

Inana and Enki

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

Segment A

She of the desert. She put the *šū-gura*, the desert crown, on her head. when she went out to the shepherd, to the sheepfold, her genitals were remarkable. her genitals were remarkable. She praised herself, full of delight at her genitals, she praised herself, full of delight at her genitals. She looked at, she looked at, she looked at

"When I have gratified the lord, when I have made brilliant, when I have made beautiful, when I have made glorious, when I have, when I have made perfect, when I have made luxuriant, when I have made exuberant, when I have made shining, when I have made return, when I have made brilliant, when I have made shimmering, I shall direct my steps to the abzu, to Eridug, I shall direct my steps to Enki, to the abzu, to Eridug, and I myself shall speak coaxingly to him, in the abzu, in Eridug, I myself shall speak coaxingly to Enki, in the abzu, in Eridug. had her go out"

Segment B

"Inana, it is I who I, Inana, personally intend to go to the *abzu*. I shall utter a plea to Lord Enki. Like the sweet oil of the cedar, who will for my holy perfume? It shall never escape me that I have been neglected by him who has had sex."

On that day the maiden Inana, holy Inana, directed her steps all by herself towards Enki's *abzu* in Eridug. On that day, he of exceptional knowledge, who knows the divine powers in heaven and earth, who from his own dwelling already knows the intentions of the gods, Enki, the king of the *abzu*, who, even before holy Inana had approached within six miles of the temple in Eridug, knew all about her enterprise, Enki spoke to his man, gave him instructions: "Come here, my man, listen to my words."

1 line fragmentary approx. 2 lines missing

Segment C

"..... she will drink, she will eat. Come here! I will, do. The maiden the *abzu* and Eridug, Inana the *abzu* and Eridug When the maiden Inana has entered the *abzu* and Eridug, when Inana has entered the *abzu* and Eridug, offer her butter cake to eat. Let her be served cool refreshing water. Pour beer for her, in front of the Lions' Gate, make her feel as if she is in her girlfriend's house, make her as a colleague. You are to welcome holy Inana at the holy table, at the table of An."

After Enki had spoken thus to him, Isimud the minister followed his master's instructions closely. He let the maiden into the *abzu* and Eridug. He let Inana into the *abzu* and Eridug. When the maiden had entered the *abzu* and Eridug, when Inana had entered the *abzu* and Eridug, she got butter cake to eat. They poured cool refreshing water for her, and they gave her beer to drink, in front of the Lions' Gate. He made her feel as if she was in her girlfriend's house, and made her as a colleague. He welcomed holy Inana at the holy table, at the table of An.

So it came about that Enki and Inana were drinking beer together in the *abzu*, and enjoying the taste of sweet wine. The bronze *aga* vessels were filled to the brim, and the two of them started a competition, drinking from the bronze vessels of Uraš. *approx.*

35 lines missing

Segment D

"I will give them to holy Inana, my daughter; may not" Holy Inana received heroism, power, wickedness, righteousness, the plundering of cities, making lamentations, rejoicing. "In the name of my power, in the name of my *abzu*, I will give them to holy Inana, my daughter; may not"

Holy Inana received deceit, the rebel lands, kindness, being on the move, being sedentary. "In the name of my power, in the name of my *abzu*, I will give them to holy Inana, my daughter; may not"

Holy Inana received the craft of the carpenter, the craft of the coppersmith, the craft of the scribe, the craft of the smith, the craft of the leather-worker, the craft of the fuller, the craft of the builder, the craft of the reed-worker. "In the name of my power, in the name of my *abzu*, I will give them to holy Inana, my daughter; may not"

Holy Inana received wisdom, attentiveness, holy purification rites, the shepherd's hut, piling up glowing charcoals, the sheepfold, respect, awe, reverent silence. "In the name of my power, in the name of my *abzu*, I will give them to holy Inana, my daughter; may not"

Holy Inana received the bitter-toothed, the kindling of fire, the extinguishing of fire, hard work,, the assembled family, descendants. "In the name of my power, in the name of my *abzu*, I will give them to holy Inana, my daughter; may not"

Holy Inana received strife, triumph, counselling, comforting, judging, decision-making. "In the name of my power, in the name of my *abzu*, I will give them to holy Inana, my daughter; may not" Holy Inana received,,

approx. 78 lines missing

Segment E

"He has given me righteousness. He has given me the plundering of cities. He has given me making lamentations. He has given me rejoicing."

