

THE SECOND
INSCRIPTION OF ESARHADDON.

TRANSLATED BY

H. F. TALBOT, F.R.S., ETC.

THIS Inscription written on a hexagonal prism of baked clay, was found near Niniveh on the mound of Nebbi Yunus (*prophet Fonali*). It is now in the British Museum. It was first published by Layard, *Inscriptions* pl. 20-28, and next by Rawlinson, *Inscriptions* Vol. I. pl. 45-47. I have translated it several times,¹ introducing gradual improvements as

¹ First, in *Assyrian Texts Translated*, London, 1856; then in the *Journal of Sacred Literature* vol. 9 p. 68 (April 1859); and finally in the *Transactions* of the Royal Society of Literature, vol. 7, p. 551.

the meaning of words became better known; and I have again revised it for the present work.

This second Inscription is the one which I have denoted by the letter B in the preceding pages.



THE INSCRIPTION.

COLUMN I.

- 1 (ESARHADDON¹ King of Sumir) and Accad,
 2 (son of SENNACHERIB King of) Assyria,
 3 (son of SARGON) King of Assyria,
 4 (who in the name of ASSUR, BEL,) the MOON, the SUN,
 5 NEBO, MARDUK, ISHTAR of Niniveh,
 6 and ISHTAR of Arbela, the great gods his lords
 7 from the rising of the sun to the setting of the sun
 8 marched victorious without a rival.
-
- 9 Conqueror of the city Sidon, which is on the sea,
 10 sweeper away of all its villages,
 11 its citadel and residence I rooted up,
 12 and into the sea I flung them.
 13 Its place of *justice* I destroyed.
 14 ABDIMILKUTTI its king
 15 who away from my arms
 16 into the middle of the sea had fled
 17 like a fish from out of the sea
 18 I caught him, and I cut off his head.
 19 His treasure, his goods, gold and silver and precious
 stones
 20 skins of *elephants*, teeth of *elephants*, *dan* wood, *ku*
 wood,
 21 cloths, died purple and yellow, of every description
 22 and the regalia of his palace
 23 I carried off as my spoil.
 24 Men and women without number

¹ The words placed within parentheses in the first four lines are broken off, but the restoration may be considered almost certain.

25 oxen and sheep and mules
 26 I swept them all off to Assyria.
 27 I assembled the Kings of Syria
 28 and the sea coast, all of them.¹
 29 (The city of Sidon)² I built anew,
 30 and I called it "The City of ESARHADDON."
 31 Men, captured by my arms, natives of the lands
 32 and seas of the East
 33 within it I placed to dwell
 34 and I set my own officers in authority over them.

35 And SANDUARRI
 36 King of Kundi and Sitzu
 37 an enemy and heretic, not honouring my majesty
 38 who had abandoned the worship of the gods
 39 trusted to his rocky stronghold
 40 and ABDIMILKUTTI King of Sidon
 41 took for his ally.
 42 The names of the great gods side by side he wrote³
 43 and to their power he trusted ;
 44 but I trusted to ASHUR my Lord.
 45 Like a bird, from out of the mountains
 46 I took him, and I cut off his head.
 47 I wrought the judgment of ASHUR my Lord
 48 on the men who were criminals.
 49 The heads of SANDUARRI
 50 and ABDIMILKUTTI
 51 by the side of those of their Chiefs I hung up :
 52 and with captives young and old ; male and female,
 53 to the gate of Niniveh I marched.

¹ They were summoned to do homage to him and then apparently dismissed again.

² These words are broken off.

³ As a Talisman which he probably wore about his person written on a slip of parchment.

COLUMN II.

The first lines are broken off: it appears that the King had taken some prisoners, to whom he was resolved to show no mercy.

- 1 I collected them :
 2 to Assyria I carried them off :
 3 and in front of the great entrance gate of Niniveh
 4 along with *bears*, dogs, and
 5 I left them to stay for ever.

-
- 6 And TIUSPA the Cimmerian
 7 a roving warrior, whose own country was remote
 8 in the province of Khubusna
 9 him and all his army I destroyed with the sword.

-
- 10 Trampler on the heads of the men of Khilakki
 11 and Duhuka, who dwell in the mountains,
 12 which front the land of Tabal,
 13 who trusted to their mountains
 14 and from days of old never submitted to my yoke :
 15 twenty-one of their strong cities
 16 and smaller towns in their neighbourhood
 17 I attacked captured and carried off their spoil
 18 I ruined destroyed and burnt them with fire.
 19 The rest of the men, who crimes
 20 and *murders* had not committed
 21 I only placed the yoke of my empire heavily upon
 them.

-
- 22 Crusher of the people of Barnaki, enemies and heretics
 23 who dwell in Telassar¹

¹ Telassar is mentioned in 2 Kings xix. 12 and Isaiah xxxvii, 12 as a city inhabited by the children of Eden, conquered by the Assyrians in the time of Sennacherib, or perhaps earlier.

24 which, in the language of the people,
 25 Mikhran Pitan¹
 26 its name is called.

27 Destroyer of the people of Manna
 28 who worship not *the host of heaven* :
 29 and the army of ISPAKAYA
 30 King of Ashguza, their ally who could not save himself
 31 I slew with the sword.

32 Conqueror of NEBO-ZIR-ZISIDI² son of MERODACH
 BALADAN

33 who trusted to the King of Elam
 34 but did not thereby save his life.
 35 NAHIT-MARDUK³ his brother
 36 I summoned to do homage to me.
 37 From out of Elam he fled,
 38 to Niniveh my royal city
 39 he came and kissed my feet.
 40 The province of the sea coast, the whole of it,
 41 the inheritance of his brother, I gave to him.

42 Spoiler of the city of Beth-Dakkurri
 43 which is in Chaldaea, but in enmity with Babylon ;
 44 burner of SHEMS-IBNI⁴ its king
 45 a man sinister and tyrannical, who worshipped not the
 name of the Lord of lords :⁵
 46 who the lands of the children of Babylon

¹ The name *Pitan* is also capable of being pronounced Atan or Adan which has some resemblance to "Eden" in the Biblical passage.

² The name may mean, "Nebo grant a happy life!"

³ *Nahit* is the name of a goddess, otherwise Anahit: the Anaitis of Greek authors.

⁴ This name signifies "The Sun created me."

⁵ The god Marduk.

47 and Borsippa¹ had taken possession of.
 48 Then I the worship of BEL and NEBO within
 49 those lands restored,
 50 and to the children of Babylon and Borsippa
 51 I gave them back.
 52 NEBO-SHALLIM son of BALAZU
 53 I placed on his throne
 54 and he became my servant.

55 The city of Edom, the stronghold of the Arabians
 56 which SENNACHERIB King of Assyria
 57 my father had conquered

(The rest of this column is broken off.)

COLUMN III.

The first three lines are very much broken. A king whose name is lost, but who was probably Hazael, comes to make his submission to Esarhaddon.

4 with great presents
 5 to Niniveh my royal city
 6 he came and kissed my feet :
 7 then, holding forth his gods, he addressed me with
 supplications :
 8 I had pity on him :
 9 those gods, I repaired their injuries,
 10 the *emblem* of ASHUR my lord
 11 and the writing of my own name I caused to be written
 upon them
 12 and I restored them to him again.
 13 TABUA, a young woman brought up in my palace
 14 I appointed to be their Queen,

¹ Probably some outlying districts claimed by Babylon and Borsippa.

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

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) 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