

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preface	<i>xvii</i>
Acknowledgments to the Third Edition	<i>xix</i>
GENERAL INTRODUCTION IN SEARCH OF AKKADIAN LITERATURE	
A. The Akkadian Language	I
1. Semitic Languages, 1 – 2. Akkadian Vernacular Languages, 2 – 3. Akkadian Literary Languages, 3 – 4. Akkadian Writing and Literacy, 4	
B. Rediscovery of Akkadian Literature	6
1. Loss and Rediscovery, 6 – 2. Major Sources, 8 – 3. Publication and Translation, 10	
C. Poetry and Prose	13
1. Linguistic Differentiation, 13 – 2. Verse Structure, 13 – 3. Parallelism, 14 – 4. Repetition, 15 – 5. Meter, 16 – 6. Wordplay, 16 – 7. Prose Style, 16 – 8. Formulae and Word Pairs, 17 – 9. Simile and Metaphor, 18	
D. Authors and Redactors	19
1. Authorship, 19 – 2. Creativity, 21 – 3. Intertextuality, 22	
E. Reading Akkadian Literature	26
1. Time, 26 – 2. Place, 28 – 3. Speech, Action, Clamor, Silence, 30 – 4. Visual Aspects, 31 – 5. Knowledge, 32 – 6. Divine Images, 33 – 7. Demonic Beings, 34 – 8. Personal Deity and Good Fortune, 35 – 9. Divination, 36	
F. Formation of Akkadian Literature	37
1. Categories, 37 – 2. Sumerian and Akkadian, 44, 3. Oral Tradition, 45 – 4. What is Akkadian Literature? 45	

CHAPTER I  
THE ARCHAIC PERIOD  
(2300–1850 B.C.)

A. Archaic Literature	49
1. The Valorous Sun, 50	
2. Star Incantation, 52	
B. Old Akkadian Literature	54
3. Sargonic Kings and Their Times, 57	
(a) Sargon the King, 57 – (b) Sargon the Victorious, 58 –	
(c) Naram-Sin and the Great Revolt, 59 – (d) Naram-Sin	
and the Gods, 63	
4. Incantations, 64	
(a) Against a Demon, 64 – (b) Against the Evil Eye, 65 –	
(c) Love Charm, 66	
5. Old Akkadian Letters, 69	
(a) Do Not Sit on a Chair! 69 – (b) The Predatory Gutians,	
70	
C. Old Assyrian Literature	71
6. Sargon, Lord of the Lies, 71	
7. Incantations, 76	
(a) She Is Singular, 76 – (b) She Is Furious, 77 – (c) Against	
Dogs, 78	

CHAPTER II  
THE CLASSICAL PERIOD  
(1850–1500 B.C.)

Introduction	79
A. In Praise of Deities	85
1. To Ishtar, 85	
2. To Nanay, 89	
3. To Papulegarra, 93	
4. Self-praise of Ishtar, 95	
5. The Agushaya Poem, 96	
B. Legends of Akkadian Kings	107
6. Legends of Sargon, 107	
(a) Sargon, King of Battle, 107 – (b) The Sargon Letter, 113	

7. Legends of Naram-Sin, 115	
(a) The Siege of Apishal, 115 – (b) The Great Revolt, 118	
C. Kings of Babylonia and Their Times	122
8. Sin-kashid, King of Uruk, 122	
9. Naram-Sin, King of Eshnunna, 124	
10. Hammurabi, King of Babylon, 126	
(a) Hammurabi, King of Justice, 126 – (b) Hammurabi, for Whom Do You Wait? 136 – (c) Will Hammurabi Be Victorious?, 138	
11. Samsuiluna, King of Babylon, 140	
12. Royal Oracles and Prophecies, 143	
(a) To Zimri-lim, King of Mari, 143 – (b) To Ibalpiel II, King of Eshnunna, 147	
D. The Human Condition	148
13. Dialogue Between a Man and His God, 148	
14. At the Cleaners, 151	
15. Lament for a City, 153	
16. The Faithful Lover, 155	
E. Love Lyrics	160
17. Nanay and Muati, 160	
18. Nanay and Rim-Sin, 162	
19. Love Songs, 165	
(a) Where Has My Lover Gone? 165 – (b) A Lover's Riddle, 166 – (c) Come In, Shepherd! 167 – (d) Your Heartbeat Is My Reveille, 169	
F. Incantations	170
20. Birth and Childhood, 170	
(a) She Has Never Given Birth, 170 – (b) The Child's Arms Are Bound, 171 – (c) To Calm a Baby, 172	
21. Against Lamashtu, 173	
(a) Anu Begot Her, 173 – (b) She Is Fierce, 174	
22. Against Demons, 175	
(a) A Demon, 175 – (b) Against the Evil Eye, 176	
23. Against Disease, Discomfort, Unwanted Feelings, 177	
(a) Various Diseases, 177 – (b) All Diseases, 179 – (c) Against an Infant Illness, 180 – (d) Against a Mote in the Eye, 181 – (e) Against Joint Pain(?), 182 – (f) Against a Disease of Sheep and Goats, 183 – (g) Against Gas Pains, 184 –	

