

## THE CAMPAIGNS OF THE FIRST THREE YEARS OF TUKULTĪ-NINURTA'S I (1242-1206 BC)\*

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For Prof. Aram Kosyan, on his 65<sup>th</sup> birthday

### Abstract

*The chronology of events during the reign of Tukultī-Ninurta I does not stand out with particular accuracy, which often sparked controversy. In particular, it refers to the irregular sequence of events in the king's records. In this article, examining the records of the Assyrian king, we have singled out the raids of his first three years, 1242-1239 BC.*

**Keywords:** Assyria, Aššur, invasion, eponym, Uqumenu, Qutu, Šarnida, Meḥru, Katmuḫu, Alzu, Nairi.

The XIV-XIII centuries BC were marked by the rise of the city-state of Aššur and the emergence of the Middle Assyrian state. The newly created and fully militarized state began to pursue an active foreign policy, striving for regional domination. During this period the main task of Assyrian foreign policy was to break through the "crescent" controlled by the Hittites extending from the north to the west, which would pave the way leading to the sources of metals in the north, trade routes and centers to the west<sup>1</sup>.

The state of Mitanni fell under the attacks of the Assyrian kings Adad-nārārī I (1304-1273 BC<sup>2</sup>), in particular Shalmaneser I (Šulmānu-ašarēd) (1272-1243 BC). Tukultī-Ninurta I (1242-1206 BC<sup>3</sup>), who succeeded Shalmaneser I, in the very year of his reign, set about consolidating the achievements of his predecessors.

Due to the lack of sources, there is no clarity as to the date of this or that event in the military and political history of the Middle Assyrian period. As it is known, the royal inscriptions that are dated are almost clearly dated. However, it should be noted that the royal chronicles are not always dated or have been quite damaged. For instance, two of the Tukultī-Ninurta I's inscriptions are clearly dated, the first dating to the 15th year of the king's reign<sup>4</sup> - «ITI al-la-na-tu [li-mu] <sup>md</sup>A-šur-EN-

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<sup>1</sup> Tsakanyan 2018: 19ff.; Kosyan 1999: 13; Liverani 2014: 351ff.; Cifola 2004: 7ff.; Edzard 2004: 166f.; Cancik-Kirschbaum 2003: 50f.; Kuhrt 1995: 348ff.; Munn-Rankin 1975: 274ff.

<sup>2</sup> For the Middle Assyrian period chronicle in detail, see Freydank 1991: 188f.; Wilhelm, Boese 1987: 74-117.

<sup>3</sup> By Y. Bloch- Shalmaneser I ruled in 1269-1241 BC, and Tukultī-Ninurta I ruled in 1240-1205 BC, Bloch 2010: 1; Bloch 2008: 144.

<sup>4</sup> Bloch 2010: 31; Röllig 2008: 4; Freydank 2005: 49f.

DINGIR.MEŠ» - “Month of Allanatu, eponymy of Aššur-bēl-ilāni”<sup>1</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup> year of the reign<sup>2</sup> - «li-mu <sup>m</sup>I-na-<sup>d</sup>Aš-šur-MU-aš-bat» - “Eponymy of Ina-Aššur-šuma-ašbat”<sup>3</sup>, in another inscription - «ITI xxxx li-mu xxxx»<sup>4</sup>, the month and the eponym are damaged. And from the other inscription only the name of the writer - «<sup>m</sup>Ub-rum A.ZU»<sup>5</sup>, is known. Nevertheless, the documents of economic or other nature make it possible not only to restore the reign of this or that king and the list of eponyms but also to shed new light on the dating of specific events.

The royal chronicles, especially the so-called “*Great Inscription*”, are very important for the first three years of Tukultī-Ninurta I's rule, and not only regarding his campaigns. It was first published in 1989, two years after the publication of A. K. Grayson's *Corpus*, and in 2007 M. P. Streck published the grammatical, morphological and syntactic study of that inscription<sup>6</sup>. Given the above publications, however, in this work we have mainly used the latest edition of the inscription<sup>7</sup>. It should be noted that it is relevant and even supplements the inscription RIMA, A.0.78.1 of A. K. Grayson's *Corpus*. The inscription describes in detail the hostilities during the first years of the king's reign<sup>8</sup> and mentions the construction of a new palace in the city of Aššur<sup>9</sup>.

