

THE INSTRUCTIONS OF SHURUPPAK

Unknown



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AN IMPORTANT PIECE OF SUMERIAN WISDOM LITERATURE

ANONYMOUS

**PUBLISHED: 3000 BC
TRANSLATOR: OXFORD UNIVERSITY**



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SYMBOLGY USED IN THIS DOCUMENT

BOLD TEXT = Transliteration

Regular text = Translation

SYMBOLGY USED IN LOST SEQUENCES

..... = Lost text

(?) = The text could not be translated

(Text in parentheses) = Lost text: The missing text could be completed with the most likely option.

[Text in brackets] = Lost text: The missing text has been completed with an alternative option to facilitate understanding.

THE INSTRUCTIONS OF SHURUPPAK

[UD] RE-A UD SU3-RA2 RE-A
/JI6\ RE-A JI6 BA9-RA2 RE-A
[MU] RE-A MU SU3-RA2 RE-A
UD-BA JECTUG2 TUKU INIM GALAM INIM ZU-A KALAM-MA TIL3-LA-
A
CURUPPAGKI JECTUG2 TUKU INIM GALAM INIM ZU-A KALAM-MA
TIL3-LA-A
CURUPPAGKI-E DUMU-NI-RA NA NA-MU-UN-RI-RI
CURUPPAGKI DUMU UBARA-TU-TU-KE4
ZI-UD-SU3-RA2 DUMU-NI-RA NA NA-MU-UN-RI-RI
DUMU-JU10 NA GA-RI NA-RI-JU10 HE2-DAB5
ZI-UD-SU3-RA2 INIM GA-RA-AB-/DUG4\ JIZZAL HE2-EM-CI-AK
NA-RIG5-GA-JU10 CU NAM-BI2-BAR-RE
INIM DUG4-GA-JU10 NA-AB-TA-BAL-E-DE3
NA-RI AB-BA NIJ2-KAL-LA-AM3 GU2-ZU HE2-EM-CI-JAL2

In those days, in those far remote days, in those nights, in those faraway nights, in those years, in those far remote years, at that time the wise one who knew how to speak in elaborate words lived in the Land; Curuppag, the wise one, who knew how to speak with elaborate words lived in the Land. Curuppag gave instructions to his son; Curuppag, the son of Ubara-Tutu gave instructions to his son Zi-ud-sura: My son, let me give you instructions: you should pay attention! Zi-ud-sura, let me speak a word to you: you should pay attention! Do not neglect my instructions! Do not transgress the words I speak! The instructions of an old man are precious; you should comply with them!

DUR3UR3 GU3-DI NA-AB-SA10-SA10 MURUB4-ZU CA-RA-AB-SI-IL

You should not buy a donkey which brays; it will split (?) your midriff (?).

**GAN2 KASKAL-[LA] NAM-BI2-IB2-JA2-JA2 NAM-SILIG GU2 JA2-AM3
A-CAG4 (1 MS. ADDS: KASKAL) KA-JIRI3-KA NAM-BA-E-UR11-RU ZI
BULUG-GA-AM3**

**GAN2-ZU-AM3 PU2 NA-AN-NI-DU3-E-EN UJ3-E CA-RI-IB-HUL-HUL
E2 SILA DAJAL NAM-BI2-IB-LA2-E KEC2-DA JAL2-LA-AM3**

You should not locate a field on a road; You should not plough a field at (a road or) a path; You should not make a well in your field: people will cause damage on it for you. You should not place your house next to a public square: there is always a crowd (?) there.

**CU-DU8-A NU-E-TUM3 LU2-BI CA-BA-E-DAB5-BE2
ZA-E CU-DU8-A NAM-MU-E-AK-[(E)] (/LU2\ SAJ BI2-IB2-SAL-LA-E-A)**

You should not vouch for someone: that man will have a hold on you; and you yourself, you should not let somebody vouch for you (that man will despise (?) you).

LU2-RA IGI-DU8 NA-AN-AK-E URU2-BI CA-RI-/IB\ -SU-SU

You should not make an inspection (?) on a man: the flood (?) will give it back (?) to you.

KI DU14-DA-KA NAM-BI2-DU-X-DE3
 DU14-DE3 LU2 KI-INIM-MA NAM-BA-E-KU4-KU4
 DU14-DE3 NI2-ZU NAM-/BA\-[...]
 DU14 /NAM-AK\-DE3-EN X [...]
 [X (X)] KA2 E2-GAL-LA X-AM3 BA-RA-SIG9-/GA\
 DU14-DE3 BAR-BAR-TA GUB-GUB-[BA] IN-NU-UC SILA KUR2-RA
 /NAM-MA\-NI-IB-<DU>

You should not loiter about where there is a quarrel; you should not let the quarrel make you a witness. You should not let (?) yourself in a quarrel. You should not cause a quarrel; the gate of the palace Stand aside from a quarrel, you should not take (?) another road.