(h) Against Stomach Ache, 185 – (i) Against Arousal, 186 – (j) Against Hunger and Thirst, 187	
24. Against Witchcraft, 188	
25. The World Around, 189	
(a) Against a Noxious Herb(?), 189 – (b) Against Dogs, 190 – (c) Against Snakes, 192 – (d) Against Flies, 195 – (e) Against Scorpions, 196 – (f) Against a Water Monster, 197 – (g) Against a Bleating Goat, 198	
26. Love Charms, 199	
(a) Horns of Gold, 199 – (b) Look at Me! 201	
G. Prayers	207
27. Nocturnal Prayers of Diviners, 207	
(a) To Gods of the Night, 207 – (b) To Shamash and Gods of the Night, 208	
28. Diurnal Prayers of Diviners, 209	
(a) The Cedar, 209 – (b) The Lamb, 212 – (c) Will Ur-Utu be Alive and Well? 214	
H. Letters and Letter Prayers	215
29. Kussulu to the Moon-god, 215	
30. Ur-Nanshe to Ninsianna, 217	
31. Apil-Adad to “God My Father,” 218	
32. Ninurta-qarrad to Ninmug, 219	
33. Ahushunu to the Guardian of Life, 220	
34. Scribal Petitions and Exercises, 221	
(a) To Zimri-Lim, King of Mari, 221 – (b) A Ghost’s Entreaty, 223 – (c) A Letter Writing Exercise, 225	
35. A Declaration of War, 226	
I. Mythology	227
36. Atrahasis, 227	
J. Imitations of the Classical Style	281
37. Ishtar, Harasser of Men, 281	
38. To a Passer-by, 286	
39. Priestly Abuse of Office, 288	

CHAPTER III  
THE MATURE PERIOD  
(1500–1000 B.C.)

Introduction	291
A. Kings of Assyria and Their Times	298
1. Tukulti-Ninurta Epic, 298	
2. Psalm to Assur for Tukulti-Ninurta I, 318	
3. Hymn to Tiglath-pileser I, 324	
4. Psalms to Ishtar for Assurnasirpal I, 327	
(a) On Occasion of Illness, 327 – (b) On Occasion of an Offering, 331	
5. Prayers for Kings of Assyria, 334	
(a) Coronation Prayer, 334 – (b) Prayer at the Gods' Repast, 335	
6. The Hunter, 336	
B. Legends of Former Kings	338
7. Legends of Sargonic Kings, 338	
(a) Sargon, King of Battle, 338 – (b) The Cuthaeen Legend of Naram-Sin, 344	
8. Shulgi Prophecy, 357	
C. Kings of Babylonia and Their Times	360
9. Agum-kakrime and the Return of Marduk, 360	
10. Kurigalzu, King of the Kassites, 365	
(a) Kurigalzu and the Ishtar Temple, 365 – (b) The Favor of Kurigalzu, 367	
11. Kudur-nahhunte of Elam, 369	
(a) Kudur-nahhunte and the Babylonians, 370 – (b) The Elamite Attack On Nippur, 371 – (c) Marduk and the Elamites, 374	
12. Nebuchadnezzar I, 376	
(a) The Seed of Kingship, 376 – (b) The War With Elam, 381 – (c) Nebuchadnezzar in Elam, 383 – (d) Nebuchadnezzar and Marduk, 385 – (e) Nebuchadnezzar to the Babylonians, 386 – (f) Prayer in the Name of Nebuchadnezzar, 387	
13. Marduk Prophecy, 388	
D. Wisdom and Experience	392
14. The Poem of the Righteous Sufferer, 392	