"He has given me deceit. He has given me the rebel lands. He has given me kindness. He has given me being on the move. He has given me being sedentary."

"He has given me the craft of the carpenter. He has given me the craft of the coppersmith. He has given me the craft of the scribe. He has given me the craft of the smith. He has given me the craft of the leather-worker. He has given me the craft of the fuller. He has given me the craft of the builder. He has given me the craft of the reed-worker."

"He has given me wisdom. He has given me attentiveness. He has given me holy purification rites. He has given me the shepherd's hut. He has given me piling up glowing charcoals. He has given me the sheepfold. He has given me respect. He has given me awe. He has given me reverent silence."

"He has given me the bitter-toothed He has given me the kindling of fire. He has given me the extinguishing of fire. He has given me hard work. He has given me He has given me the assembled family. He has given me descendants. He has given me strife. He has given me triumph. He has given me counselling."

approx. 34-35 lines missing

Segment F

Enki spoke to the minister Isimud: "Isimud, my minister, my Sweet Name of Heaven!" "Enki, my master, I am at your service! What is your wish?" "Since she said that she would not yet depart from here for Unug Kulaba, that she would not yet depart from here to the place where Utu, can I still reach her?" But holy Inana had gathered up the divine powers and embarked onto the Boat of Heaven. The Boat of Heaven had already left the quay. As the effects of the beer cleared from him who had drunk beer, from him who had drunk beer, as the effects of the beer cleared from Father Enki who had drunk beer, the great lord Enki turned his attention to the building. The lord looked up at the *abzu*. King Enki turned his attention to Eridug.

Enki spoke to Isimud the minister: "Isimud, my minister, my Sweet Name of Heaven!" "Enki, my master, I am at your service! What is your wish?" "Where is the office of *en* priest, the office of *lagar* priest, divinity, the great and good crown, the royal throne?" "My master has given them to his daughter."

"Where are the noble sceptre, the staff and crook, the noble dress, shepherdship, kingship?" "My master has given them to his daughter."

"Where is the office of *egir-zid* priestess, the office of *nin-diĝir* priestess, the office of *išib* priest, the office of *lu-mah* priest, the office of *gudug* priest?" "My master has given them to his daughter."

"Where are constancy,,, going down to the underworld, coming up from the underworld, the *kur-ĝara* priest?" "My master has given them to his daughter."

"Where are the sword and club, the cultic functionary *saĝ-ursaĝ*, the black garment, the colourful garment, the hair-style, the hair-style?" "My master has given them to his daughter."

"Where are?" "My master has given them to his daughter."

"Where are the standard, the quiver, sexual intercourse, kissing, prostitution, running?" "My master has given them to his daughter."

"Where are forthright speech, deceitful speech, grandiloquent speech,, the cultic prostitute, the holy tavern?" "My master has given them to his daughter."

"Where are the holy *niĝin-ĝar* shrine,, the mistress of heaven, loud musical instruments, the art of song, venerable old age?" "My master has given them to his daughter."

approx. 33-36 lines missing

Segment G

... king in the house of Enki should not forget a word. full of advice, loud voiced, knowing much They said: "By the bolt of the temple door, a frog spoke." He showed him to a place. Enki grasped the frog by his right paw. He showed him into his holy He received the *halub* tree and his box-tree. He gave to the bird of heaven. He gave to the fish of the subterranean waters.

11 lines fragmentary approx. 10-15 lines missing

Segment H

The prince spoke to his minister Isimud, Enki addressed the Sweet Name of Heaven: "Isimud, my minister, my Sweet Name of Heaven!" "Enki, my master, I am at your service! What is your wish?" "Where has the Boat of Heaven reached now?" "It has just now reached the Quay." "Go now! The *enkum* are to take the Boat of Heaven away from her!"

