THE OVERTHROW
OF
SODOM AND GOMORRAH.
(ACCADIAN ACCOUNT.)

TRANSLATED BY
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THE following Accadian poem describes a rain of
fire similar in character and effect to that which
destroyed the cities of the plain. It seems merely a
fragment of a legend, in which the names of the
cities were probably given, and an explanation
afforded of the mysterious personage mentioned in
line 17, who, like Lot, appears to have escaped
destruction. It must not be forgotten that the
campaign of Chedorlaomer and his allies was directed
against Sodom and the other cities of the plain, so
that the existence of the legend among the Accadians
is not so surprising as might appear at first sight. The original Accadian text is given in the tablet as well as the Assyrian translation. Unfortunately only one half of the tablet is perfect. A copy of it will be found in the *Cuneiform Inscriptions of Western Asia*, Vol. IV., 19, I Obv.
THE

OVERTHROW OF SODOM AND GOMORRAH.

1 An overthrow \(^1\) from the midst of the deep\(^2\) there came.
2 The fated punishment\(^3\) from the midst of heaven descended.
3 A storm like a plummet the earth (overwhelmed).
4 To the four winds the destroying flood like fire did burn.
5 The inhabitants of the citie(s) it had caused to be tormented; their bodies it consumed.
6 In city and country it spread death, and the flames as they rose \(^4\) overthrew.
7 Freeman and slave were equal, and the high places it filled.
8 In heaven and earth like a thunder-storm it had rained; a prey it made.
9 A place of refuge the gods \(^5\) hastened to, and in a throng collected.
10 Its mighty (onset) they fled from, and like a garment it concealed (mankind).
11 They (feared), and death (overtook them).
12 (Their) feet and hands (it embraced).

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\(^1\) Literally, "sinking down," or "darkness" (Aram. יָכַד).
\(^2\) Not the sea, but "the waters which were above the firmament."
\(^3\) Assyrian, "the oath" (mamitu).
\(^4\) Literally, "the goings forth of the flames."
\(^5\) Assyrian, "their god."
Their body it consumed.
the city, its foundations it defiled.
in breath, his mouth he filled.
As for this man, a loud voice was raised; the mighty lightning flash descended.
During the day it flashed; grievously (it fell).

\[\text{\textsuperscript{2}} \text{ Lacunæ.} \quad \text{\textsuperscript{3}} \text{ That is, "the thunder."}\]
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