The construction of a new palace by the Assyrian king in Assur, and the above-mentioned inscriptions dedicated to that undertaking and glorifying his exploits, seems to shed new light on the dating of the military operations during the first years of his reign. In terms of the latter, Y. Bloch and L. Peri wrote that the “*Great Inscription*” of Tukultī-Ninurta I tell of three military campaigns undertaken by the king, the first of which took place in the year of his accession to the throne. Therefore, it stands to reason that the second and third military campaigns took place in the king's first and second complete regnal years, respectively. Work on the New Palace - more precisely, on part of it - was probably completed in the third regnal year of Tukultī-Ninurta I, at which time the “*Great Inscription*” was written<sup>10</sup>.

### ***The First Campaign (1242/41 BC) against Uqumānu and Qutū***

The chronicles of Tukultī-Ninurta I, in addition to being almost undated, pose one more important problem. His chronicles often do not maintain the order of the

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<sup>1</sup> **RIMA 1:** A.0.78.18.

<sup>2</sup> **Bloch** 2010: 31; Cf. by W. Röllig the eponym of the 21<sup>st</sup> year of Tukultī-Ninurta I, **Röllig** 2008: 4; by H. Freydank - the eponym of the 19<sup>th</sup> year of Tukultī-Ninurta I, **Freydank** 2005: 49f.

<sup>3</sup> **RIMA 1:** A.0.78.6.

<sup>4</sup> **RIMA 1:** A.0.78.2.

<sup>5</sup> **RIMA 1:** A.0.78.16.

<sup>6</sup> **Streck** 2007.

<sup>7</sup> **Bloch, Peri** 2016-2017: 21-35.

<sup>8</sup> **Bloch, Peri** 2016-2017: 21-31 (Col. I-V); **RIMA 1:** A.0.78.1. Col. I- Col. IV. l. 36.

<sup>9</sup> **Bloch, Peri** 2016-2017: 31-35 (Col. V-VIII); **RIMA 1:** A.0.78.1. Col. IV. l. 36-Col. VI.

<sup>10</sup> **Bloch, Peri** 2016-2017: 42.

invasions and the conquered countries, and the enumerations are usually rather complicated. Very often, several different invasions are included in the description of one common event. For example, the inscription RIMA 1 A.0.78.23 is interesting as it lists almost all the conquests of the king. However, it immediately attracts the attention that after the description of the titles of the king, the gods and the lineage, we read: “*At the beginning of my sovereignty (lit. at the beginning of the throne of my sovereignty), at the beginning of my reign, I uprooted 28,800 Hittite people from Syria (lit. “Beyond the Euphrates”) and led (them) into my land*”<sup>1</sup>. The point here is that often in the academic literature the above-mentioned is presented exactly as it is mentioned in the inscription.<sup>2</sup> Meanwhile, a very important event regarding specific Hittite captives was not included in the record which glorifies the first three years of the king's campaigns and construction activity<sup>3</sup>. Otherwise, it may seem that Tukultī-Ninurta I had conducted only two campaigns, south and north. Meanwhile, in different years he conducted at least 4 campaigns to the north.

Thus, Tukultī-Ninurta I informed in his inscription:

