

The lament for Eridug

(Sumerian text, 3rd Millennium BC, University of Oxford translation, The Electronic Text Corpus of Sumerian Literature)

A composite version from Nibru

Segment A

(beginning of 1st kirugu)

4 lines missing

The roaring storm covered it like a cloak, was spread over it like a sheet. It covered Eridug like a cloak, was spread over it like a sheet. In the city, the furious storm resounded In Eridug, the furious storm resounded Its voice was smothered with silence as by a gale. Its people Eridug was smothered with silence as by a gale. Its people

Its king stayed outside his city as if it were an alien city. He wept bitter tears. Father Enki stayed outside his city as if it were an alien city. He wept bitter tears. For the sake of his harmed city, he wept bitter tears. Its lady, like a flying bird, left her city. The mother of E-maḥ, holy Damgalnuna, left her city. The divine powers of the city of holiest divine powers were overturned. The divine powers of the rites of the greatest divine powers were altered. In Eridug everything was reduced to ruin, was wrought with confusion.

The evil-bearing storm went out from the city. It swept across the Land, a storm which possesses neither kindness nor malice, does not distinguish between good and evil. Subir came down like rain. It struck hard. In the city where bright daylight used to shine forth, the day darkened. In Eridug where bright daylight used to shine forth, the day darkened. As if the sun had set below the horizon, it turned into twilight. As if An had cursed the city, alone he destroyed it. As if Enlil had frowned upon it, Eridug, the shrine Abzu, bowed low.

1st kirugu.

It cried out bitterly: "O the destruction of the city! The destruction of the house!"

Its ḡišgiḡal.

A second time the storm destroyed the city, its song was plaintive. was trampled. intensified the lament. It cut the lock from its main gate. The storm dislodged its door. It stacked the people up in heaps. on its own destroyed it. It turned into tears. defiled

1 line missing

..... It distorted its appearance. It distorted its appearance. It circled its wall. It overturned its foundations. Throughout his city, the pure, radiant place, the foundations were filled with dust. It cast down its ziggurat, the shrine which reaches up to heaven, into a heap of debris. The loftiness of its elevated door-ornament, befitting a house, was stripped down. It cut down the gate, its Great-Ziggurat-of-Heaven-and-Earth-Covered-with-Terrible-Awesomeness, its shining door, and it broke through its bolt. It ripped out its doorframe. The house was defaced.

2nd *kirugu*.

49. The destruction of Eridug! Its destruction was grievous.

Its *ĝišgiĝal*.

At its lion-faced gate, the place where fates are determined, it mutilated the copse forming the ornament of the house Ka-ḥeĝala and Igi-ḥeĝala, the doorkeepers of the house, Prematurely they destroyed it utterly. They completely altered At the gate of the *uzga* precinct, the animal-fattener the great offerings. Its birds and fish were neglected there. Destruction Throughout his house, radiant in silver and lapis lazuli, tears

The hired man and the governor The festivals grandly Holy songs, songs of all kinds The *šem* drum and *ala* drum The great divine powers, all the divine powers The place of the gods of heaven and earth The judgment by the king, the holy sceptre at his right side, The *en* priestess, *lumaḥ* priest and *nindiĝir* priestess

The minister Isimud Strangers to the house its side. Eridug, the shrine Abzu, silently. The enemy cleansed in a magnificent robe. a man the people Along with the fluids spilled from his guts, his blood spilled forth. The, which like the azure sky was embellished forever, grasped

3rd *kirugu*.

2 lines fragmentary

Its *ĝišgiĝal*.

..... distressed and anxious like a pigeon

1 line fragmentary

The birds of the destroyed city a nest. The *ukuku* bird, bird of heart's sorrow, the place. Pain The area became entangled in wild thornbushes. It wild thornbushes. The Šimaškians and Elamites, the destroyers, looked at the holy kettles which no one may look at. In the House of Nisaba's Wisdom, the house of understanding, covered over The divine powers which embellish the Abzu When the holy treasures stored in the treasury were put, when, like a mist lying heavily on the earth,, they went like small birds shooed from their hiding places.

7 lines fragmentary⁴

unknown no. of lines missing

Segment B

(continuation of 4th *kirugu*)

Father Enki uttered a lament for himself

4th *kirugu*.

3. Bitterly Father Enki uttered a lament for himself.

Its *ĝišgiĝal*.