NIJ2 NAM-MU-ZUH-/ZUH\ NI2-ZU NAM-MU-BAD-E
 E2 NA-A-AN-NI-BUR3-E-EN MI-SI-IC-RA AL NAM-ME
 NI2-ZU /PIRIJ NA-NAM\ UL-DAB5 SAJ NA-NAM
 DUMU-JU10 SA-GAZ NAM-MU-U3-AK-E NI2-ZU TUN3-AM3 NAM-BI2-
 IB-BAR-/RE\-E

You should not steal anything; you should not yourself. You should not break into a house; you should not wish for the money chest (?). A thief is a lion, but after he has been caught, he will be a slave. My son, you should not commit robbery; you should not cut yourself with an axe.

NITAH NIJIR-SI NA-AN-AK NI2-ZU NA-AN-X-X
 KI-SIKIL DAM TUKU-/DA\ E-/NE\ NAM-MU-UN-NE?-E INIM SIG-GA
 /MAH\-[AM3]

**DUMU-[JU10] DAGGAN-NA LU2 DAM /TUKU-DA\ DUR2 NAM-/BI2\ -E-
JA2-JA2**

You should not make a young man best man. You should not yourself. You should not play around with a married young woman: the slander could be serious. My son, you should not sit alone in a chamber with a married woman.

**DU14 NAM-[MU2]-/MU2\ -DE3 NI2-ZU NA-AN-[PE]-EL-LA2
LUL /NAM\ -GUR5-GUR5 SAJ GU2 /SAL-SAL\ -LA
KA NAM-TAR-TAR-RE-/E\ -EN INIM-ZU JAR-RA-AM3
/AD\? NAM-GI4-GI4 IGI DUGUD NU-MU-UN-DA-IL2**

You should not pick a quarrel; you should not disgrace yourself. You should not lies; You should not boast; then your words will be trusted. You should not deliberate for too long (?); you cannot bear glances.

**LU2-DA (LU2-/ZUH\ -A) NINDA ZUH-A NAM-MU-DA-GU7-E
CU-ZU UC2-AM3 NA-DI-NI-IB-SU-SU
JIRI3 UR5-RE GUD CA-BA-RI-IB-SU-SU UDU CA-BA-RI-IB-SU-SU**

You should not eat stolen food with anyone (a thief). You should not sink (?) your hand into blood. After you have apportioned the bones, you will be made to restore the ox, you will be made to restore the sheep.

**U3 NU-JAR-RA NA-AB-BE2-/E\
EJER-BI-CE3 JIC-PAR3-GIN7 CI-ME-CI-IB2-LA2-E**

You should not speak improperly; later it will lay a trap for you.

**U2 NU-KIJ2-JA2-CE3 UDU-ZU /SAG2\ NAM-ME
UC NU-SIG10-GA-CE3 GUD LU2 NA-HUJ-E
UC SIG10-GA KASKAL SIG10-GA-AM3**

You should not scatter your sheep into unknown pastures. You should not hire someone's ox for an uncertain A safe means a safe journey.

KASKAL JI6 NA-AN-DU CAG4-BI SAG9 HUL-A

You should not travel during the night: it can hide both good and evil.

ANCE-EDIN-NA NA-AB-SA10-/SA10\ UD-DA-BI-EC <...>-E-ZAL

You should not buy an onager: it lasts (?) only until the end of the day.

GEME2-ZU-UR2 JIC3 NA-AN-DU3 ZU-UR2 CU-/MU\ -RI-IN-SA4

You should not have sex with your slave girl: she will chew you up (?).

AC2 A2 ZIG3 NA-AB-BAL-E CU-UC /IM\ -CI-NINNI2

You should not curse strongly: it rebounds on you.

**A CU NU-GID2-I (NU-DU8) NA-AN-ED3-DE3 A2 SIG CU-MU-/E\ -RA-
JAL2
MAH-BI NIJ2-GID2-I (X) BA-AN-CUB-BE2 NIJ2-E /BA?\-[AN]-CUB-
BE2**

You should not draw up water which you cannot reach (grasp): it will make you weak.

UR5 TUKU NA-AN-BAD-E LU2-BI CA-BA-E-X-X-KUR2

You should not drive away a debtor: he will be hostile towards you.

**SUN7-NA-DA E2 NA-AN-DA-JA2-JA2-/AN\
GI4-IN-CE3 DU-DE3 CI-ME-CI-IB-CUB-CUB
KI-TUC (E2) (IRI) (IRI-TUC) LU2-KA NA-AB-TA-BAL-E-DE3
CI-DU-UN CI-DU-UN CI-ME-CI-IB2-BE2-E-NE**

You should not establish a home with an arrogant man: he will make your life like that of a slave girl. You will not be able to travel through any human dwelling without being shouted at: "There you go! There you go!"

**GI-SIG-GA JICKIRI6-KA DA-GA NAM-BI2-DU8-E-EN
SUG6-GA-AB SUG6-GA-AB CI-ME-CI-IB2-BE2-NE**

You should not undo the of the garden's reed fence; "Restore it! Restore it!" they will say to you.

