

**THE BABYLONIAN EXPEDITION
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF
PENNSYLVANIA; SERIES D:
RESEARCHES AND TREATISES,
VOL. V**

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The Babylonian Expedition of the University of Pennsylvania; Series D: Researches and Treatises, Vol. V by Hugo Radau

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HUGO RADAU

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THE BABYLONIAN EXPEDITION
OF
THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SERIES D: RESEARCHES AND TREATISES

EDITED BY
H. V. HILPRECHT

VOL. V. FASCICULUS 2

BY
HUGO RADAU

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Published by the University of Pennsylvania

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The Editor determines the material to constitute a volume and reports to the Committee of Publication on the general merits of the manuscript and autograph plates submitted for publication; but the Editor is not responsible for the views expressed by the writer.

NIN-IB
THE DETERMINER OF FATES

ACCORDING TO THE GIĜGAT SUMERIAN EPIC

LUGAL-E ŪG ME-LÁM-BI NER-GÁL

FROM

The Temple Library of Nippur

BY

HUGO RADAU

With Five Halftone Illustrations.

PHILADELPHIA

Published by the University of Pennsylvania

1910

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Daniel S. Tuttle, D.D., LL.D.,

BISHOP OF MISSOURI AND PRESIDING BISHOP OF THE PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH
IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

In Gratefulness, Reverence and Affection



PREFACE.

THE discoverer of the Temple Library of Nippur, Professor H. V. Hilprecht, kindly intrusted me with the publication of the several texts relating to the god "NIN-IB, the son of Entil," shortly to be issued in the *Babylonian Expedition*, Series A, Volume XXIX, to which I gave the preliminary title "*Hymns and Prayers to NIN-IB.*"

After a detailed examination of these texts, I found, however, that several of them were neither hymns nor prayers properly speaking, but parts of *epics*. These epics, relating to NIN-IB—the autograph plates of which are to appear in *B. E.*, XXIX—were made the theme of the following pages.

It is, of course, extremely gratifying that the famous Temple Library of Nippur should yield, at the very beginning of its publication, such interesting and important texts as epics, more particularly such epics as were known to us, for the last two decades, from the celebrated Library of Ashshurbánapal. Truly, our most sanguine expectations have been surpassed.

While up to the present time the *terminus a quo* of the Babylonian epical literature was considered to be, at the very earliest, the time of the first dynasty of Babylon, the Temple Library of Nippur pushes this starting point about 500 years ahead, nay, furnishes abundant indirect proofs that the beginning of the Sumerian epical literature antedates even the time of the second dynasty of Ur, or about 2700 B.C.

Not only, however, do the contents of the Temple Library of Nippur push the beginning of the Sumerian epical literature to