

94) An unpublished manuscript of *Enūma Anu Enlil*, Tablet 25 (26) in the British Museum¹⁾ – While working on unidentified omen texts in the Babylon Collections of the British Museum, I identified BM 38604 (1880-II-12 488) as a new manuscript of *Enūma Anu Enlil*, Tablet 25 (26). A recent edition of the latter is provided in W.H. van Soldt, *Solar Omens of Enūma Anu Enlil: Tablets 23 (24) – 29 (30)* (PIHANS 73), Leiden 1995, 51-67². BM 38604 is not included in E. Reiner, “Celestial Omen Tablets and Fragments in the British Museum”, in S.M. Maul (ed.), *Festschrift für Rykle Borger...*(CM 10), Groningen 1998, 215-302. As the new manuscript offers some additional text to van Soldt’s edition, it is presented here with the kind permission of the Trustees of the British Museum. Only the left half of the tablet is preserved. It has 30 lines on the obverse and 29 on the reverse. Two small separate fragments are kept in the same box as BM 38604, but at this point it cannot be proven conclusively that they are part of the same tablet; they do not join. One fragment preserves few and illegible traces of signs; the other, which represents part of the right edge of the (or a?) tablet, reads: 1. [...] ‘x’ [...] / 2. [...m]a² ‘lul²’ ‘x’ [x x] / 3. [...] ‘x’ i [x x] / 4. [...]‘rag-gu-’mu’ / 5. [...]‘tu₄’ / 6. [...] ‘x’ ki id / 7. [...]DÛG²-ba / 8. [...] ‘ru²’.

Obverse

1. [...ú]-ru-ba-a-tu₄ ‘GÁL’.[MEŠ...]
2. [DIŠ MAN] ina GI₆ ‘È’-ma ‘EN’ ‘ka’-‘ša’-‘a’-ti uš-‘ta’-[ni-ih...]
3. [o] ‘DIŠ’^dÈ[r-ra iq-b]i UN.MEŠ KUR in-n[a-áš-šá-ra...]
4. DIŠ MAN ina GI₆ [È-m]a GUB LUGAL [...]
5. DIŠ MAN ina EN.NUN [...] ‘x’ ‘x’ [...]
6. DIŠ MAN ina EN.NUN MURUB₄.BA È-[am] LUG[AL...]
7. DIŠ MAN ina EN.NUN AN.[ÚSAN...]
8. DIŠ MAN ina EN.NUN ‘AN’.‘ÚSAN’ KUR-ma [...]
9. DIŠ MAN ina EN.N[UN] MURUB₄.BA KUR-ma MU[L.MEŠ...]
10. ‘DIŠ’ MAN ina EN.N[UN] MURUB₄.BA KUR-ma MU[RUB₄...]
11. KUR KUR ŠEŠ KI ‘ŠEŠ’ ‘x’ [...]
12. 10 DIŠ MAN ina EN.N[UN] U₄.ZAL.LI ‘KUR’-‘ma’ ana IGI-‘šú’ [...]
13. DIŠ MAN ina EN.N[UN] MURUB₄.BA [...]
14. DIŠ MAN ina EN.N[UN] BAL.RI ‘IGI’ [...]
15. DIŠ MAN ina EN.‘NUN’ MURUB₄.BA IGI [...]
16. DIŠ MAN ina ‘EN’.NUN U₄.ZAL.LI IGI [...]
17. DIŠ MAN ina [x w]a²-ša²-at² EN.NUN.‘ME’ IGI [...]
18. DIŠ MAN KUR-ma ‘ŠÚ’-ma GI₆ ‘i₂’ ‘GÍN’ ina a-la-‘ku’ MA[N KUR-ḥa...]
19. DIŠ MAN ŠÚ-ma GUR-ma È-‘am’ LUGAL MAR.‘TU’ ‘x’ [...]
20. bar ‘ga²’ NUN x ku ti ú-pat-t[u...]
21. DIŠ MAN ŠÚ-ma GUR-ma È-ma UN.MEŠ [KUR IGI.BAR-šú...]
22. [DIŠ] ‘MAN’ [ŠÚ]-ma GUR-ma ‘È’ a [...]
23. [...M]A.DAM KUR MAR.T[U^{ki}...]
24. [...]‘ma GUR-ma È ‘x’ [...]