UR NAM-MU-UN-GU7-EN DU14 NAM-UR3-UR3-RE-EN

You should not provide a stranger (?) with food; you should not wipe out (?) a quarrel.

**DUMU-JU10 NAM-SILIG NAM-MU-AK-EN LU2 KI NAM-US2-E-EN
DUMU LU2-RA JIC3 A2 ZIG3 NA-AN-NE-EN KISAL-E BI2-ZU-ZU**

My son, you should not use violence (?); You should not commit rape on someone's daughter; the courtyard will learn of it.

**A2 TUKU (USU TUKU) NA-AN-BAD-E-EN BAD3 CUL-HI NA-AN-GUL-E-
EN
JURUC NA-AN-BAD-E-EN IRI-CE3 NA-AN-GUR-RE-/EN**

You should not drive away a powerful (strong) man; you should not destroy the outer wall. You should not drive away a young man; you should not make him turn against the city.

**LU2 INIM SIG-GA-KE4 (1EME SIG-GA-KE4) IGI JICBAL-GIN7 CI-SIR5-
SIR5
IGI-A NAM-BA-E-GUB-GUB-BU-DE3-EN CAG4-GE NA-MU-UN-KUR2-
KUR2**

The eyes of the slanderer always move around as shiftily as a spindle. You should never remain in his presence; his intentions (?) should not be allowed to have an effect (?) on you.

**LU2 LUL-LA-GIN7 E2 KAC-KA (E2 LUNGA-KA) KA NAM-TAR-TAR-RE
(INIM-ZU JAR-RA-[AM3])**

You should not boast in beer halls (breweries) like a deceitful man:
(then your words will be trusted.)

**KI NAM-NITAH-KA UM-ME-TEJ3 CU NA-AN-GUD-GUD-DE3
UR-SAJ DILI NA-NAM DILI-NI LU2 CAR2-RA-AM3
DUTU DILI NA-NAM DILI-NI LU2 CAR2-RA-AM3
UR-SAJ-DA GUB-BU-/DE3\ ZI-ZU HE2-EN-DA-JAL2
DUTU-DA /GUB\ -BU-DE3 ZI-ZU /HE2-EN\ -DA-JAL2**

Having reached the field of manhood, you should not jump (?) with
your hand. The warrior is unique, he alone is the equal of many; Utu
is unique, he alone is the equal of many. With your life you should
always be on the side of the warrior; with your life you should always
be on the side of Utu.

**CURUPPAGKI-E DUMU-NI-RA NA-CE3 MU-UN-NI-IN-RI
CURUPPAGKI DUMU UBARA-TU-TU-[KE4]
ZI-UD-SU3-RA2 DUMU-NI-RA NA-CE3 MU-UN-NI-IN-RI**

Curuppag gave these instructions to his son. Curuppag, the son of
Ubara-Tutu, gave these instructions to his son Zi-ud-sura.

**2-KAM-MA-CE3 CURUPPAGKI-E DUMU-NI-RA NA NA-MU-UN-RI-RI
/CURUPPAG\KI DUMU UBARA-TU-TU-KE4
ZI-UD-SU3-RA2 DUMU-NI-RA NA NA-MU-[UN-RI-RI]
DUMU-JU10 NA /GA\ -RI NA-RI-JU10 HE2-/DAB5\
ZI-UD-SU3-RA2 INIM [GA]-/RA\ -AB-DUG4 /JIZZAL\ HE2-EM-CI-AK**

**NA-RIG5-GA-JU10 CU [NAM]-BI2-BAR-RE-EN
INIM DUG4-GA-JA2 [NA]-/AB-TA\BAL-E-/DE3\EN
(NA-RI AB-/BA\ [NIJ2-KAL-LA-AM3 GU2-ZU HE2-EM-CI-JAL2])**

A second time, Curuppag gave instructions to his son. Curuppag, the son of Ubara-Tutu gave instructions to his son Zi-ud-sura: My son, let me give you instructions: you should pay attention! Zi-ud-sura, let me speak a word to you: you should pay attention! Do not neglect my instructions! Do not transgress the words I speak! (The instructions of an old man are precious; you should comply with them!)

**KA KAC NAJ-A [...] X-KAM
LU2-TUR-JU10 [...] LU2 X [...]
KA KAC /NAJ\-[A ...] X
DNIN-KA-/SI\ [...]
[...] /KA\ X UR3 /HE2\-[X] IM
[...] -UR3-UR3-RE
[...] X A MU-/UN\ -NI-IB2-[IL2]-IL2
[...] X IM-SAR-RE
KA X SAJ IM-TA-AB-GUR4-GUR4-RE**

The beer-drinking mouth My little one The beer-drinking mouth Ninkasi

**LU2 NI2-ZA-KE4 NU-E-CI-SU-SU
JIC-GI MAC2 U2 NA-NAM CAG4-BI INIM SIG-GA-AM3**

Your own man will not repay (?) it for you. The reed-beds are, they can hide (?) slander.