«Col. I, 37. *e-nu-ma ÉRIN.MEŠ Ú-qu-ma-na-iu-ú*

Col. II, 1. *šá iš-tu ul-la-a <ana> MAN.MEŠ maḥ-ruti 2. ab-be-ia kúl-la-at gi-mir-ti KUR.KUR<-šu-nu> 3. la ik-nu-šú-ma 4. mi-še-e'-ti kib-rat<sub>4</sub> 5. ú-ka-mu ina u<sub>4</sub>-me-šu-ma 6. ina e-mu-ge dan-na-ti 7. ša Aš-šur EN-ia 8. ina GIŠ.TUKUL-ti ša DINGIR.MEŠ GAL.MEŠ 9. pe-tu-ú GIŠ.TUKUL.MEŠ-ia 10. a-li-ku-ut im-ni-ia 11. ar-ḫi pa-áš-qu-ti ki-šir ḫur-šá-ni 12. dan-nu-ti at-tal-la-ku-ma 13. ina kib-rat<sub>4</sub> ma-ḫi-ra 14. la i-šu-ú ina šar-<ru> MAN-ti-ia 15. ana KUR Ú-qu-me-ni a-lik 16. ši-ḫír-ti KUR Qu-ti-i DAGAL-ti 17. ki-ma DU<sub>6</sub> a-bu-bi ás-ḫu-up 18. ÉRIN.MEŠ-šú-nu si-ḫír a-šám-šá-ti 19. lu ú-šal-me 20. ina u<sub>4</sub>-me-šu-ma ina áš-ri 21. nam-ra-ši pu-šūq ḫur-šá-ni 22. ana IGI ÉRIN.MEŠ-ia in-ne-ni-ma 23. ana MURUB<sub>4</sub> ú ta-ḫa-zi 24. dáp-niš iz-zi-zu-ni 25. ana Aš-šur u DINGIR.MEŠ GAL.MEŠ 26. EN.MEŠ-ia at-kal-ma 27. it-ti-šu-nu am-da-ḫaš 28. abi-ik-ta-šu-nu aš-kun 29. šal-ma-te-šu-nu ḫur-ri muš-pa-li 30. šá KUR-i lu-me-li 31. i-ta-at*

KA.GAL-šu-nu 32. šal-ma-su-nu ana gu-ru-na-ti 33. lu ú-še-pi-ik 34. URU.URU-šu-nu a-pu-ul 35. aq-qur ana DU<sub>6</sub> u kar-me ú-ter 36. KUR Qu-ti-i DAGAL-ti a-bél

COL. III, 1. *ina ḫu-ud ŠÀ u me-tel-lu-ti 2. UGU-šu-nu lu at-ta-zi-iz 3. <sup>m</sup>A-bu-le-e MAN KUR Ú-qu-me-ni 4. gu-ni ma-li-ki-šú 5. qa-ti ik-šu-ud 6. šal-la-su-nu nam-kur-šu-nu aš-lu-la 7. ana URU-ia Aššur lu-bi-la 8. ni-iš Aš-šur u DINGIR.MEŠ GAL.MEŠ 9. ša AN KI lu-tam-me-šu-nu-ti 10. ni-ir be-lu-ti-ia dan-na 11. ina GÚ-šu-nu ú-kín 12. ana KUR-šu-nu ú-me-šir-šu-nu-ti 13. šap-šu-ti-šu-nu ana GİR-ia 14. ú-šék-niš 15. u tup-ši-ka e-mi-id 16. MU-šam-ma GÚ.UN-su-nu DUGUD 17. ina URU Aš-šur ina tak-né-e 18. lu am-da-ḫar 19. KUR Qu-ti-i né-*

<sup>1</sup> RIMA 1: A.0.78.23: 27-30; A.0.78.24: 23-25.

<sup>2</sup> Arutyunyan 1970: 26f.

<sup>3</sup> Galter 1988: 217f.

su-ti 20. ša ar-ḥa-tu-šu-nu šup-šu-qa-ma 21. ana me-te-eq ERIN.MEŠ-ia 22. ul na-  
tu-ú 23. ana uz-zi MURUB<sub>4</sub>-ia 24. iš-ḥu-tu-ma 25. ana ĠIR-ia ik-nu-šú 26.  
ĠÚ.UN u ma-da-ta 27. ana u<sub>4</sub>-um ša-ti UGU-šu-nu aš-kun»

“(Col. I, 37) *When the troops of the Uqumēnu,*

(Col. II, 2) *all of (whose) countries, (1) since the days of old, (3) did not submit themselves (1) (to) the previous kings, (2) my fathers, (5) were carrying off (4) the plunder of the four quarters (of the world) – (5) at that time, (6) with the strong might (7) of Aššur, my lord, (8) with trust in the great gods (9) who open up my weapons (10) (and) proceed at my right side, (12) I marched in one direction after another, (11) through the narrow passages and (12) the difficult (11) rocky mountains. (13) In the four quarters (of the world) (14) I had (13) no rival. (14) At the begi<ning> of my sovereignty (15) I marched to the land Uqumēnu. (16) The entire extensive land of Qutū (17) I overwhelmed (making it look) like a ruin hill (created by) the deluge. (19) I surrounded (18) their army (like) with a circle of sandstorms. (20) At that time, (22) they banded together (?) against my army (20-21) in a difficult place, in a mountain defile. (24) They fiercely took up position (23) for a fight and a battle. (26) I put my trust (25) in Aššur and the great gods, (26) my lords, and (27) fought with them. (28) I brought about their defeat. (30) I filled (29) with their corpses and the ravines (30) of the mountains with their corpses. (33) I made heaps (32) of their corpses like (grain) piles (31) beside their gates. (34) Their cities I destroyed, (35) ravaged and turned into ruin hills. (36) (Thus) I became lord of the extensive land of Qutū.*