25. [...] È-*ma* an [...]
 26. [...] 'x' 'MUL'.MEŠ [...]
 27. [...G]IM ŠÚ-ú NU 'IGI' 'GI₆' [...]
 28. [o[?]] 'bar[?]' ga LUGAL KAR 'x' [...]
 29. [...G]IM ŠÚ-ú G[L₆[?]...]
 30. [...] 'x' 'x' [...]
 (the rest of the obverse is lost)

Reverse

(the beginning of the reverse is lost)

- 1'. [DIŠ] MAN U₄ [...]
 2'. [DIŠ] MAN U₄.10[+...]
 3'. DIŠ MAN U₄.16.[KAM...]
 4'. DIŠ MAN U₄.16.K[AM...]
 5'. DIŠ MAN U₄.17.KAM 'i'-[še-*ram-ma*...]
 6'. DIŠ MAN U₄.18.KAM *i*-[še-*ram-ma*...]
 7'. DIŠ MAN U₄.19.KAM *i*-[še-*ram-ma*...]
 8'. DIŠ M[AN] U₄.20.KAM *i*-š[e-*ram-ma*...]
 9'. DIŠ M[AN] U₄.21.KAM *i*-še-[*ram-ma*...]
 10'. DIŠ MAN [U]₄.22.KAM 'i'-še-[*ram-ma*...]
 11'. DIŠ MAN [U]₄.23.KAM [*i*-š]e-'*ram*'-[*ma*...]
 12'. DIŠ MAN U₄.[25[?]].KAM 'i'-še-*ram-ma* [...]
 13'. 'DIŠ' 'MAN' [U]₄.25.KAM *i*-še-*ram-ma* [...]
 14'. [DIŠ MAN U]₄.25.KAM *i*-še-*ram-ma* [...]
 15'. [DIŠ MAN U]₄.25.KAM *i*-še-*ram-ma* [...]
 16'. [DIŠ MAN U]₄.26.KAM *i*-še-*ram-ma* [...]
 17'. [DIŠ MAN U]₄.27.KAM *i*-še-*ram-ma* [...]
 18'. [DIŠ MAN U]₄.28.KAM *i*-še-*ram*-[*ma*...]
 19'. [DIŠ MAN U₄.2]9[?].KAM *i*-še-*r*[*am-ma*...]
 20'. [...] 'x' [...]
 21'. [...]
 22'. [...] 'x' 'x' [...]
 23'. [DIŠ MAN *ina* U₄ *r*]i-*qí* MIN-*m*[*a*...]
 24'. [DIŠ MAN *ina* U₄] *ri-qí* MIN-*ma* 'ú'-[*kal-lim*...]
 25'. [DIŠ MAN *ina* U₄] *ri-qí* MIN-*ma* [...]
 26'. [DIŠ MAN *ina* U₄] *ri-qí* MIN-*ma* *ina* U₄-šú' [...] (double ruling)
 27'. [DIŠ MAN S]AG.UŠ *ina* GU₄.UD-šú šá-*pu* [...]
 28'. [o?] GABA.RI KÁ.DINGIR.RA^{ki} GIM SUMUN-šú Š[AR...]
 29'. [o] A-šú šá¹ a-šá-*ri-du* ^{lu}ÚMBISAG TUR [...]

Commentary:

1-12: these lines are parallel to van Soldt, *Solar Omens*, 52-54 I 1-10.

