

Aššur, the Anunnakū, and Measured Order

Sennacherib 161

K 8664 · P384935 · P467176 · Q003966

CORE LINE · OBVERSE 2

[šā-pi-ik?] dI₂-GI₃-GI₃ u
dA-NUN-NA-KI ta-me-eḫ še-rat AN-e

Aššur is titled the one who holds heaven’s lead-rope; the Anunnakū name is un-restored, while the preceding formation epithet is restored and uncertain.

EVIDENCE-HONEST RESULT

The exact tablet joins cosmic authority language to a reverse design record with royal-cubit measurements. It does not make the Anunnakū the designers, builders, or operators.

EXACT OBJECT PHOTOGRAPH

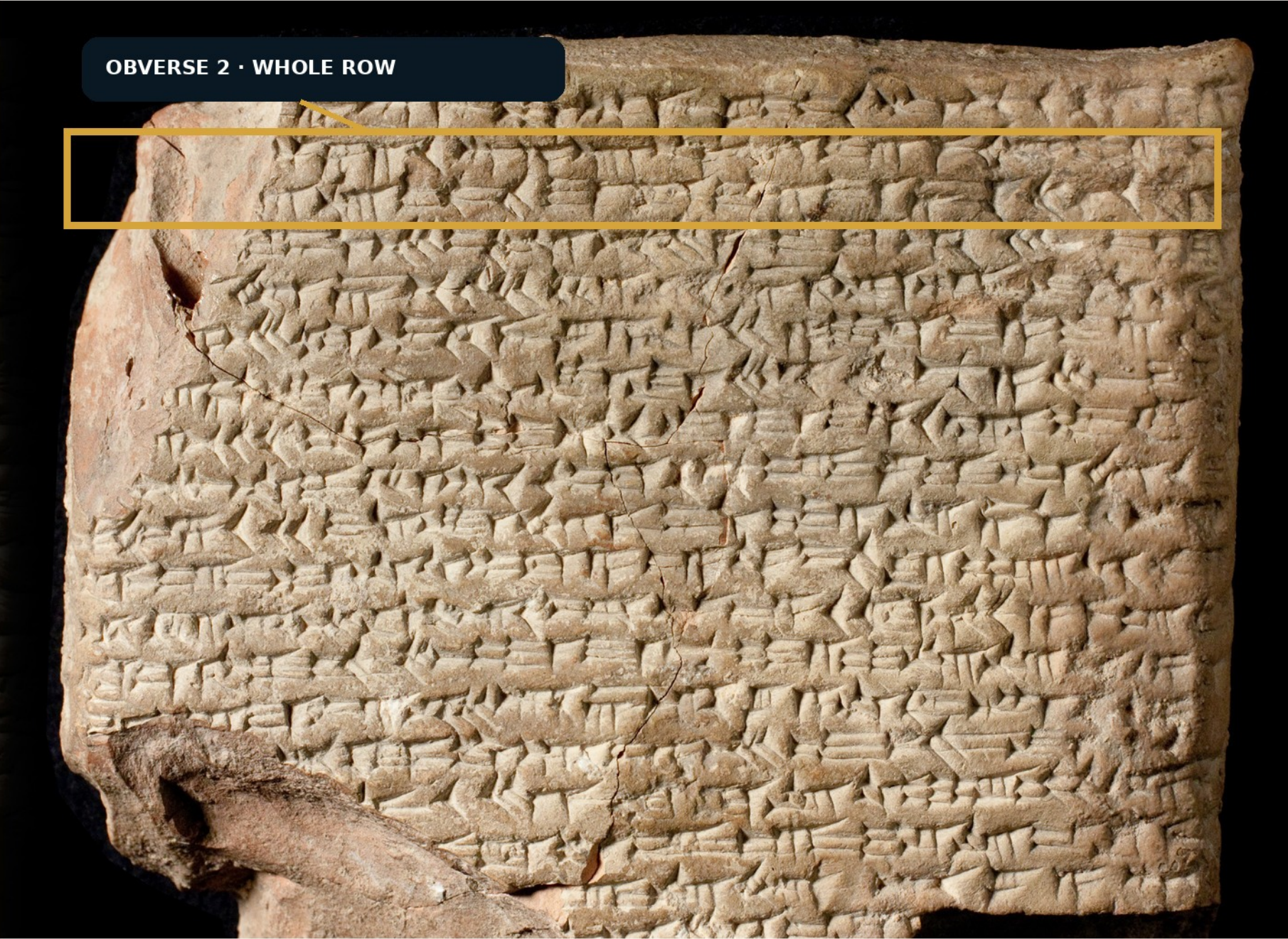
EDITION-GUIDED WHOLE-ROW READING

Photograph: eBL Fragmentarium / British Museum.
Painted K.8664 is visible on the reverse.



