

Shamash, the Anunnaku, and Ritual Authority

VAT 8242 · CDLI P285405 · BAM 4, 323

Neo-Assyrian learned healing tablet from Assur

CORE LOCUS · OBVERSE 19

en2 {d}utu mu-tal2 {d}a-nun-na-ki
e-tel {d}i-gi-gi ...

Incantation: Shamash, supervisor of the Anunnaku, foremost of the Igigi, exalted leader, governor of humankind.

ROLE-SAFE RESULT

The line ranks Shamash over the Anunnaku and Igigi. Human ritual specialists carry out the tablet's remedies. The Anunnaku receive no medical, technical, or operative verb here.

EXACT BERLIN MUSEUM OBJECT INSPECTED

The four-view photograph is visibly marked 8242. CDLI, BabMed, eBL, and BAM 4 bind VAT 8242 to P285405 and line 19.

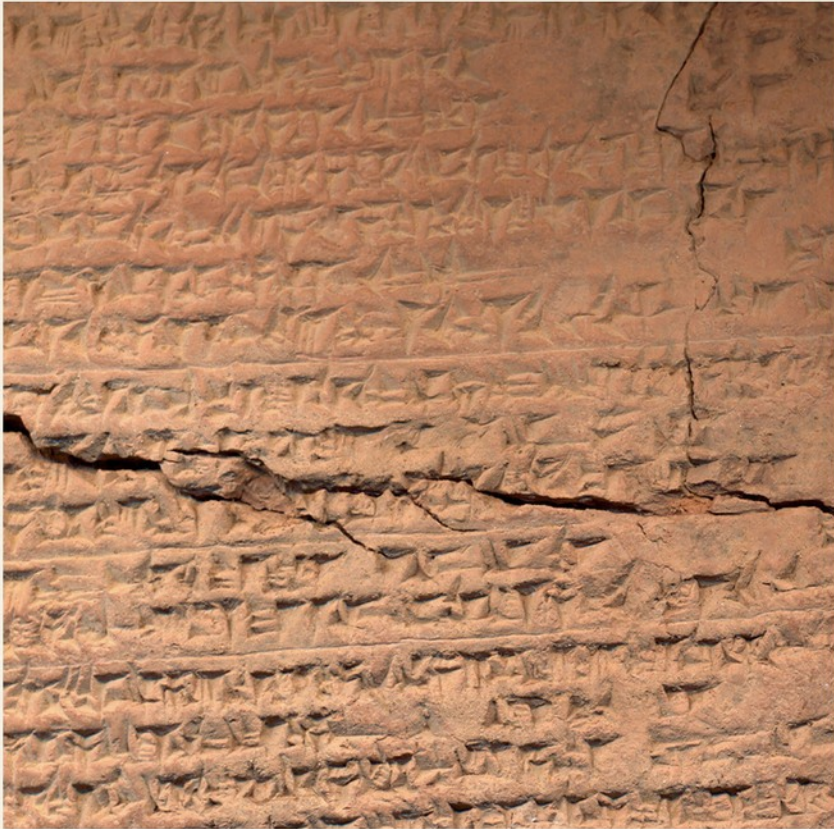


Obverse 19: Shamash and the Anunnaku

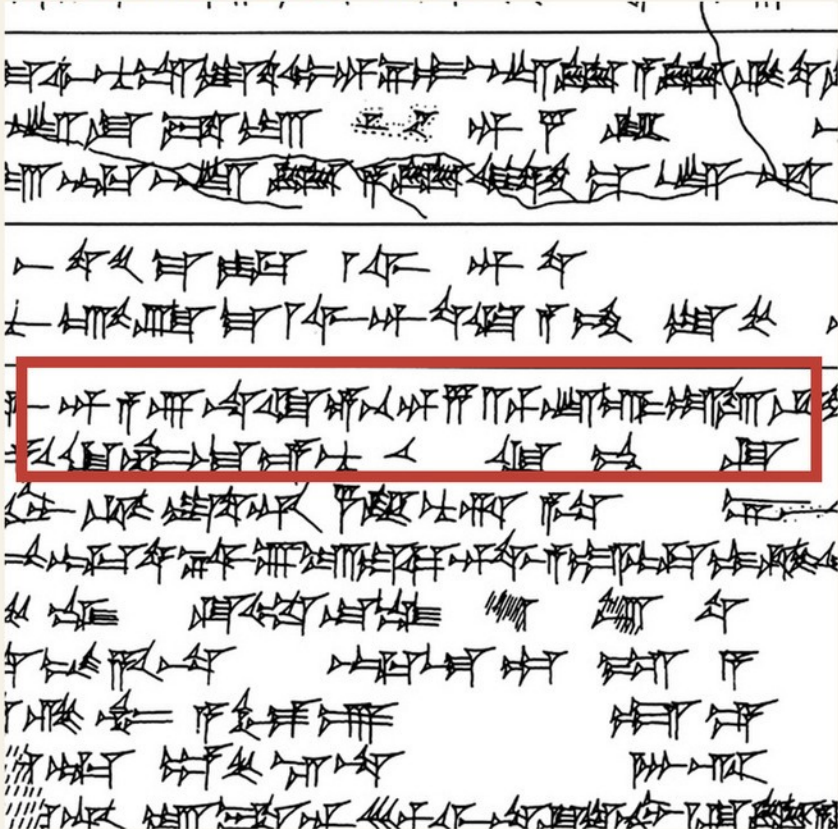
Exact photograph verifies identity; numbered exact copy locates the line

OBVERSE 19 ALIGNMENT · SHAMASH / ANUNNAKU / IGIGI

Exact photograph · broad row survival



Exact numbered copy · line 19



Line 19 is un-restored. The copy maps its row; CDLI/BabMed control the sign values.
Result: exact_line_art_or_squeeze_visible + edition-guided translation.

