

## Inana's descent into the netherworld

an gal-ta ki gal-še<sub>3</sub> ġeštug<sub>2</sub>-ga-ni na-an-gub

diġir an gal-ta ki gal-še<sub>3</sub> ġeštug<sub>2</sub>-ga-ni na-an-gub

<sup>d</sup>Inana an gal-ta ki gal-še<sub>3</sub> ġeštug<sub>2</sub>-ga-ni na-an-gub

nin-ġu<sub>10</sub> an mu-un-šub ki mu-un-šub kur-ra ba-e-a-ed<sub>3</sub>

<sup>d</sup>inana an mu-un-šub ki mu-un-šub kur-ra ba-e-a-ed<sub>3</sub>

nam-en mu-un-šub nam-lagar mu-un-šub kur-ra ba-e-a-ed<sub>3</sub>

unug<sup>ki</sup>-ga e<sub>2</sub>-an-na mu-un-šub kur-ra ba-e-a-ed<sub>3</sub>

bad<sub>3</sub>-tibira<sup>ki</sup>-a e<sub>2</sub>-muš<sub>3</sub>-kalam-ma mu-un-šub kur-ra ba-e-a-ed<sub>3</sub>

zabalam<sup>ki</sup>-a gi-gun<sup>ki</sup>-na mu-un-šub kur-ra ba-e-a-ed<sub>3</sub>

adab<sup>ki</sup>-a e<sub>2</sub>-šar-ra mu-un-šub kur-ra ba-e-a-ed<sub>3</sub>

nibru<sup>ki</sup>-a barag-dur<sub>2</sub>-ġar-ra mu-un-šub kur-ra ba-e-a-ed<sub>3</sub>

kiš<sup>ki</sup>-a ħur-saġ-kalam-ma mu-un-šub kur-ra ba-e-a-ed<sub>3</sub>

a-ga-de<sub>3</sub><sup>ki</sup>-a e<sub>2</sub>-ul-maš<sup>ki</sup> mu-un-šub kur-ra ba-e-a-ed<sub>3</sub>

an gal-ta ki gal-še<sub>3</sub> ġeštug<sub>2</sub>-ga-ni na-an-gub

me 7-bi zag mu-ni-in-keše<sub>2</sub>

me mu-un-ur<sub>4</sub>-ur<sub>4</sub>šu-ni-še<sub>3</sub> mu-un-la<sub>2</sub>

<sup>tug<sub>2</sub></sup>pala<sub>3</sub> tug<sub>2</sub> nam-nin-a

<sup>tug<sub>2</sub></sup>šu-gur-ra men edin-na

šembri<sup>zi</sup> lu<sub>2</sub> ħe<sub>2</sub>-em-du ħe<sub>2</sub>-em-du

tu-di-da lu<sub>2</sub> ġa<sub>2</sub>-nu ġa<sub>2</sub>-nu

<sup>na<sub>4</sub></sup>za-gin<sub>3</sub> di<sub>4</sub>-di<sub>4</sub>-la<sub>2</sub>

na<sub>4</sub>-nunuz tab-ba

ħar kug-sig<sub>17</sub>

gi-diš-nindan eš<sub>2</sub>-gana<sub>2</sub> za-gin<sub>3</sub>

me mu-un-ur<sub>4</sub>-ur<sub>4</sub>šu-ni-še<sub>3</sub> mu-un-la<sub>2</sub>

<sup>d</sup>ga-ša-an-šubur-ġu<sub>10</sub> <sup>d</sup>ga-ša-an-šubur-ġu<sub>10</sub>