Obverse 2: a defensible row

The box marks the full line, not a claimed sign-by-sign collation



REGISTRATION CLAIM

The complete obverse begins at the tablet’s upper edge; the selected clause is the second edition row. The exact photograph verifies object identity, line survival and the row’s location. RINAP controls sign values, morphology and translation.

VISIBLE / DAMAGED / RESTORED

Photograph-visible	Whole obverse 2 row and surviving wedges.
Un-restored	Igīgū, Anunnakū, conjunction, lead-rope predicate and heaven.
Restored/uncertain	[šāpik?], ‘the one who molds/forms’; [great] in the translation.
Reading mode	Edition-guided whole-row registration; no fresh sign autography.

What line 2 says — and does not

Published rendering and cautious working translation remain separate

EDITION TRANSLITERATION

[šā-pi-ik?] dI₂-GI₃-GI₃ u dA-NUN-NA-KI
ta-me-eḫ še-rat AN-e

The Anunnakū spelling and lead-rope title are outside brackets.

PUBLISHED TRANSLATION · RINAP

“[the one who molds] the Igīgū and Anunnakū gods, the one who holds the lead-rope of the [great] heavens”

CAUTIOUS WORKING TRANSLATION

“[Perhaps: the one who forms] the Igīgū and Anunnakū, the one who grasps the lead-rope of heaven.”

GRAMMATICAL MINIMUM

The title chain belongs to Aššur. The Anunnakū are coordinated with the Igīgū. Aššur—not either collective—is the holder of heaven’s lead-rope.

IMAGE-TO-TEXT VERDICT

High confidence in the current edition and syntax; high confidence in whole-row registration because obverse 2 is the second line of a complete obverse; no claim of independent sign-level decipherment. The formation epithet stays bracketed and cannot carry the main claim.

Cosmic title ≠ technical operator

Each grammatical and practical role remains distinct

AŠŠUR

Title holder and actor

Holds the lead-rope of heaven, deliberates, decrees fates and controls the gods in the opening praise.

IGĪGŪ + ANUNNAKŪ

Named divine collectives

Objects of a partly restored formation epithet; no measurement, design or building verb is assigned to them.

SUBJECT PEOPLES

Human labor and tribute

Obverse 9-11 assigns tribute, payment and daily work baskets to unsubmissive lands—not to the divine groups.