(COL. III, 1) *With joy and excellence (2) I stood over them. (5) I captured (3) Abu-le'e, the king of the land Uqumēnu, (4) and the hordes of his princes. (6) I carried off their captives (and) their property (7) (and) brought them to my city, Aššur. (9) I made them swear (8) an oath by Aššur and the great gods (8) of heaven and earth. (11) I imposed upon their necks (10) the heavy yoke of my lordship (12) (and) sent them (back) to their lands. (13) The resistant ones among them (14) I subdued (13) at my feet (15) and imposed (upon them) corvée. (16) Annually (18) I received (16) their heavy tribute (17) with ceremony in my city, Aššur. (19) The land of the distant Qutū, (20) the paths to which are very narrow and (22) (the terrain of) which is not suitable (21) for the movement of my army, (24) took fright (23) at the ferocity of my warfare (25) and submitted themselves at my feet. (27) I levied (26) tribute and impost (27) upon them forever”<sup>4</sup>.*

Tukultī Ninurta I states that «*ina šarrū> šarrūtiya*» - “*at the beginning of my sovereignty*”, i.e. in the accession year of the king, he invaded Qumenu. As can be seen from the context of the inscription, Tukultī-Ninurta's campaigns to the north,

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<sup>4</sup> Bloch, Peri 2016-2017: 23-27, Col. I, 37 - Col. III, 27; Görg 1989: 202-207, Col. I, 37 – Col. III, 27; Cf. - RIMA 1: A.0.78.1. Col. II, 14- Col. III, 11, and - A.0.78.2; A.0.78.3; A.0.78.10; A.0.78.18; A.0.78.20; A.0.78.23; A.0.78.24.

to Uqumenu (Qumenu)<sup>5</sup> and Qutu<sup>6</sup>, were motivated by the disobedience of the above-mentioned territories<sup>7</sup>. Moreover, “*At that time, they banded together (?) against my army in a difficult place, in a mountain defile*” the mentioned lines of the inscription show that Uqumenu and Qutu, led by king Abu-le’ē of Uqumenu, were united against Assyria. As a result, the allies were defeated, Abu-le’ē and a large number of princes were imprisoned and brought to Assyria. Later, according to the inscription, Tukultī-Ninurta I allowed them to return to their countries after the Uqumenu-Qutu authorities took the oath of allegiance to Assyria and was imposed an annual tax on them.

It is another matter whether Uqumenu and Qutu were subdued during one invasion or as a result of a double invasion in the same year<sup>8</sup>. However, the relevant lines of the inscription, as well as its comparison with other inscriptions of the king, which mention the same events, suggest that this was a single campaign.

### **The Second Military Campaign (1241/40 BC) against Šarnida, Meḥru and Katmuḥu**

After subjecting Uqumenu and Qutu, the Assyrian king campaigned to northwest, Šarnida<sup>9</sup>, Meḥru<sup>10</sup> and Katmuḥu<sup>11</sup>:

«Col. III, 28. *ina u<sub>4</sub>-me-šu-ma ana KUR Šar-ni-da* 29. *KUR Me-eḥ-ri lu a-lik* 30. *ina Á-at ÉRIN.MEŠ-at Qu-ti-i* 31. *ša Aš-šur ù DINGIR.MEŠ GAL.MEŠ* 32. *ana is-qi-ia iš-ru-ku* 33. *GU.ŠUR KUR Me-eḥ-ri dan-nu-ti* 34. *lu ak-ki-is ana URU-ia Aš-šur* 35. *lu-bi-la É.GAL be-lu-ti-ia* 36. *ša <a>-ra-mu ina GU.ŠUR Me-eḥ-ri* 37. *ša-tu-nu lu ú-kín*

