

SUSIAN TEXTS.

TRANSLATED BY
DR. JULIUS OPPERT.

I HEREWITH lay before the learned public the translation of the texts written in the language of Susa, which have been only explained after a long study of the Median documents, written in an idiom of the same family as the tongue of Susa.

These documents together with others were kindly handed over to me twenty years ago by my late friend William Kenneth Loftus. From his copies, they have been partly published by M. F. Lenormant, in his *Choix de Textes Cunéiformes inédits ou incomplètement publiés*, and I presented the first translation to the Paris Congress of Orientalists, in 1873, with a commentary justifying the version. Since that time,

the Rev. A. H. Sayce has commented on some expressions contained in these texts in the *Transactions of the Society of Biblical Archæology*, Vol. III., but they have never been, until now completely, translated.

This first attempt to render intelligible a language hitherto entirely unknown, and where no bilingual text supports the student in his difficult task, may of course be subject to emendation by future scholars, disposing of more materials than I did ; nevertheless, I think, that the general sense has been exactly made out.



SUSIAN TEXTS.

INSCRIPTIONS OF SUTRUK-NAKHUNTE.

CONTEMPORANEOUS WITH SARGON, B.C. 710.

I AM SUTRUK-NAKHUNTE, son of HALLUDUS, the Susian King, who reigns over the plains of Susiana.

I have constructed this house in bricks, and I never sullied the name of the Susian King in the service of the gods.

This monument may exist, free from the dishonour of the Susian King, servant of the gods.

GREAT INSCRIPTION OF SUTRUK-NAKHUNTE.

(PARTLY DESTROYED, PARTLY UNINTELLIGIBLE.)

I am SUTRUK-NAKHUNTE, the son of HALLUDUS, the Susian King, the mighty King, the King who reigns over the plains of Susiana.

Susian King, I have meditated, the 365 days of the year, on the future life.

I occupied this palace and the family's house, the palace of the land of rivers, to govern the people of Susa,¹ and I

¹ The name of this town is Susun, and signifies "lily." The country is named Susunqu.

hold it for myself alone, the Susian King, the servant of the gods.

I am SUTRUK-NAKHUNTE, son of HALLUDUS, the Susian King, the mighty King, who reigns on the plains of Susiana.

The subdued people which the foregoing Kings had governed, and whatever any one of them (has acquired), SUTRUK-NAKHUNTE, the Susian King, will fortify it, and govern it without dishonour.

[Here follow 12 lines which have not yet been made out.]

The former Kings occupied the mountains of Habardi¹ and they occupied also the Rivers' land, the realm of ATTARKITTAH,² and they put in the palace of Susa the siege of the Susian King.

I SUTRUK-NAKHUNTE, have received the royalty of the Susian land, which is the first of the earth, and as long as I have inhabited Susa, the land of the earth, and the centre of all mankind, I have received a great deal of tributes during numerous years.

INSCRIPTION OF KUDUR-NAKHUNTE,

SON OF SUTRUK-NAKHUNTE.

CONTEMPORANEOUS TO SENNACHERIB, B.C. 690.

I am KUDUR-NAKHUNTE, the mighty Lord, the Emperor, the Susian King, who reigns in the plains of Susiana.

I have demolished the ancient temple of the god LAGAMAR,³ I have consecrated a new temple, and I have founded a palace for the Susian King, the servant of the gods.

¹ This is the name under which the whole land of Susiana occurs in the Median texts.

² A quite unknown proper name.

³ This god's name occurs in the name of the Biblical Kedorlaomer, in Susian *Kugurlagamar*.

It has been constructed, and may the people always live in it.

TEXT OF TARHAK OR SILHAK,

BROTHER OF THE PRECEDING.

I am SILHAK, the Susian King, son of SUTRUK-NAKHUNTE, the mighty Lord, the Emperor, the Susian King, who¹

I founded on the hill a wall, and have destroyed the old, and I have founded a house in the enclosure, in bricks, and I have consecrated it to the glory of the Susian King, slave of the gods.

May this house of the Susian King exist always, without dishonour, and may I never deny the name of the divinities!

TEXT OF KING UNDAS-ARMAN.²

I am UNDAS-ARMAN, son of HUMBABBAK-MASNAGI, who reigns over the plains of Susiana.

The god NAKHUNTE, the Chief of the gods,¹ will protect the palace and will grant to him all blessings.

I have destroyed entirely the temple *Sata*, the ancient temple, the high spot of the Uxians, the work of LASIH-NAKHUNTE; in the place of the temple *Sata*, there have been made new temples.

¹ Lacunæ.

² This king Undas-Arman must be one of the latest kings of Susiana, shortly before the submission of the Elamite power by the Persians. The name signifies "God Arman sees." In Median *umde* has the meaning of "eye." Arman is according to the Assyrian syllabaries, the name of the god of Susa. In the texts of Assurbanabal, there is to be found a god Ammankasimas whose name is composed of this deity's. A quite different term is *umman*, occurring in many Susian proper names, the meaning of which is "house." It is possible, that *Umman Amman* "house of the god Amman," was corrupted by the Greeks to Memnonian, the great edifice of Susa. *Amman* may be an altered form for *Arman*.

By the favour of NAKHUNTE, may these temples exist for ever, during long times, for all future times.

And I myself, I well exercised the royalty: may I rejoice in a long life.¹

¹ There are existing several other fragments of Susian texts, but they are too mutilated to be satisfactorily explained.



END OF SAMPLE TEXT



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