REVERSE SCRIBAL RECORD

Measured material procedure

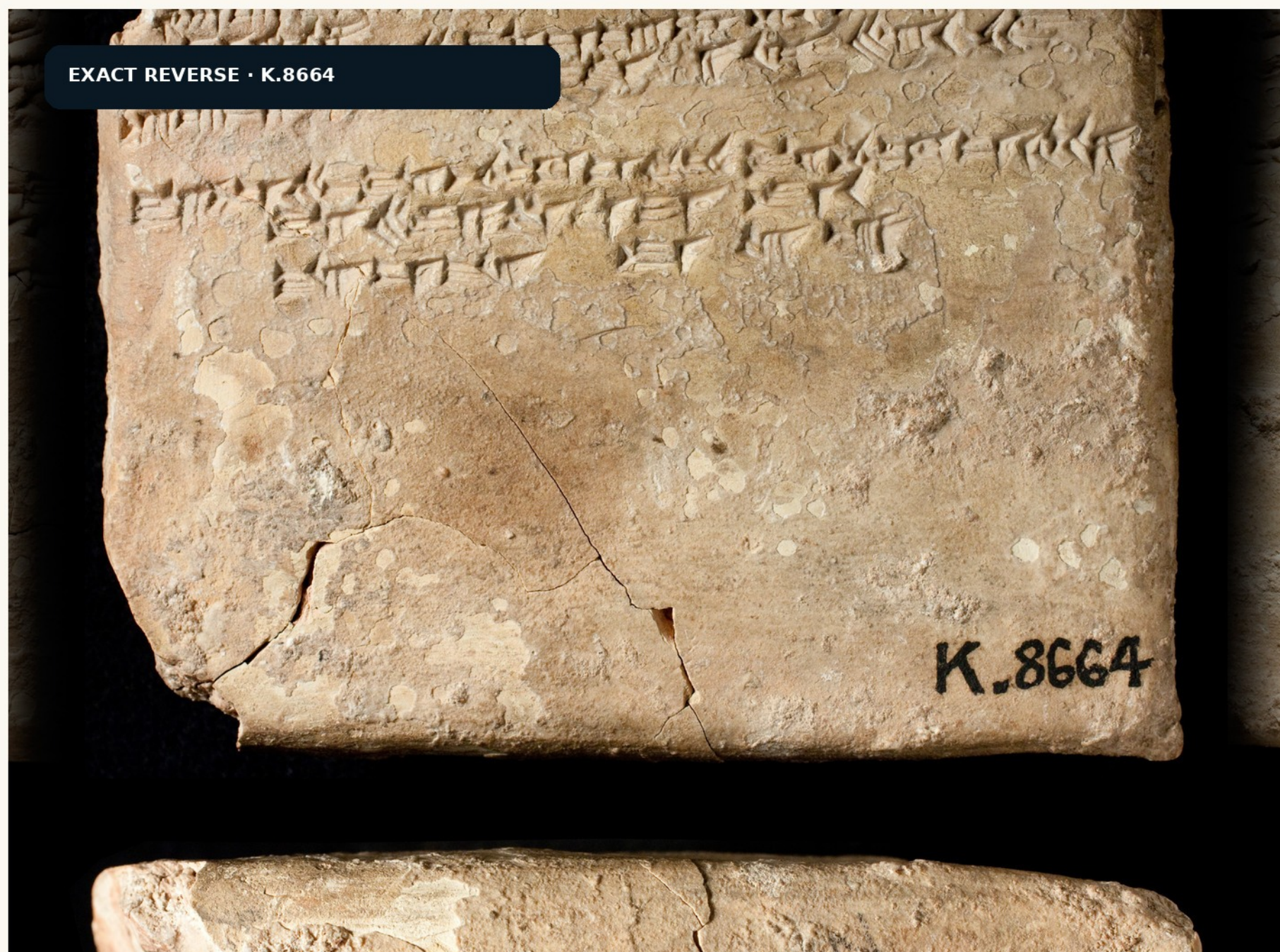
Royal-cubit dimensions specify a bed, throne, lamassu figures, fittings and inscription placement.

AGENCY FIREWALL

One artifact can place divine authority, human labor, and technical measurements side by side without assigning all three to one actor. The exact grammar and section boundaries prevent a cosmic metaphor from becoming a claim of Anunnakū engineering.

What the reverse actually measures

A concrete specification record with a strict actor boundary



PUBLISHED REVERSE CONTENT

- r 1': bed legs measured at one and two-thirds royal cubits.
- r 3'-8': throne length, width and fittings; four lamassu figures; kitturru and kuptu dimensions; a mušḫuššu-dragon limit.
- r 9'-11': notes on wording placed on the bed and throne; text on a chest was not copied.
- All practical dimensions belong to the reverse specification record. No line makes the Anunnakū its designers, measurers or builders.

CORPUS VALUE

The witness is valuable precisely because it joins cosmic-order vocabulary to real measurement without collapsing theology into machinery. It tests—and rejects—the shortcut from 'lead-rope of heaven' to a technical device operated by the Anunnakū.

A measured limit is still evidence

Authority, labor and design coexist—but remain grammatically separate

MAIN TAKEAWAY

K 8664 names the un-restored Anunnakū within Aššur's cosmic title chain and immediately assigns the lead-rope predicate to Aššur. The restored formation epithet is not needed for the minimum claim.

CORPUS RELEVANCE

Advances the craft/measurement gap by testing divine-order language against a real royal-cubit specification on the same exact artifact. It strengthens hierarchy evidence while sharply limiting technical agency.

LIMIT / CONTRADICTION

The reverse measurements are conventional cult-furniture specifications. They do not describe a spacecraft, machine, planetary route, genetic procedure, mine, or Anunnakū work crew.

DAILY IMPROVEMENT

Adds a same-object adjacency firewall: a divine title, human labor clause and technical specification are stored as separate actor/action layers before any civilizational claim is admitted.

PRIMARY SOURCE LINKS

- [ORACC/RINAP Q003966](#) — current text, translation and notes
- [CDLI P384935](#) — exact K 08664 artifact record
- [CDLI P467176](#) — Sennacherib 161 composite and exemplar link
- [eBL K.8664](#) — exact photograph, bibliography and museum number

FINAL CLASS: `exact_selected_artifact` · `photograph_visible` · `edition-guided`