Col. IV, 1. *ina MU-ma ši-a-ti* 4 *URU.DIDLI šap-šu-ti* 2. *ša KUR Kat-mu-ḥi* 3. *ma-ḥaz be-lu-ti-šú dan-nu-ti* 4. *ša ina su-lu-me-e ù sa-ra-ar-te* 5. *UN.MEŠ-ia ú-ka-mu* 6. *mi-še-e'-ta ana KUR-ia na-du-ú* 7. *i-na ma-lu-ti u<sub>4</sub>-me lu ak-šud* 8. *eš-re-šu ki-ma ri-be lu-ri-ib* 9. *šal-la-su-nu nam-<kur>-šú-nu aš-lu-la* 10. *ana URU-ia Aš-šur ub-la*»

“(Col. III, 28) *At that time (29) I marched (28) to the land Šarnida (and) (29) the land Meḥru. (30) By the means of the army of the land of Qutu, (31) which Aššur and the great gods (32) had allotted to me, (34) I cut down (33) mighty beams of the land Meḥru (and) (35) brought them (34) to my city, Aššur. (37) I buttressed (35) my lordly palace (36) which I love with those beams from Meḥru.*

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<sup>5</sup> It should be said that we will not refer to the toponyms attested in the inscription, which is beyond the scope of our discussion, but will mention their references in the academic literature: **Helsinki Atlas** 2001: 4, B4; **RGTC V**: 222f.; **NAT**: 284; **RGTC IX**: 70; **TU**: 119f.

<sup>6</sup> **RGTC V**: 191ff.; **RGTC VII/3-2**: 474f.; **NAT**: 138, 220; **TU**: 124.

<sup>7</sup> **Munn-Rankin**: 284.

<sup>8</sup> For the discussions in detail see: **Munn-Rankin**: 284-285; **Aarutyunyan** 1970: 21ff.; **Salvini** 1967: 18ff.; **Haas** 1986: 26f.

<sup>9</sup> **RGTC V**: 244; **TU**: 239.

<sup>10</sup> **RGTC V**: 194; **NAT**: 244; **RGTC VII/3-1**: 409f.; **TU**: 143f.

<sup>11</sup> **Helsinki Atlas** 2001: 3, E3; **RGTC V**: 165f.; **NAT**: 215f.; **TU**: 98f.

(Col. IV, 1) *In that same year, four resistant cities (2) of the land Katmuḫu, (3) its strong capitals, (4) which during a deceitful peace (5) dragged off my people and (6) plundered my land, (7) I conquered in the fullness of time. (8) Like an earthquake I shook their shrines. (9) I carried off their captives (and) their prop<erty> (and) (10) brought (them) to my city, Aššur*<sup>12</sup>.

Apparently, Tukultī Ninurta I swiftly conquered and subjugated Šarnida and Meḫru as evidenced by line 30 of the inscription, it took place “*by the means of the army of the land of Qutū*”.

This may indicate that the campaign to Šarnida and Meḫru took place at least a year after the above-mentioned invasion. Next, the Assyrian king attacked Katmuḫu. The Assyrians were concerned about Katmuḫu. According to the inscription, in violation of the pre-existing peace treaty with Assyria, they repeatedly attacked the Assyrian settlements, looted and returned with captives. The center of Katmuḫu and 4 or 5<sup>13</sup> fortified cities or bases fell under the Assyrian attack, and part of the population deported to Assyria. There is another fascinating inscription of the king, where in parallel with the above-mentioned toponyms Eluḫnia<sup>14</sup>, Buššu<sup>15</sup> and Mummu<sup>16</sup> are also mentioned.

### ***The Third Military Campaign (1240/39 BC) against Alzu, Mount Kašiyari, and other Regions***

After subjugating Katmuḫu, the Assyrian king campaigned to the north. Passing the Mountains of Kašiyari<sup>17</sup>, he attacked Alzu<sup>18</sup>:

