[This copy is based upon:]

**ASTRONOMICAL**

**DIARIES AND RELATED TEXTS**

**FROM BABYLONIA**

BY THE LATE

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Volume I

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

(1988)

**No. -651**

Upper edge

1. [At the command of . . . . ] Bel 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 20th', the moon was surrounded by a halo, (and) Mercury [stood] in i[t . . . .]

6’ strong wind. The 21st, . . . . [. . . .]

Col. iv

1’ [. . . .] the star of [. . . .]

2’ [. . . .] . . . . right’ of the moon [. . . .]

3’ [. . . .] . . . . [. . . .]

4’ [. . . .] . . . . [. . . .]

5’ [. . . .] . . . . right of the moon’ . . . . [. . . .]

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’ clouds’. 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 front’ 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 withdrw and were heavily defeated.

20’ [. . . . The no]rth wind blew. The 28th, a little rain. In the afternoon, a very red’ 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 wriing for kur4  = *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┐.KI “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.