The minister Isimud spoke to holy Inana: "My lady! Your father has sent me to you. Inana, your father has sent me to you. What your father said was very serious. What Enki spoke was very serious. His important words cannot be countermanded." Holy Inana replied to him: "What has my father said to you, what has he spoken? Why should his important words not be countermanded?" "My master has spoken to me, Enki has said to me: "Inana may travel to Unug, but you are to get the Boat of Heaven back to Eridug for me".

Holy Inana spoke to the minister Isimud: "How could my father have changed what he said to me? How could he have altered his promise as far as I am concerned? How could he have discredited his important words to me? Was it falsehood that my father said to me, did he speak falsely to me? Has he sworn falsely by the name of his power and by the name of his *abzu*? Has he duplicitously sent you to me as a messenger?" Now as these words were still in her mouth, he got the *enkum* to seize hold of the Boat of Heaven. Holy Inana addressed her minister Ninšubur: "Come, my good minister of E-ana! My fair-spoken minister! My envoy of reliable words! Water has never touched your hand, water has never touched your feet!"

So Inana got hold again of the divine powers which had been presented to her, and the Boat of Heaven; and then for the second time the prince spoke to his minister Isimud, Enki addressed the Sweet Name of Heaven: "Isimud, my minister, my Sweet Name of Heaven!" "Enki, my master, I am at your service! What is your wish?" "Where has the Boat of Heaven reached now?" "It has just now reached the holy" "Go now! The fifty giants of Eridug are to take the Boat of Heaven away from her!"

The minister Isimud spoke to holy Inana: "My lady! Your father has sent me to you. Inana, your father has sent me to you. What your father said was very serious. What Enki spoke was very serious. His important words cannot be countermanded." Holy Inana replied to him: "What has my father said to you, what has he spoken? Why should his important words not be countermanded?" "My master has spoken to me, Enki has said to me: "Inana may travel to Unug, but you are to get the Boat of Heaven back to Eridug for me"."

Holy Inana spoke to the minister Isimud: "How could my father have changed what he said to me? How could he have altered his promise as far as I am concerned? How could he have discredited his important words to me? Was it falsehood that my father said to me, did he speak falsely to me? Has he sworn falsely by the name of his power and by the name of his *abzu*? Has he duplicitously sent you to me as a

messenger?" Now as these words were still in her mouth, he got the fifty giants of Eridug to seize hold of the Boat of Heaven. Holy Inana addressed her minister Ninšubur: "Come, my good minister of E-ana! My fair-spoken minister! My envoy of reliable words! Water has never touched your hand, water has never touched your feet!"

So Inana got hold again of the divine powers which had been presented to her, and the Boat of Heaven; and then for the third time the prince spoke to his minister Isimud, Enki addressed the Sweet Name of Heaven: "Isimud, my minister, my Sweet Name of Heaven!" "Enki, my master, I am at your service! What is your wish?" "Where has the Boat of Heaven reached now?" "It has just now reached the UL.MA hill." "Go now! The fifty *lahama* of the subterranean waters are to take the Boat of Heaven away from her!"

The minister Isimud spoke to holy Inana: "My lady! Your father has sent me to you. Inana, your father has sent me to you. What your father said was very serious. What Enki spoke was very serious. His important words cannot be countermanded." Holy Inana replied to him: "What has my father said to you, what has he spoken? Why should his important words not be countermanded?" "My master has spoken to me, Enki has said to me: "Inana may travel to Unug, but you are to get the Boat of Heaven back to Eridug for me"."

Holy Inana spoke to the minister Isimud: "How could my father have changed what he said to me? How could he have altered his promise as far as I am concerned? How could he have discredited his important words to me? Was it falsehood that my father said to me, did he speak falsely to me? Has he sworn falsely by the name of his power and by the name of his *abzu*? Has he duplicitously sent you to me as a messenger?" Now as these words were still in her mouth, he got the fifty *lahama* of the subterranean waters to seize hold of the Boat of Heaven. Holy Inana addressed her minister Ninšubur: "Come, my good minister of E-ana! My fair-spoken minister! My envoy of reliable words! Water has never touched your hand, water has never touched your feet!"