15. A Sufferer's Salvation, 410	
16. Words of the Wise, 412	
(a) Counsels of Wisdom, 412 – (b) Wisdom of Ugarit, 416 –	
(c) Sumero-Akkadian Wisdom and Proverbs, 422 –	
(d) Proverbs from Letters, 434	
E. Mythological Poetry	436
17. Epic of Creation, 436	
18. Myths of Origins, 487	
(a) Marduk, Creator of the World, 487 – (b) The Myth of	
the Plow, 489 – (c) Creation of Humankind, 491 – (d) Pro-	
viding for the Gods, 494 – (e) Creation of Sun and Moon,	
494 – (f) Creation of the King, 495	
19. Descent of Ishtar to the Netherworld, 498	
20. Nergal and Ereshkigal, 506	
21. The Adapa Story, 525	
(a) Adapa and the South Wind, 525 – (b) Adapa and	
Enmerkar, 531	
22. Etana, 533	
23. Anzu, 555	
24. Monster Serpents, 579	
(a) The Serpent, 579 – (b) The Lion-Serpent, 581	
F. Great Hymns and Prayers	583
25. Gula Hymn of Bullutsa-rabi, 583	
26. Ishtar Queen of Heaven, 592	
27. Great Prayer to Ishtar, 599	
28. Literary Prayer to Ishtar, 606	
29. Literary Prayer to Marduk, 611	
30. Great Hymn to Marduk, 617	
31. Great Hymn to Nabu, 621	
32. Shamash Hymn, 627	
G. Devotional and Ritual Poetry	636
33. To Adad, 636	
(a) Against Thunder, 636 – (b) Against Lightning, 638 –	
(c) In Gratitude for Rain, 639	
34. To Anu, 640	
35. To Dumuzi, 641	
36. To Ea, 642	
(a) For Success in Divination, 642 – (b) Protector of the	
King, 643	

37. To Ea, Shamash, and Marduk, 645
  - (a) Against Congenital Guilt, 645 – (b) Against Any Evil, 646 – (c) To Purify a Cult Image, 648 – (d) Against a Ghost, 649
38. To Enlil, 652
  - (a) Spoken by a Person in Authority, 652 – (b) Protector of the King, 654 – (c) Against Enlil's Anger, 656
39. To Family Ghosts, 658
40. To Girra, 660
  - (a) Illuminator, 660 – (b) Melter, 661 – (c) Judge, 662 – (d) Refiner, 663
41. To Gods of the Night, 664
  - (a) Against Pestilence, 664 – (b) Against Cultic Impurity, 665 – (c) Against Witchcraft, 666
42. To Gula, 668
  - (a) Healer, 668 – (b) Intercessor, 671
43. To Ishtar, 673
  - (a) Against Sorcery, 673 – (b) The Greatness of Ishtar, 674 – (c) Against Impotence, 676 – (d) A Gift to Ishtar, 677 – (e) Ishtar Will Not Tire, 678 – (f) Self-Praise of Ishtar, 679
44. To Marduk, 680
  - (a) Against Marduk's Anger, 680 – (b) Against Illness, 682 – (c) Protector of the King, 686 – (d) Reviver of the Sick, 688 – (e) Lord of the Universe, 688 – (f) Prince of the Gods, 690 – (g) Syncretic Hymn to Marduk, 692 – (h) Foremost of the Gods, 693
45. To Nabu, 695
  - (a) For Protection From Black Magic, 695 – (b) An Old Man's Prayer, 697 – (c) Discouragement, 698 – (d) Compound Acrostic Prayer to Nabu, 701 – (e) The Names of Nabu, 702 – (f) Acrostic Prayers of Nabu-ushebshi, 704
46. To Nergal, 706
  - (a) Nergal the Warrior, 706 – (b) The Terrors of Nergal, 707 – (c) Sublime Nergal, 708
47. To Ninurta, 710
  - (a) Prescriptive Hymn to Ninurta, 710 – (b) Protector of the King, 711 – (c) Syncretic Hymn to Ninurta, 713 – (d) Ninurta as Sirius, 715
48. To Nusku, 717

