

SYNCHRONOUS  
HISTORY OF ASSYRIA AND BABYLONIA.

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TRANSLATED BY  
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THE Tablet translated below is rather a collection of brief notices relating to the occasions on which Assyria and Babylonia came into contact with one another than a synchronous history in the proper sense of the word. No dates are given, and long periods of time are passed over in silence; but the chronological order in which the events are arranged, and the synchronisms established between various kings of the two countries furnish a valuable basis for reconstructing the framework of their history, when helped out by other inscriptions. Unlike the larger part of the library to which it belonged, this tablet

was originally composed by Assyrian scribes, as the purely Assyrian point of view from which each occurrence is regarded would show, and is posterior to the eighth century B.C. The document is unfortunately very incomplete, and the translations which follow are made from a number of fragments now in the British Museum. The principal portion of them is to be found in the *Cuneiform Inscriptions of Western Asia*, Vol. ii., pl. 65; a piece which formed the upper portion of the tablet is given in the third volume, No. 3; while the remaining fragments are still unpublished. The document was translated by myself in the *Transactions of the Society of Biblical Archaeology*, Vol. ii., Pt. 1, and extensive quotations from it have been given by Mr. G. Smith in the *Transactions* of the same Society, Vol. i., Pt. 1.

A short review of our materials for determining the early chronology of Assyria may not be out of place here. The years were counted by eponymes called *limmi*, like the arkhons at Athens; and the fact that the inscription of Rimmon-nirari, *Records of the Past*, Vol. i., p. 1, the great-grandson of Assur-yupalladh, is dated in the eponymy of Shalmanurris, proves the

antiquity of this method of marking time. We thus have a guarantee of the trustworthiness of the statement made by Sennacherib that a seal which belonged to Tiglath-Adar, the grandson of Rimmon-nirari, was carried off in war to Babylon 600 years before his own capture of that city and therefore about 1300 B.C. Still greater authority is given to the precise dates of 701 years, which according to Tiglath-Pileser I. elapsed between the foundation of the temple of Anu and Rimmon at Assur by Samas-Rimmon and his own restoration of it, and of 418 years which the Bavian inscription states was the interval between the defeat of the same Tiglath-Pileser by the Babylonians and Sennacherib's invasion of Chaldea in B.C. 692. Samas-Rimmon, however, was not king of Assyria, nor even, perhaps, a member of the Semitic race; he was merely the petty sovereign of the city of Assur, the Ellasar of Genesis, and the wide tract of country afterwards known as Assyria was still designated by the vague title of Gutium (or Goim as it appears in Gen. xiv. 1). The kingdom of Assyria, therefore, did not come into existence until after B.C. 1800, and the accurate calculation of time which enabled Tiglath-

Pileser to fix the date of his predecessor must have been of Babylonian origin. This agrees well with our finding that in the inscriptions of Assur-bani-pal Cudur-Nankhundi, sometimes transliterated Kudur-nanhundi, the Elamite is said to have "oppressed Accad" just 1635 years before his own conquest of Elam. A precise chronological record, accordingly, seems to have been kept first in Babylonia and afterwards in Assyria from a period which dates back beyond the second millenium B.C. It may be added that the early Babylonians made use also of important events like the capture of a city or the inundation of a river as chronological starting-points ; while legal documents, as might be expected, reckoned by the regnal years of the king in whose lifetime they were drawn up.



SYNCHRONOUS HISTORY OF ASSYRIA AND  
BABYLONIA.

Only the ends of the lines which begin the tablet have been discovered, and the first legible fragment of the inscription is as follows :—

*Obverse* Col. I.

- 1 CARA-INDAS,<sup>1</sup> King (of Gan-duniyas<sup>2</sup>),
  - 2 and ASSUR-BIL-NISI-SU, King of Assyria, a covenant
  - 3 between them with one another established ;
  - 4 and a pledge with regard to the boundaries as fixed  
above<sup>3</sup> to one another gave.
- 

- 5 BUZUR-ASSUR, King of Assyria, and BURNA-BURYAS,
  - 6 King of Gan-duniyas, made an ordinance, and common
  - 7 boundaries as aforesaid fixed.
- 

