

10. Eanatum

(La 3.1) [. . .] He reduced(?) their sustenance field(s)(?). A grain rent was imposed on them. The king of Lagash [. . .]. The leader of Umma spoke angrily with him and defied Lagash. Akurgal, king of Lagash, son of Urnanshe, [king of Lagash . . . The leader of Umma spoke] angrily [with him] and defied Lagash on account of its (Lagash's) own

property. At(?) PirigZA[. . .]Igrinunshaga (the god) Ningirsu spoke (saying) "Umma has [. . . ed] my pasture(?), my own property, the fields of the Gu'edena."

[. . .] Ningirsu, warrior of (the god) Enlil [. . .] Ningirsu planted the [seed] of (i.e., that would engender) Eanatum in the [womb] and [. . .] rejoiced over [Eanatum]. (The goddess) Inanna took him by the arm and named him Eana'Inanna'Ibgalkaka'atum ("In the Eana (temple) of Inanna of the Ibgal (shrine) he is worthy") and sat him on the fine lap of (the goddess) Ninhursag. Ninhursag [offered him] her fine breast. Ningirsu rejoiced over Eanatum, the womb-implanted seed of Ningirsu. Ningirsu laid his span on him. His cubits being five (in height) he laid on him. (In all he stood) five cubits and one span (tall) (approximately 9 feet 2 inches / 2.79 meters). With great joy Ningirsu [gave him] the kingship [of Lagash . . .]

Eanatum, the strong one, declares, ". . . !" For Eanatum he (Ningirsu(?)) [established] (as his) name the name which Inanna had given him: Eana'Inanna'Ibgalkaka'atum. [. . .] (Addressing) a timeless (conflict)(?), Eanatum, the strong one whose name was chosen by Ningirsu, Eanatum who [declared(?)], ". . . !" proclaimed, "Where is the ruler of Umma recruiting? With (other) leaders [. . .] he consumes the Gu'edena, the beloved field of Ningirsu. I will strike him down!" [. . .]

He followed after him. Towards the sleeping one, towards the sleeping one, he approaches (his) head. Towards Eanatum, the sleeping one, [his] beloved king [Ningirsu approaches his head . . .] "Umma, it being Kish . . . At your right side Utu (the sun-god) will rise, and a . . . will be bound to your forehead. Eanatum [. . .] you will kill there. Their myriad (literally, 3,600) corpses will reach the base of heaven. [In] Umma [. . . the people of his own city] will raise arms against him. He will be killed inside Umma. You will [. . .]"

He did battle with him. Someone shot an arrow at Eanatum. He was shot through(?) with the arrow, and he broke(?) the arrow. He cried out before it. The [. . .]-man [. . .] Eanatum released a deluge like an evil rainstorm in Umma. [. . .] Eanatum, being a man of just words, measured the boundary [from(?) . . .], left it towards the side of Umma, and set up a (boundary)-stone on it. The leader of Umma [. . .] He defeated [Umma(?)] and heaped up 20 burial mounds for it. Eanatum, the one over whom (his personal god) Shulutul cried sweetly, Eanatum [. . . ed] Eanatum destroyed the foreign lands [for Ningirsu]. Eanatum restored his beloved field, the Gu'edena to Ningirsu. [. . .] The Dana field, the Kihara of Ningirsu [he . . . ed] In the Emah (temple) of [(the goddess) Nanshe] he set up a stele. [. . .] of Ningirsu Eanatum, the [. . .] of Ningirsu – (Shulutul) is his (personal) god. The fields [(named) . . . Eanatum], whose [name] was chosen by Ningirsu, restored [to Ningirsu].

To the leader of Umma Eanatum gave the great battle net of Enlil, and made him swear by it. The leader of Umma swore the (following) oath to Eanatum: "By the life of Enlil, king of heaven and earth, I shall (only) use the field of Ningirsu as an (interest-bearing) loan. I hereby declare (its) irrigation channels . . . For [evermore] I shall not transgress the boundary of Ningirsu. I shall not alter its irrigation channels and canals. I shall not rip out its (boundary)-stones. If I do transgress, may the great battle net of Enlil, king of heaven and earth, by which I have sworn, fall upon Umma." Eanatum was also very wise. He smeared kohl on the eyes of two doves, adorned their heads with cedar (resin), and released them towards Nippur, to Enlil, king of heaven and earth, in the Ekur (temple), (saying): "Having (thus) spoken, having (thus) pled to Enlil, my lord, if any leader of Umma, in violation of the agreement, should renege against or oppose the agreement, or should overturn the agreement, may the great battle net of Enlil, by which he has sworn, fall upon Umma!"

(The same oath is sworn before, and doves are released to, the mother-goddess Ninhursag, in Kesh; the god of wisdom, Enki, in Abzu; the moon-god, Su'en, in Ur; the sun-god Utu, in Larsa; and the netherworld-goddess Ninki. With the exception of Ninki, the aforementioned gods are summoned to release their battle nets (downwards) in the event a leader of Umma violates the agreement. In contrast, Ninki is summoned to release snakes (upwards) to bite the trespasser's feet.)

Eanatum, king of Lagash – the one granted strength by Enlil, fed fine milk by Ninhursag, given a good name by Inanna, granted wisdom by Enki, chosen in (her) heart by Nanshe, the powerful lady, Ningirsu's subjugator of foreign lands, beloved of (the goddess) Dumuzi'abzu, whose name was chosen by Ninhursag, beloved friend of (the god) Lugalurub, beloved spouse of Inanna – [defeated] Elam and Subar, lands of wood and treasure [. . .] defeated [. . .], defeated Susa, [defeated] the ruler of Uru'a, who stood with the (city-)emblem at the head (of his army), [defeated . . .], smashed (the city of) Aru'a, . . . Sumer, defeated (the city of) Ur. [. . .]

[Eanatum] who restored the [Gu'edena to Ningirsu], Eanatum [. . .] of Ningirsu, who erected (the stele on which this text is inscribed) for Ningirsu [. . .] The name of this stele – it is not a man's name – he declared: Ningirsu'enmenlumanamti'i'pirigedena ("Ningirsu, the lord, crown of Luma (=Eanatum), is the life of the Pirigedena canal"). (For Ningirsu) Eanatum set up the (boundary-)stone of the Gu'edena, the beloved field of Ningirsu, which Eanatum had restored to Ningirsu.