«Col. IV, 11. KUR Šu-ba-ri-i ka-la-šá 12. si-ḫír-ti Ka-ši-ia-ri 13. a-di KUR Al-zi šá i-na IGI ana tar-ši 14. BALA <sup>md</sup>SILIM.MA-MAŠ MAN KIŠ a-bi-ia 15. ib-bal-ki-tu ta-mar-ta-šú 16. ik-lu-ú pa-a l-en 17. mi-it-ḫa-ri-iš iš-šá-ak-nu 18. ana Aš-šur ù DINGIR.MEŠ GAL.MEŠ 19. EN.MEŠ-ia qa-ti aš-ši 20. ana KUR Ka-ši-ia-ri e-li KUR Šu-ba-ri 21. KUR Al-zi MAN.MEŠ re-ši-šu-nu 22. ina rap-pi lu-la-iṭ ma-ḫa-za GAL-a 23. šá KUR Pu-ru-lúm-zi ak-šud 24. bal-ṭu-šu-nu ina IZI aq-lu 25. ši-ta-at ÉRIN.MEŠ-šu-nu 26. ana šal-la-ti lu am-nu 27. 4 URU be-lu-ti-šú dan-nu-ti 28. ša <sup>m</sup>Eḫ-li-Te-šub MAN KUR Al-zi 29. 6 URU.DIDLI šap-šu-ti 30. šá KUR A-ma-da-ni aq-lu 31. šal-la-su-nu nam-kur-šú-nu aš-lu-la 32. ana URU-ia Aš-šur ub-la 33. <sup>m</sup>Eḫ-li-<sup>d</sup>Te-šub MAN KUR Al-zi 34. ana i-di pa-luḫ-ti-ia 35. iš-ḫu-ut-ma ÉRIN.MEŠ É.GAL-lì-šú 36. ù DUMU.MEŠ il-qe 37. si-ḫír-ti KUR-šu ú-me-šir

<sup>12</sup> Bloch, Peri 2016-2017: 27, Col. III, 28 - Col. IV, 10; Görg 1989: 206-209, Col. III, 28 - Col. IV, 10; Cf. RIMA I: A.0.78.1. Col. III, 12-29, see also: RIMA I: A.0.78.2: 17-36.

<sup>13</sup> 5 cities according to A. K. Grayson - RIMA I: A.0.78.1. Col. III, 21.

<sup>14</sup> RIMA I: A.0.78.2: 23; RGTC V: 102; TU: 255.

<sup>15</sup> RIMA I: A.0.78.2: 25; RGTC V: 76; TU: 162.

<sup>16</sup> RIMA I: A.0.78.2: 25; RGTC V: 197; TU: 144.

<sup>17</sup> Helsinki Atlas 2001: 3, D3; RGTC V: 162; NAT: 203; TU: 106f.

<sup>18</sup> Helsinki Atlas 2001: 3, B2; RGTC V: 27; NAT: 13; RGTC VI/1: 10; Kosyan 2004: 33f.; TU: 18f.

Col. V, 1. *ana pa-aṭ Na-i-ri ana KUR la i-du-ú* 2. *ša-la-liš lu i-ba-'a* 3. *ši-ta-at ÉRIN.MEŠ-šú* 4. *ša ina ŠÀ tam-ḥa-ri i-pár-ši-du* 5. *šu-mur ta-ḥa-zi-ia* 6. *e-tar-ma ana KUR-i e-be-ru-ti* 7. *ana e-té-er nap-ša-ti-šu-nu* 8. *lu i-nu-qu* 3 *šu-ši URU.DIDLI-šú* 9. *a-pu-ul aq-qur ina IZI aq-lu* 10. *ana DU<sub>6</sub> ú kar-me ú-ter* 11. *KUR Al-zi KUR A-ma-da-ni* 12. *KUR Ni-ḥa-ni KUR A-la-ia* 13. *KUR Te-pur<sub>13</sub>-zi KUR Pu-ru-lúm-zi* 14. *mi-iš-ra-te-šu-nu* 15. *ana ŠÀ KUR-ia lu ú-te-ra* 16. *li-tí-šu-nu aš-bat ana ĠİR-ia ú-šék-[níš]* 17. *ú ṭup-ši-ka e-mì-id*»

“(Col. IV, 11) All the land of the Šubarû, (12) the entirety of Kašiyari (13) as far as the land Alzu, which previously, during (14) the reign of Šulmānu-ašarêd, king of the universe, my father, (15) had rebelled and (16) withheld (15) its tribute, (17) had united itself (16) under one command. (19) I raised my hands (in prayer) (18) to Aššur and the great gods, (19) my lords, (and) (20) marched up to Mount Kašiyari. (22) (As) with a bridle I controlled (20) the land of the Šubarû, (21) the land Alzu and their allied kings. (23) I conquered (22) the great cult center (23) of the land Purulumzu. (24) I burnt them (the inhabitants) alive (and) (25) the remnants of their army (26) I took as captives. (30) I burned down (27) four strong capitals (28) of Eḥli-Tešub, king of the land Alzu, (and) (29) six resistant cities (30) of the land Amadanu. (31) Captives (and) property I carried off from them (and) (32) brought to my city, Aššur. (33) Eḥli-Tešub king of the land Alzu (35) took fright (34) in the face of my terrifying radiance. (36) He took (35) his courtiers (36) and his sons, (37) abandoned his entire land (and)