11: at the very beginning of this line traces of a vertical ruling are visible. Apparently the scribe had drawn not only horizontal lines, but also one vertical line to mark the beginning of the text; this vertical line was then obliterated by the sequence of DIŠ's.

13-17: these lines correspond to van Soldt, *Solar Omens*, 54 I 11-14. In his manuscript only the ends of the lines are preserved and the overlap is minimal.

14: the commentary text Sm 1038: i 9' (see van Soldt, *Solar Omens*, 64 Ca 1) [EN].NUN BAL.RI : *bara-ri-tú* perhaps refers to this omen.

17:



18: this protasis can be completed on the basis of a duplicate text from Nineveh in Babylonian script, K 5787+ (text C in van Soldt's edition; cf. van Soldt, *Solar Omens*, 54 n. 6): 17, which after collation can now be read as follows: [...] 'GI₆' 12 GÍN *ina a-'la'-'ku'* KUR MAN-*ha* U₄.MEŠ [...]. On celestial time keeping see D. Brown, "The Cuneiform Conception of Celestial Space and Time", *Cambridge Archeological Journal* 10/1 (2000), 103-122.

19: see van Soldt, *Solar Omens*, 54 I 16.

20: I could not find an entirely satisfying interpretation for this sequence of signs:



On the hypothesis that the unclear BAR GA (perhaps repeated in l. 28) is the continuation of the preceding part (partly lost) of the apodosis and that a new apodosis starts with NUN, one might consider the reading 'pèr²'-*ku-ti*, taking this word as a (nominalized) variant of *parku* "obstructed": "the prince will open *obstructed* (canals/roads)." The parallel text K 5787+: 19 (van Soldt, *Solar Omens*, 54: I 17), which after collation can be read as follows: [...] *x-ti ú-pat-ti* MA.'DAM' KUR IGI-*ma šu-ú u ma-li-ki-šú ina* ^{gis}TUKUL GAZ.ME 'x' [...], preserves the second part of the apodosis. The traces before TI are consistent with KU.

21: this corresponds to van Soldt, *Solar Omens*, 54 I 18, which, after collation, actually reads [...].'DU'-'*ma*' 'UN'.MEŠ.

22: see van Soldt, *Solar Omens*, 54 I 19.

1'-26': these lines run roughly parallel to van Soldt, *Solar Omens*, 59-63 III 45-68.

27': the catchline provides the incipit of *Enūma Anu Enlil*, Tablet 26 (27): see van Soldt, *Solar Omens*, 68-84.

29': the form of the indication of the filiation with a proleptical suffix (A-šú šá) is typical for the sixth century and, albeit to a lesser degree, for the (late) seventh century (see M. Jursa, *Neo-Babylonian Legal and Administrative Documents. Typology, Contents and Archives* (GMTR 1), Münster, 7 n. 35; J. P. Nielsen, *Sons and Descendants. A Social History of Kin Groups and Family Names in the Early Neo-Babylonian Period, 747-626 BC* (CHANE 43), Leiden/Boston, 26ss); it is uncommon from the fifth century onwards. A dating to the late seventh or the sixth century is also supported by the paleography of the tablet and the museum context.

1 This note results from research undertaken within the framework of a M4Human Marie Curie Fellowship funded by the Gerda Henkel Foundation and the European Commission on the topic of "Mesopotamian Lung Omens: The Chapter *Šumma hašú* of the Extispicy Series *Bārūtu*". I am grateful to H. Hunger, W. Sallaberger and particularly M. Jursa for discussing this text with me. I would also like to thank U. Steinert who kindly supplied me with a photo of K 5787+.

2 A synthesis of the content of this tablet can be found in D. Brown, *Mesopotamian Planetary Astronomy-Astrology* (CM 18), Groningen, 280-281.

Nicla DE ZORZI (nicla.de.zorzi@univie.ac.at)
Institut für Assyriologie und Hethitologie, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München,
Geschwister-Scholl-Platz 1, 80539 MÜNCHEN