

ÖSTERREICHISCHE AKADEMIE DER WISSENSCHAFTEN
PHILOSOPHISCH-HISTORISCHE KLASSE
DENKSCHRIFTEN, 195. BAND

**ASTRONOMICAL
DIARIES AND RELATED TEXTS
FROM BABYLONIA**

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Volume I

Diaries from 652 B.C. to 262 B.C.



VERLAG DER ÖSTERREICHISCHEN AKADEMIE DER WISSENSCHAFTEN
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No. -651

Upper edge

1 [At the command of] Bēl' may it be well.

Col.i

1 [Month I,] the moon became visible in a cloud; it was bright' and high.
 2 [Beginn]ing of the night, overcast. Night of the 1st, the river level rose. The 1st, the
 sun was surrounded by a halo. Night
 3 of the 2nd, (and) the 2nd, overcast. The south wind blew. The 3rd, very overcast.
 In the afternoon it rained.
 4 Night of the 4th, (and) the 4th, it rained. The 6th, middle part of the day, the sun
 was surrounded by a halo.
 5 It was split towards the east. The 7th, the moon was surrounded by a halo. The river
 level rose.
 6 Night of the 12th, overcast. The 12th, the 13th, the 14th, overcast. The 14th, one
 god was seen with the other.
 7 The river level receded. Mercury's last appearance in the east behind Pisces,
 8 and Saturn's last appearance behind Pisces; I did not watch because the days were
 overcast.
 9 The 17th, in the morning, overcast. Thunder, gusty south wind, rain, small (hail)-
 stones.
 10 Mars became stationary in the area of the Lip of the Scorpion, it came close to the
 bright star
 11 of the Scorpion's head. From the 22nd to the 24th, [. . . .]
 12 The 25th, Mars was east of the star to the right of the Scorpion [. . . .]
 13 The river level rose. Night of the 20th, overcast. Lightning, thun[der,]
 14 a little [. . . .], strong wind. Night of the 21st, rain [. . . .]
 15 A little rain, lightning flashed, the south wind [. . . .]
 16 2 cubits in front of the Scales. . . . [. . . .]
 17 to the right of the Scorpion 1' [. . . .]
 18 The sun set in a cloud. . . . [. . . .]
 19 It rained slowly, the south wind [. . . .]
 20 [. . . .] night [. . . .]
 (rest of column broken)

Col. ii

1 The north wind blew. The 15th, an eclipse' [. . . .]
 2 first appearance in the Old Man. The river level [. . . .]
 3 was placed towards the south. . . . [. . . .]
 4 first part of the night, [. . . .]

5' [....]
 6' [....]
 (rest of column broken)

Col.iii

1' of [....]
 2' in the after[noon]
 3' [....]
 4' The north wind blew. Lunar eclipse [....]
 5' The 20th¹, the moon was surrounded by a halo, (and) Mercury [stood] in if[t]
 6' strong wind. The 21st, [....]

col.iv

1' [....] the star of [....]
 2' [....] right¹ of the moon [....]
 3' [....] [....]
 4' [....] [....]
 5' [....] right of the moon¹ [....]
 6' [....] thunder, [....]
 7' The 5th. Mercury's first appearance in the east in Pisces. [....]
 8' towards the south [....]
 9' It rained slowly. The 12th, a halo The river level rose [....]
 10' The troops of Babylonia fought against the troops of Assyria; the troops[....]
 11' The 13th, the river level rose a little. The 14th, a cloud bank lay to the right of the sun. Night of the 15th, overcast. Three ra[inbows,]
 12' one in the west, one between north and west, and one in the north, were seen. Rain, lightning, thunder,
 13' clouds¹. The 15th, one god was seen with the other. Gusty south wind, haze crossed the face of the sky. Night of the 16th, the moon was surrounded by a large halo.
 14' The 16th, the sun was surrounded by a halo. The 18th, the sun was surrounded by a ... halo; the south wind blew. The 19th, Venus
 15' stood in the region of Aries, 10 fingers behind Mars; the moon was surrounded by a halo, and α Scorpii stood in it. The 20th, Mars was 1 finger to the left
 16' of the front¹ of Aries; it came close. The moon was surrounded by a halo, Jupiter stood in it. The south wind blew
 17' [....] The 27th, a rainbow whose brightness was very great stretched in the east.
 18' [.... in] Hiritu in the province of Sippar the troops of Babylonia and of Assyria
 19' fou[ght with each] other, and the troops of Babylonia withdrew and were heavily defeated.
 20' [.... The no]rth wind blew. The 28th, a little rain. In the afternoon, a very red¹ rainbow stretched in the east.
 21' [....] The 27th, the river level rose a little. A rain shower fell. That year little rain
 [....]

Calendar

No calendaric information is preserved in this diary.

Comments

i 1: GUR may be an unusual writing for $kur_4 = ba'lu$ "bright".

i 5: TAR is said of a halo also in No.-567 rev. 15'; its reading here is *paris* "is split, divided", see AHw. 831a mng. 7b.

i 6: "one god was seen with the other" refers to sun and moon in opposition.

i 8: NU PAP "I did not watch" unfortunately refers to both planetary statements.

i 12f.: the items listed in these lines are not in chronological order.

iv 16': The traces at the beginning of the line may be restored to SAG^1KI "front".

iv 20': I cannot read the sign after TIR; *ma-diš* is possible; this is written *ma-a'-diš* in iv 17' and 19', but *ma-diš* in i 3. DIR[?] could be SA₅ "red"; although a rainbow usually is multicolored, a (predominantly) red rainbow occurs in ACh Adad 6:5f., quoted by F. X. Kugler, SSB II 104.

iv 21': The signs KI TU x at the end of the line do not seem to continue the words preceding them; they may be the beginning of the last line of col. iii.