WHAT THE VISUALS SUPPORT

The exact photo verifies VAT 8242, obverse/reverse preservation, fractures, and dense row survival. The exact published copy numbers line 19 and places the un-restored Anunnaku spelling in that row.

EXACT LIMIT

No sign-by-sign claim is made from the photograph. CDLI and the BabMed transcription control the sign values, Akkadian normalization, and line numbering. The result is exact-line-art aligned and edition-guided.

Text, status, and controlled translation

Un-restored divine names; damaged matter remains attached to later clauses

OBV. 19A en2 {d}utu

Incantation: Shamash

un-restored

OBV. 19B mu-tal2 {d}a-nun-na-ki

supervisor of the Anunnaku

un-restored · edition-guided

OBV. 19C e-tel {d}i-gi-gi

foremost of the Igigi

un-restored · edition-guided

OBV. 19D mas-su-u2 s,i-ru

exalted leader

un-restored · cautious working

OBV. 19E mut-tar-ru-u te-ni-sze20-e-ti

governor/director of humankind

un-restored · cautious working

A hierarchy inside a healing ritual

Titles, petition, and procedure are kept grammatically separate

PUBLISHED TEXT CONTROL	CDLI and BabMed agree on line 19's un-restored sequence: Shamash + supervisor of the Anunnaku + foremost of the Igigi + exalted leader + governor of humankind.
CAUTIOUS WORKING TRANSLATION	Incantation: O Shamash, supervisor of the Anunnaku, foremost of the Igigi, exalted leader, governor of humankind.
PETITIONER AND PURPOSE	Lines 27–34 turn to an afflicted first-person petitioner asking Shamash to render a case and restore a reversed judgment. Later sections prescribe ritual handling for ghost-caused illness.
OPERATIVE ACTORS	The practitioner and patient perform offerings, bindings, fumigation, washing, recitation, plant preparation, and other ritual-medical procedures. The Anunnaku do not perform these actions in line 19.
EXCLUDED INFERENCE	The text does not describe extraterrestrials, laboratories, genes, spacecraft, mining, machines, or Anunnaku medical technology. It encodes learned ritual theology and healing practice.

Authority is explicit; technology is not

A strong hierarchy witness and a strict procedure-versus-pantheon control

MAIN TAKEAWAY	VAT 8242 calls Shamash supervisor of the Anunnaku and foremost of the Igigi inside an incantation embedded in a large therapeutic dossier.
CORPUS VALUE	The source strengthens the organized-divine-hierarchy strand and adds a concrete learned-knowledge setting. It shows that Anunnaku language could frame expert ritual practice without making the group the technicians.
SUPPORT	Strong for ranked divine authority: Shamash is explicitly placed over both collectives. Moderate for institutional knowledge context: the formula stands inside a professional healing tablet.
LIMIT / CONTRADICTION	The title belongs to Shamash. The Anunnaku are its genitive complement, not the subject of a healing verb. Human ritual personnel own the procedures; proximity is not authorship.
SITCHIN TEST	The artifact supports an organized non-human/divine hierarchy remembered in scholarly practice, but supplies no evidence for alien biology, spacecraft, mining, or advanced machinery.

Reproducible evidence chain

Exact artifact, exact copy, current institutional transcription, explicit limits

- CDLI P285405 — VAT 08242 / BAM 4, 323 metadata, artifact-specific ATF, exact photograph, exact line art, Assur provenance, Neo-Assyrian date, and Berlin collection.
- BabMed, Freie Universität Berlin — current BAM 4, 323 transcription and description as an early Neo-Assyrian tablet of incantations and medico-magical instructions for ghost-caused illness.
- eBL fragmentarium VAT.8242 — independent identifier bridge cited by BabMed; current object page checked during this run.
- Köcher, BAM 4, 323 — primary publication behind the numbered exact copy; BabMed notes lines 19-34 alongside Schollmeyer's Shamash hymns and prayers.

DAILY CAPABILITY IMPROVEMENT

Adds a title-head versus procedural-actor firewall for scholarly and medical tablets. Record the title holder, divine complement, addressed judge, petitioner, practitioner, patient, and each operative procedure independently. Applied here: Shamash holds the supervisory title; the Anunnaku and Igigi are ranked complements; the patient petitions; human specialists execute the ritual. This prevents a divine-group mention from inheriting nearby technical actions.

CLASS: exact_selected_artifact + exact_line_art · edition-guided