

FRAGMENT OF AN ASSYRIAN
PRAYER AFTER A BAD DREAM.

TRANSLATED BY
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THE following fragment of a prayer after a bad dream is here translated for the first time. It may serve as a specimen of the numerous Assyrian prayers which are to be found on the tablets now in the British Museum, as well as of the importance attached to dreams by the Assyrians. The tablet when complete seems to have been of considerable length: unfortunately only the fragment given below has been preserved, both beginning and end being lost. The text is lithographed in the *Cuneiform Inscriptions of Western Asia*,

Vol. IV., 66, 2. The reverse of the tablet is too far gone for translation. Certain indications make it probable that the inscription was translated from an Accadian original, although the Accadian text is not given. A bilingual Penitential Psalm included in the present volume will show that a literature of a deeply religious character was current among the primitive population of Chaldea. The prayers, however, alluded to above seem to be of purely Assyrian origin.



PRAYER AFTER A BAD DREAM.

OBVERSE.

- 1 May god my prayer set at rest¹
 2 may my Lord a return of favour (grant).
 3 During the day direct towards death the things that distract (me).
 4 O my goddess be gracious unto me; at some time or other (hear my) prayer.
 5 May they pardon my sin, my wickedness (and) my transgression.²
 6 May the deity pardon; may they be kind towards (my entreaty).
 7 My groaning may the seven winds carry away.
 8 May the worm lay (it) low: may the bird to heaven cause (it) to ascend;
 9 may a shoal of fish carry (it) away, may the river bear (it) along;
 10 may the creeping thing of the desert be present unto me. Or: may the flowing waters of the river drench me.³
 11 Enlighten me also like an image of gold.
 12 Food (and) drink on the waters of thy destruction may I get,
 13 (though it be) heaps of worms (and) the burying⁴ of life.
 Or: the enclosure of thine altar (and) thy homage may I support.³

¹ Lacuna.² Literally "opposition," from the same root as *Satan*.³ These are alternative sentences, either of which might be recited by the worshipper.⁴ Or "enclosing."

- 14 With the worm make me to pass, and may I be forgiven by thee.
- 15 Cause me to be fed, and let a favourable dream come.
- 16 May the dream I dreamed be favourable. Or: may the dream I dreamed be confirmed.¹
- 17 The dream I dreamed to happiness turn.
- 18 May MAKHIR² the god of dreams on my head settle.
- 19 Cause me also to enter into Bit-Saggal the temple of the gods, the temple of NIN,
- 20 unto MERODACH the mediator,³ unto prosperity, unto the hands of his mighty prospering.
- 21 May thy entering be exalted; may thy divinity be glorious;
- 22 may the men of my city make beautiful thy warlike deeds.

[Lacuna.]

¹ These are alternative sentences, either of which might be recited by the worshipper.

² Makhir is elsewhere called "the daughter of the Sun," her two brothers being Cittu and 'Sisik. Cittu or Cit was the name of the Sun-god among the Cassites. Makhir may also be read Ma'sar.

³ Literally "he that shows favour."



END OF SAMPLE TEXT



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