

The death of Gilgamesh

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

A version from Nibru

Segment A

unknown no. of lines missing

..... hero has lain down and is never to rise again. has lain down and is never to rise again. He of well-proportioned limbs has lain down and is never to rise again. has lain down and is never to rise again. He who wickedness has lain down and is never to rise again. The young man has lain down and is never to rise again. He who was perfect in and feats of strength has lain down and is never to rise again. has lain down and is never to rise again. The lord of Kulaba has lain down and is never to rise again. He who spoke most wisely has lain down and is never to rise again. The plunderer of many countries has lain down and is never to rise again. He who climbed the mountains has lain down and is never to rise again. He has lain down on his death-bed and is never to rise again. He has lain down on a couch of sighs and is never to rise again.

Unable to stand up, unable to sit down, he laments. Unable to eat, unable to drink, he laments. Held fast by the door-bolt of Namtar, he is unable to rise. Like a fish, he ill. Like a gazelle caught in a trap, he couch. Namtar, with no hands or feet, Namtar

1 line fragmentary

6 lines missing

1 line fragmentary

..... great mountains

5 lines fragmentary

1 line missing

unknown no. of lines missing

Segment B

3 lines fragmentary

For six days, he ill. on his skin like resin. Lord Gilgamesh ill. Unug and Kulaba. the words spoken

Then Lord Gilgamesh lay down on the death-bed. The king sleep. his dream assembly

1 line fragmentary

unknown no. of lines missing

Segment C

6 lines fragmentary

"..... you will be accounted a god. render verdicts. will be as weighty as of Dumuzid."

..... Gilgameš

3 lines fragmentary

..... lord of Kulaba, hero of the pristine mountain, handiwork of the gods,*1 line fragmentary* of Ninsun, Lugalbanda, Lord Nudimmud.

approx. 7 lines missing

Segment D

"..... having travelled all the roads that there are, having fetched from its, having killed, you set up for future days Having founded, you reached Having brought down the old forgotten forever and, he carried out correctly the flood the settlements of the Land."

1 line fragmentary

unknown no. of lines missing

Segment E

3 lines fragmentary

Sisig (*a god of dreams*), the son of Utu, will provide light for him in the nether world, the place of darkness. When a funerary statue is made in honour of someone, whoever they may be, for future days, mighty youths and will form a semicircle at the door-jamb and perform wrestling and feats of strength before them. In the month Neneĝar, at the festival of the ghosts, no light will be provided before them without him (*i.e. Gilgameš*)."

"Oh Gilgameš! Enlil, the Great Mountain, the father of gods, has made kingship your destiny, but not eternal life, Lord Gilgameš, this is how to interpret the dream. The and of life should not make you feel sad, should not make you despair, should not make you feel depressed. You must have been told that this is what the bane of being human involves. You must have been told that this is what the cutting of your umbilical cord involved. The darkest day of humans awaits you now. The solitary place of humans awaits you now. The unstoppable flood-wave awaits you now. The unavoidable battle awaits you now. The unequal struggle awaits you now. The skirmish from which there is no escape awaits you now. But you should not go to the underworld with heart knotted in anger. May before Utu. palm-fibre"

"Go ahead"

unknown no. of lines missing"

Segment F

1 line fragmentary

..... Enkidu, your young comrade.

1 line fragmentary

..... is lying alone. is lying alone. the king

1 line fragmentary

y will come to you. will come to you."

unknown no. of lines missing

Segment G

1 line fragmentary

..... Gilgameš

2 lines fragmentary

..... they answered him. he weeps. Why is made? Nintur has not given birth yet.

