

Aššur, the Apsû, and the Anunnakû

BM K 5413a • CDLI P396017 • ORACC Q003964 / Sennacherib 159



Exact selected artifact

Neo-Assyrian clay tablet fragment
British Museum K 5413a
CDLI P396017 • Nineveh

Selected evidence

Obverse 2-5: Aššur's form takes shape in the Apsû; he molds the Igīgû and Anunnakû; he forms heaven and netherworld and decrees fates.

Main result

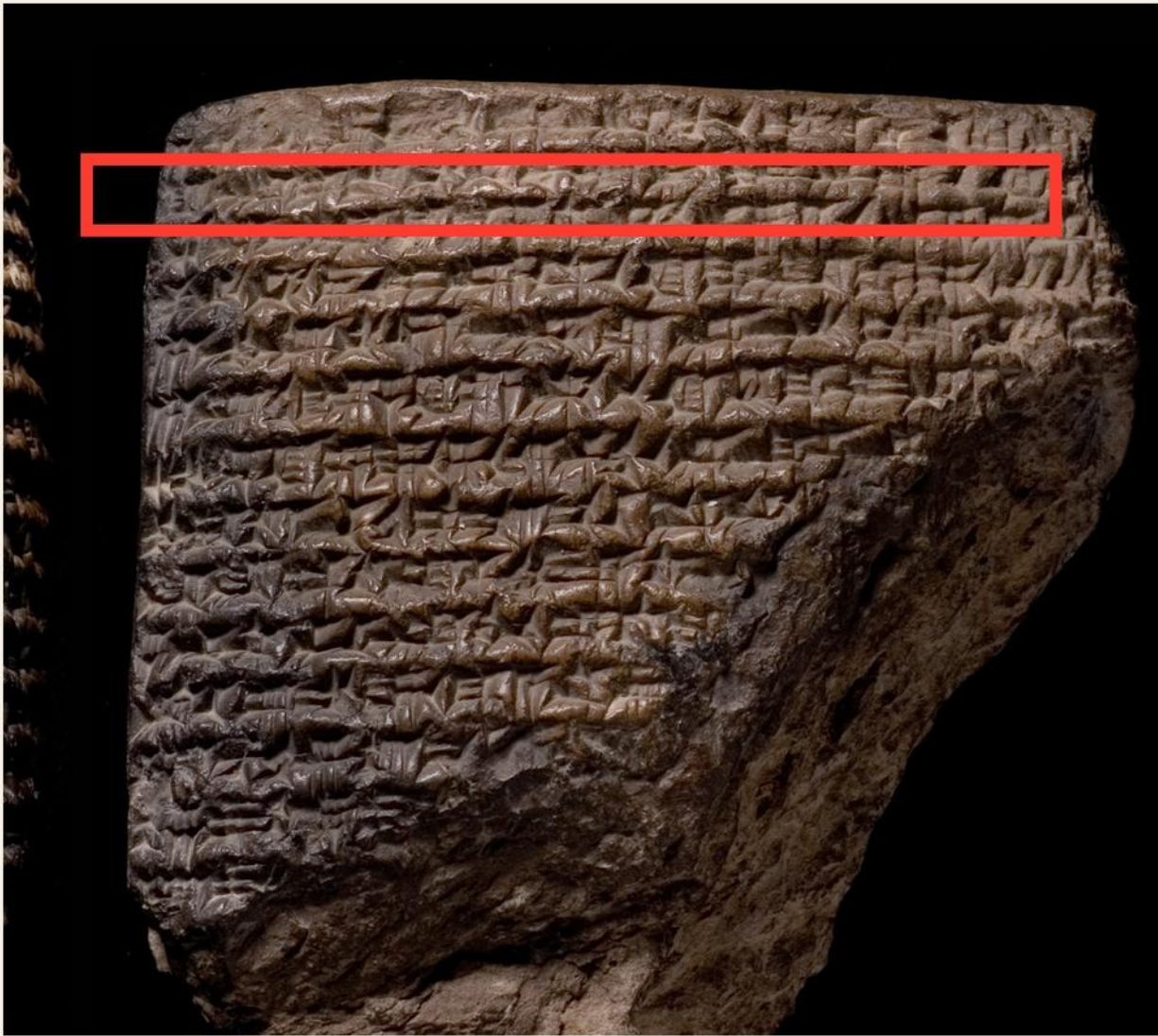
The source joins divine self-formation, cosmic geography, divine-group formation, and fate in one exact witness. It then assigns bronze-kettledrum production to Sennacherib and human craft procedure.

