Inscriptions on Statues

Statue A

Gudea fashions a statue of himself, standing, and dedicates it to Ninḫursanga. From Girsu.

COMMENTARY

AO 8, "Petite statue debout." Statue of dark green diorite, standing, with clasped hands; head missing. Inscription on right shoulder (caption) and on upper front part of garment. Height 124 cm, width (between shoulders) 46 cm.

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TEXT

Caption
1) gù-dé-a
2) énsi-
3) lagaš.KI
4) lú é-ninnu-
5) ^{d}nin-ĝír-su-ka
6) in-dù-a

l–6) Gudea, ruler of Lagaš, who built the Eninnu of Ningirsu.

Col. i
1) nin-ḫur-saĝ
2) nin iri-da mú-a
3) ama-dumu-dumu-ne
4) nin-a-ni

i 1–4) For Ninḫursanga, the lady who has grown in one with the City, mother of all the children, his lady,

5) gù-dé-a
6) énsi-
7) lagaš.KI-ke$_4$
8) é-iri-gír-su.KI-ka-ni
9) mu-na-dù

i 5–9) Gudea, ruler of Lagaš, built her House of the City of Girsu.

Col. ii
1) dub-šen(REC 429)-kù-ga-ni
2) mu-na-dím
3) GIŠ.dúr-gar-maḫ-nam-nin-ka-ni
4) mu-na-dím
5) é-maḫ-ni-a mu-na-ni-ku$_4$(REC 145)
6) kur má-gan.KI-ta

ii 1–5) He made for her her shining treasure box(?), he made for her her lofty seat befitting (her) as a queen, and he had them brought to her into her Huge House.

ii 6) From the mountain of Magan

Col. iii
1) NA$_4$.esi im-ta-e$_{11}$
2) alan-na-ni-šè
3) mu-tu
4) nin an-ki-a nam-tar-re-dè
5) ^{d}nin-tu
6) ama-diĝir-re-ne-ke$_4$
7) gù-dé-a

iii 1–3) he brought down diorite, and he fashioned it into a statue of himself.

iii 4–7) "The lady who makes firm decisions for heaven and earth, Nintu, mother of the gods, let Gudea,

Col. iv
1) lú-é-dù-a-ka
2) nam-ti-la-ni mu-sù
3) mu-šè mu-na-sa$_4$
4) é-a mu-na-ni-ku$_4$(REC 145)

iv 1–4) who built the House, have a long life" — (this is how) he named (the statue) for her sake, and he brought it to her into (her) house.

Statue B

Gudea fashions a statue of himself, seated, in the guise of an architect, and dedicates it to Ningirsu. From Girsu.

COMMENTARY

AO 2, "Architecte au plan." Statue of dark green diorite, sitting on a seat, hands clasped; on the lap a board with ground plan, measuring scales, and stylus; head missing. Inscription covers whole statue except the arms, shoulders, chest, feet, and socle. Height 93 cm.

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StA iii 2 Here and elsewhere it is not certain, and cannot be decided on spelling alone, whether alan-na-ni is to be analysed as alan-ani "his statue" or as alan-na-(a)ni "his stone statue."

StA iii 4 The idea conveyed the compound verb nam tar is traditionally taken to be "to decide (someone's) fate," "to determine (someone's) destiny." Our alternative interpretation is principally due to doubts whether Sumerian thought and religion already were familiar with a predecessor of Greek *moira*; it is, more specifically, based on a passage in "Inanna's Descent to the Nether World" (line 262) where Ereškigal addresses Enki's two comical creatures and where only "to make a firm promise" or "to grant a wish" makes sense.

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THE ROYAL INSCRIPTIONS OF MESOPOTAMIA

EARLY PERIODS / VOLUME 3/1

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Inv. N° 1758 - EDZ
Buono N° 62
16 . 6 . 2005

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO PRESS

Toronto Buffalo London

1997