

92) On “Nothing is of Value” II: UM 29-16-616¹⁾ — The Nippur tablet UM 29-16-616 (UM) is included by Alster among the sources of “Nothing is of Value” Version A.²⁾ However, the comparison with the other sources shows that this tablet cannot be securely attributed to any version. UM 29-16-616 contains the end of a version that is close to the versions inscribed on N 3579 (+) Ni 2763 (N) (see above) and 3N-T 326 + 3N-T 360 (D), which is the main manuscript of Version D. Given the fragmentary nature of UM 29-16-616, it is not possible to determine whether the recensional variants were limited to the omissions attested in these lines or extended to large portions of the text. Because UM 29-16-616 does not appear to be closer to either one of the two other manuscripts it is therefore not possible to attribute this source to a specific version.

Rev ii

UM r. ii 1'	[...] ¹ x ¹ EZEN ² dur ₂ -ra na ² -[...]
UM r. ii 2'	[...] ša ₃ še-g[a-gin ₇ ħe ₂ -en-d[e ₂]
N ii 6'a	ša ₃ -ta- ¹ a ¹ [...]
D viii 37-38	ša ₃ še-ga-gin ₇ / ħe ₂ -en-de ₂
UM	<i>omitted</i>
N ii 6'b	lu ₂ nam- ¹ x ¹ [...]
D viii 39	lu ₂ nam-izi la ₂ -e
UM r. ii 3'	[sukud-d]a an-n[a-še ₃ nu-um-da-la ₂]
N ii 7'	sukud-du an-na-še ₃ nu-um-[da-la ₂]
D viii 40-41	¹ lu ₂ ² -sukud-du / an-še ₃ /
ix 1	¹ nu-mu ¹ -da- ¹ la ₂ ¹
UM r. ii 4'	[lu ₂ daġa]l-e kur-r[e la-ba-šu ₂ -šu ₂]
N ii 8'	daġal-la kur-ra la-ba-šu ₂ -šu ₂
D ix 2-3	¹ lu ₂ daġal ¹ -la / ¹ kur ¹ -re la-ba-šu ₂ -šu ₂
UM	<i>omitted</i>
N ii 9'	kala-ga ki-a ne nu-mu-u[n-gid ₂ -de ₃]
D	<i>omitted</i>
UM r. ii 5'	[til ₃ niġ ₂ -d]u ₃ ša ₃ -ħul ₂ -la šu ħ[e ₂ -ni- ib-kar-kar-re]
N ii 10'	til ₃ niġ ₂ -du ₁₀ ša ₃ -ħul ₂ -[la] / šu ħe ₂ -ni- ib-ka[r-kar-re]
D ix 4-5	til ₃ niġ ₂ du ₁₀ ! ša ₃ -ħul ₂ -la / šu <ħe ₂ >-ni-ib-kar-kar-re
UM r. ii 6'	[hub ₂ -sar] ša ₃ -ħul ₂ -la u ₄ ħe ₂ -n[i-ib ₂ -zal-zal-e]
N ii 11'	hub ₂ -sar ša ₃ -ħul ₂ -[la] u ₄ ħe ₂ -ni-ib ₂ -za[l-zal-e]
D	<i>omitted</i>
UM r. ii 7'	[e ₂ ² l]u ₂ -ulu ₃ niġ ₂ lu ₂ til ₃ -la e ₂ -[a]-n[i ...]
cf. D ix 6-7	e ₂ du ₁₀ lu ₂ -ulu ₃ / e ₂ -a-ni til ₃ -le-de ₃