Because of this, Enki, king of the *abzu*, stayed outside his city as if it were an alien city. It bowed its neck down to the ground. Eridu's lady, holy Damgalnuna, the faithful cow, the compassionate one, clawed at her breast, clawed at her eyes. She uttered a frenzied cry. She held a dagger and a sword in her two hands, they clashed together.

She tore out her hair like rushes, uttering a bitter lament: "You, my city whose woman does not dwell there, whose charms do not satisfy her, where is a lament uttered bitterly for you? Eridug! You, my city whose woman does not dwell there, whose charms do not satisfy her, where are tears wept for you? I fall like a bull in your lofty falls I am My heart queen"

(incorporating end of 5th *kirugu*)

Segment C

(continuation of 6th *kirugu*)

1 line fragmentary

..... far away the great gods. Lord Enlil, king of the lands, looked maliciously at Sumer. He demolished it. He destroyed the Ki-ur, the great place. He razed with the pickaxe all of the shining E-kur. He destroyed it but did not abandon it -- at the lunches, in his great dining hall, they call his name.

Aruru, the sister of Enlil, destroyed her city Iri-saĝ-rig. In Keš, the creation place of the Land, the people saw inside its holy sanctuary where daylight had been unknown. She destroyed it but did not abandon it, at the lunches, in her great dining hall, they call her name. Lord Nanna, Lord Ašimbabbar, destroyed his city Urim. He decimated the Land with famine. He committed a sacrilege against the E-kiš-nu-ĝal. He struck at its heart. He destroyed it but did not abandon it, at the lunches, in his great dining hall, they call his name.

Inana, the queen of heaven and earth, destroyed her city Unug. Fleeing from the E-ana, the house of seven corners and seven fires, she destroyed it but did not abandon it -- at the lunches, in her great dining hall, they call her name.

(Damgalnuna speaks:) "My beloved, who has ever seen such a destruction as that of your city Eridug!"

6th *kirugu*.

"My beloved, for how long was it built? For how long is it destroyed? adornment of the Abzu."

Its *ĝišgiĝal*.

"Lord Enki, who has ever seen such a destruction as that of your city Eridug? Who has ever seen such a misfortune as that of the shrine Abzu, your house?" No one goes up to his offering terrace. At the lunches, in his great dining hall, they do not call his name. Enki, king of the *abzu*, felt distressed, felt anxious. At the words of his spouse, he himself began to wail. He lay down and fasted.

37-44. My king, you must not be distressed, you must not be anxious. Father Enki, you must not be distressed, you must not be anxious. Son of An, return your heart to your Ki-ur and your attention to your city. Living in an alien city is miserable, return your attention to your city. Living in an alien house is miserable, return your attention to your house. What can anyone compare with this city? Return your

attention to your city. What can anyone compare with this house? Return your attention to your house. Eridug's day is long. Its night is over.

May your throne say to you "Sit down". May your bed say to you "Lie down". May your house say to you "Be rested". May your holy dais also say joyfully to you "Sit down". May your father An, the king of the gods, satisfy your heart. A person, a humble man, brings you a lament over your wife's faithful house. When he sings it before you, may that person soothe your heart. When he recites a prayer, look kindly upon him.

7th *kirugu*.

It destroyed your and struck against your house.

Its *ĝišgiĝal*.

..... and may he restore it for you.

2 lines *fragmentary*

Do not hide like a criminal

A version from Urim (UET 6 142)

Segment A

House of princely powers, standing in mighty water -- the waters have receded from it One can walk on its wide swamp. Within it grow wild thornbushes. The delightful boat Wild goat of the *abzu* -- the waters have receded from it; its sheepfold the wharf. They were Sirsir, the tutelary deity, and the man who rides the boat. At the prow was hurled down in front of them. Evildoers destroyed the house, and its rites were disturbed.

At the *giguna* shrine, the sacred house, evildoers The E-unir -- the shrine raises its head as high as heaven. Its shadow

At the great gate, the lion-faced gate, the place where fates are determined, evildoers They set fire to its door. Ka-ĥeĝala and Igi-ĥeĝala, the doorkeepers of the house, Enki, at the place, its people. the destroyed place, the Abzu the powers of the Anuna gods.

3 lines *fragmentary (continuation of 3rd kirugu)*

Segment B

Eridug City in the reedbeds In Eridug, young bulls Without being a marsh boar Eridug, like a bull The lady of the city cried, "My city"!

3rd *kirugu*.

Father Enki! O your house, O your city, O your people the mountains.

Its *ĝišgiĝal*.