**E2-GAL ID2 MAH-AM3 CAG4-BI GUD DU7-DU7-DAM
NIJ2-KU4-KU4 NIJ2 SA2 NU-DI-DAM
NIJ2-ED2 NIJ2 NU-SILIG-GE-DAM**

The palace is like a mighty river: its middle is goring bulls; what flows in is never enough to fill it, and what flows out can never be stopped.

**NINDA LU2-KA GA-RA-AB-CUM2-BI KU-NU-A
CUM2-MU-DA-BI AN BA9-RA2-AM3
GA-RA-AB-CUM2-BI LU2-RA GA-NI-IN-US2
NU-RA-AB-CUM2-MU NINDA IGI-BI-CE3 TIL-LA-AM3**

When it is about someone's else bread, it is easy to say "I will give it to you", but the time of actual giving can be as far away as the sky. If you go after the man who said "I will give it to you", he will say "I cannot give it to you -- the bread has just been finished up".

**NIJ2-U2-RUM NIJ2 A2 SIG10-GA-A-DA
LU2-TUR-JU10 NIJ2 NU-MU-UN-DA-SA2**

Property is something to be expanded (?); but nothing can equal my little ones.

**KA SAG9-SAG9-GE INIM I3-CID-E
KA DU3-DU3-E KICIB I3-IL2-IL2
KA LAL3-E U2 LAL3 E-BU-RE**

The artistic mouth recites words; the harsh mouth brings litigation documents; the sweet mouth gathers sweet herbs.

**KA TUKU (LUL) KUCLU-UB2-A-NI SA2 IM-DUG4
GAL-GAL DI KUCLU-UB2 SUG4-GA CA-MU-UN-DE6
SILIM DUG4 KA SUG4-GA CA-BA-NI-IB-JAR**

The garrulous (liar) fills (?) his bread bag; the haughty one brings an empty bag and can fill his empty mouth only with boasting.

KUC DU3-DU3-E KUC-NI CE3-BA-E-DU3-E

Who works with leather will eventually (?) work with his own leather.

USU TUKU CU LU2-TA CA-BA-RA-AN-TUM3

The strong one can escape (?) from anyone's hand.

**LU2-LIL-E NIJ2 U2-GU I3-IB-DE2-E
/U3\?-SA2 LU2-LIL-E NIJ2 U2-GU I3-DE2-E
NA-AN-KEC2-KEC2-RE-DE3 GIRI17 CU AM3-MI-IN-JAL2
GA-TIL3-LA GIRI17 CU AM3-MI-IN-JAL2**

The fool loses something. When sleeping, the fool loses something. "Do not tie me up!" he pleads; "Let me live!" he pleads.

**SAJ-DU NU-TUKU NAM CI-IB-TAR-RE
TEC2 NU-TUKU LU2 UR2-CE3 MU-UN-DE2-E
JE26-E NA-NAM U6-E BA-GUB**

The imprudent decrees fates; the shameless one piles up (?) things in another's lap: "I am such that I deserve admiration".

DAM /DIM3\ -E /NAM?\ TAR-RE BA-DAB5-DAB5

A weak wife is always seized (?) by fate.

**LU2 HUJ-JA2-ZU [KUC]LU-UB2 CI-ME-DA-BA-E
KUCLU-UB2 CI-MA-DA-GU7-E
KUCLU-UB2 /CI\-[ME]-/DA\ -TIL-E
JA2-LA CI-/ME\ -DA-DAG-GE
GA-BA-RA-GU7 E2-GAL-LA BA-GUB**

If you hire a worker, he will share the bread bag with you; he eats with you from the same bag, and finishes up the bag with you. Then he will quit working with you and, saying "I have to live on something", he will serve at the palace.

**DUMU-NITAH-ZU E2-ZU-CE3 IM-ME
DUMU-MUNUS-ZU AMA5-NI-CE3 IM-ME**

You tell your son to come to your home; you tell your daughter to go to her women's quarters.

KAC NAJ-A-ZU-NE DI NA-AN-NE-E

You should not pass judgment when you drink beer.

E2-TA ED2 CAG4-ZU NA-AN-GU7-E

You should not worry unduly about what leaves the house.

**AN SU3-UD-DAM KI KAL-KAL-LA-AM3
AN-DA NIJ2 IM-DA-LU-LU-UN
KUR-KUR-RE ZI CI-IM-DA-PA-AN-PA**

Heaven is far, earth is most precious, but it is with heaven that you multiply your goods, and all foreign lands breathe under it.

**UD BURU14-CE3 UD KAL-KAL-LA-CE3
GEME2-GIN7 RIG5-GA-AB EGI-GIN7 GU7-A
DUMU-JU10 GEME2-GIN7 RI EGI-GIN7 GU7-A UR5 HE2-EN-NA-NAM-
MA-AM3**

At harvest time, at the most priceless time, collect like a slave girl, eat like a queen; my son, to collect like a slave girl, to eat like a queen, this is how it should be.