- 8 In the time of ASSUR-YUPALLADH, King of Assyria,  
CARA-MURDAS,
  - 9 King of Gan-duniyas, son of MUPALLIDHAT-SERUA
  - 10 the daughter of ASSUR-YUPALLADH, men of the Cassi
  - 11 revolted against, and slew him. NAZI-BUGAS
  - 12 a man of low parentage to the kingdom to (be) over  
them they raised.
- 

<sup>1</sup> Cara-indas, Burna-buryas, and Cara-murdas belonged to the Cassi or Kossæans, an Elamite tribe which had conquered Babylonia under Kham-muragas. They seem to represent the Arabian dynasty of Berosus, and made Babylon their capital. The dynasty was finally overthrown by the Assyrian king Tiglath-Adar, son of Shalmaneser, who captured Babylon and established a line of Semitic kings there in the 14th century B.C. The transactions recorded in the present passage probably took place about 100 years previously.

<sup>2</sup> Gan-duniyas (also called Gun-duni), "the enclosure" or "fortress of Duni" was Western Chaldæa, the city of Babylon having received that name from some Cassite prince or deity.

<sup>3</sup> Literally, "as aforesaid." This refers to a preceding passage now lost.

- 13 (BEL-NIRARI,<sup>1</sup> King of Assyria, to) exact satisfaction  
 14 (for CARA-MURDAS) to Gan-duniyas went ;  
 15 (NAZI-BUGAS, King of Gan-duniyas) he slew ;  
 16 (CURI-GALZU,<sup>2</sup> son of) BURNA-BURYAS,  
 17 (on the throne he seated.)  
 . . . . . Lacuna . . . . .
- 1 NAZI-URUDA'IS,<sup>3</sup> King of Gan-duniyas,  
 2 (at) Car-Istar-agarsal (Tiglath-Adar) smote :  
 3 (a destruction) of NAZI-URUDA'IS he made  
 4 (when in) the neighbourhood of the city of Akhi-rabi-su  
 he had come.  
 5 These common boundaries  
 6 (from) above the country of Pilaz  
 7 (to) the river Tigris, (and) the city of Arman-agarsal  
 8 (in the moun)tains they appointed and fixed.

- 9 . . . . . King of Gan-duniyas,  
 10 in the might of battle . . . . .

Lacuna.

<sup>1</sup> He was the son of Assur-yupalladh, and according to an inscription brought back from Kalah-Sherghat by Mr. G. Smith "destroyed the army of the Cassi, and the spoil of his enemies his hand captured."

<sup>2</sup> Inscriptions of Curi-galzu have been found in Babylonia, in which he calls himself son of Burna-buryas; his, consequently, must be the name to be supplied here.

<sup>3</sup> Mr. G. Smith (*Athenæum* June 20, 1874) believes that this was the last king of the Cassite dynasty who was overthrown by Tiglath-Adar. In that case, this fragment must be placed here, and Tiglath-Adar would be the Assyrian king whose name has to be supplied. It must be confessed, however, that such a view is not altogether free from difficulties.

COLUMN II.

- 1 his servants he made (them)  
 2 as far as the city of Kullar.<sup>1</sup>
- 
- 3 BEL-CHADREZZAR, King of Assyria, (ADAR-PILESER)  
 4 had slain. BEL-CHADREZZAR did RIMMON-(PAL-IDDINA<sup>2</sup>  
 avenge).  
 5 in the midst of that conflict ADAR-PILESER<sup>3</sup> (was de-  
 feated, and)  
 6 to his country returned. His forces (RIMMON-PAL-  
 IDDINA collected, and)  
 7 to Nineveh to capture (it) went.  
 8 in the midst of it he fought; he turned about and (to  
 his country returned).
- 
- 9 In the time of ZAMAMA-SUMA-IDDIN, King (of Gan-  
 duniyas,)  
 10 ASSUR-DAYAN,<sup>4</sup> King of Assyria, to Gan-duniyas (went).  
 11 (The cities) of Zaba, Irriya, (and) Agarsal he (captured;)  
 12 (their spoil) in abundance to Assyria (he carried.)  
 . . . . . Lacuna. . . . .

