

Inana and An

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

Segment A

unknown no. of lines missing

1 line fragmentary

Holy Inana The hero, youthful Utu, At dead of night E-ana Inana The great heavens
.....

unknown no. of lines missing

Segment B

1 line fragmentar

..... E-ana comes forth from heaven, the lady of heaven set her mind to capturing the great heavens,
..... Inana set her mind to capturing the great heavens, set her mind to capturing the great heavens
from the of heaven, youthful Utu, she set her mind to capturing the great heavens.

Holy Inana spoke to her brother the hero, youthful Utu: "....., I want to tell you something; pay attention to
my speech., my twin, I want to tell you something; pay attention to my speech."

Her brother the hero, youthful Utu, answered holy Inana: "My sister, I swear an oath by the life of heaven,
I swear by the life of the rainbow of heaven, my,, I swear by the life of my throne, by my majesty: I
will follow what my sister says to me, I will follow what holy Inana says to me."

The maiden Inana answered her brother the hero, youthful Utu: "....., my spouse, has made love to me,
has kissed me. I wanted for him but he did not give it to him. I hastened with him but majestic
An would not give him E-ana. The heavens are ours, the earth is ours: E-ana should be captured from An.
After you have taken, listen to what I say to you. Examine for me, you must observe these
instructions: the evil wind, the south wind, against me."

approx. 23 lines missing

Segment C

1 line fragmentary

(Adagbir speaks:) "..... great net. the flood. the fisherman."

Holy Inana embarked on the The barge The rope The south wind, that south wind, rose up.
The evil wind, that evil wind, rose up. In the distant heavens Hienhi-sag The fisherman The
reed thickets and the tall reeds

Inana spoke to Adagbir: "Youthful Utu The barge"

2 lines fragmentary

approx. 15 lines missing

Segment D

(Inana speaks:) "I the way"

2 lines fragmentary

Adagbir answered holy Inana: "My lady, you cannot Your divinity The fisherman the south wind. My lady, if you travel on the barge, and he raises the south wind, that south wind, and he raises the evil wind, that evil wind, barges and small boats will sink in the marshes."

Whenever he approached the with his great net, as it came out of the flood, the swelling sea, it lashed the water and made an evil

Holy Inana answered the fisherman: "If you are to find E-ana and I am to gaze in admiration at that place, you said the narrow passage."

Adagbir answered holy Inana: "..... through the reed thickets and the tall reeds. For you find E-ana, which comes forth from heaven."

Adagbir, of Enlil, through the reed thickets and the tall reeds. She gazed in admiration at E-ana which comes forth from heaven.

Šul-a-zida, An's herdsman, grasped the cosmic tethering rope in his hands. After he had brought the forth from the sky, he overcame the protective deities. He and kept it below the horizon.

Having drunk cleansing water from the Ulaya river, Inana stamped on the scorpion and cut off its tail. Like a lion it bellowed in an angry roar but its cries died down. she threw it and made it secure.

Having heard its cries, poured forth the, the clay of creation, and laid it

2 lines missing

..... the great lady of heaven delivered those words to An.

Having heard those words, An slapped his thighs in, his voice filled with sighs of grief: "What has my child done? She has become greater than me! What has Inana done? She has become greater than me! From now on, the normal length of daylight becomes shorter, and daylight converts to night-time. From today, when the day's watch is three units long, daylight is equal to night-time." And now, when day began, it was indeed so.

An, who created gods and humankind, gazed at holy Inana, unable to describe this arrogance, this arrogance. An was unable to describe to Inana this arrogance, this arrogance: "My child, you did not say -- you were able to capture E-ana! Inana, you did not say, you were able to capture E-ana! E-ana should be as firm as heaven, it should not be toppled, its attractions should never be exhausted. Its name should be 'The Settlement of the Land'. It should have no rival. Mankind, all of the people, should prostrate themselves at her feet." And now, under that sun and on that day, it was indeed so.

She had captured E-ana from An! She secured it Now Inana speaks of the E-ana as the house that is the place of the lady. The goddess who has attained her triumphant position, Inana who has attained her triumphant position, declares in the good place: "I have captured E-ana from An."

Because you are unmatched among the Great Princes, maiden Inana, praising you is magnificent!