmū(IM.SL.SA) teḫ(di) bit(ē) md sn(30)-ašarēd(SAG.KAL)
5) 3 i + 2 or 3 i uš 10 NINDA šiddu(uš) šaplī(KLT.A) šūtu(IM.U1.LU) teḫ(di) bit(ē)

Col. ii
1) shall change, the boundary shall alter, the boundary stone
2) shall change, shall cast (it) into the river,
3) shall destroy (it), in the dust shall hide (it),
4) shall allow fire to destroy (it), into a place where it cannot be seen (shall set it)
5) or shall incite someone to ...

TRANSLATION

Col. i
1) 1 uš 25 NINDA, the upper short side towards the west
2) adjoining Bit-Sin-ašarēd; 1 uš 40 NINDA, the lower short side
3) towards the east, adjoining Bit-Sin-ašarēd; 5 uš 10 NINDA,
4) the upper long side towards the north, adjoining Bit-Sin-ašarēd;
5) 3 + 2 or 3 uš 10 NINDA, the lower long side towards the south, adjoining Bit-
6) ...

Lacuna

Col. ii
1) shall change, the boundary shall alter, the boundary stone
2) shall change, shall cast (it) into the river,
3) shall destroy (it), in the dust shall hide (it),
4) shall allow fire to destroy (it), into a place where it cannot be seen (shall set it)
5) or shall incite someone to ...

Lacuna

COMMENTARY

4) The field in question appears to be surrounded, at least by three sides, by the district of Bit-Sin-ašarēd, for which see K. Nashef, Rép. Géogr. 5, Wiesbaden, 1982, p. 68. The mention of this GN might be decisive for dating the document since it is not attested otherwise in NB texts (cf. R. Zadok, Rép. Géogr. 8, Wiesbaden, 1985). Its localization,
between Uruk and Larsa, is moreover interesting for only a few kudurrus stem from the very south of Mesopotamia as already pointed out by D. Arnaud, 'Deux Kudurru de Larsa,' RA 66 (1972) p. 163.

5) If the figure beginning this line was 5, then the long sides would be equal and the field nearly a rectangle, i.e. the usual form.

6) The name of the last district or estate is unfortunately missing.

ICONOGRAPHY

The symbols engraved upon the remaining part of the stone are those representing the heavenly gods, namely the solar disc of Šamaš, the crescent of Sin, and the eight-pointed star of Ištar. These are normally present on kudurrus, but their peculiar arrangement should be noted for on this basis U. Seidl connects the fragment with rather earlier boundary stones.⁴