

THE ELEVENTH TABLET
OF
THE IZDUBAR LEGENDS.

The Chaldean Account of the Deluge.

BY GEORGE SMITH.

THE tablet describing the deluge is the eleventh in a series of twelve tablets describing the adventures of a hero whose name I provisionally call Izdubar, and whom I identify with the Nimrod of Genesis.

These tablets describe the early life and hunting exploits of the hero; his friendship with a faun or satyr named Heabani; his conquest of Humbaba, a tyrant who ruled over the country; the love of Ishtar or Venus for him; his illness; the death of Heabani; and the wanderings to Izdubar, to find his translated ancestor, Hasisadra or Xisuthrus, who for his piety was said to have been taken into the company of the gods.

Izdubar is supposed to reach Hasisadra, and asks him how he became immortal, in answer to which, in this tablet, Xisuthrus tells him the story of the flood.

The principal fragments of this story I found in the autumn of 1872, in the Museum collection of Cuneiform tablets.

Since my paper on the Deluge Tablets, read before the Society 3rd December, 1872, I have found several new fragments in the Museum Collection; and in my two journeys to the site of Nineveh I have procured about a dozen other fragments of these legends. This accession of new material enables me to supply many of the wanting portions of the legend, and to correct other portions where from the mutilation or obscurity of the text the translation was doubtful. This translation is extracted from the interlinear translation published in the *Transactions of the Society of Biblical Archæology*, Vol. III., p. 530.

NOTE.—The death of the learned author of this paper, at Aleppo, on the 19th of August, while these sheets were passing through the press, adds a melancholy interest to a text, the first of a series which he fondly hoped to have completed on his return.

TRANSLATION OF THE ELEVENTH TABLET
OF THE IZDUBAR SERIES.

COLUMN I.

- 1 IZDUBAR to him also said to HASISADRA the remote :
 2 I am burdened with the matter HASISADRA
 3 why thou repeatest not to me from thee
 4 and thou repeatest not to me from thee
 5 thy ceasing, my heart to make war.
 6 presses, of thee, I come up after thee
 7¹ how thou hast done and in the assembly of
 the gods alive thou art placed.
-
- 8 HASISADRA to him also said to IZDUBAR :
 9 be revealed to thee IZDUBAR the concealed story
 10 and the judgment of the gods relate to thee
 11 the city Surippak the city where thou standest
¹ placed
 12 that city is ancient . . .¹ the gods within it
 13¹ their servant the great gods
 14¹ the god ANU
 15¹ the god ELU
 16¹ the god NINIP
 17 and the god¹ Lord of Hades
 18 their will he revealed in the midst¹ and
 19 (I) his will was hearing and he spake (to me)
 20 SURIPPAKITE son of UBARATUTU
 21¹ make a ship after this¹
 22¹ I destroy the sinner and life¹
 23 cause to ascend in the seed of life all of it, to the
 midst of the ship
 24 the ship which thou shalt make

¹ Lacunæ.

- 25¹ cubits shall be the measure of its length, and
 26¹ cubits the amount of its breadth and its height.
 27¹ Into the deep launch it.
 28 I perceived and said to HEA my Lord :
 29 HEA my Lord this that thou commandest me
 30¹ I will perform, it shall be done.
 31 (I shall be derided by) young men and old men.
 32 HEA opened his mouth and spake, and said to me his
 servant,
 33¹ thou shalt say unto them,
 34¹ he has turned from me and
 35¹ fixed¹
 36¹ like caves¹
 37¹ above and below¹
 38¹ close the ship¹
 39¹ the flood which I will send to you
 40 enter and the door of the ship turn
 41 into the midst of it thy grain thy furniture and thy goods
 42 thy wealth, thy women-servants, thy female slaves and
 the young men,
 43 the beasts of the field, the animals of the field, all I
 will gather and
 44 I will send to thee and they shall be enclosed in thy
 door.

-
- 45 ADRAHASIS² his mouth opened and spake and¹
 46 said to HEA his Lord
 47 Any one the ship will not make¹
 48 . . .¹ on the earth fixed¹
 49¹ I may see also the ship¹
 50¹ on the ground the ship¹
 51 the ship making which thou commandest me¹
 52 which in¹

¹ Lacunæ.² The transposition is of the text in this line.

COLUMN II.

- 1 strong¹
 2 on the fifth day¹ it
 3 in its circuit fourteen measures¹ its frame
 4 fourteen measures it measured¹ over it
 5 I placed its roof, it¹ I enclosed it.
 6 I rode in it on the sixth time examined its exterior on
 the seventh time
 7 its interior I examined on the eighth time
 8 planks against the waters within it I placed
 9 I saw rents and the wanting parts I added
 10 three measures of bitumen I poured over the outside
 11 three measures of bitumen I poured over the inside
 12 three¹ men carrying its baskets they constructed
 boxes
 13 I gave the boxes which they had sacrificed an offer-
 ing
 14 two measures of boxes I had distributed to the boatmen
 15 to¹ were sacrificed oxen
 16¹ for every day
 17 in¹ wine in receptacles and wine
 18 (I collected) like the waters of a river, also
 19 (food) like the dust of the earth, also
 20 (I collected in) boxes with my hand I placed
 21¹ SHAMAS¹ material of the ship completed
 22¹ strong and
 23 the reed oars of the ship I caused to bring above and
 below.
 24¹ they went in two thirds of it
 25 all I possessed the strength of it, all I possessed the
 strength of it silver,

¹ Lacunæ.