So Inana got hold again of the divine powers which had been presented to her, and the Boat of Heaven; and then for the fourth time the prince spoke to his minister Isimud, Enki addressed the Sweet Name of Heaven: "Isimud, my minister, my Sweet Name of Heaven!" "Enki, my master, I am at your service! What is your wish?" "Where has the Boat of Heaven reached now?" "It has just now reached the Field Hill." "Go now! All the great fish together are to take the Boat of Heaven away from her!"

The minister Isimud spoke to holy Inana: "My lady! Your father has sent me to you. Inana, your father has sent me to you. What your father said was very serious. What Enki spoke was very serious. His important words cannot be countermanded." Holy Inana replied to him: "What has my father said to you, what has he spoken? Why should his important words not be countermanded?" "My master has spoken to me, Enki has said to me: "Inana may travel to Unug, but you are to get the Boat of Heaven back to Eridug for me"."

Holy Inana spoke to the minister Isimud: "How could my father have changed what he said to me? How could he have altered his promise as far as I am concerned? How could he have discredited his important words to me? Was it falsehood that my father said to me, did he speak falsely to me? Has he sworn falsely by the name of his power and by the name of his *abzu*? Has he duplicitously sent you to me as a messenger?" Now as these words were still in her mouth, he got all the great fish together to seize hold of the Boat of Heaven. Holy Inana addressed her minister Ninšubur: "Come, my good minister of E-ana! My fair-spoken minister! My envoy of reliable words! Water has never touched your hand, water has never touched your feet!"

So Inana got hold again of the divine powers which had been presented to her, and the Boat of Heaven; and then for the fifth time the prince spoke to his minister Isimud, Enki addressed the Sweet Name of Heaven: "Isimud, my minister, my Sweet Name of Heaven!" "Enki, my master, I am at your service! What is your wish?" "Where has the Boat of Heaven reached now?" "It has just now reached" "Go now!, the guardians of Unug, are to take the Boat of Heaven away from her!"

The minister Isimud spoke to holy Inana: "My lady! Your father has sent me to you. Inana, your father has sent me to you. What your father said was very serious. What Enki spoke was very serious. His important words cannot be countermanded." Holy Inana replied to him: "What has my father said to you, what has he spoken? Why should his important words not be countermanded?" "My master has spoken to me, Enki has said to me: "Inana may travel to Unug, but you are to get the Boat of Heaven back to Eridug for me"."

Holy Inana spoke to the minister Isimud: "How could my father have changed what he said to me? How could he have altered his promise as far as I am concerned? How could he have discredited his important words to me? Was it falsehood that my father said to me, did he speak falsely to me? Has he sworn falsely by the name of his power and by the name of his *abzu*? Has he duplicitously sent you to me as a messenger?" Now as these words were still in her mouth, he got the, the guardians of Unug, to seize hold of the Boat of Heaven. Holy Inana addressed her minister Ninšubur: "Come, my good minister of E-ana! My fair-spoken minister! My envoy of reliable words! Water has never touched your hand, water has never touched your feet!"

So Inana got hold again of the divine powers which had been presented to her, and the Boat of Heaven; and then for the sixth time the prince spoke to his minister Isimud, Enki addressed the Sweet Name of Heaven: "Isimud, my minister, my Sweet Name of Heaven!" "Enki, my master, I am at your service! What is your wish?" "Where has the Boat of Heaven reached now?" "It has just now reached the Surungal canal" "Go now! The Surungal canal are to take the Boat of Heaven away from her! from holy Inana."

The minister Isimud spoke to holy Inana: "My lady! Your father has sent me to you. Inana, your father has sent me to you. What your father said was very serious. What Enki spoke was very serious. His important words cannot be countermanded." Holy Inana replied to him: "What has my father said to you, what has he spoken? Why should his important words not be countermanded?" "My master has spoken to me, Enki has said to me: "Inana may travel to Unug, but you are to get the Boat of Heaven back to Eridug for me"."

Holy Inana spoke to the minister Isimud: "How could my father have changed what he said to me? How could he have altered his promise as far as I am concerned? How could he have discredited his important words to me? Was it falsehood that my father said to me, did he speak falsely to me? Has he sworn falsely by the name of his power and by the name of his *abzu*? Has he duplicitously sent you to me as a messenger?" Now as these words were still in her mouth, he got the Surungal canal to seize hold of the Boat of Heaven. from holy Inana. Holy Inana addressed her minister Ninšubur: "Come, my good minister of E-ana! My fair-spoken minister! My envoy of reliable words! Water has never touched your hand, water has never touched your feet!"