**AC2 DUG4-DUG4-GE BAR CI-IN-DAR
IGI TUM3 LA2 SAJ JIC IM-RA-RA
GU3 MUR-RE LU2 LUL-E TUG2 CI-BIR7-BIR7-E
AC2 DI NIJ2-ERIM2-E NA RI CE3-IL2-IL2
INIM DIRIG U3-BU-BU-UL-LA-AM3 U2 LIPIC GIG-GA-AM3
MU DAR-DAR-DA GA-MU-E-DA-ZALAG-GE
INIM CUD3-DE3-JU10 HE2-JAL2-LA-AM3
A-RA-ZU A CED4-DA CAG4-GE IM-CED4-E
AC2 DI? NA-JA2-AH DI-DA JIZZAL KALAM-MA-KE4**

Who insults can hurt only the skin; greedy eyes (?), however, can kill. The liar, shouting, tears up his garments. Insults bring (?) advice to the wicked. To speak arrogantly is like an abscess: a herb that makes the stomach sick.

My words of prayer bring abundance. Prayer is cool water that cools the heart. Only (?) insults and stupid speaking receive the attention of the Land.

**CURUPPAGKI-E DUMU-NI-RA NA-CE³ MU-NI-IN-RI
CURUPPAGKI DUMU UBARA-TU-TU-KE⁴
ZI-UD-SU³-RA² DUMU-NI-RA NA-CE MU-NI-IN-RI**

Curuppag gave these instructions to his son. Curuppag, the son of Ubara-Tutu, gave these instructions to his son Zi-ud-sura.

**3-KAM-MA-CE³ CURUPPAGKI DUMU-NI-RA NA NA-MU-UN-RI-[RI]
[CURUPPAGKI DUMU] [UBARA]-TU-TU-KE⁴
[ZI-UD-SU³]-RA NA CE³-MU-NI-IN-RI
DUMU-JU¹⁰ NA GA-RI NA-RI-JU¹⁰ HE²-DAB⁵
ZI-UD-SU³-RA² INIM GA-RA-AB-DUG⁴ JIZZAL HE²-EM-CI-AK
NA-RI-GA-JU¹⁰ NAM-BI²-BAR-RE
INIM DUG⁴-GA-MU NA-AB-TA-BAL-E-DE³
(NA-RI AB-BA NIJ² KAL-LA-AM³ /GU²\-ZU HE²-EM-CI-AK)**

A third time, Curuppag gave instructions to his son. Curuppag, the son of Ubara-Tutu gave instructions to his son Zi-ud-sura: My son, let me give you instructions: you should pay attention! Zi-ud-sura, let me speak a word to you: you should pay attention! Do not neglect my instructions! Do not transgress the words I speak! (The instructions of an old man are precious; you should comply with them!)

**DUMU ENGAR-RA-RA NIJ2 NAM-MU-RA-RA-AN EG2 PA5-ZU CE3-EM-
RA**

You should not beat a farmer's son: he has constructed (?) your embankments and ditches.

**[KAR]-/KE4\ NA-AN-SA10-SA10-AN KA UD-SAR-RA-KAM
AMA-A-TUD NA-AN-SA10-SA10-AN U2 LIPIC GIG-GA-AM3
DUMU-GIR15 NA-AN-SA10-SA10-AN ZAG E2-JAR8-E US2-SA-AM3
GEME2 E2-GAL-LA NA-AN-SA10-SA10-AN JIRI3 DUR2-BI-CE3 (E2)
JAL2-JAL2-LA-AM3
SAJ KUR-RA KUR-BI-TA UM-TA-A-ED3
LU2 KI NU-ZU-A-NI-TA U3-MU-E-DE6
DUMU-JU10 KI DUTU ED2-A-AC
A HU-MU-RA-AN-DE2-E IGI-ZU-CE3 HE2-DU
E2 NU-TUKU E2-A-NI-CE3 LA-BA-DU
IRI NU-TUKU IRI-NI-CE3 LA-BA-DU
(JICIG X [... CU] /LA?\-BA-AN-DA-US2-SA X [X X]-/CE3\ LA-BA-AN-
DA-KU4-KU4)
LA-BA-E-DA-HI-LI-E LA-BA-E-DA-SUN7-E**

You should not buy a prostitute: she is a mouth that bites. You should not buy a house-born slave: he is a herb that makes the stomach sick. You should not buy a free man: he will always lean against the wall. You should not buy a palace slave girl: she will always be the bottom of the barrel (?). You should rather bring down a foreign slave from the mountains, or you should bring somebody from a place where he is an alien; my son, then he will pour water for you where the sun rises and he will walk before you. He does not belong to any family, so he does not want to go to his family; he does not belong to any city, so he does not want to go to his city. (He cannot knock at the door of, he cannot enter) He will not with you, he will not be presumptuous with you.

**DUMU-JU10 KI DUTU ED2-A-AC
DILI-ZU-NE KASKAL NA-AN-NI-DU-UN
LU2-ZU-A-ZU SAJ CU UD BA-/RA\ -AK-KE4**

My son, you should not travel alone eastwards. Your acquaintance should not

**MU MU-A SIG10-GA SAJ-DU LU2-U3-RA IM-MA?-X-E
KUR-RA KUR NA-AN-NA-DUB-BE2**

A name placed on another one; you should not pile up a mountain on another one.