<sup>1</sup> These lines may possibly still refer to the conquest of Tiglath-Adar.  
<sup>2</sup> The name of Rimmon-pal-iddina, King of Babylonia, has been supplied here by an ingenious conjecture of Mr. G. Smith.  
<sup>3</sup> Adar-Pileser was king of Assyria, and it is plain that he was forced to retreat to Nineveh, which was captured by Rimmon-pal-iddina; a fact which the Assyrian historian describes euphemistically. It was probably upon this occasion that the seal of Tiglath-Adar was carried off to Babylon, from which it was brought back 600 years afterwards by Sennacherib. Adar-pileser was the father of Assur-dayan. Tiglath-Pileser I. says of him that "he cleared away his enemies like pea-fowl over the country, and organised the armies of Assyria."  
<sup>4</sup> Assur-dayan is called by Tiglath-Pileser I. "the lifter up of the precious sceptre, the pursuer of the people of Bel (the Babylonians), who had conferred the work of his hand and the gift of his fingers upon the great gods, and had attained to old age and length of years."

- 1 Thereupon to his land (ASSUR-RIS-ILIM)<sup>1</sup> returned.  
 After him (NEBOCHADREZZAR)  
 2 carried his armaments. To the passes of the border of  
 (Assyria)  
 3 to conquer he went. ASSUR-RIS-ILIM, King of Assyria,  
 4 his chariots mustered against him to go.  
 5 NEBOCHADREZZAR, when the armaments do not ad-  
 vance, his baggage with fire burned ;  
 6 he turned about and to his country returned.  
 7 The same NEBOCHADREZZAR (with) chariots and teams  
 to the defences of the border  
 8 of Assyria to conquer went. ASSUR-RIS-ILIM  
 9 chariots (and) teams for assistance sent forth.  
 10 With him he fought ; a destruction of him he made ;  
 his soldiers he smote ;  
 11 his camp he plundered ; forty of his harnessed chariots  
 they had brought back ;  
 12 one standard that went before his host they had taken.

- 
- 13 TIGLATH-PILESER,<sup>2</sup> King of Assyria, MERODACH-IDDIN-  
 AKHI, King of Gan-duniyas,  
 14 a second time (with) a squadron of chariots, as many  
 as in the city of the  
 15 lower Zab in sight of the city of Arzukhina he made,  
 16 in the second year on the shore of the sea which (is)  
 above Accad,<sup>3</sup> smote.

<sup>1</sup> Assur-ris-ilim, the grandson of Assur-dayan and father of Tiglath-Pileser I., has been ingeniously identified by Sir H. Rawlinson with the Biblical Cushan-rish-athaim, whose name, as it stands, is certainly corrupt. Tiglath-Pileser calls him "the powerful king, conqueror of foreign lands, subduing all wickedness."

<sup>2</sup> Tiglath-Pileser I. has left a detailed account of his exploits in the cylinder inscription which was translated in 1857 by Sir H. Rawlinson, Mr. Fox Talbot, Dr. Hincks, and M. Oppert. Sennacherib states that he was carried captive to Babylon by Merodach-iddin-akhi 418 years before his own invasion of Babylonia (that is about 1110 B.C.).

<sup>3</sup> Accad was south-eastern Chaldea, and the sea referred to the Persian Gulf.



- 17 The cities of Dur-curigalzu, Sippara of the Sun,  
 18 Sippara of Anunit,<sup>1</sup>  
 19 Babylon, (and) Opis, great strongholds,  
 20 together with their citadels, he captured.  
 21 In those days the city of Agar'sal  
 22 as far as Lubdi he devastated ;  
 23 the land of the 'Sukhi<sup>2</sup> as far as the city of Rapik to  
 (its) whole extent (he conquered).

- 
- 24 In the time of ASSUR-BIL-CALA,<sup>3</sup> (King of Assyria),  
 25 (and) MERODACH-SAPIC-CULLAT, King of Gan-duniyas,  
 26 (friendship and complete) alliance  
 27 (with one another) they made.  
 28 (In the time of ASSUR-BIL-)CALA, King of (Assyria),  
 29 (MERODACH-SAPIC-CULLAT, King of) Gan-duniyas his  
 death (seized).  
 30 . . . . . SADUNI, the son of a nobody,  
 31 (to the kingdom over) them they raised.  
 32 (ASSUR-BIL-CALA), King of Assyria,  
 33 (to Gan-duniyas) went down ;  
 34 (its spoil) to Assyria he brought.