ġa<sub>2</sub>-nu sukkal zid e<sub>2</sub>-an-na-ġu<sub>10</sub>

sukkal e-ne-eġ<sub>3</sub> sag<sub>9</sub>-sag<sub>9</sub>-ga-ġu<sub>10</sub>

ra-gaba e-ne-eġ<sub>3</sub> ge-en-gen<sub>6</sub>-na-ġu<sub>10</sub>

アンナ神殿に仕え奉るニンシュブル、言葉のよき御身の使い、御前に候

ud-da kur-še<sub>3</sub> ed<sub>3</sub>-de<sub>3</sub>-en

ud-da kur-še<sub>3</sub> ġen-na-ġu<sub>10</sub>-ne

廢墟の上で嘆きましょう

šem<sub>3</sub> gu<sub>2</sub>-en-na tuku-tuku-a-ma-ni-ib

神々の家を取り囲みましょう

i-bi<sub>2</sub>-zu ħur-ma-ab

鼻を掻ききましょう

ki mu-lu-da nu-di

ほとを掻ききましょう

mu-lu nu-tuku-gin<sub>7</sub>

ひとつしかない衣服に身を通しましょう

e<sub>2</sub>-kur-re e<sub>2</sub> <sup>d</sup>mu-ul-lil<sub>2</sub>-la<sub>2</sub>-še<sub>3</sub> me-ri-zu dili gub-mu-un

From the great heaven she set her mind on the great below.

From the great heaven the goddess set her mind on the great below.

From the great heaven Inana set her mind on the great below.

My mistress abandoned heaven, abandoned earth, and descended to the underworld.

Inana abandoned heaven, abandoned earth, and descended to the underworld.

She abandoned the office of en, abandoned the office of lagar, and descended to the underworld.

She abandoned the E-ana in Unug, and descended to the underworld.

She abandoned the E-muš-kalama in Bad-tibira, and descended to the underworld.

She abandoned the Giguna in Zabalam, and descended to the underworld.

She abandoned the E-šara in Adab, and descended to the underworld.

She abandoned the Barag-dur-ġara in Nibru, and descended to the underworld.

She abandoned the Hursag-kalama in Kiš, and descended to the underworld.

She abandoned the E-Ulmaš in Agade, and descended to the underworld.

From the great heaven she set her mind on the great below.

She took the seven divine powers.

She collected the divine powers and grasped them in her hand.

(She put) a pala dress, the garment of ladyship,

a turban, headgear for the open country,

mascara which is called "Let a man come, let him come",

the pectoral which is called "Come, man, come",

small lapis-lazuli beads,

twin egg-shaped beads,

a golden ring,

and lapis-lazuli measuring rod and measuring line.

I collected the divine powers and grasped them in my hand.

"My Nin-šubur, my Nin-šubur"

"Come my faithful minister of E-ana,

my minister who speaks fair words,

my escort who speaks trustworthy words.

I present myself here.

On this day I will descend to the underworld.

When I have arrived in the underworld,

I will make a lament for you on the ruin mounds.

Beat the šem-drum for me in the sanctuary.

I will make the rounds of the houses of the gods for you.

Lacerate your eyes for me.

I will lacerate my nose for you.

In private,

I will lacerate my groin for you.

Like a pauper,

I will clothe myself in a single garment.

And all alone set your foot in the E-kur, the house of Enlil.

e<sub>2</sub>-kur-re e<sub>2</sub><sup>d</sup> mu-ul-lil<sub>2</sub>-la<sub>2</sub>-šc<sub>3</sub> ku<sub>4</sub>-ku<sub>4</sub>-da-zu-ne ku<sub>4</sub>-ku<sub>4</sub>-da-zu-ne