- (a) Guardian of the Night, 717 – (b) Courier of Dreams, 718 – (c) Forfender of Nightmares, 719 – (d) Protector Against Sorcery, 720
- 49. To a Personal God, 721
  - (a) God of My Family, 721 – (b) Furious God, 722 – (c) The Piteous Sufferer, 723 – (d) Who Has Not Sinned? 724
- 50. To the River, 726
- 51. To Shamash, 727
  - (a) Against Impending Evil, 728 – (b) Against a Known Sorcerer, 729 – (c) Against Snakes, 729 – (d) Against Dogs, 730 – (e) Against Ghosts, 731 – (f) Against a Curse, 732 – (g) Golden Tiara of the Heavens, 734 – (h) Protector of the King (1), 735 – (i) Protector of the King (2), 738 – (j) Protector of the King (3), 741 – (k) Protector of the King (4), 743 – (l) Protector of the King (5), 744 – (m) Absolver, 746 – (n) The Supremacy of Shamash, 747 – (o) Healer, 749 – (p) Against the Consequences of a Nightmare, 751 – (q) Homecoming, 752
- 52. To Shamash and Adad, 754
  - (a) The Cleansing Water, 754 – (b) Lighting the Incense, 754 – (c) Placing the Flour Offering, 755 – (d) The Sacrificial Gazelle, 755 – (e) The Sacrificial Lamb, 756
- 53. To Shamash and Marduk, 757
- 54. To Sin, 758
  - (a) For Help in Haruspicy, 758 – (b) Illuminator of Darkness, 760
- 55. To Sin and Shamash, 762
- 56. To Any God, 763
- 57. Prayer for Laying the Foundation of a Temple, 766
- 58. Litigant's Prayer, 767
- H. Miscellaneous Expressive Compositions 768
  - 59. The Monkey Man, 768
  - 60. The Ballad of Former Heroes, 769

CHAPTER IV  
THE LATE PERIOD  
(1000–100 B.C.)

Introduction	771
A. Kings of Assyria and Their Times	779
1. Shalmaneser III, 779	
(a) Shalmaneser in Ararat, 779 – (b) To Mullissu, 782	
2. Sargon II, 784	
(a) Prayers From Dur-Sharrukin, 784 – (b) To Nanay, 788 – (c) The Eighth Campaign, 790	
3. Esarhaddon and Ishtar of Arbela, 814	
4. Assurbanipal, 815	
(a) Coronation Prayer, 815 – (b) To Assur, 817 – (c) To Ishtar of Nineveh and Arbela, 819 – (d) Acrostic Hymn to Marduk, 821 – (e) To Shamash, 827 – (f) Assurbanipal and Nabu, 829 – (g) Pious Scholar, 831	
5. The Netherworld Vision of an Assyrian Crown Prince, 832	
6. In Praise of Arbela, 840	
B. Kings of Babylonia and Their Times	841
7. Nabopolassar, 841	
(a) To Marduk (1), 841 – (b) To Marduk (2), 842	
8. Nebuchadnezzar II, 843	
(a) To Marduk (1), 843 – (b) To Marduk (2), 844 – (c) To Marduk (3), 845 – (d) To Marduk (4), 845 – (e) To Marduk (5), 846 – (f) To Nabu, 846 – (g) To Nabu and Marduk, 847 – (h) To Ninmah, 847 – (i) To Shamash (1), 848 – (j) To Shamash (2), 848 – (k) Acrostic Hymn to Nabu, 849	
9. The Lament of Nabu-shuma-ukin, 852	
10. Neriglissar to Marduk, 857	
11. Nabonidus, 858	
(a) To Ishtar of Akkad, 858 – (b) To Marduk (1), 859 – (c) To Marduk (2), 859 – (d) To Shamash (1), 860 – (e) To Shamash (2), 862 – (f) To Sin (1), 863 – (g) To Sin (2), 864	
12. Antiochus Soter to Nabu, 866	
13. Advice to a Prince, 867	
14. The King of Justice, 870	
15. In Praise of Ezida, 875	