(Col. V, 2) went secretly (1) to the border of Nairi, to an unknown land. (3) The remnant of his army, (4) which had fled in the midst of the battle, (6) fearing (5) the violence of my warfare, (8) ran (6) to the mountains standing out (at the horizon) (7) to save their lives. (8) 180 of their towns (9) I destroyed, ravaged, burnt, (and) (10) turned into ruin hills. (15) I added to my land (14) the regions of (11) the lands Alzu, Amadānu, (12) Niḥānu, Alaya, (13) Tepurzu and Purulumzu (16) I took from them hostages, subd[ue]d (them) at my feet, (17) and imposed corvée (upon them)”<sup>19</sup>.

According to the inscription, “All the land of the Šubarû” had rebelled since the period of Šulmānu-ašarêd I and refused to pay taxes to the Assyrian king. After the defeat Eḥli-Tešub, the king of Alzu had fled with his sons and courtiers and took refuge in the previously unknown country of Nairi - «*Na-i-ri ana KUR la i-du-ú*».

Tukultī-Ninurta I conquered and ruined Purulumzu<sup>20</sup>, the spiritual center of Alzu, and ordered to burn to death its population. In the assault he ruined four cities of Alzu, and after that, probably, six cities of the country of Amadanu<sup>21</sup>, the

<sup>19</sup> Bloch, Peri 2016-2017: 28-31, Col. IV, 11. - Col. V, 17; Görg 1989: 208-211, Col. IV, 11. - Col. V, 17; Cf. RIMA 1: A.0.78.1. Col. III, 30- Col. IV, 23.

<sup>20</sup> RGTC V: 219; TU: 161f.

<sup>21</sup> RGTC V: 28; NAT: 14; TU: 24f.

ally of Alzu. Then, conquering and destroying 180 settlements, he annexed Alzu, Amadanu, Niḥanu<sup>22</sup>, Alaya<sup>23</sup>, Tepurzu<sup>24</sup> and Purulimzu.

This record of the king is silent about Eḫli-Tešub, as well as about any invasion of Nairi. The reason for it may be that no invasion of that country was made at the time of writing the inscription. And the fact that the presence of Eḫli-Tešub and his courtiers in Nairi supposed a new military conflict with Assyria, is unambiguous. In addition, it can be assumed that it would not take long; it most likely took place during the ten-year period of decade including 4-13 years of Tukultī-Ninurta I' reign. The discussion of the latter, however, is beyond the scope of our research.

### ***The summary of the invasions of the first three years***

This marks the end of the military operations of the first three years of Tukultī-Ninurta I's reign, which resulted in:

«Col. V, 18. *ina be-ri-it URU Šá-si-lam* 19. *ù URU Maš-ḥaz-MAN*<sup>25</sup> 20. *e-bir Za-be šu-pa-li-i* 21. *iš-tu KUR-i Zu-qu-uš-ki* 22. *ù KUR-i La-la-ar* 23. *ši-di KUR Qu-ti-i DAGAL-ti* 24. *si-ḥir-ti Lu-lu-mi-i Pap-ḥi-i* 25. *a-di Kat-mu-ḥi KUR Šu-ba-ri-i ka-la-šá* 26. *si-ḥir KUR Ka-ši-ia-ri* 27. *a-di ZAG Na-i-ri ù Má-kan* 28. *ši-di Pu-rat-te* 29. *mi-iš-ru* 30. *ù ku-du-ur-ru* 31. *šá Aš-šur ù DINGIR.MEŠ GAL.MEŠ* 32. *ana is-qi-ia iš-ru-ku* 33. *pa-a l-en kúl-la-at* 34. *na-ki-<ri>-ia aš-ku-un»*