エンリルの前で大きな声で泣きましょう。

a-a<sup>d</sup> mu-ul-lil<sub>2</sub> a-a<sup>d</sup> mu-ul-lil<sub>2</sub>

冥界においてご息女イナンナさまを殺すものがなきように  
お願い申し上げます

ud-da<sup>d</sup> mu-ul-lil<sub>2</sub> e-ne-eĝ<sub>3</sub>-ba

nu-ri-gub urim<sub>2</sub><sup>ki</sup>-šc<sub>3</sub> ĝen-na

ウルの街のムドカラ神殿で、キシユ・ヌ・ガル神殿で  
大神ナンナに向かい大きな声で泣きましょう。

ud-da<sup>d</sup> hanna e-ne-eĝ<sub>3</sub>-ba

nu-ri-gub uru<sub>2</sub>-ze<sub>2</sub>-eb<sup>ki</sup>-šc<sub>3</sub> ĝen-na

エリドゥの街で大神エンキに向かい大きな声で泣きましょう

ĝen-na<sup>d</sup> ga-ša-an-šubur-ĝu<sub>10</sub> ĝen-na

畏まって候

あらゆる地位や神殿を捨て

7つの靈力を身につけ

イナンナはただひとり

冥界への道を辿りつつ旅を続けた

エレシュキガル様のおなりでござりまする

e<sub>2</sub> ĝal<sub>2</sub>-u<sub>3</sub> i<sub>3</sub>-du<sub>8</sub> e<sub>2</sub> ĝal<sub>2</sub>-u<sub>3</sub>

e<sub>2</sub> ĝal<sub>2</sub>-u<sub>3</sub><sup>d</sup> ne-ti e<sub>2</sub> ĝal<sub>2</sub>-u<sub>3</sub> dili-ĝu<sub>10</sub>-šc<sub>3</sub> ga-kur<sub>9</sub>

これは冥界の門を守る番人、ネティなり

や、表に何やら声がする

誰にて渡り候ぞ

me-e<sup>d</sup> ga-ša-an-na ki<sup>d</sup> utu e<sub>3</sub>-a-aš

何と、女神イナンナ様にて候ひけるぞや

さらばその由を申し上げよう。それにしばらく御待ち候へ

いかにエレシュキガル様、御妹御、女神イナンナ様

7つの神聖なる靈力、メを身にまといて御参りでござりまする

ĝa<sub>2</sub>-nu<sup>d</sup> ne-ti i<sub>3</sub>-du<sub>8</sub> gal kur-ra-ĝu<sub>10</sub>

御前にござりまする

abula kur-ra 7-bi<sup>š</sup> si-ĝar-bi ħe<sub>2</sub>-eb-us<sub>2</sub>

e<sub>2</sub>-gal ganzer dili-bi<sup>š</sup> ig-bi šu ħa-ba-an-us<sub>2</sub>

e-ne ku<sub>4</sub>-ku<sub>4</sub>-da-ni-ta gam-gam-ma-ni

tug<sub>2</sub> zil-zil-la-ni-ta lu<sub>2</sub> ba-an-de<sub>6</sub>

門のひとつひとつでメをはぎ取ること、確かに承りました

いかにイナンナ様、あなたへお入りくださいませ

abula 1-kam-ma ku<sub>4</sub>-ku<sub>4</sub>-da-ni-ta

<sup>u</sup>su-gur-ra men edin-na ba-da-an-ze<sub>2</sub>-er

ta-am<sub>3</sub> ne-e

しばらく！冥界の「メ」はすでに満たされてござる

When you have entered the E-kur, the house of Enlil,

I will lament before Enlil.

Father Enlil, father Enlil,

I will ask him not to let anyone kill your daughter in the underworld.

If Enlil does not help you in this matter,

go to Urim.

In the E-mud-kura at Urim, when I have entered the E-kiš-nu-ĝal, the house of Nanna,

I will lament before Nanna:

If Nanna does not help you in this matter,

go to Eridug.

In Eridug, when I have entered the house of Enki, I will lament before Enki:

Go now, my Nin-šubur. Go now!

I will obey your words.

Inana abandoned her position and temple.

She took the seven divine powers,

and all alone,

she travelled the path to the Netherworld.

Behold, Ereškigala has arrived.

Open up, doorman, open up.

Open up, Neti, open up. I am all alone and I want to come in.

I am Neti, the chief doorman of the underworld.

I hear a sound coming from outside.

Who are you?

I am Inana going to the east.

Lo and behold, it is goddess Inana.

Stay here, Inana. I will speak to my mistress.

My mistress Ereškigala. Inana, your sister, has arrived at the palace Ganzer.

