

The Mother of Nabonidus Translation – (Transcription)

*On two stelae found in Harran, one in 1906 and one as recently as 1956, we have what appears, stylistically, as a tomb inscription of Nabonidus.

The 21st year of Nabopolassar, the 43rd year of Nebuchadnezzar, the 2nd year of Awel-Merodach, the 4th year of Neriglissar, during all these 95 years in which I visited the temple of the great godhead sin. Nabonidus my only son whom I bore. I have made Nabonidus, the son whom I bore, serve Nebuchadnezzar, son of Nabopolassar, and Neriglissar, king of Babylon.

Nabonidus and His God

*In 1956 D.S. Rice discovered in the ruins of the Great Mosque in Harran two stelae of Nabonidus used there secondarily as paving stones. The bas-relief contains the figure of the king in adoration before the symbols of the Sun, Ishtar and the Moon.

But the citizens of Babylon acted evil, careless and sinned against his great divine power, having not yet experienced the awfulness of the wrath of the Divine Crescent (Moon God), the king of all gods; they disregarded his text. There was much disloyal talk.

Before that moment my visits to the diviner or the dream expert for the interpretation of signs did not cease, but whenever I lay down to sleep, my dreams at night were confused, until the word came true, the time was full, the right moment had arrived which Sin foretold.

Ishtar, Adad and Nergal who have only executed the command of the Divine Crescent.

To execute the command of the Divine Crescent.

The king of the gods the Divine Crescent.

Source: The Ancient Near East – An Anthology of Texts and Pictures Volume II
by James Pritchard - 1975 Princeton University Press

The Nabonidus Cylinder from Ur

*This cylinder is a foundation text in which king Nabonidus of Babylonia (556-539) describes how he repaired the ziggurat called E-lugal-galga-sisa, which belonged to the temple of Sin in Ur, called Egisnugal. The translation of the Nabonidus Cylinder was made by Paul-Alain Beaulieu, who is also the author of The Reign of Nabonidus, King of Babylon 556-539 B.C. (1989).

As for me, Nabonidus, king of Babylon, save me from sinning against your great godhead and grant me as a present a life long of days, and as for Belshazzar, the eldest son -my offspring- instill reverence for your great godhead in his heart and may he not commit any cultic mistake, may he be sated with a life of plenitude.