

Sargon and Ur Zababa

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

Segment A

To the sanctuary like a cargo ship, to its great furnaces, to see that its canals waters of joy, to see that the hoes till the arable tracts and that the fields, to turn the house of Kiš, which was like a haunted town, into a living settlement again, its king, shepherd Ur-Zababa, rose like Utu over the house of Kiš. An and Enlil, however, authoritatively decided by their holy command to alter his term of reigning and to remove the prosperity of the palace.

Then Sargon, his city was the city of, his father was La'ibum, his mother -- Sargon with happy heart. Since he was born

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Segment B

One day, after the evening had arrived and Sargon had brought the regular deliveries to the palace, Ur-Zababa was sleeping (and dreaming) in the holy bed-chamber, his holy residence. He realised what the dream was about, but did not put into words, did not discuss it with anyone. After Sargon had received the regular deliveries for the palace, Ur-Zababa appointed him cupbearer, putting him in charge of the drinks cupboard. Holy Inana did not cease to stand by him.

After five or 10 days had passed, King Ur-Zababa and became frightened in his residence. Like a lion he urinated, sprinkling his legs, and the urine contained blood and pus. He was troubled, he was disturbed like a fish living in brackish water.

It was then that the cupbearer of Ezina's wine-house, Sargon, lay down not to sleep, but lay down to dream. In the dream, holy Inana drowned Ur-Zababa in a river of blood. The sleeping Sargon groaned and gnawed the ground. When King Ur-Zababa heard about this groaning, he was brought into the king's holy presence, Sargon was brought into the presence of Ur-Zababa (who said:) "Cupbearer, was a dream revealed to you in the night?" Sargon answered his king: "My king, this is my dream, which I will tell you about: There was a young woman who was as high as the heavens and as broad as the earth. She was firmly set as the base of a wall. For me, she drowned you in a great river, a river of blood."

Ur-Zababa chewed his lips, he became seriously afraid. He spoke to, his chancellor: "My royal sister, holy Inana, is going to change my finger into a of blood; she will drown Sargon, the cupbearer, in the great river. Beliš-tikal, chief smith, man of my choosing, who can write tablets, I will give you orders, let my orders be carried out! Let my advice be followed! Now then, when the cupbearer has delivered my bronze hand-mirror to you, in the E-sikil, the fated house, throw them (the mirror and Sargon) into the mould like statues."

Beliš-tikal heeded his king's words and prepared the moulds in the E-sikil, the fated house. The king spoke to Sargon: "Go and deliver my bronze hand-mirror to the chief smith!" Sargon left the palace of Ur-Zababa. Holy Inana, however, did not cease to stand at his right hand side, and before he had come within five or 10 *nindan* of the E-sikil, the fated house, holy Inana turned around toward him and blocked his way, (saying:) "The E-sikil is a holy house! No one polluted with blood should enter it!" Thus he met the chief

smith of the king only at the gate of the fated house. After he delivered the king's bronze hand-mirror to the chief smith, Beliš-tikal, the chief smith, and threw it into the mould like statues.

After five or 10 days had passed, Sargon came into the presence of Ur-Zababa, his king. He came into the palace, firmly founded like a great mountain. King Ur-Zababa and became frightened in his residence. He realised what was it about, but did not put into words, did not discuss it with anyone. Ur-Zababa became frightened in the bed-chamber, his holy residence. He realised what was it about, but did not put into words, did not discuss it with anyone.

In those days, although writing words on tablets existed, putting tablets into envelopes did not yet exist. King Ur-Zababa despatched Sargon, the creature of the gods, to Lugal-zage-si in Unug with a message written on clay, which was about murdering Sargon.

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Segment C

With the wife of Lugal-zage-si She her feminity as a shelter. Lugal-zage-si did not the envoy. "Come! He directed his steps to brick-built E-ana!" Lugal-zage-si did not grasp it, he did not talk to the envoy. But as soon as he did talk to the envoy The lord said "Alas!" and sat in the dust.

Lugal-zage-si replied to the envoy: "Envoy, Sargon does not yield." After he has submitted, Sargon Lugal-zage-si Sargon Lugal-zage-si Why Sargon