She has come with the seven divine powers.

Come Neti, my chief doorman of the underworld.

I am here my mistress.

Let the seven gates of the underworld be bolted.

Then let each door of the palace Ganzer be opened separately.

As for her, after she has entered, and crouched down,

and had her clothes removed, they will be carried away.

I hear your orders her divine powers will be removed at each gate.

Come on, Inana, enter.

When she entered the first gate,

the turban, headgear for the open country, was removed.

What is this?

Be silent, Inana, a divine power of the underworld has been fulfilled.

これは冥界の掟でござる

abula 2-kam-ma ku<sub>4</sub>-ku<sub>4</sub>-da-ni-ta

na<sub>4</sub>za-gin<sub>3</sub> di<sub>4</sub>-di<sub>4</sub>-la<sub>2</sub> ba-da-an-ze<sub>2</sub>-er

abula 3-kam-ma ku<sub>4</sub>-ku<sub>4</sub>-da-ni-ta

na<sub>4</sub>-nunuz tab-ba ba-da-an-ze<sub>2</sub>-er

abula 4-kam-ma ku<sub>4</sub>-ku<sub>4</sub>-da-ni-ta

tu-di-da lu<sub>2</sub> ĝa<sub>2</sub>-nu ĝa<sub>2</sub>-nu ba-da-an-ze<sub>2</sub>-er

abula 5-kam-ma ku<sub>4</sub>-ku<sub>4</sub>-da-ni-ta

ḥar kug-sig<sub>17</sub> ba-da-an-ze<sub>2</sub>-er

abula 6-kam-ma ku<sub>4</sub>-ku<sub>4</sub>-da-ni-ta

gi-diš-nindan eš<sub>2</sub>-gana<sub>2</sub> za-gin<sub>3</sub> ba-da-an-ze<sub>2</sub>-er

abula 7-kam-ma ku<sub>4</sub>-ku<sub>4</sub>-da-ni-ta

<sup>u<sub>2</sub></sup>pala<sub>3</sub> tug<sub>2</sub> nam-nin-a ba-da-an-ze<sub>2</sub>-er

nin<sub>9</sub>-a-ni <sup>ēš</sup>gu-za-ni-ta im-ma-da-an-zig<sub>3</sub>

e-ne <sup>ēš</sup>gu-za-ni-ta dur<sub>2</sub> im-mi-in-ĝar

冥界の女神エレシュキガルは玉座を蹴ってつつ立ち上がり怒りをなしたる有様なり

冥界の裁判官 アヌンナたちはイナンナに 判決を下した

igi mu-ši-in-bar i-bi<sub>2</sub> uš<sub>2</sub>-a-kam

傷ついた女性は、弱い肉になった

弱い肉は冥界の釘に吊り下げられた

や、不思議なることの候。イナンナ様のみならず、  
エレシュキガル様までも弱き肉となり果て給いて候。

これはいかなこと、これはいかなこと。

裁き人らの死の眼差して射抜かれ、弱き肉となった

イナンナは、冥界の釘に吊るされた

このときから地上の世界では草木が枯れ、

よろずの災いが悉く起こった。

イナンナの大臣ニンシュブルは、イナンナが残した言葉のそのままに、

体を引き裂き、貧しき者のごとき姿で、哀歌を歌いつつ

神々の神殿を徘徊し、まずエクルのエンリル神殿に参った

そこで、涙を流し、大きな声で泣いた

が、「それはイナンナの勝手にしたこと」と

その願いは聞こし召されなかった

次いでウルのみドクラ神殿、キシユ・ヌ・ガル神殿の大神ナンナに参り

そこで、涙を流し、大きな声で泣いた

が、やはりその願いは聞こし召されなかった

最後に参ったのはエリドゥの大神エンキのところ

そこでも、涙を流し、大きな声で泣いた

そのとき、大神エンキの仰せられけるは

「何とイナンナが冥界より戻らぬと申すか

彼の者を助けんがため、我が爪の泥よりクルガラを作り

我が二の爪の泥よりガラトゥルを作らん

そう仰せになって、

Inana, you must not open your mouth against the rites of the underworld.

