

^{ID}Azziya or ÍD-azzi=ya. A Note on KUB 31.101

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KUB 31.101 is a letter dealing with *augury*, in which a Hittite king reprimands his officials, most probably augurs or “bird observers” (^{LÚ.MEŠ}MUŠEN.DÛ), for the carelessness demonstrated by them while performing a bird observation (Vs. 6’-18’). He forgives them their negligence (Rd. 19’- 20’) and, under threat of punishment (Rd. 20’- Rs. 29’), orders them to repeat the observation (Rs. 30’- 35’):

30’ *ki-nu-na ú-wa-at ú-wa-at ma-ah-ha-an*
31’ *I-NA ^{ID}Ma-ra-aš-ša-an-da ar-te-ni*
32’ *[nu]-uš-ša-an ÍD-ya kat-ta-an SIG₅-an-du-uš*
33’ *[MUŠEN^H]^{1A} da-iš-tén ^{ID}Az-zi-ya/ÍD-az-za=ja ša-ra-a*
34’ *[]x-du-uš MUŠEN^{H1A} a-uš-tén*
35’ *[]x du-wa-ad-du ÍD-aš me-ik-ki na-ak-ki-iš*

This augural observation is geographically set near either the Maraššanda River or, possibly, the Maraššanda and the Azzi Rivers. Whether the Azzi River in fact appears in the above passage and consequently, whether one or two rivers were used in the augural observation, depends principally upon the interpretation of a single word employed in line 33’: ÍD.az-zi-ja as either ^{ID}Az-zi-ja meaning ‘to the river Azzi’ or ÍD-az-zi=ja meaning ‘and from the river.’

The correct reading of both this word, as well as the above passage, is not only fundamental to the proper understanding of the augural *modus operandi*, but it also has broader implications for the field of Hittite geography. Based on a reading of ÍD.az-zi-ja as ^{ID}Az-zi-ja, the authors of *Répertoire Géographique* indicated the river Azzi as being situated in the Hittite geographical landscape. However, if the Azzi River does not appear in KUB 31.101, the entry in *Répertoire Géographique* is incorrect and the historical record should be rectified¹. Given the above, it is surprising that the importance of the question of whether the Azzi River can be identified in KUB 31.101 has thus far not been recognized. In addition, the existence or non-

¹ G. F. del Monte and J. Tischler, *Répertoire Géographique des Textes Cunéiformes VI. Die Orts- und Gewässernamen der hethitischen Texte*. Wiesbaden 1978, p. 526: Azzi (FIN) Dat.-Lok. ^{ID}Az-zi-ja ša-ra-a KUB XXXI 101a Rs. 33 Ortsbestimmung: Nach Ünal, in *RHA* 31, 1973, 50 identisch mit dem Yeşil Irmak (Iris)?

existence of the Azzi River has not been addressed in various treatments of that text². This article examines the validity of both the ^{ID}*Az-zi-ja* and ^{ID}*az-zi=ja* readings and thereby discusses the question of whether or not KUB 31.101 in fact referred to the Azzi River.

The ^{ID}*Az-zi-ja* reading was first suggested by Ahmed Ünal in his article entitled “Zum Status der ‘Augures’ bei den Hethitern”³. Ünal justified his interpretation by referring to another letter dealing with bird oracles, namely KBo 15.28, where each of the two rivers Zulija and Imralla appear in one paragraph⁴. KBo 15.28 will be discussed in greater detail later on in this article. Ünal read the entire passage of KUB 31.101 as follows⁵:

30' *ki-nu-na ú-wa-at ú-wa-at ma-ah-ha-an*
 31' *I-NA ^{ID}Ma-ra-aš-ša-an-da ar-te-ni*
 32' [*nu*]-*uš-ša-an ^{ID}ya kát-ta-an SIG₅-an-du(-)x*
 33' [*MUŠEN^H*]^{1.A} *da-iš-ten ^{ID}Az-zi-ya ša-ra-a*
 34' [*hu-u-ma-a*]*n-du-uš MUŠEN^H*^{1.A} *a-uš-ten*
 35' [*nu UL me-ma-at-te*]*n?? du-wa-ad-du ^{ID}aš me-ik-ki na-ak-ki-iš*

30' Komm, komm (her)! Sobald
 31' ihr zu Maraššanda-Fluß gelangt,
 32' sollen (die Vögel) am Fluß (alle) in Ordnung sein.
 33' Nehmet die [Vögel] (von dort und gehet) zum Azzi-Fluß hinauf
 34' (und) beobachtet [al]le Vögel genau.
 35' [Saget nicht o.ä.] “Erbarmung! Der Fluß (ist) sehr schwer zugänglich.”

