

The Phoenician Inscription of Eshmunazar

1. Text

1. BYRḤ BL BŠNT 'SR W'RB' 14 LMLKY MLK 'ŠMN'ZR
MLK ṢDNM

2. BN MLK TBNT MLK ṢDNM DBR MLK 'ŠMN'ZR
MLK ṢDNM L'MR NGZLT

3. BL 'TY BN MSK YMM 'ZRM YTM BN 'LMT WŠKB
'NK BH9LT Z WBQBR Z

4. BMQM 'Š BNT QNMY 'T KL MMLKT WKL 'DM 'L
YPTH 'YT MŠKB Z W

5. 'L YBQŠ BN MNM K 'Y ŠM BN MNM W'L YŠ' 'YT
ḤLT MŠKBY W'L Y'M

6. SN BMŠKB Z 'LT MŠKB ŠNY 'P 'M 'DMM YDBRNK
'L TŠM' BDNM KKL MMLKT W

7. KL 'DM 'Š YPTH 'LT MŠKB Z 'M 'Š YŠ' 'YT ḤLT
MŠKBY 'M 'Š Y'MSN BM

8. ŠKB Z 'L YKN LM MŠKB 'T RP'M W'L YQBR BQBR
W'L YKN LM BN WZR'

9. TḤTNM WYSGRNM H'LNLM HQDŠM 'T MMLK<T>
'DR 'Š MŠL BNM LQ

10. ṢTNM 'YT MMLKT 'M 'DM H' 'Š YPTH 'LT MŠKB
Z 'M 'Š YŠ' 'YT

11. ḤLT Z W'YT ZR' MML<K>T H' 'M 'DMM HMT 'L
YKN LM ŠRŠ LMT W

12. PR LM'L WT'R BḤYM TḤT ŠMŠ K 'NK NḤN
NGZLT BL 'TY BN MS

13. K YMM 'ZRM YTM BN 'LMT 'NK K 'NK 'ŠMN'ZR
MLK ṢDNM BN

14. MLK TBNT MLK ṢDNM BN BN MLK 'ŠMN'ZR

MLK ŠDNM W'MY 'M'ŠTRT

15. KHNT 'ŠTRT RBTN HMLKT BT MLK 'ŠMN'ZR

MLK S[DNM 'M BNN 'YT BT

16. 'LNM 'YT [BT 'ŠTR]T BŠDN 'RŠ YM WYŠR'N 'YT

'ŠTRT ŠMM 'DRM W'NH9N

17. 'Š BNN BT L'ŠMN [Š]R QDŠ 'N YDLL BHR

WYŠBNY ŠMM 'DRM W'NH9N 'Š BNN BTM

18. L'LN ŠDNM BŠDN 'RŠ YM BT LB'L ŠDN WBT

L'ŠTRT ŠM B'L W'D YTN LN 'DN MLKM

19. 'YT D'R WYPY 'RŠT DGN H'DRT 'Š BŠD ŠRN

LMDT 'ŠMT 'Š P'LT WYSPNNM

20. 'LT GBL 'RŠ LKNNM LŠDNM L'L[M] QNMY 'T KL

MMLKT WKL 'DM 'L YPTH9 'LTY

21. W'L Y'R 'LTY W'L Y'MSN BMŠKB Z W'L YŠ' 'YT

HLT MŠKBY LM YSGRNM

22. 'LNM HQDŠM 'L WYQŠN HMMLKT H' WH'DMM

HMT WZR'M L'LM

2. Translation

1. In the month of Bul, in the fourteenth year of the reign of king Eshmunazar, king of the Sidonians, 2. son of king Tabnit, king of the Sidonians, king Eshmunazar, king of the Sidonians, said as follows: I was carried away 3. before my time, son of a limited number of short days (or: son of a limited number of days I was cut off), an orphan, the son of a widow, and I am lying in this coffin and in this tomb, 4. in a place which I have built. Whoever you are, king or (ordinary) man, may he (*sic!*) not open this resting-place 5. and may he not search in it after anything because nothing whatsoever has been placed into it. And may he not move the coffin of my resting-place, nor carry me 6. away

from this resting-place to another resting-place. Also if men talk to you do not listen to their chatter. For every king and **7.** every (ordinary) man, who will open what is above this resting-place, or will lift up the coffin of my resting-place, or will carry me away from **8.** this resting-place, may they not have a resting-place with the Rephaïm, may they not be buried in a tomb, and may they not have a son or offspring **9.** after them. And may the sacred gods deliver them to a mighty king who will rule them in order **10.** to exterminate them, the king or this (ordinary) man who will open what is over this resting-place or will lift up **11.** this coffin, and (also) the offspring of this king or of those (ordinary) men. They shall not have root below or **12.** fruit above or appearance in the life under the sun. For I who deserve mercy, I was carried away before my time, son of a limited **13.** number of short days (or: son of a limited number of days I was cut off), I an orphan, the son of a widow. For I, Eshmunazar, king of the Sidonians, son of **14.** king Tabnit, king of the Sidonians, grandson of king Eshmunazar, king of the Sidonians, and my mother Amo[t]astart, **15.** priestess of Ashtart, our lady, the queen, daughter of king Eshmunazar, king of the Sidonians, (it is we) who have built the temples **16.** of the gods, [the temple of Ashtar]t in Sidon, the land of the sea. And we have placed Ashtart (in) the mighty heavens (or: in Shamem-Addirim?). And it is we **17.** who have built a temple for Eshmun, the prince of the sanctuary of the source of Ydll in the mountains, and we have placed him (in) the mighty heavens (or: in Shamem-Addirim?). And it is we who have built temples **18.** for the gods of the Sidonians in Sidon, the land of the sea, a temple for Baal of Sidon, and a temple for Ashtart, the Name of Baal. Moreover, the lord of kings gave us **19.** Dor and Joppa, the mighty lands of Dagon, which are in the Plain of Sharon, as a

reward for the brilliant action I did. And we have annexed them
20. to the boundary of the land, so that they would belong to the
Sidonians for ever. Whoever you are, king or (ordinary) man, do
not open what is above me **21.** and do not uncover what is above
me and do not carry me away from this resting-place and do not
lift up the coffin of my resting-place. Otherwise, **22.** the sacred
gods will deliver them and cut off this king and those (ordinary)
men and their offspring for ever.