**NAM-TAR PEC10 DUR5-RA-AM3
LU2-DA JIRI3-NI IM-MA-DA-AN-ZE2-ER**

Fate is a wet bank; it can make one slip.

**CEC GAL A-A NA-NAM NIN9 GAL AMA NA-NAM
CEC GAL-ZU-UR2 JIZZAL HE2-EM-CI!-AK
NIN9 GAL AMA-ZU-GIN7 GU2 HE2-EM-CI-JAL2**

The elder brother is indeed like a father; the elder sister is indeed like a mother. Listen therefore to your elder brother, and you should be obedient to your elder sister as if she were your mother.

**ZA-E IGI-ZU-TA KIJ2 NA-AN-AK-[E]
KA-ZU-TA NIJ2-NAM NU-LU-LU-UN**

You should not work using only your eyes; you will not multiply your possessions using only your mouth.

JA2-LA DAG-GE E2 DUR2-BI-CE3 MU-UN-JEN

The negligent one ruins (?) his family.

**NINDA-E LU2 KUR-RA BI2-IN-ED3-DE3
LU2-LUL LU2 BAR-RA BI2-IN-TUM2-MU
NINDA-E LU2 KUR-TA IM-MA-DA-RA-AN-ED3-DE3**

The need for food makes some people ascend the mountains; it also brings traitors and foreigners, since the need for food brings down other people from the mountains.

**URU2 TUR-RE LUGAL-BI-IR AMAR CI-IN-GA-AN-U3-TUD
URU2 MAH-E E2-DU3-A CI-HUR-RE**

A small city provides (?) its king with a calf; a huge city digs (?) a house plot (?).

**[...] X-KE4 A2 CU IM-DU7-DU7
LU2 NIJ2 TUKU LU2 NIJ2 NU-TUKU GIG CE3-EM-JAR
LU2 DAM TUKU A2 CU IM-DU7-DU7
DAM NU-UN-TUKU CE-ER-TAB-BA MU-UN-NU2
E2 GUL-GUL-LU-DE3 E2 CA-BA-DA-AN-GUL-E**

LU2 ZI-ZI-I-DE3 LU2 CA-BA-DA-AN-ZI-ZI-I

..... is well equipped. The poor man inflicts all kinds of illnesses on the rich man. The married man is well equipped; the unmarried makes his bed in a haystack (?). He who wishes to destroy a house will go ahead and destroy the house; he who wishes to raise up will go ahead and raise up.

**GUD MAH-A GU2-BI LU2 A-BA-AN-DAB5
LU2 ID2-/DA\ BA-RA-AN-BAL-E
LU2 GU-LA IRI-ZA-KA ZAG-BA U3-BA-E-ZAL-TA
DUMU-JU10 ZA-A UR5-RE HE2-EM-ME-RE-A-ED3-DE3**

By grasping the neck of a huge ox, you can cross the river. By moving along (?) at the side of the mighty men of your city, my son, you will certainly ascend (?).

**GEME2-/ZU\ HUR?-SAJ-TA CI-IM-TA-AN-TUM3 SAG9 CI-IM-TA-AN-
DE6
HUL CI-IN-GA-AM3-TA-AN-TUM3
SAG9-GA CU-AM3 HUL CAG4 AN-GA-AM3
SAG9-GA CAG4-GE CU NU-BAR-RE
HUL CAG4-GE CU NU-DI-NI-BAR-RE
SAG9-GA KI DUR5-RU-AM3 CAG4-GE NU-DA13-DA13
HUL E2 NIJ2-GUR11-RA UR5-E LA-BA-AN-GU7-E
(MU-UN-SAG9 MU-[UN]-/SAG9\ KA-NI MU-[UN]-/TAG\-[TAG])
HUL-DA ID2-DA MA2? HE2-EN-DA-SU
AN-EDIN-NA KUCUMMU3 HE2-EN-DA-DAR**

When you bring a slave girl from the hills, she brings both good and evil with her. The good is in the hands; the evil is in the heart. The heart does not let go of the good; but the heart cannot let go of

the evil either. As if it were a watery place, the heart does not abandon the good. Evil is a store-room

May the boat with the evil sink in the river! May his waterskin split in the desert!

**CAG4 KI AJ2 NIJ2 E2 DU3-DU3-U3-DAM
CAG4 HUL GIG NIJ2 E2 GUL-GUL-LU-DAM**

A loving heart maintains a family; a hateful heart destroys a family.

**NIR-JAL2-E NIJ2 TUKU GABA-JAL2 ME NAM-NUN-NA
NIR-JAL2-RA GU2 HE2-EN-NE-NI-JAL2
A2 TUKU NI2-ZU HE2-EN-NE-CI-LA2
DUMU-JU10 LU2 HUL-JAL2-RA HE2-EN-NE-CI-JAL2-LE**

To have authority, to have possessions and to be steadfast are princely divine powers. You should submit to the respected; you should be humble before the powerful. My son, you will then survive (?) against the wicked.