2 lines fragmentary

1 line unclear

"The birds of the sky cannot escape. The fish of the deep water cannot see Having spread his net, the young fisherman will catch you. Who has ever seen anyone who could ascend from the of the nether world? No king has ever been destined a fate like yours. Who anyone among mankind, whoever they may be, like you? the governorship of the nether world. You your ghost pass judgments"

unknown no. of lines missing

Segment H

1-21. Kulaba As Unug rose, as Kulaba rose Within the first month, it was not five or 10 days before they the Euphrates. its shells. Then, as in the bed of the Euphrates, the earth cracked dry. was built from stone. was built from stone. were hard diorite. its latches were hard stone. were cast in gold. heavy blocks of stone. heavy blocks of stone. brought in for future days.

1 line fragmentary

..... should not find Gilgameš has established in

His beloved

unknown no. of lines missing

Segment I

2 lines fragmentary

..... opened

2 lines fragmentar

y of Lord Gilgameš scratched the nose for him, pulled out their hair for him.

1 line fragmentary

unknown no. of lines missing

Another version from Nibru

(probably the final section of another version)

His beloved wife, his beloved children, his beloved favourite and junior wife, his beloved musician, cup-bearer and, his beloved barber, his beloved, his beloved palace retainers and servants and his beloved objects were laid down in their places as if in the purified palace in the middle of Unug.

Gilgameš, the son of Ninsumun, set out their audience-gifts for Ereškigala. He set out their gifts for Namtar. He set out their surprises for Dimpikug. He set out their presents for Neti. He set out their presents for Ningišzida and Dumuzid. He the audience-gifts for Enki, Ninki, Enmul, Ninmul, Endukuga, Nindukuga, Enindašuruma, Nindašuruma, Enmu-utula, En-me-šara, the maternal and paternal ancestors of Enlil. For Šul-pa-e, the lord of the table, for Sumugan and Ninḫursaĝa, for the Anuna gods of the Holy Mound, for the Great Princes of the Holy Mound, for the dead *en* priests, the dead *lagar* priests, the dead *lumaḥ* priests, the dead *nindiĝir* priestesses, and the dead *gudug*, the linen-clad and priests.

1 line fragmentary

He set out their presents for

..... lie down Ninsumun Gilgameš, the son of Ninsumun, poured water

1 line fragmentary

..... scratched the nose for him. The people of his city will not anymore. They spread out their in the dust.

Then the young lord, Lord Gilgameš, who never ceases to for the of Enlil, Gilgameš, the son of Ninsumun, offshoot

No king who could match him has ever been born,

1 line unclear

Gilgameš, lord of Kulaba, it is sweet to praise you!

A version from Me-Turan

Segment A

The great wild bull has lain down and is never to rise again. Lord Gilgameš has lain down and is never to rise again. He who was unique in has lain down and is never to rise again. The hero fitted out with a shoulder-belt has lain down and is never to rise again. He who was unique in strength has lain down and is never to rise again. He who diminished wickedness has lain down and is never to rise again. He who spoke most wisely has lain down and is never to rise again. The plunderer of many countries has lain down and is never to rise again. He who knew how to climb the mountains has lain down and is never to rise again. The lord of Kulaba has lain down and is never to rise again. He has lain down on his death-bed and is never to rise again. He has lain down on a couch of sighs and is never to rise again.

Unable to stand up, unable to sit down, he laments. Unable to eat, unable to drink, he laments. Held fast by the door-bolt of Namtar, he is unable to rise. Like a fish in a cistern, he ill. Like a captured gazelle buck, he couch. Namtar with no hands or feet, who one by night.

1 line fragmentary

unknown no. of lines missing

Segment B

(The sequence of Segments B, C, D, and E is uncertain)

Then the young lord, Lord Gilgameš,

4 lines fragmentary

unknown no. of lines missing

Segment C

(The sequence of Segments B, C, D, and E is uncertain)

4 lines fragmentary

Then the young lord, Lord Gilgameš

4 lines fragmentary unknown no. of lines missing

Segment D

(The sequence of Segments B, C, D, and E is uncertain)

11 lines fragmentary

unknown no. of lines missing

Segment E

(The sequence of Segments B, C, D, and E is uncertain)