- 26 all I possessed the strength of it gold,
 27 all I possessed the strength of it, the seed of life, the
 whole
 28 I caused to go up into the ship all my male servants
 and my female servants,
 29 the beast of the field, the animal of the field, the sons
 of the people all of them I caused to go up ;
 30 a flood SHAMAS made and
 31 he spake saying : In the night I will cause it to rain
 from heaven.
 32 Enter to the midst of the ship and shut thy door (*v.*
 the ship).
 33 A flood he raised and
 34 he spake saying in the night : I will cause it to rain¹
 from heaven heavily.
 35 In the day I celebrated his festival
 36 the day of watching fear I had.
 37 I entered to the midst of the ship and shut my door.
 38 To close the ship to BUZUR-SADIRABI the boatman
 39 the palace I gave with its goods.
 40 The raging of a storm in the morning
 41 arose, from the horizon of heaven extending and wide.
 42 VUL in the midst of it thundered, and
 43 NEBO and SARU went in front,
 44 the throne bearers went over mountains and plains,
 45 the destroyer NERGAL overturned,
 46 NINIP went in front and cast down,
 47 the spirits carried destruction,
 48 in their glory they swept the earth ;
 49 of VUL the flood reached to heaven.
 50 The bright earth to a waste was turned,

¹ Or "it will rain."

COLUMN III.

- 1 the surface of the earth like¹ it swept,
 2 it destroyed all life from the face of the earth¹
 3 the strong deluge over the people, reached to heaven.
 4 Brother saw not his brother, it did not spare the people.
 In heaven
 5 the gods feared the tempest and
 6 sought refuge ; they ascended to the heaven of ANU.
 7 The gods like dogs fixed in droves prostrate.
 8 Spake ISHTAR like a child,
 9 uttered the great goddess her speech :
 10 All to corruption are turned and
 11 then I in the presence of the gods prophesied evil.
 12 As I prophesied in the presence of the gods evil,
 13 to evil were devoted all my people and I prophesied
 14 I the mother have begotten my people and
 15 like the young of the fishes they fill the sea.
 16 The gods concerning the spirits were weeping with
 me (*v.* her,
 17 the gods in seats seated in lamentation,
 18 covered with their lips for the coming evil.
 19 Six days and nights
 20 passed, the wind, deluge, and storm, overwhelmed.
 21 On the seventh day in its course, was calmed the
 storm, and all the deluge
 22 which had destroyed like an earthquake,
 23 quieted. The sea he caused to dry, and the wind and
 deluge ended
 24 I perceived the sea making a tossing ;

¹ Lacunæ.

- 25 and the whole of mankind turned to corruption.
26 like reeds the corpses floated.
27 I opened the window, and the light broke over my face,
28 it passed. I sat down and wept,
29 over my face flowed my tears.
30 I perceived the shore at the boundary of the sea,
31 for twelve measures the land rose.
32 To the country of Nizir went the ship ;
33 the mountain of Nizir stopped the ship, and to pass
over it it was not able.
34 The first day, and the second day, the mountain of
Nizir the same.
35 The third day, and the fourth day, the mountain of
Nizir the same.
36 The fifth, and sixth, the mountain of Nizir the same.
37 On the seventh day in the course of it
38 I sent forth a dove and it left. The dove went and
turned, and
39 a resting-place it did not find, and it returned.
40 I sent forth a swallow and it left. The swallow went
and turned, and
41 a resting-place it did not find, and it returned.
42 I sent forth a raven and it left.
43 The raven went, and the corpses on the water it saw,
and
44 it did eat, it swam, and wandered away, and did not
return.
45 I sent the animals forth to the four winds, I poured out
a libation,
46 I built an altar on the peak of the mountain,
47 by seven jugs of wine I took
48 at the bottom of them I placed reeds, pines, and spices.
49 The gods collected at its burning, the gods collected at
its good burning ;

- 50 the gods like *sambe* over the sacrifice gathered.
51 From of old also the great god in his course
52 the great brightness of ANU had created. When the
glory¹
53 of those gods the charm round my neck would not
repel.

¹ Lacuna.

REVERSE—COLUMN IV.

- 1 in those days I desired that for ever I might not
leave them.
- 2 May the gods come to my altar,
3 may BEL not come to my altar,
4 for he did not consider and had made a deluge,
5 and my people he had consigned to the deep.
6 From of old also BEL in his course
7 saw the ship, and went BEL with anger filled to the
gods and spirits :
- 8 Let not anyone come out alive, let not a man be
saved from the deep.
- 9 NINIP his mouth opened, and spake and said to the
warrior BEL :
- 10 Who then will be saved? HEA the words under-
stood¹
- 11 and HEA knew all things.¹
- 12 HEA opened his mouth and spake and said to the
warrior BEL :
- 13 Thou Prince of the gods warrior,¹
- 14 when thou art angry a deluge thou makest ;
15 the doer of sin did his sin, the doer of evil did his
evil.
- 16 May the exalted not be broken, may the captive not
be delivered.
- 17 Instead of thee making a deluge, may lions increase
and men be reduced ;
18 instead of thee making a deluge, may leopards increase
and men be reduced ;

¹ Lacunæ.