**EZEM-MA-KA DAM NA-AN-DU12-DU12-E
CAG4-GA HUJ-JA2-AM3 BAR-RA HUJ-JA2-AM3
KUG HUJ-JA2-AM3 ZA-GIN3 HUJ-JA2-AM3 ([...]-/AM3\ ZA HUJ-JA2-AM3 ZA HUJ-JA2-AM3)
TUG2? HUJ-JA2-AM3 GADA? HUJ-JA2-AM3
[... NU]-MU-UN-DA-SA2**

You should not choose a wife during a festival. Her inside is illusory (?); her outside is illusory (?). The silver on her is borrowed; the lapis lazuli on her is borrowed (.....; the jewellery on her is borrowed, the jewellery on her is borrowed). The dress on her is

borrowed; the linen garment on her is borrowed. With nothing (?) is comparable.

**GUD [... NA]-/AN\ -NI-SA10-SA10
GUD /LUL-LA\ NA-/SA10\ -SA10 E2-TUR3 BUR3 X X [...]**

You should not buy a bull. You should not buy a vicious bull;
..... a hole (?) in the cattle-pen

MUNUS ZID E2 ZID-CE3 LU2 CI-/IN\ -[JAR]

One appoints (?) a reliable woman for a good household.

**UD BURU14-KA ANCE NA-AN-SA10-SA10
ANCE LA GU7 ANCE-DA IM-[...]**

You should not buy a donkey at the time of harvest. A donkey
which eats will with another donkey.

**ANCE LUL-LA GU2-TAR IM-LA2
DUMU-JU10 LU2-LUL-E ZAG-SI MU-UN-SAG9-SAG9**

A vicious donkey hangs its neck; however, a vicious man, my son,
.....

MUNUS BAR-CU-JAL2-E E2 DUR2-BI-CE3 MU-UN-JEN

A woman with her own property ruins the house.

KACKURUN2 NAJ-NAJ-E BURU14 IM-SU-SU-SU

A drunkard will drown the harvest.

**MUNUS CU-HA JICKUN5 LU2 MIN-E DA NU-DI
E2-A NUM-GIN7 MI-NI-IB-DAL-DAL-EN
EME3 SILA-A INIM I3-CID-E
MUNUS.CAH SILA-A DUMU-NI-RA GA MU-NI-IB-GU7-E
MUNUS KIR4-HUR AK CEG11 GI4-GI4-DAM
JICBAL HUR-RA CU-NA NA-MU-UN-JAL2
E2-E2-A I-IN-KU4-KU4-KU4
E-SIR2-E-SIR2-RA GU2 MU-UN-GI-GI-DE3
DA UR3-RA IM-ME IM-ME ED2-AB
BAD5-SI BAD3-SI-A IGI MU-CI-X-IL2-IL2?-E
KI DU14-DE3 JAL2-LA-CE3 ZI IM-X-PA?-/PA\-[AN]-E?
KI MU X /CUB\ -BA A2-ZA [X X] X IM-[X]
ZI X GI4 EC MU-UN-NE?-PAD3 IM-MI-NI-DUG4 (KA IRI [...])**

A female burglar (?) ladder; she flies into the houses like a fly.
A she-donkey on the street. A sow suckles its child on the street.
A woman who pricked herself begins to cry and holds the spindle
which pricked (?) her in her hand. She enters every house; she
peers into all streets. she keeps saying "Get out!" She looks
around (?) from all parapets. She pants (?) where there is a quarrel.

**[X X]-KE4 ERASURE CAG4 HUL-GIG /DU12\-/DU12\ (1BAR-SUD [...])
/DUMU-JU10\ [(X)(X)(X)] LUM-LAMX(LUM) MI-NI-IB-ZA
[...] A X X IN TAR (1 MS. HAS INSTEAD: /KI?\ [...]) (KI-A NAJ-E [...])
[...] X X [...] TUM3**

**[...] NU2
[...] DU
CAG4 HUL2-LA I-IM-DIRIG-/GE\ [...]**

Marry (?) whose heart hates (?). My son,
A heart which overflows with joy

**NIJ2-NAM NU-KAL ZI KU7-KU7-DA
NIJ2 NAM-KAL-KAL-EN NIJ2-E ME-KAL-KAL
DUMU-JU10 GUN3-GUN3-GIN7 IGI GUN3-GUN3**

Nothing at all is to be valued, but life should be sweet. You should not serve things; things should serve you. My son,

DACNAN-RA NA-AN-KEC2-KEC2-RE-DE3-EN JICA2-BI I3-CAR2

You should not grain; its are numerous.

**KIR11-E AC2 NAM-EN DUMU-MUNUS IN-U3-TU-UN
JICMI-SI-IC-A LAG NAM-BI2-CUB-BE2-EN DUMU-NITAH IN-U3-TU-UN**

You should not abuse a ewe; otherwise you will give birth to a daughter. You should not throw a lump of earth into the money chest (?); otherwise you will give birth to a son.

