

Thrashing and Plucking — Despite Cad D 125 s.v. *dekû* mng. 2a) and Streck Zahl und Zeit 108 II §12d and 126 II §24, the verb in BIN 1 94: 8 is not *id-de-ka-an-ni*, from *dekû* in a meaning «to drive away,» nearly synonymous with the co-ordinated *šûlû*, *ibid.* 9. That nuance of *dekû* is literary, unattested in NB letters or legal texts, and inappropriate to this letter.

The letter's language is more vivid. The verb in line 8 is *iṭ-ṭe-ra-an-ni*, from *ṭerû*, «to beat» (coll. A. Slotsky, P. Beaulieu, M. Stolper), the same form found in line 26 (Ebeling Neubab. Briefe aus Uruk No. 294 and Glossar 91 s.v. *dirû*), and another form of the same verb appears in line 28. The letter was written in a moment of agitation, the writer expressing himself as if he were in a heated discussion with his correspondent. After the shortest of salutations, the writer refers at once in line 3 to «that field,» as if it had already been mentioned. Agitation perhaps explains some of the lapses of grammar. Other forms in the letter are still problematic, and some are erroneous. Herewith, an interpretation (collations marked with *):

(1-4) Your (sg.) servant Kinunaja, to the Resident, the Administrator, and the Scribe of Eanna, his lords (text: their lord):

(4-10) About that field that belongs to the Herdsman_{4s} Estate(?) (É LÚ.SIPA^{?-i[?]}), to which the Scribe (*šá LÚ.ŠID) assigned me: When Mušallim-Marduk came, on the 23rd (*UD.*23.KÁM) of Du'uzu, he beat me (*iṭ-ṭi-*ra-an-ni*) and threw me out of the field, saying:

(10-20) «Who is the Scribe of Eanna? That field belongs to me. Bēl and Nabû know I have possession of(?) it (*ka-al-la-ka*). Did the king take it from me? (Even if) someone has taken it from me, who gave it to Lady of Uruk? Is the Scribe of the Temple anyone who could actually enforce authority over me (*mamma ša danānu ina muḥḥija ippušu*)?»

(21-22) He plucked the grapes and took them. I tried to say to him:

(23-25) «The Scribe of the Temple has (already) inspected (the property, i.e. assessed it and claimed the crop). How can you pluck these grapes without the permission of the Scribe of the Temple?»

(26-29) He beat me (*it-ti-^{*}ra-an-ni*), breaking my ribs. I still have trouble, by night and all day (*kal ^{*}u₄-^{*}me*), because of the beating he inflicted on me (*ina tar-re-e šá it-ra¹-an-ni*).

(29-32) So see here, I am doing my duty for my lord here. If it please you (sg.), I will go. (33-35) The Scribe of the Temple (**LÚ.*ŠID *É*) should know that for the sake of (?) (*ul-t[u[?]] muhhi*) the Lady of Uruk I have been put in dire straits here. (33-37) Although I paid out the silver I have here to Balāssu, son of Hašdaja, you did not give it to him.

5. **šá LÚ.ŠID* written on the left edge of the tablet, but before the scribe reached the end of the text, since the signs *haš-* and *-di-* of the patronym in line 36 are disposed on either side of these signs.

28. Similarly (PN came up to me and thrashed me) *u tar-ru-ú kī it-te-ru* (text: NI)-*ni* and because of the beating he inflicted on me (I denounced him) YOS 7 18: 6 (coll.). BIN 1 94: 28 precludes reading an agent noun, a *parris* or *parras* form. Both passages have the same *figura etymologica* that Cornelia Wunsch recognized in (silver in compensation for) *ta-re-e ša* PN PN₂ *it-ru-ú* the beating that PN inflicted on PN₂ AoF 24 (1997) 235: 3f., see *ibid.* p. 237. AHW. 1382 *tarrû* ‘Schläger’ is to be deleted.

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