

AN

ASSYRIAN FRAGMENT ON GEOGRAPHY.

TRANSLATED BY

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THE following fragment gives a curious list of the various countries known to the Assyrians, with their chief products, and in some cases their geographical position. Several of these geographical lists remain, but they are in too fragmentary a condition to be worth translation. They chiefly date from the period of Assurbanipal, B.C. 680, but are of considerably older origin, and appear to have been compiled for the purposes of the royal exchequer. The text is given in the *Cuneiform Inscriptions of Western Asia*, Vol.

II., 51, I, and is an amendment of the translation made by M. Oppert in the *Transactions* of the First Oriental Congress, p. 224-226.



ASSYRIAN FRAGMENT ON GEOGRAPHY.

OBVERSE.

- 1 (The country of¹) let it be explained as the country of BEL. The country of *Kharsak kurra* as the (country of²)
- 2 The country of Gazzir as the country of the Air-god. The country of Khuduk¹
- 3 The country of Amanus as the country of cedars. The country of Khabur² as (the country of¹)
- 4 The country of Khasur as the country of cedars. The country of 'Sirara as (the country of¹)
- 5 The country of Lebanon as the country of cypresses. The country of Arur as (the country of¹)
- 6 The country of Atsildu as the country of cypresses. The country of Dillik as (the country of¹)
- 7 The country of *Lambar* as the country of pines. The country of Dabar as the country of pines.
- 8 The country of Sargon as the country of books.³ The country of Sessek as the country of *allanu*.
- 9 The country of Bibbu as the country of *allanu*. The country of Apaksi, as the country of clothes.

¹ Lacunæ.

² Probably the district round the Habor or Chaboras.

³ Literally, "tablets." The country referred to is the district round Aganè in Babylonia, where Sargon I. established his famous library (B.C. 2000-1700). Compare also Kirjath-Sepher, "the book city," Jos. xv. 15, 16; Jud. i. 11, 12.

- 10 The country of Khana as the country of clothes. The country of Zarsu as the country of silver.
- 11 The country of Aralu¹ as the country of gold. The country of Kappakši as the country of gold.
- 12 The country of . . .² arkhā as the country of lead.³ The country of Barsesenu as the country of lead.
- 13 The country of . . .² gabā as the country of the stone *gabsia*. The country of Dapara⁴ as the country of alabaster.
- 14 The country of Nirkab as the country of bird's stone. The country of Accala as the country of the stone . . .²
- 15 The country of Malicanu as the country of the serpent's sting stone.⁵ The country of Dulupes as the country of marble.⁶
- 16 The country of Dudpes as the country of marble. The country of Dikmanu as the country of marble.
- 17 The country of Milukhkha⁷ as the country of turquoise.⁸ The country of Māganna⁹ as the country of copper.
- 18 The country of Tila as the country of *ships*. The country of Saggis as the country of *ships*.

¹ This was the Accadian name of Hades. So in Greek mythology Pluton, the god of wealth, became a name of Hades, gold and other wealth being hidden under ground.

² Lacunæ.

³ Or, "tin."

⁴ That is, of the Bull-god.

⁵ M. Oppert thinks this means a stone which was considered an antidote to snake's poison.

⁶ *Parru*. Compare the land of *Parvaim*, 2 Chr. iii. 6.

⁷ Usually identified with Meroe, but it may be Libya, or south-western Arabia.

⁸ Or, "lapis lazuli." Literally, "blue stone."

⁹ The Sinaitic Peninsula.

- 19 The country of Enti as the country of *treasures*. The country of Khikhi as the country of Phœnicia.
- 20 The country of Lakhi as the country of Phœnicia. The country of Temenna¹ as the country of Elam.
- 21 The country of Nisir as the country of Gutium.² The country of Mamanu as the country of Syria.
- 22 The country of Kharsamna as the country of horses. The country of 'Sikurragas as the country of Lulubi.³
- 23 The country of Ciniparpura as the country of Lulubi.⁴ The country of Saggat as the country of cornelians.⁵
- 24 The country of Cipni as the country of *palm branches*.⁶

- 25 The river Tigris let one explain as the bringer of fertility.
- 26 The river Euphrates as the life of the world.
- 27 The river Arakhtu⁷ as (the river) which flows into Babylon.
- 28 The river of the waters of Bel as the minister of Merodach.
- 29 The river of Arbela as the mother of rivers.
- 30 The river of (Za)ban as the minister of ADAR.
- 31 The river of the mighty waters as giving life to the enclosure of life.

¹ *Temenna* or *Tömönü* means "foundation-stone" in Accadian.

² It was on the mountain of Nizir that the ark rested. Gutium (the Goyim of Gen. xiv. 1, 9) extended from Mesopotamia to Media, and included the district which afterwards became Assyria. The mention of Gutium here seems to show that this list goes back to Accadian times.

³ Perhaps the district north of Mesopotamia known as Lulumu or Lullume to the Assyrians.

⁴ In *Cuneiform Inscriptions of Western Asia*, Vol. I., 20, 34. Assurnatsir-pal states that the inhabitants of the country call Nizir "Lullu Cinipa," and Lullu is termed "a city of Arakdi" or "Arrakdi" on the Black Obelisk, line 40.

⁵ Literally, "necklace stones."

⁶ *Cupani*.

⁷ Araxes.

- 32 The river Eulæus (*Ulā*) (is) the water which carries its sand to the sea.
- 33 The river of the Fish (is) the river of fish. The river of the Bird (is) the river of birds.
- 34 The river of the Serpent (is) the river of serpents. The river of the lady of Nisinna¹ (is) the river of the goddess GULA.
- 35² The river of Fertility is the river of fertility.

¹ Nisin, also called Karrak, was a city of Babylonia.

² Lacuna.



END OF SAMPLE TEXT



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