According to Ünal's interpretation, upon reaching the Maraššanda River, the augurs should determine, presumably by observation, whether the birds are 'favourable'. They should then take the birds to the Azzi River and observe them once again. It would thus appear that the Maraššanda River played a preliminary role in augural observation while the main bird observation took place at the Azzi River.

In “Korrespondenz der Hethiter”, Albertine Hagenbuchner supported Ünal's reading of ^{ID}*az-zi-ja*, however, her understanding of the passage viewed in its entirety, and hence of the augural protocol, differs from that of Ünal. She interpreted the passage as follows⁶:

30' *ki-nu-na ú-wa-at ú-wa-at ma-ah-ha-an*

² A. Ünal, “Zum Status der ‘Augures’ bei den Hethitern”, *RHA* 31 (1973), pp. 48-52; A. Archi, “L'orimomanzia ittita”, *SMEA* 16 (1975), pp. 136-138; A. Hagenbuchner, *Die Korrespondenz der Hethiter. 2. Teil*. Heidelberg, 1989, pp. 37-40.

³ Ünal, *RHA* 31 (1973), pp. 48, 50.

⁴ Ünal, *RHA* 31 (1973), p. 48, note 33 “KBo XV 28 Vs. 5ff. erwähnt Zulija (Sakarya?) und Imralla (Delice Irmak ?).”

⁵ Ünal, *RHA* 31 (1973), pp. 50, 51.

⁶ Hagenbuchner, *Korrespondenz* 2, pp. 37, 39.

31' I-NA ^{1D}Ma-ra-aš-ša-an-da ar-te-ni
 32' [nu]-uš-ša-an ÍD-ya kat-ta-an SIG₅-an-du-uš
 33' [MUŠEN^{H1.A}] da-iš-ten ^{1D}Az-zi-ya ša-ra-a
 34' [SIG₅-a]n-du-uš MUŠEN^{H1.A} a-uš-ten
 35' [ú-wa-a]t du-wa-ad-du ÍD-aš me-ik-ki na-ak-ki-iš

30' Jetzt, komm! Komm! Sobald
 31' ihr am Maraššanda-Fluß (Kizil Irmak) ankommt,
 32' setzt die guten [Vög]el zum Fluß
 33' hinab. Bis zum Azzi-Fluß (Yeşil Irmak) sollt ihr
 34' die [gut]en Vögel beobachten.
 35' [uwa]t duwaddu. Der Fluß ist sehr schwer (unzugänglich?)

According to Hagenbuchner, upon reaching the Maraššanda, the augurs should release the 'favourable' birds towards that river and observe them as they fly in the direction of the Azzi River. Thus, under Hagenbuchner's interpretation, the two rivers Maraššanda and Azzi demarcated the field of Hittite bird observation.

It follows from the above that both Ünal and Hagenbuchner believed that each of the rivers Maraššanda and Azzi were used in the augural observation scene depicted in the KUB 31.101. However, we are of the view that it is worthwhile asking whether in fact two rivers were ever used for performing Hittite bird observations and, consequently, whether Ünal and Hagenbuchner correctly interpreted KUB 31.101 ÍD.az-zi-ja as ^{1D}Az-zi-ja.

With a view to answer these questions, three other oracular texts should also be examined, namely KUB 18.5, KUB 49.60 and KBo 15.28.