- 19 instead of thee making a deluge, may famine happen
and the country be destroyed ;
- 20 instead of thee making a deluge, may pestilence
increase and men be destroyed.
- 21 I did not peer into the judgment of the gods.
- 22 ADRAHASIS a dream they sent, and the judgment of
the gods he heard.
- 23 When his judgment was accomplished, BEL went up
to the midst of the ship.
- 24 He took my hand and raised me up,
25 he caused to raise and to bring my wife to my side ;
26 he purified the country, he established a covenant and
took the people,
27 in the presence of HASISADRA and the people.
- 28 When HASISADRA and his wife, and the people, to be
like the gods were carried away,
29 then dwelt HASISADRA in a remote place at the mouth
of the rivers.
- 30 They took me and in a remote place at the mouth of
the rivers they seated me.
- 31 When to thee whom the gods have chosen also,
32 for the health which thou seekest and askest,
33 this do six days and seven nights,
34 like in a seat also in bonds bind him,
35 the way like a storm shall be laid upon him.
- 36 HASISADRA after this manner also said to his wife,
37 I announce that the chief who grasps at health
38 the way like a storm shall be laid upon him.
- 39 His wife after this manner also said to HASISADRA
afar off,
- 40 Purify him, and let the man be sent away ;
41 the road that he came may he return in peace,
42 the great gate open and may he return to his country,
43 HASISADRA after this manner also said to his wife :

- 44 The cry of a man alarms thee,
45 this do his *kurummat* place on his head.
46 And the day when he ascended the side of the ship,
47 she did, his *kurummat* she placed on his head.
48 And the day when he ascended the side of the ship,
49 first the *sabusat* of his *kurummat*,
50 second the *mussukat*, third the *radbat*, fourth she
opened his *zikaman*,
51 fifth the cloak she placed, sixth the *bassat*,

COLUMN V.

1 seventh in the opening she purified him and let the man go free.

2 IZDUBAR after this manner also said to HASISADRA afar off :

3 In this way thou was compassionate over me,

4 joyfully thou hast made me, and thou hast restored me.

5 HASISADRA after this manner also said to IZDUBAR,

6¹ thy *kurummat*,

7¹ separated thee,

8¹ thy *kurummat*,

9 second the *mussakat*, third the *radbat*,

10 fourth she opened the *zikaman*,

11 fifth the cloak she placed, sixth the *bassat*,

12 seventh in the opening I purified thee and let thee go free.

13 IZDUBAR after this manner also said to HASISADRA afar off :

14¹ HASISADRA to thee may we not come

15¹ collected

16¹ dwelling in death,

17¹ his back(?) dies also.

18 HASISADRA after this manner also said to URHAMSI the boatman :

19 URHAMSI¹ to thee we cross to preserve thee.

20 Who is beside the¹ of support ;

¹ Lacunæ.

- 21 The man whom thou comest before, disease has filled
his body ;
- 22 illness has destroyed the strength of his limbs.
- 23 Carry him URHAMSÍ, to cleanse take him,
- 24 his disease in the water to beauty may it turn,
- 25 may he cast off his illness, and the sea carry it away,
may health cover his skin,
- 26 may it restore the hair of his head,
- 27 hanging to cover the cloak of his body.
- 28 That he may go to his country, that he may take his
road,
- 29 the hanging cloak may he not cast off, but alone may
he leave.
- 30 URHAMSÍ carried him, to cleanse he took him,
- 31 his disease in the water to beauty turned,
- 32 he cast off his illness, and the sea carried it away, and
health covered his skin.
- 33 He restored the hair of his head, hanging down to
cover the cloak of his body.
- 34 That he might go to his country, that he might take
his road,
- 35 the hanging cloak he did not cast off, but alone he left.
- 36 IZDUBAR and URHAMSÍ rode in the ship,
- 37 where they placed them they rode.
- 38 His wife after this manner also said to HASISADRA
afar off :
- 39 IZDUBAR goes away, he is satisfied, he performs
- 40 that which thou hast given him, and returns to his
country.
- 41 And he carried away the breaches of IZDUBAR,
42 and the ship touched the shore.
- 43 HASISADRA after this manner also said to IZDUBAR :
- 44 IZDUBAR thou goest away, thou art satisfied, thou
performest

- 45 that which I have given thee, and thou returnest to thy
country.
46 Be revealed to thee IZDUBAR the concealed story ;
47 and the judgment of the gods be related to thee.
48 This account like bitumen¹
49 its renown like the sight of¹
50 when the account a hand shall take¹
51 IZDUBAR, this in his hearing heard, and¹
52 he collected great stones¹

¹ Lacunæ.

END OF SAMPLE TEXT



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