

The Kudurru Fragment VA 213*

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The purpose of this brief note is an edition of the *kudurru* fragment VA 213, hitherto unedited.¹ It was found in Nippur and assigned to the period of the Second Dynasty of Isin.² The fragment is the upper part of a black boundary stone having the following dimensions: length 33 cm, width 38 cm, and thickness 20 cm. Thus only a few divine symbols and 11 lines of the inscription still remain. The latter, however, deserves some attention for in the first column the description of the field, the object of the grant, is included. As usual, the different sides are determined with reference to the adjoining properties. Moreover, the exact length of each side is added, which is rarely the case.³ The preserved lines of the second column are a part of the curses upon anyone who would damage the *kudurru*. The actual curse formulae and invocations to deities are missing.

TRANSLITERATION

Col. i

- 1) 1 UŠ 20 NINDA 5 NINDA *pūtu*(SAG.KI) *elītu*(AN.TA) *amurru*(IM.MAR.TU)
- 2) *teḥ*(DA) *bīt*(É) ^d*sîn*(30)-*ašarēd*(SAG.KAL) 1 UŠ 40 NINDA *pūtu*(SAG.KI) *šaplītu*(KI.TA)
- 3) *šadū*(IM.KUR.RA) *teḥ*(DA) *bīt*(É) ^{md}*sîn*(30)-*ašarēd*(SAG.KAL) 5 UŠ 10 NINDA
- 4) *šiddu*(UŠ) *elū*(AN.TA) *iltānu*(IM.SI.SA) *teḥ*(DA) *bīt*(É) ^{md}*sîn*(30)-*ašarēd*(SAG.KAL)
- 5) 3[†] + 2 or 3[†] UŠ 10 NINDA *šiddu*(UŠ) *šaplū*(KI.TA) *šūtu*(IM.U₁₉.LU) [†]*teḥ*(DA) [†]*bīt*(É)

* The photograph is published by the kind permission of Dr. L. Jakob-Rost, Director of the Vorderasiatisches Museum, Berlin.

¹ The text is published in copy in *VS* I 58 and *BE* I/2 150.

² Cf. F.X. Steinmetzer, *Die babylonischen Kudurru (Grenzsteine) als Urkundenform*, Paderborn, 1922, p. 80. Cf., however, *CAD* s.v. *akālu* 9f, where the text is labelled as Neo-Babylonian.

³ Cf. especially the following instances, all dating from the period of the Second Dynasty of Isin: *BBS*. 30 Obv. 8-9 (Itti-Marduk-balātu); Hinke, *Kudurru* 24 ii 32 - iii 6 (Nebucodonosor I); 1 R 70 i 5-12 (Marduk-nādin-aḥḥe); *BBS*. 26 Obv. 1-10 (Adad-apla-iddina). Earlier, we have: MDP 6, 39 i 1-7 (Marduk-apla-iddina I), and later: *VS* I 37 iii 42 - iv 1, iv 5-17, iv 22-30 (Marduk-apla-iddina II); *BBS*. 20 1-4, 21 ii 18, and possibly 22 i 4-15 (Neo-Babylonian).

6) [...] AN [†]TA DÙ[†] [...]

Lacuna

Col ii

- 1) *uš-pe-lu₄* *mi-iš-ra in-nu-ú ku-dur-ra*
- 2) *ú-na-ka-ru a-na nāri*(I₇) *i-na-du-ú*
- 3) *ú-pa-sa-su i-na epēri*(SAḪAR) *i-te-[me-ru]*
- 4) *išāta*(I₂₁) *ú-ša-ka-lu a-šar la a-ma-[a-ri]*
- 5) *ša-nam-ma ú-ša-ḫa[†]-[zu ...]*

Lacuna

TRANSLATION

Col i

- 1) 1 UŠ 25 NINDA, the upper short side towards the west
 - 2) adjoining Bīt-Sîn-ašarēd; 1 UŠ 40 NINDA, the lower short side
 - 3) towards the east, adjoining Bīt-Sîn-ašarēd; 5 UŠ 10 NINDA,
 - 4) the upper long side towards the north, adjoining Bīt-Sîn-ašarēd;
 - 5) 3 (+ 2 or 3) UŠ 10 NINDA, the lower long side towards the south, adjoining Bīt-
 - 6) ...
- Lacuna

Col ii

- 1) shall change, the boundary shall alter, the boundary stone
- 2) shall change, shall cast (it) into the river,
- 3) shall destroy (it), in the dust shall hide (it),
- 4) shall allow fire to destroy (it), into a place where it cannot be seen (shall set it)
- 5) or shall incite someone to ...