First, KUB 18.5 is a collection of bird observation cases, and it describes the movements of birds behind (EGIR ÍD) and in front of a river (ÍD-az šara pīran)⁷. One example suffices to illustrate the point:

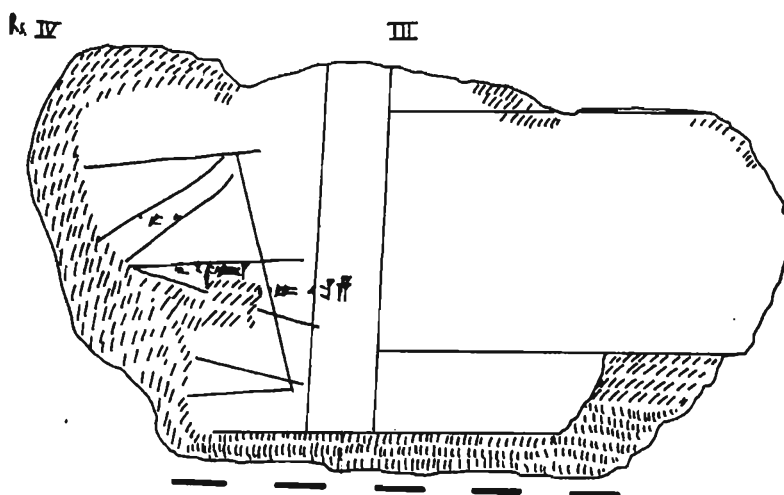
KUB 18.5 ii

44 na-aš-ta ÍD-az ša-ra-a ka-l-mu-ši-iš har-ra-ni-i-iš-ša
 45 pī-ra-an aš-šu-wa-az ú-e-ir na-at-kán ÍD-an a-ap-pa ú-e-ir
 46 nam-ma-at-kán EGIR ÍD EGIR-an ša-ra-a aš-šu-wa-az ú-e-ir
 47 nam-ma-at zi-la-wa-an ku-uš pa-a-ir nam-ma-at mu-un-na-an-i[r]

⁷ KUB 18.5 is one of three Hittite texts that describe an oracular field of bird observation with a river running through the center of the field. The other two texts are 158/w and 173/w: R.H. Beal, "Hittite Oracles" in *Magic and Divination in the Ancient World*, L. Ciruolo and J. Seidel ed. Leiden 2002, p. 65 n. 70. Unfortunately, the present author did not have an opportunity to examine the 158/w and 173/w texts.

“The *kalmušiš*-bird and *haranīš*-bird came up in front of the river from favourable (direction) and they came back to the river. Then they came up behind the river from favourable (direction). Then they went *zilawan ku.š* and they disappeared.”

Second, the KUB 49.60 text preserves the right half of a roughly sketched plan, which has been considered by scholars as representing the field of bird observation⁸. Beal describes this plan as follows: “This shows a rectangle divided diagonally by two sets of double lines intersecting in the middle. The half-rectangle is further divided in half horizontally by a single line”⁹. Since KUB 18.5 describes a river running longitudinally through the center of a field of bird observation, it is conceivable that the horizontal line of KUB 49.60 represents a river¹⁰. If that is indeed the case, then each of the aforementioned texts attests that a bird observation was performed over one river, which was located in the middle of the field of vision.



KUB 49.60

⁸ Beal, *Magic and Divination*, p. 65; Archi *SMEA* 16 (1975), p. 150 n. 87; V. Haas, “Die Orakelprotokolle aus Kuşakli - Ein Überblick”, *MDOG* 128 (1996), p. 108. Since this plan was sketched below a text that describes a bird observation it is conceivable that it indeed represents the augural field of observation.

⁹ Beal, *Magic and Divination*, p. 65.

¹⁰ Many augural texts, other than KUB 18.5, 158/w and 173/w, mention a road (KASKAL) instead of a river, which also seems to divide the field of vision in half, therefore a horizontal line may have also represented a road. For an entirely different interpretation of the plan of augural field of observation, according to which the two diagonal lines that run through the half-rectangle represented both a river and a road, and for the assessment of its validity see Haas, *MDOG* 128 (1996), p. 108, and Beal, *Magic and Divination*, p. 66.

Finally, KBo 15.28, a letter sent by the “bird observers” to a Hittite queen, contains a passage that was used by Ünal to support his view that augural observation was performed at two rivers:

Vs.