So Inana got hold again of the divine powers which had been presented to her, and the Boat of Heaven; and then

1 line fragmentary

..... Unug

1 line fragmentary

..... the Boat of Heaven. Ninšubur, the Boat of Heaven. A seventh time

1 line fragmentary

The great princely scion, holy Holy Inana the Boat of Heaven. Holy Inana at that time

Her minister Ninšubur spoke to holy Inana: "My lady, today you have brought the Boat of Heaven to the Gate of Joy, to Unug Kulaba. Now there will be rejoicing in our city, now there will be rejoicing in our city. barges on our river"

Holy Inana replied to her: "Today I have brought the Boat of Heaven to the Gate of Joy, to Unug Kulaba. It shall pass along the street magnificently. The people shall stand in the street full of awe."

1 line fragmentary

..... in joy. the old men of the city comfort, the old women counsel, the young men strength of arms, the children joy. Unug.

1 line fragmentary 1 line missing 3 lines fragmentary

"..... festival the Boat of Heaven. He shall recite great prayers. The king shall slaughter bulls, shall sacrifice sheep. He shall pour beer from a bowl. He shall have the *šem* and *ala* drums sound, and have the sweet-sounding *tigi* instruments play. The foreign lands shall declare my greatness. My people shall utter my praise."

When she had the Boat of Heaven to the Gate of Joy at Unug Kulaba, it passed magnificently along the street. It reached the maiden's house, and she its place. the purified well, her principal well. Inana the divine powers which had been presented to her, and the Boat of Heaven, at the Ĝipar Gate. At the Agrun Chamber Holy Inana the Boat of Heaven

The prince addressed his minister Isimud, Enki spoke to the Sweet Name of Heaven: "Isimud, my minister, my Sweet Name of Heaven!" "Enki, my master, I am at your service! What is your wish?" "Where has the Boat of Heaven reached now?" "It has just now reached the White Quay." "Go now, admiration. admiration the Boat of Heaven. Holy Inana admiration"

approx. 3 lines missing

Segment I

"Inana, you have brought with you the office of *en* priest, you have brought with you the office of *lagar* priest, you have brought with you divinity, you have brought with you the great and good crown, you have brought with you the royal throne."

"You have brought with you the noble sceptre, you have brought with you the staff and crook, you have brought with you the noble dress, you have brought with you shepherdship, you have brought with you kingship."

"You have brought with you strife, you have brought with you triumph, you have brought with you counselling, you have brought with you comforting, you have brought with you judging, you have brought with you decision-making."

"You have brought with you the establishing of plans, the attractiveness of women, you have brought with you to handle the perfect divine powers, you have brought with you small, you have brought with you exalted, you have brought with you the holy *tigi*, holy *lilis*, *ub*, *meze* and *ala* drums, you have brought with you the of holy An, you have brought with you the of holy An, you have brought with you the of holy An, you have brought with you the of holy An, you have brought with you the of holy An, you have brought with you the of holy An, you have brought with you all of the, beer."

2 lines fragmentary 6 lines missing

Where the woman joy, she named it with the name 'The house Ganzer is rebuilt'. Where the trader said "Fifty shekels" but when he brought it there was less, she named that place with the name 'Potsherds and scrap metal'. Where the boat, she named it with the name '.....'. Where the boat came to dock at the quay, she named that place with the name 'White Quay'. Where, she named that place with the name 'Blue Quay'.

Enki spoke to holy Inana: "In the name of my power, in the name of my *abzu*, I will establish in my *abzu* for the woman."

(Inana speaks:) "Why has this one now entered here? taking the divine powers from me?"

3 lines fragmentary

A third deity speaks:) "May the in your name!"

4 lines fragmentary

"May there be a festival! May pass their time at the gate of your *Ĝipar*! May the citizens of your city, Inana, the citizens of Unug, live! And as for you, Enki -- may your city, Eridug, and has indeed restored"