Lacuna

COMMENTARY

i 4) The field in question appears to be surrounded, at least by three sides, by the district of Bīt-Sîn-ašarēd, for which see K. Nashef, *Rép. Géogr.* 5, Wiesbaden, 1982, p. 68. The mention of this GN might be decisive for dating the document since it is not attested otherwise in NB texts (cf. R. Zadok, *Rép. Géogr.* 8, Wiesbaden, 1985). Its localization,

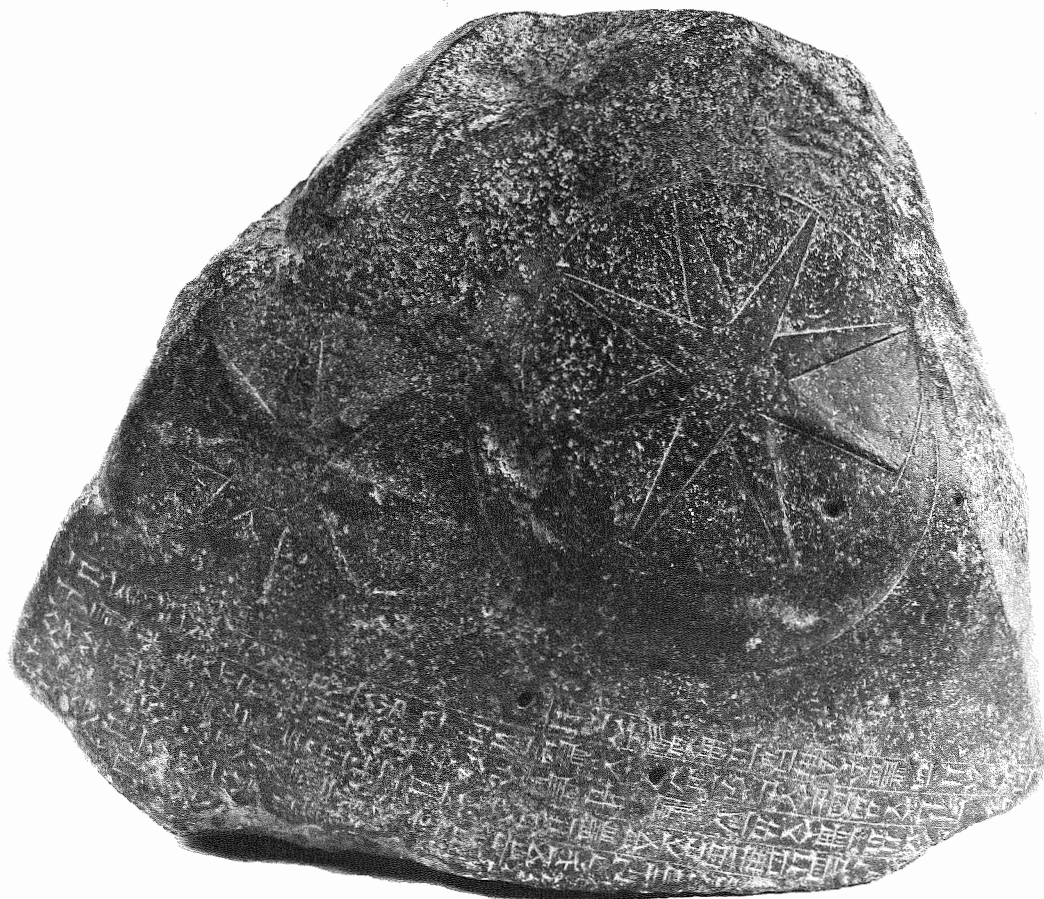
between Uruk and Larsa, is moreover interesting for only a few *kudurrus* stem from the very south of Mesopotamia as already pointed out by D. Arnaud, 'Deux Kudurru de Larsa,' *RA* 66 (1972) p. 163.

i 5) If the figure beginning this line was 5, then the long sides would be equal and the field nearly a rectangle, i.e. the usual form.

i 6) The name of the last district or estate is unfortunately missing.

ICONOGRAPHY

The symbols engraved upon the remaining part of the stone are those representing the heavenly gods, namely the solar disc of Šamaš, the crescent of Šin, and the eight-pointed star of Ištār. These are normally present on *kudurrus*, but their peculiar arrangement should be noted for on this basis U. Seidl connects the fragment with rather earlier boundary stones.⁴



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⁴ U. Seidl, 'Die babylonischen Kudurru-Reliefs,' *Bagh. Mitt.* 4 (1968) p. 77.