- 4 ^{URU}Ha-it-ta-z[a-ká]n ar-ha u-ri-an-ni-eš^{MUŠEN}
 5 tar-u I-NA ^{1D}Zu-li-aš-ša-an kat-ta
 6 [TI₈^{MU₁ŠEN} GUN-eš₁₄ zi SIG₅-az-ma-an-kán
 7 [a]n-da hu-e-ku-wa-ni EGIR-an-na-kán
 8 [r]a[?]-za TI₈^{MUŠEN} pí-ra-an SIG₅-za
 9 [pa-it u-ri-a]n-ni-eš^{MUŠEN} tar-u pa-ri pa-it
 10 [x-li-ya ^{1D}Im-ra-al-la-ya-aš-ša-an
 11 [x a-li-la-aš-[š]a GUN-eš₁₄

(4) Away from the city of Haitta (came) the *urianni*-bird (5) in *taru* manner. Down, to the river Zuliya, (6) [an eagle] (came) GUN *zilawan*. From the favourable direction; however, (we saw) it. (7) [The]n we swore to it. And then (8) []the eagle [went] in front from favorable (direction). (9) [The *uria*]nni-bird went across in *tarwiyallian* manner. (10) []... to the river Imralla (11) []and the *alilaš*-bird GUN.

While two rivers do indeed appear in one paragraph in KBo 15.28, the above passage describes two, not one, bird observations. Both the *uriani*-bird and the eagle are observed over the river Zuliya. Before the river Imralla appears in line 10, the *uriani*-bird is described as *pait* “went”, which indicates that it flew out of the field of vision¹¹. Since it appears that another bird *alliaš* (line 11) is observed at the river Imralla (line 10), it is hereby proposed that the end of the sentence that begins in line 8 and describes the movement of the eagle [r]a[?]-za TI₈^{MUŠEN} pí-ra-an SIG₅-za should be reconstructed as (9) [pa-it]¹². Thus, the *uriani*-bird and the eagle were observed in the oracular field that included only the river Zuliya. A separate bird observation involving different birds was performed at the river Imralla. Neither did the Zuliya River serve as the preliminary place of bird observation nor did the river Zuliya and Imralla demarcate the field of vision.

Since neither of the above texts suggests that two rivers were necessary or even used for a single bird observation, it is difficult to assert with any degree of certainty that KUB 31.101 in fact referred to two rivers. Moreover, a philological analysis of Ünal’s and Hagenbuchner’s readings of the relevant passage demonstrates that a certain amount of manipulation on the part of the reader/interpreter is required in order to incorporate the reading ^{1D}Az-zi-ya ‘to the river

¹¹ The Hittite augury texts show that bird observation began when a bird(s) flew into the field of vision, which was described using the verb *uwa-* ‘to come.’ The flight of bird/birds out of the oracular field and thus the end of bird observation was described with the verb *pai-* ‘to go.’

¹² See Ünal for similar reconstruction. Ünal, *RHA* 31 (1973), p. 53 n. 34.

Azzi' into the passage Rs. 30'-35'. We would make the following observations on Ünal's and Hagenbuchner's interpretations.

First, Ünal reads the last word in line 32' as SIG₅-*an-du(-)x*, taking it to be the third person plural imperative verb meaning "let (them) be good/favourable". However, a careful examination of the autograph and the photograph of KUB 31.101 text reveals that the sign which follows SIG₅-*an-du* is *-uš*, and the word viewed as a whole is not a verb but rather an adjective in the accusative plural meaning 'good/favourable'.

Second, the verb in line 33' *da-iš-ten* is not the second person plural imperative of the verb *dā-* 'to take' but rather the second person plural imperative of *dāi-* meaning 'to put, to place'. Thus, [*nu*]-*uš-ša-an* *ÍD-ja kát-ta-an* SIG₅-*an-du-uš* and [MUŠEN^H]^{1.A} *da-iš-tén* form a single sentence, which translates as "place the good/favorable birds down to the river", and not two sentences, "the birds must be favorable on the river" and "take the birds (from there)".

Third, ^{ID}*Az-zi-ja ša-ra-a* "(and go) up to the Azzi river" cannot be considered as a complete sentence since it lacks both subject and verb. It is argued here that this noun phrase should be read as forming part of the sentence [SIG₅-*a*]*n-du-uš* MUŠEN^H^{1.A} *a-uš-ten*.