When she entered the second gate,

the small lapis-lazuli beads were removed.

When she entered the third gate,

the twin egg-shaped beads were removed.

When she entered the fourth gate,

the “Come, man, come” pectoral was removed.

When she entered the fifth gate,

the golden ring was removed.

When she entered the sixth gate,

the lapis-lazuli measuring rod and measuring line were removed.

When she entered the seventh gate,

the pala dress, the garment of ladyship, was removed.

Her sister Ereškigala rose from her throne,

and instead she sat on her throne.

The Anuna, the seven judges, rendered their decision against her.

They looked at her — it was the look of death.

The afflicted woman was turned into a corpse.

And the corpse was hung on a hook.

How extraordinary! Not only Inana

but Ereškigala has also turned into a corpse.

What is happening?

The judges’ look of death turned Inana into a corpse,

and she was hung on a hook.

And on earth, all trees and plants died,

and many calamities occurred.

Inana’s minister Nin-šubur obeyed Inana’s words.

She lacerated her body, dressed like a pauper, sang the songs of sorrow,

and made the rounds of the houses of the gods, first she went to E-kur, the house of Enlil.

She wept and howled.

But he said “That is Inana’s selfish doings”,

And her cries were not answered.

Next she went to E-mud-kura at Urim, stood before god Nanna of E-kiš-nu-gal,

and wept and howled.

But her cries were not answered.

Lastly she went to Eridug to god Enki.

She wept and howled.

God Enki’s words were

“You say that Inana does not return from the Netherworld.

I must save her. From dirt off a fingernail I will create kur-ĝara,

And from dirt off another fingernail I will create gala-tura”.