5 lines fragmentary

Gilgameš

1 line fragmentary

unknown no. of lines missing

Segment F

2 lines fragmentary

Then the young lord, Lord Gilgameš, lay down on his death-bed

2 lines fragmentary

After Lord Gilgameš had arrived at the assembly, the pre-eminent place of the gods, they said to Lord Gilgameš concerning him: "As regards your case: after having travelled all the roads that there are, having fetched cedar, the unique tree, from its mountains, having killed Huwawa in his forest, you set up many stelae for future days, for days to come. Having founded many temples of the gods, you reached Zi-ud-sura in his dwelling place. Having brought down to the Land the divine powers of Sumer, which at that time were forgotten forever, the orders, and the rituals, he carried out correctly the rites of hand washing and mouth washing

1 line fragmentary

3 lines missing

2 lines fragmentary

Enlil's advice was given to Enki. Enki answered An and Enlil: "In those days, in those distant days, in those nights, in those distant nights, in those years, in those distant years, after the assembly had made the Flood sweep over to destroy the seed of mankind, among us I was the only one who was for life, and so he remained alive, Zi-ud-sura, although a human being, remained alive. Then you made me swear by heaven and by earth, and that no human will be allowed to live forever any more. Now, as we look at Gilgameš, could not he escape because of his mother?"

(Another god speaks:) "Let Gilgameš as a ghost, below among the dead, be the governor of the nether world. Let him be pre-eminent among the ghosts, so that he will pass judgments and render verdicts, and what he says will be as weighty as the words of Ningišzida and Dumuzid."

Then young Lord Gilgameš became depressed because of all mankind. "You should not despair, you should not feel depressed

1 line fragmentary

Mighty youths and a semicircle

14 lines missing"

"Go ahead to the place where the Anuna gods, the great gods, sit at the funerary offerings, to the place where the *en* priests lie, to where the *lagar* priests lie, to where the *lumaḥ* priests and the *nindiĝir* priestesses lie, to where the *gudug* priests lie, to where the linen-clad priests lie, to where the *nindiĝir* priestesses lie, to where the lie, to the place where your father, your grandfather, your mother, your sisters, your, to where your precious friend, your companion, your friend Enkidu, your young comrade, and the governors appointed by the king to the Great City are, to the place where the sergeants of the army lie, to where the captains of the troops lie,

3 lines missing

From the house of, the will come to meet you. Your jewel will come to meet you, your precious one will come to meet you. The elders of your city will come to meet you. You should not despair, you should not feel depressed."

"He will now be counted among the Anuna gods. He will be counted a companion of the great gods. the governor of the nether world. He will pass judgments and render verdicts, and what he says will be as weighty as the words of Ninĝišzida and Dumuzid."

And then the young lord, Lord Gilgameš, woke up his eyes, a dream! a dream!

3 lines fragmentary

"Am I to become again as I were on the lap of my own mother Ninsumun? who makes the great mountains tremble). Namtar with no hands or feet takes away"

1 line fragmentary

Lord Nudimmud made him see a dream: After Lord Gilgameš had arrived at the assembly, the pre-eminent place of the gods, they said to Lord Gilgameš concerning him: "As regards your case: after having travelled all the roads that there are, having fetched cedar, the unique tree, from its mountains, having killed Huwawa in his forest, you set up many stelae for future days Having founded many temples of the gods

1 line fragmentary

Having brought down to the Land the divine powers of Sumer, which at that time were forgotten forever, the orders, and the rituals, he carried out correctly the rites of hand washing and mouth washing. the settlements of the countries."

2 lines fragmentary

1 line fragmentary

..... Gilgameš Enlil's advice was given to Enki. Enki answered An and Enlil: "In those days, in those distant days, in those nights, in those distant nights, in those years, in those distant years, after the assembly had made the Flood sweep over to destroy the seed of mankind, among us I was the only one who was for life. He remained alive, Zi-ud-sura alone, although a human being, remained alive. Then you made me swear by heaven and by earth, and I swore that no human will be allowed to live forever any more. Now, as we look at Gilgameš, could not he escape because of his mother?"