Evidence class

Exact multi-view photograph; conservative third-row registration; the un-restored Anunnakû spelling is photograph-visible at row level. Sign values and translation remain edition-guided.

Exact Image-to-Text Alignment

P396017 obverse • whole-row band, not an invented word-level box



Obverse 2

ša ina ZU.AB išmuḥu gattuš
'whose form took shape in the Apsû'

Obverse 3

EN DINGIR.MEŠ kalāma, šāpik Igīgī u
Anunnakī
'lord of all gods, molder of the Igīgū and
Anunnakū'

Restoration status

The Anunnakū name is not supplied in square brackets. Its final KI is damaged-readable in the edition; the actor Aššur and the molding relation are un-restored.

Visual limit

The photograph verifies exact-object identity, the third-row locus, preservation, and row survival. ORACC/RINAP controls the signs, word division, grammar, and translation.

Craft firewall

Lines 7-14 introduce Sennacherib's reddish-bronze kettledrum. The king has it made; the divine group is not the craft actor.

Image-to-Text Hard Gate

Visible, damaged, restored, and edition-controlled evidence

Locus	Obverse line 3, third inscribed row of the large obverse view.
Edition transliteration	EN DINGIR.MEŠ ka-la-ma šá-pi-ik dÍ.GÌ.GÌ u dA.NUN.NA-ʾKIʾ
Working translation	Lord of all the gods, the one who molds the Igīgū and Anunnakū gods.
Photograph-visible core	The third row survives; the Anunnakū sequence is un-restored. Final KI is damaged-readable.
Restored / supplied	None in the thesis-critical group name or molding clause. Orthography and sign values remain edition-controlled.
Evidence class	photograph_visible at conservative whole-row level; reading mode: edition-guided.
Confidence	High for edition identity, grammar, and un-restored group term; moderate for independent row-level visual registration.
Visual-claim limit	No claim of fresh sign collation or autonomous image decoding. The exact image proves identity, preservation, alignment, and row survival.

Line Notes: Formation, Fate, and Craft

Published ORACC/RINAP translation separated from cautious claims

Obv. 1 **Aššur is king of all gods and self-created.**

Caution: Royal-theological praise; not a biological report.

Obv. 2 **His form took its beautiful shape in the Apsû.**

Caution: Apsû is divine/cosmic source language; the line does not describe a laboratory.

Obv. 3 **He is lord of all gods and molds the Igīgū and Anunnakū.**

Caution: Aššur is the grammatical agent. The divine groups are the objects of formation.

Obv. 4-5 **He forms heaven and netherworld, creates the inhabited world, and decrees fates.**

Caution: Cosmic and royal ideology, not a technical specification.

Obv. 7-14 **Sennacherib has a reddish-bronze kettledrum skillfully made.**

Caution: Human royal commissioning and craft execution must not be transferred to the Anunnakū.

Agency Firewall

What each actor actually does in Sennacherib 159

AŠŠUR

takes shape in the Apsû;
molds divine groups; forms the
cosmos; decrees fate

ANUNNAKŪ

receive formation in Aššur's
epithet; no finite craft verb
belongs to them

SENNACHERIB

commissions or has the bronze
kettledrum skillfully made

DO NOT TRANSFER

Aššur's formation of divine groups does not become genetic engineering. Apsû does not become a laboratory. Sennacherib's bronze craft does not become Anunnakū technology. The exact photograph is not a license for claims absent from the grammar.

Evidence-honest conclusion

P396017 is unusually valuable because one un-restored line explicitly makes Aššur the molder of the Igīgū and Anunnakū beside Apsû formation and fate. It supports organized divine-formation theology, not extraterrestrials, genetics, spacecraft, mining, or advanced machinery.

Corpus Relevance and Limits

A direct divine-formation witness with a strict human-craft firewall

SUPPORTED

- Exact photographed object with visible K.5413a identifier.
- Un-restored Anunnakū name in a finite formation relation.
- Aššur, Apsû, cosmic formation, divine groups, and fate co-occur in one witness.
- Human bronze craft is explicitly separated in the following passage.

NOT SUPPORTED

- No extraterrestrial origin or planet Nibiru claim.
- No genetic engineering, laboratory, mining, spacecraft, or machinery.
- The Anunnakū are not the grammatical craft actors.
- This is royal dedicatory theology, not a neutral creation or workshop archive.

Next test

Prioritize a non-royal exact witness where Anuna/Anunnakū is the un-restored grammatical subject of a specific creation, labor, measurement, transport, or decree verb. Preserve separate fields for divine formation, human craft, and image-visible versus edition-controlled evidence.

Primary anchors: CDLI P396017 • ORACC Q003964 • RINAP 3/2, Sennacherib 159