“(Col. V, 18) *(From the region) between the cities of Šasilam (19) and Mašḥaz-šarri (20) on the opposite bank of the Lower Zab, (21) from Mount Zuquški (22) and Mount Lallar, (23) the district of the extensive land of Qutu, (24) the entire land of Lullumu (and) Papḥu (25) to the land of Katmuḥu, the whole land of Šubaru, (26) the entirety of Mount Kašiyari, (27) to the border of Nairi and Makan, (28) the bank of the Euphrates – (29) (in those) regions (30) and their borders, (31) which Assur and the great gods (32) allotted to me, (34) I brought (33) all (34) my ene<mi>es (33) under one command*<sup>26</sup>.

Thus, summarizing the above-mentioned, we precisely follow the inscription of the Tukultī-Ninurta I, which outlined the northern border of Assyria, from northeast to northwest, in that period. According to it, the borders of Assyria stretched from Lower Zab to the Euphrates, which he subjugated in 1243-1240 BC.

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<sup>22</sup> RGTC V: 205; TU: 154f.

<sup>23</sup> RGTC V: 10f; TU: 17f.

<sup>24</sup> RGTC V: 260; TU: 182.

<sup>25</sup> According to A. K. Grayson: “URU Maš-ḥaṭ-MAN”, RIMA 1: A.0.78.1. Col. IV, 26.

<sup>26</sup> Bloch, Peri 2016-2017: 31, Col. V, 18-34; Görg 1989: 211, Col. V, 18-34; Cf. - RIMA 1: A.0.78.1. Col. IV, 24-36; and - A.0.78.23: 17-36.



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### **Abbreviations**

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**ԹՈՒԿՈՒԼՏԻ-ՆԻՆՈՒՐՏԱ Ի-Ի (Մ.Թ.Ա. 1242-1206 ԹԹ.) ԳԱՀԱԿԱԼՈՒԹՅԱՆ  
ԱՌԱՋԻՆ ԵՐԵՔ ՏԱՐԻՆԵՐԻ ԱՐՇԱԿԱՆՔՆԵՐԸ**

*Ռուսլան Յականյան*

**Բանալի բառեր՝** *Ասորեստան, Աշշուր, արշավանք, էպոնիմ, Ուրումենու, Քուրու, Շարինդա, Մեխրու, Կադմուխի, Ալզի, Նահրի:*

Թուկուլտի-Նինուրտա Ի-ի (մ.թ.ա. 1242-1206 թթ.) ժամանակահատվածի իրադարձությունների ժամանակագրությունն առանձնակի ճշգրտությամբ աչքի չի ընկնում, ինչն էլ հաճախ տարակարծությունների տեղիք է տվել: Խոսքը մասնավորապես վերաբերում է արքայի արձանագրություններում տեղ գտած իրադարձությունների հերթականության անկանոն շարվածքին: Սույն հոդվածում քննելով ասորեստանյան արքայի արձանագրությունները՝ առաձնացրել ենք նրա կողմից կատարված կառավարման առաջին երեք տարիների՝ մ.թ.ա. 1243-1240 թթ. արշավանքները: Այս արշավանքները կարևոր են նաև Հայկական լեռնաշխարհի հարավային շրջանների վերաբերյալ ասորեստանյան արքայի հիշատակություններով: Այդ հիշատակությունների ոչ քննական մոտեցման արդյունքում մասնագիտական գրականության մեջ և մասնավորապես ուրարտագիտության մեջ ընդունվել են միանշանակորեն տարեգրությունից չբխող ենթադրություններ:

Թուկուլտի-Նինուրտա Ի-ի տարեգրությունների քննության արդյունքում առանձնացրել ենք արքայի կառավարման առաջին երեք տարիների կատարած արշավանքները, ըստ որի՝

1. Գահակալության առաջին տարում, արքայի առաջին արշավանքը դեպի Ուկ/քումենու/Կումանի և Գ/Կուտի՝ (մ.թ.ա. 1242/41 թ.),
2. Երկրորդ արշավանքը դեպի Շարինդա, Մեխրու, Կադմուխի և հարակից շրջանները՝ (մ.թ.ա. 1241/40 թ.),
3. Երրորդ ռազմարշավը, դեպի Ալզի, Ամադանու և հարակից շրջանները՝ (մ.թ.ա. 1240/39 թ.):