Then follows a lacuna. The mutilated reverse begins in the middle of a reign.

<sup>1</sup> The two Sipparas (whence the dual Sepharvaim of Scripture) seem to have been on opposite sides of the river, like Buda-Pesth. The site is represented by the modern Sura.

<sup>2</sup> The 'Sukhi or Shuhites seem to have lived to the south of Babylonia, near the junction of the Tigris and Euphrates.

<sup>3</sup> Assur-bil-cala was the son of Tiglath-pileser I. In a mutilated inscription he claims the conquest of the land of the West, or Palestine. A brother of his, who ascended the throne either before or after him, was Samas-Rimmon, the repairer of the Temple of the goddess of Nineveh.

## COLUMN III.

- 1 . . . . . Nebo-suma-iscun  
 2 . . . . . fought ; a destruction of him he made  
 3 (The cities) of Bam-bala (and) Khudadu  
 4 (and) many (other) cities  
 5 (he captured, and) their spoil in abundance  
 6 (to Assyria) took.  
 7 . . . . . NIMATI his death constrained.  
 8 . . . . . their daughters to one another  
 they gave.  
 9 (Friendship and) complete alliance with one another  
 they (made).  
 10 (The men of) Assyria (and) Accad with one another  
 trafficked.  
 11 From the mound of Bit-bari which (is) above the city  
 of the Zab  
 12 to the mound of BATANI and of the city Zabdani<sup>1</sup> a  
 boundary line they fixed.
- 
- 13 (In the time) of SHALMANESER,<sup>2</sup> King of (Assyria,  
 14 (and NEBO-)PAL-IDDINA, King of Gan-duniyas,  
 15 friendship (and) complete alliance  
 16 (with) one another they made. In the time of SHALMA-  
 NESER, King (of Assyria),  
 17 (NEBO-)PAL-IDDINA his death constrained ;  
 18 MERODACH-SUMA-IDDIN on the throne of his father sat.  
 19 MERODACH-BIL-USATE, his brother, against him revolted.  
 20 (The city of Ah)daban he took ; the land of Accad  
 21 (strongly) he had fortified. SHALMANESER, King of  
 (Assyria,)

<sup>1</sup> Both Bit-bari and Zabdani were situated near the Lower Zab, the Caprus of classical geographers.

<sup>2</sup> This is the king whose inscription on the monolith found at Kurkh is translated in the present volume.

- 22 to the assistance of MERODACH-SUMA-IDDIN,  
 23 King of Gan-duniyas, went.  
 24 MERODACH-BIL-USATE the King he slew.  
 25 The rebel (leaders) who (were) with him he smote.  
 26 (In) Cuthah, Babylon,  
 27 (and Borsippa sacrifices he made.)<sup>1</sup>

Lacuna.

- 1 (In the time of MERODACH-BALADHSU-IKBI), King of  
 Gan-duniyas,  
 2 (SAMAS-)RIMMON,<sup>2</sup> King of Assyria,  
 3 (a destruction of MERODACH-BALADHSU-)IKBI made.

The last fragment forms the concluding portion of the whole tablet :—

- 1 Men (and) spoil to his places he brought back ;  
 2 a permanent bond of habitations he fixed for them.  
 3 The men of Assyria (and) Gan-duniyas with one another  
 (trafficked).  
 4 Eighty common boundary-stones he established (as  
 follows) :  
 5 “ May the prince hereafter who in Accad . . . .  
 6 shall establish it and the plunder of conquest (shall  
 carry off)  
 7 write ; and to this inscribed stone (which contains)  
 8 the ordinance and to the sacred images above it which  
 9 the army has inscribed may he listen, and . . . . .  
 10 the laws of Assyria may they protect to (future) days.

<sup>1</sup> This is restored from the account which the king gives of his Babylonian expedition upon the Black Obelisk.

<sup>2</sup> This is the king whose monolith inscription I have translated in the first vol. of *Records of the Past*, pp. 9-22. His expedition against Merodach-baladhsu-ikbi is described in the fourth column of the inscription.

- 11 May he who Sumir and Accad shall rule  
12 interpret them to all races.”

*Colophon.*

(Written out for the palace of ASSUR-BANI-PAL) King of  
Assyria.



# END OF SAMPLE TEXT



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