Notes

1. This research has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No 795154.

2. Alster 2005, 270-271.

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93) On “Nothing is of Value” III: Ni 3023+ (SLTNi 131)¹⁾ — Ni 3023+ (SLTNi 131) is a Sammeltafel of four columns on each side.²⁾ Reverse iii contains a version of “Nothing is of Value”. Alster³⁾ attributed lines 1'-6' to Version B and lines line 7'-11' to Version A. Once more, it is unlikely that a single source had two different versions of the same text especially because the two alleged versions are not separated by rulings. This suggests that we are confronted with one single version. The main problem in this interpretation is that lines 2'-6' correspond to the ending lines of the manuscripts N 3579 (+) Ni 2763, UM 29-16-616 and 3N-T 326 + 3N-T 360, while lines 7'-11' correspond to the beginning of “Nothing is of Value” as known from different sources. Given the high variation of the composition, we may suggest that the lines that appear at the end of the other sources were placed in a different section in Ni 3023+;

consequently, because the beginning of the composition is quite stable, we should assume that the opening lines were used as a refrain in this manuscript.

Rev. col iii = col vii

- 1'. [...] x la₂-e
- 2'. [...] x [...]-še₃[?] nu-mu-un-da-la₂
- 3'. [...]u₂ daġal-la kur-ra la-ba-an¹-šu₂-šu₂
- 4'. [ti]₃ niġ₂-du₁₀ ša₃-hul₂-la šu he₂-ni-ib-kar-kar-re
- 5'. [hu]b-sar ša₃-hul₂-la u₄ he₂-ni-ib-zal-zal-e
- 6'. [...]t₃il₃ e₂-a-ni šu ba-ab-te¹⁹-ġa₂-a
- 7'. [...]n]u-kal zi ku₇-ku₇-da
- 8'. [...] x niġ₂-tuku lu₂ la-ba-an-tuku
- 9'. [...] niġ₂-tuku ba-an-tuku
- 10'. [...]k]u₅-ru-de₃ saġ ib₂-ġa₂-ġa₂
- 11'. [...] x ra ku₄-k[u₄-de₃]
- 12'. [...] x [...]
- 13'. [...] x
- 14'. [...] x-e
- 15'. [...]-ġa₂
- 16'. [...]-x-de₃
- 17'. [...] ba-ku₄
- 18'. [...] x
- 19'. [...]-de₃

We may conclude that N 3579 (+) Ni 2763, UM 29-16-616 and 3N-T 326 + 3N-T 360 contained quite long versions that were somehow similar; moreover UM 29-16-616 possibly belonged to the one of the recensions inscribed on the other two manuscripts. On the contrary, Ni 3023+ appears to be inscribed with a version quite different from those attested on the other three manuscripts.

Notes

1. This research has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No 795154.
2. The tablet contains several joins reconstructed by Civil 1972, 89-90. "Nothing is of Value" is only preserved on Ni 3023 only; there are two joins for that portion of the tablet, Ni 4473, which contains a few fragmentary lines from column viii on the reverse, and Ni 4484, which is uninscribed on the reverse.
3. Alster 2005, 286.

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94) On "Nothing is of Value" IV: Version B¹⁾ — Alster in *Wisdom of Ancient Sumer* (Bethesda, 2005) reconstructed "Nothing is of Value" Version B based on five sources: CBS 13777, Ni 3023+, BM 54699, N 3579 (+) Ni 2763 (col. ii) and YBC 7283. As discussed in "On "Nothing is of Value" I: N 3579 (+) Ni 2763," the tablet N 3579+ should be discarded from this group because it contains an independent version that shows some parallel lines with version B (see edition below). According to Alster Ni 3023+ 1'-6' should be ascribed to Version B but, as argued in "On "Nothing is of Value" III: Ni 3023+ (SLTNi 131)", it is unlikely that this manuscript contained two different versions one after the other. We are therefore left with only three possible sources. CBS 13777 (A) is a fragment from a *Sammeltablet* that contains a version of "Nothing is of Value" on the reverse (lines 6'-21'). This is a shortened version because the lines are inscribed between double rulings. The tablet seems to contain extracts from different compositions because twelve of the approximately twenty lines preserved on the obverse are parallel to "Proverbs from Ugarit"²⁾ and are inscribed between double rulings. BM 54699 = CT 42 36 (B)³⁾ is a four-sided prism that on Face