So he said,

爪の泥からクルガラ、ガラトゥルの二体を作られた

そして、クルガラには命の草、

ガラトゥルには命の水を授けて冥界に向かわせた

gala-tur kur-ġara-ra <sup>ēš</sup>ig nim-gin<sub>7</sub> mu-un-dal-dal

gala-tur kur-ġara-ra za-ra lil<sub>2</sub>-gin<sub>7</sub> mu-un-gur-gur

クルガラ、ガラトゥルは冥界に着いた

そこにはイナンナのみならず

冥界の女王エレシュキガルも病に倒れていた

いかに申し上げ候

u<sub>3</sub>-u<sub>8</sub>-a šag<sub>4</sub>-ġu<sub>10</sub>

おお、哀れなるかな。御身の内が

u<sub>3</sub>-u<sub>8</sub>-a bar-ġu<sub>10</sub>

おお、哀れなるかな。御身の外が

a-ba-am<sub>3</sub> za-e-me-en-ze<sub>2</sub>-en

我が内より御身の内へ。我が外より御身の外へ

a id<sub>2</sub>-bi ma-ra-ba-e-ne

川を満たす水なりとも、我が賜るべきものにはなく候

a-šag<sub>4</sub> še-ba ma-ra-ba-e-ne

畑を満たす大麦なりとも、我が賜はるべきものにはなく候

ただあの釘より吊るされたる死体を賜り候へ

uzu niġ<sub>2</sub> sag<sub>3</sub>-ga <sup>ēš</sup>gag-ta la<sub>2</sub>

なかなかのこと

uzu niġ<sub>2</sub> sag<sub>3</sub>-ga ga-ša-an-zu-ne-ne

我が王であれ、我が女王であれ、ただただ賜り候へ

イナンナを得し両人は命の水と命と草とを死体の上にふり注ぐ

不思議やイナンナ立ち上がり エレシュキガルも生き生きと

よみがえりの水よみがえりの草 喜びの舞を舞い給ふ

やらやら目出たや目出たやな かかる目出たき折りなれば

ガラトゥル・クルガラ現れ出でて 謡い奏で喜び勇み

これまでなりとてガラトゥル・クルガラ 元の宮居に帰りけり

女神はパラの衣を着し シャガンの器を油で満たし

溢るる思ひは身をくだく 千々に乱るる胸の火の

日も夕暮れになりぬれば パラの衣の長き袂を翻し翻し

永遠の恵みを イナンナに与え エレシュキガルは

むばたまの冥き道行く 冥界の塵の霞にまぎれて失せにけり

an ġa<sub>2</sub>-a-kam ki ġa<sub>2</sub>-a-kam me-e ur-šaġ-ġen

unug<sup>ki</sup>-ga e<sub>2</sub>-an-na ġa<sub>2</sub>-a-kam zabalam<sup>ki</sup> gi-gun<sub>4</sub>-na ma-a-kam

nibru<sup>ki</sup>-a dur-an-ki ma-a-kam urim<sup>ki</sup>-ma e<sub>2</sub>-dilmun-na ma-a-kam

ġir<sub>2</sub>-su<sup>ki</sup>-a eš<sub>2</sub>-dam-kug ma-a-kam adab<sup>ki</sup>-a e<sub>2</sub>-šar-ra ma-a-kam

kiš<sup>ki</sup>-a ħur-šaġ-kalam-ma ma-a-kam kisiga<sup>ki</sup> amaš-kug-ga ma-a-kam

akšak<sup>ki</sup>-a an-za-gar<sub>3</sub> ma-a-kam umma<sup>ki</sup>-a ib-gal ma-a-kam

a-ga-de<sub>3</sub><sup>ki</sup>-a ul<sup>l</sup>-maš ma-a-kam

ma-ra dim<sub>3</sub>-me-er teš<sub>2</sub> mu-da-sa<sub>2</sub>-a

me-e<sup>d</sup> ga-ša-an-an-na-ġen

and from some dirt off this fingernails created the kur-ġara and gala-tura.

To the kur-ġara he gave the life-giving plant,

and to the gala-tura he gave the life-giving water.

The gala-tura and the kur-ġara flitted through the door like flies.

The gala-tura and the kur-ġara slipped through the door pivots like phantoms.

The kur-ġara and the gala-tura arrived at the Netherworld.

There they found not only Inana,

but also Ereškigala had fallen ill.

I speak to you.

Oh my heart!

You are troubled, our mistress, oh your heart.

Oh my body!

You are troubled, our mistress, oh your body.

Who are you?

From my heart to your heart, from my body to your body.

I will give you a river with its water.

Even if your water fills the rivers that is not what we are here to receive.

I will give you a field with its grain.

Even if your grains fill the fields that is not what we are here to receive.

Give us the corpse hanging on the hook.

The corpse hanging on the hook?

That is quite a request.

The corpse is that of your queen.

Whether it is that of our king or that of our queen, give it to us.

One of them sprinkled on it the life-giving plant and the other the life-giving water,

And thus Inana arose, Ereškigala also arose.

Water of rebirth, plants of rebirth dance the dance of joy.

How joyous, how festive!

Gala-tura kur-ġara have appeared. Let them sing, let them rejoice.

That will be all gala-tura kur-ġara, Return to their palace.

The goddess wears the para, fills the shagan with oil,

her emotions break her body fire in her heart falling into a thousand pieces.

As dusk approaches, flutter the long sleeves of the para,

and give Inana ever-lasting blessing,

Ereškigala follows the dark, and disappears into the dusty mist of the Netherworld.

The heavens are mine. The earth is mine. I am heroic!

In Unug the E-ana is mine, in Zabalam the Giguna is mine,

in Nibru the Dur-an-ki is mine, in Urim the E-Dilmuna is mine,

in Ġirsu the Ešdam-kug is mine, in Adab the E-šara is mine,

in Kiš the Ĥursaġ-kalama is mine, in Kisiga the Amaš-kuga is mine,

in Akšak the Anzagar is mine, in Umma the Ibgal is mine,

in Agade the Ulmaš is mine.

Which god compares with me?

I am Inana!