

## THREE ASSYRIAN DEEDS.

---

TRANSLATED BY

DR. JULIUS OPPERT.

---

THE commercial and legal deeds belong to the most difficult class of inscriptions, and have necessarily required a great deal of study. Sir Henry Rawlinson first pointed out the importance of these tablets, and I translated some Babylonian commercial texts in my pamphlet *Sur les Inscriptions Commerciales*, 1861. I also gave a translation of the first juridical text in the *Revue Archéologique*, 1864.

I am not aware that the Assyrian deeds have ever been explained in a way that would satisfy a legist; some scholars, among whom may be named Mr. Sayce, have turned their attention to them, several others examined them merely on account of the most

curious dates and eponymic names that are to be found in them. But the real importance of these very numerous deeds consists in the light which they will hereafter throw upon the civilization of Assyria and Chaldea in general, and the history of legislation in particular. A great quantity of these documents, partly unedited, will be soon given with the transliterated texts in a work now going through the press, and published conjointly with my friend, M. Menant.



## THREE ASSYRIAN DEEDS.

## I.

## DEED OF SALE OF A HOUSE,

BELONGING TO PHENICIAN OWNERS, WITH EGYPTIAN  
WITNESSES.

*W. A. I.*, III., pl. 48, 3.

NAIL-MARK<sup>1</sup> of SAR-LUDARI, nail-mark of AKHASSURU, nail-mark of the woman AMAT-SU'LA, wife of BEL-DUR, Captain in the army, owners of the sold house ;

[Four nail-marks.]

A house, well constructed, with its beams and its doors, situated in the city of Nineve, near the house of MANNU-KI-AKHE, near the house of EL-ITTIYA, near the markets.

And has acquired it SIL-ASSUR, the Chief, an Egyptian; for one mina of the King, of silver,<sup>2</sup> he has bought it from SAR-LUDARI, from AKHASSURU, from the woman AMAT-SU'LA, wife of the (named) husband.

The price has been definitively fixed, this house has been paid and bought, the retractation of the contract and the annulment is not admitted.<sup>3</sup>

Whosoever, in future, at any time amongst these men (sellers) will claim before me an annulment of the contract, from SIL-ASSUR, shall give 10 mines of silver.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The nailmarks are used instead of a seal.

<sup>2</sup> £9 sterling.

<sup>3</sup> Or in ordinary legal phraseology "this contract shall not hereafter be retracted or annulled."

<sup>4</sup> £90.

In the presence of SUSANQA, son-in-law of the King, of HARMAZA, Captain, of RASU, sailor, of NABU-DUR-USUR, spy of strangers, of HARMAZA, Chief of the sailors, of SIN-SAR-USUR, of ZIDQAIU.<sup>1</sup>

In the month of Sivan, the 26th day, in the eponymy of ZAZAI, Governor of Arpad.<sup>2</sup>

Judged before SAMAS-YUKIN-AKH, before LITTURU, before NABU-SUM-USUR.<sup>3</sup>

## II.

## DEED OF THE SALE OF ISRAELITES

BY A PHENICIAN.

*W. A. I.*, III., pl. 49, 1.

*On the obverse.* Seal of DAGAN-MILKI, the owner of the sold slaves.

[Seal.]

IMANNU,<sup>4</sup> the woman U . . . .<sup>5</sup> MELCHIOR, in all three persons.

And has acquired them BEL-MALIK-ILI, the *mugil* of the propriety of the King; for 3 mines of silver,<sup>6</sup> each mina according to the use of the city of Karkamis, he has bought them from DAGAN-MILKI.

The price has been definitively fixed, these persons have been paid and bought, the retractation of the contract and its annulment is not admitted.

Whosoever, in future, at any time, will stand before me, and invoke me, either DAGAN-MILKI, or his brothers, or his brothers' sons, or any body of his, or a mighty man, who would claim from before me the annulment of this contract, from BEL-MALIK-ILI, his sons, or his grandsons, shall give 10 mines of silver, one mine of gold,<sup>7</sup> to the goddess ISTAR

<sup>1</sup> Sedkia.

<sup>2</sup> B.C. 891.

<sup>3</sup> See for this tablet, Vol. I., p. 139.

<sup>4</sup> Heiman.

<sup>5</sup> Lacuna.

<sup>6</sup> £27.

<sup>7</sup> £140, with £90 silver, £230.

of Arbela. He shall return, with the tenth, the price to the owners. Then he will get rid of his contract, he has not sold.

In the presence of ADDAI, the Chief (*mil*) of AKHIRAME, ditto, of PAQAHA,<sup>1</sup> the head of . . .<sup>2</sup>, of NADBIYAHU<sup>3</sup> (the great *kusu*), of BEL-SIMEANI, before BIN-DIKIRI, of TABSAR-ISTAR, of TABNI, the Chief, who is possessor of the sum.

In the month of Ab, the 20th day, of the eponymy of MANNU-KI-ASSUR-LIH.<sup>4</sup>

## III.

## SALE OF A WOMAN,

BY HER FATHER AND HER BROTHERS, TO AN EGYPTIAN LADY,  
NAMED NITOCRIS,

IN ORDER TO MARRY HER TO HER SON SIHA.

*W. A. I.*, III., pl. 49, 3.

It will be noticed that there is a special clause concerning her possible heirs, as the woman had a first husband. This is a very curious tablet.

Seal of NABU-RIKHTI-USUR, son of AKHARDISE, the Hasean, who assists in his art ZIKAR-ISTAR, in the town of . . .<sup>2</sup>, seal of TEBETAI, his son, seal of SILIM-ASSUR, his son, the owners of the sold woman.

[Seals.]

The girl TAVAT-HASINA, daughter of NABU-RIKHTI-USUR.

And acquired her NIHTI-EQARRAU<sup>5</sup> for 16 drachmes of silver,<sup>6</sup> for the sake of SIHA,<sup>7</sup> for to marry her, she bought her. She will be the wife of SIHA.

The price was definitively fixed.

<sup>1</sup> The Jewish name Pekah.

<sup>2</sup> Lacunæ.

<sup>3</sup> Evidently a Jew; the name is found in the Bible.

<sup>4</sup> B.C. 709.

<sup>5</sup> Nitocris.

<sup>6</sup> £2 8s.

<sup>7</sup> Or, Tachos.



# END OF SAMPLE TEXT



The Complete Text can be found on our CD:  
**Primary Literary Sources For Ancient Literature**  
which can be purchased on our Website :  
[www.Brainfly.net](http://www.Brainfly.net)

or

by sending **\$64.95** in check or money order to :  
**Brainfly Inc.**  
**5100 Garfield Ave. #46**  
**Sacramento CA 95841-3839**

## **TEACHER'S DISCOUNT:**

If you are a **TEACHER** you can take advantage of our teacher's discount. Click on **Teachers Discount** on our website ([www.Brainfly.net](http://www.Brainfly.net)) or **Send us \$55.95** and we will send you a full copy of *Primary Literary Sources For Ancient Literature* **AND** our *5000 Classics CD (a collection of over 5000 classic works of literature in electronic format (.txt))* plus our *Wholesale price list*.

If you have any suggestions such as books you would like to see added to the collection or if you would like our wholesale prices list please send us an email to:

[webcomments@brainfly.net](mailto:webcomments@brainfly.net)