(Another god speaks:) "Let Gilgameš as a ghost, below among the dead, be the governor of the nether world. Let him be pre-eminent among the ghosts, so that he will pass judgments and render verdicts, and what he says will be as weighty as the words of Ningiškida and Dumuzid."

Then the young lord, Lord Gilgameš, became depressed because of all mankind. "You should not despair, you should not feel depressed."

1 line fragmentary

Mighty youths and a semicircle Without him (*i.e. Gilgameš*) Sisig (*a god of dreams*), the son of Utu, will provide light for him in the place of darkness."

"You must have been told that this is what your being a human involves. You must have been told that this is what the cutting of your umbilical cord involved. The darkest day of humans awaits you now. The solitary place of humans awaits you now. The unstoppable flood-wave awaits you now. The unequal struggle awaits you now. The unavoidable battle awaits you now. The evil from which there is no escape awaits you now. But you should not go to the underworld with heart knotted in anger. May it be before Utu. Let it be unravelled like palm-fibre and peeled like garlic."

"Go ahead to the place where the Anuna gods, the great gods, sit at the funerary offerings, to the place where the *en* priests lie, to where the *lagar* priests lie, to where the *lumaḥ* priests and the *nindiĝir* priestesses lie, to where the *gudug* priests lie, to where the linen-clad priests lie, to where the *nindiĝir* priestesses lie, to where the lie, to the place where your father, your grandfather, your mother, your sisters, your, to where your precious friend, your companion, your friend Enkidu, your young comrade, and the governors appointed by the king to the Great City are, to the place where the sergeants of the army lie, to where the captains of the troops lie. the Great City Arali

1 line fragmentary"

"From the house of the sisters, the sisters will come to meet you. From the house of, will come to meet you. Your jewel will come to meet you, your precious one will come to meet you. The elders of your city will come to meet you. You should not despair, you should not feel depressed."

"He the Anuna gods. He will be counted a companion of the great gods."

unknown no. of lines missing"

Segment G

5 lines fragmentary

Segment H

5 lines fragmentary

His architect designed his tomb like His god Enki showed him where the solution of the dream lies by No one but the of the king could solve the vision.

The lord imposed a levy on his city. The herald made the horn signal sound in all the lands: "Unug, arise! Open up the Euphrates! Kulaba, arise! Divert the waters of the Euphrates!" Unug's levy was a flood, Kulaba's levy was a clouded sky. Meanwhile not even the first month had passed, it was not five or 10 days

before they had opened up the Euphrates and diverted its high water. Utu looked at its shells with admiration. Then as soon as the water in the bed of the Euphrates had receded, his tomb was built there from stone. Its walls were built from stone. Its door leaves were installed in the sockets of the entrance. Its bolt and thresholds were hard stone. Its door-pivots were hard stone. They installed its gold beams. Heavy blocks of stone were moved to was completely covered with a thick layer of dark soil. for future days.

1 line fragmentary

..... who are searching for it should not find its precinct. He set up a solid house in the middle of Unug.

His beloved wife, his beloved children, his beloved favourite and junior wife,

7 lines fragmentary

unknown no. of lines missing

Segment I

..... Gilgameš

3 lines fragmentary

..... entered, its entrance. opened up the Euphrates, its water.

1 line fragmentary

Then the young lord, Lord Gilgameš

2 lines fragmentary

unknown no. of lines missing

Segment J

2 lines fragmentary

..... Gilgameš

8 lines fragmentary

unknown no. of lines missing

Segment K

..... to the city smeared with dust

..... Lord Gilgameš despaired and felt depressed. For all the people, whoever they may be, funerary statues are made for future days, and set aside in the temples of the gods. Their names, once uttered, do not sink into oblivion. Aruru, the older sister of Enlil, provides them with offspring for that purpose. Their statues

are made for future days and they are mentioned in the Land. Ereškigala, mother of Ninazu, it is sweet to praise you!