16. In Praise of Babylon, 876	
(a) Sublime Holy Place, 876 – (b) The Babylonians, 878 –	
(c) Full of Joy to Behold, 879	
C. Mythological and Historical Narratives	880
17. Erra and Ishum, 880	
18. The Birth Legend of Sargon of Akkad, 912	
D. Dialogues and Debates	914
19. The Babylonian Theodicy, 914	
20. The Dialogue of Pessimism, 923	
21. The Tamarisk and the Palm, 927	
22. The Dog's Boast, 930	
E. Folktale, Humor	931
23. The Poor Man of Nippur, 931	
24. Why Do You Curse Me? 937	
25. The Jester, 939	
26. The Birds' Purchase, 942	
F. Love Lyrics	944
27. Love Lyrics of Nabu and Tashmetu, 944	
28. Love Lyrics of Ishtar of Babylon, 947	
G. Laments	949
29. Elegy for a Woman Dead in Childbirth, 949	
30. Laments for Dumuzi, 950	
(a) I Stood Tall in Our Orchard, 950 – (b) The Husband in	
Whom I Delighted, 952	
H. Incantations	954
31. Marduk and the Demons, 954	
32. Against an Adversary in a Lawsuit, 959	
33. Against an Angry Man, 960	
(a) I Will Dissolve Your Anger, 960 – (b) Anger, 960	
34. Against Bile, 961	
35. Against the Evil Eye, 962	
36. Against Evil Spirits, 963	
(a) The Seven, 963 – (b) Black Tragacanth, 964 – (c) Mys-	
terious Demons, 966	
37. Against Eye Disease, 967	
(a) Daughters to the Wind, 967 – (b) Bloodshot Eyes,	
968 – (c) They Are Two, 968 – (d) Mote, 969 – (e) Wind	
Blew Down, 969 – (f) Vessels of Blood, 970	

38. Against Fever, 971
  - (a) Fire, Fire! 971 – (b) Your Smoke Has No Smell, 972
39. Against Flatulence, 973
40. Against Headache, 974
  - (a) Epidemic, 974 – (b) Affliction, 975 – (c) Misery, 976 – (d) Do Not Enter the House I Enter, 977 – (e) I Am Pazuzu, 978
41. Against Infertility, 979
  - (a) The Kiln, 979 – (b) The Date Palm, 980
42. Against Lamashtu, 981
  - (a) “Bring Me Your Sons!” 981 – (b) She Tortures Babies, 982 – (c) “I Am the Daughter of Anu,” 983 – (d) She Seized, 984
43. Against Nurses Harmful to Children, 986
44. Against Phantoms, 987
  - (a) Life Passed Them By, 987 – (b) Against a Ghost That Has Appeared, 990 – (c) Why Do You Keep Appearing to Me? 991
45. Against “Redness,” 992
46. Against Scorpions, 993
  - (a) It Is Green, 993 – (b) Wolf of the Storeroom, 993
47. Against Sickness and Pain, 994
48. Against Toothache, 995
49. Against Witchcraft, 996
  - (a) My Magic Works, 996 – (b) Blockading, 996 – (c) They Are Working Against Me, 997 – (d) The Footpad, 998
50. Love Charms, 1000
  - (a) The Harpstring, 1000 – (b) Get Up! 1000 – (c) I Have Made a Bed, 1001 – (d) May I Not Miss My Prey! 1002
51. For Absolution, 1003
  - (a) The Brazier, 1003 – (b) May My Sin Rise Up to the Sky! 1004
52. For a Ruler’s Favor, 1005
  - (a) I Am Proud, 1005 – (b) I’ve Put My Shoes on My Feet, 1005
53. For a Woman in Labor, 1006
  - (a) The Baby Is Stuck! 1006 – (b) Sin and the Cow, 1007 – (c) Run Hither to Me!, 1008 – (d) The Boat, 1009
54. To Calm a Baby, 1010
  - (a) Be Placid as a Pond, 1010 – (b) Be Still as Swamp Water, 1011 – (c) Let Mother Get Her Chores Done, 1012

55. To Recapture a Runaway Slave, 1013	
56. To Secure Brisk Trade at a Tavern, 1014	
I. Letters and Miscellaneous	1015
57. When Old Men Dance, 1015	
58. The Gilgamesh Letter, 1017	
59. The Man Who Would Be King, 1020	
(a) Open the Tablet Box, 1020 – (b) Lackey of a Dead God, 1021	
60. In Praise of the Scribal Art, 1023	
61. Seeking Out Dumuzi, 1025	
62. A Literary Prophecy, 1026	
Index of Texts Translated	1029
Abbreviations	1035