**DAM NAM-MU-UN-KAR-RE-EN GU3 KA NA-AN-JA2-JA2
KI DAM KAR-RE NAM-SILIG GUM-JA2-AM3**

You should not abduct a wife; you should not make her cry (?).
The place where the wife is abducted to

**A JIRI3 A GU2 NIGIN2-NA GA-AM3-ME-RE7-DE3-EN
LU2 GU-LA A2 DIC-E GA-NA-GAM-ME-EN-DE3**

"Let us run in circles (?), saying: "Oh, my foot, oh, my neck!". Let
us with united forces (?) make the mighty bow!"

**GALAM-MA NA-AN-UG5-GE-EN DUMU IN-SUG4-GE TUD-DA
EN-RA BAD-A-GIN7 DNANNA-UG5-GE-EN CU NA-AN-DU3-DU3-EN**

You should not kill a, he is a child born by You should not
kill like; you should not bind him.

EMEDA GA LA2 AMA5-A-KE4 LUGAL-BI-IR NAM CI-IM-MI-IB-TAR-RE

The wet-nurses in the women's quarters determine the fate of their
lord.

**AMA-ZU-UR2 INIM DIRIG NAM-BA-NA-AB-BE2-EN HUL CA-BA-RA-
GIG-GA-AM3
INIM AMA-ZA INIM DIJIR-ZA KA-CE3 NAM-BI2-IB-DIB2-BE2-EN
AMA DUTU-/AM3\ LU2 MU-UN-U3-TUD
AB-BA DIJIR-RA-/AM3\ [(X)] MU-UN-DADAG-GE
AB-BA DIJIR-AM3 /INIM\-MA-NI ZID-DA
NA-RI AB-BA-CE3 JIZZAL HE2-EM-CI-IA-AK**

You should not speak arrogantly to your mother; that causes hatred for you. You should not question the words of your mother and your personal god. The mother, like Utu, gives birth to the man; the father, like a god, makes him bright (?). The father is like a god: his words are reliable. The instructions of the father should be complied with.

E2 IRI BAR-RA-KE4 IRI CAG4-GA CI-DU3-DU3-E

Without suburbs a city has no centre either.

**DUMU-JU10 GAN2 EG2 DUR2-BI-CE3 JAL2-LA
AL-DURU5 KUR6-RA-AM3 AL-HAD2 KUR6-RA-AM3**

My son, a field situated at the bottom of the embankments, be it wet or dry, is nevertheless a source of income.

NIJ2 U2-GU DE2-A NIJ2-ME-JAR-RA

It is inconceivable (?) that something is lost forever.

URUD?GIJ4 DILMUNKI-NA SAM2-CE3 TE-GA

..... of Dilmun

**UR NU-ZU HUL-AM3 LU2 NU-/ZU\ [HUC-AM3]
(KI NU-/ZU\ HUC-AM3 UR NU-ZU TEC2-AM3)**

**KASKAL NU-ZU GABA KUR-RA-KA
DIJIR KUR-RA LU2 GU7-GU7-U3-ME-EC
E2 LU2-GIN7 NU-DU3 IRI LU2-GIN7 NU-DU3
KI-ZU-A LU2-KA LU2 CA-BA-RA-AN-ED2-DE3
SIPAD-/RA\ KIJ2-KIJ2 MU-NA-TIL UDU GI4-GI4 [MU-NA-TIL]**

To get lost is bad for a dog; but terrible for a man (An unknown place is terrible; to get lost is shameful (?) for a dog). On the unfamiliar way at the edge of the mountains, the gods of the mountains are man-eaters. They do not build houses there as men do; they do not build cities there as men do.

**/ENGAR\ -RA A-CAG4 UR11-RU MU-NA-TIL
[...] X GI4 MU-/NA\ -KU-/EN?\
([...] LA [...] U2 RIG5-/GE\ [...])**

For the shepherd, he stopped searching, he stopped bringing back the sheep. For the farmer (?), he stopped ploughing the field.

**KADRA INIM-MA-BI NIJ2 CAG4 TE-NA /MU?\ -[...]
E2-/GAL\ -[LA] /KUR9\ -RA-BI NIJ2 CAG4 TE-NA [...]
/KADRA\ INIM-INIM-MA /MUL\ [...]**

This gift of words is something which soothes the mind; when it enters the palace, it soothes the mind The gift of many words stars.

NA-RI CURUPPAGKI DUMU UBARA-TU-TU-KE4 NA RIG5-GA

These are the instructions given by Curuppag, the son of Ubara-Tutu.

**CURUPPAGKI DUMU UBARA-TU-TU-KE4 NA RIG5-GA
NIN DUB GAL-GAL-LA CU DU7-A
KI-SIKIL DNISABA ZA3-MI2**

Praise be to the lady who completed the great tablets, the maiden Nisaba, that Curuppag, the son of Ubara-Tutu gave his instructions!



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