In addition, the interpretation of line 35' as meaning either [Saget nicht o.ä.] "Erbarmung! Der Fluß (ist) sehr schwer zugänglich"¹³ or "[*uwa*]t *duwaddu*. Der Fluß ist sehr schwer (unzugänglich?)"¹⁴ is problematic. The noun *ÍD-aš* appears in the nominative singular case. Thus if two rivers are named in the passage, Maraššanda and Azzi, it would be difficult to ascertain which of these two rivers is hard to access. By the mere fact that the Azzi River was mentioned in the text last, one may assume that *ÍD-aš* of the line 35' refers to that river. That in turn would imply that the augurs, as a part of their protocol, were required to proceed to the Azzi River in order to perform their observation there. However, this interpretation cannot be supported by the text itself. Perhaps, then, *ÍD-aš* of line 35' refers to the Maraššanda River¹⁵?

The re-interpretation of merely two words in the relevant passage would potentially resolve these interpretive difficulties. First, the adjective *nakiš*, in addition to 'difficult, hard to reach, inaccessible', can also mean 'important'. Thus the sentence in line 35' may be translated as "[*uwa*]t *duwaddu*! (The matter of) the river is very important". Second, the word in line 33' *ID.az-zi-ja* can be interpreted as *ÍD-az-zi=ya* "and from the river". The above accords with the interpretation espoused by Alfonso Archi, who read the passage as follows¹⁶:

30' *ki-nu-na ú-wa-at ú-wa-at ma-ah-ha-an*
31' *I-NA* ^{ID}*Ma-ra-aš-ša-an-da ar-te-ni*

¹³ Ünal, *RHA* 31 (1973), p. 51.

¹⁴ Hagenbuchner, *Korrespondenz* 2, p. 39.

¹⁵ The passage Rs. 30'-35' bears the characteristics of an instructive text, the main characteristic of which is the clarity of the message. Great efforts would have been made by the king to avoid any omissions of words or any phrasal ambiguities that could result in misapprehension and hence in errors being committed by officials charged with carrying out the orders. Consequently, we believe that any reading of the passage Rs. 30'-35' that results in an ambiguous interpretation should, in principle, be incorrect.

¹⁶ Archi, *SMEA* 16 (1975), pp. 137, 138.

- 32' [nu]-uš-ša-an ^{1D}ja kat-ta-an SIG₅-an-du-uš
 33' [MUŠEN^H]I^A da-iš-tén ^{1D}az-zi-ya ša-ra-a
 34' [SIG₅-a]n-du-uš MUŠEN^HI^A a-uš-tén
 35' [ú-wa-a]t du-wa-ad-du ^{1D}aš me-ek-ki na-ak-ki-iš

- 30 E ora, su, su! Quando
 31 giungerete al fiume Maraššanda (scil. Halys)
 32 allora disponete [uccelli]i favorevoli,
 33 giù nel fiume, e su dal fiume
 34 osservate uccelli [favorevo]li.
 35 [Su,] di grazia, (la questione della consultazione) del fiume è molto importante!

Not only is this interpretation - that upon reaching the Maraššanda River the augurs are to release the birds and then observe them as they fly upwards from the same river - clearer, it is also supported by linguistic, stylistic and contextual arguments.

Accordingly, ^{1D}az-zi=ya would be the common noun 'river' in the ablative case with the enclitically attached conjunction -ya 'and'. Certain features of Hittite phonology can indeed support such an interpretation.

First, the Hittite ablative ending -z [ts], spelled either as -az or -za, reflects an earlier ending *-(an)ti¹⁷.

Second, although the Anatolian *ti gives /-ts/ in final position in Hittite, as is proven by the reflexive particle *-ti > -z(a) [-ts] or the ablative ending *-ti > -z(a) [-ts], the inherited final *i was retained before the enclitic conjunction -ya 'and'. Accordingly, the ablative ending -az regularly appears as -azzi before -ya. This phenomenon has been observed by Friedrich¹⁸ and Oettinger¹⁹ and was expounded upon by Melchert²⁰.

Although it would seem that Hittite phonology provides convincing arguments supporting the reading ^{1D}az-zi=ya, the ^{1D}Az-zi-ja interpretation is also entirely possible. It is conceivable that ^{1D}az-zi-ya is the dative-locative case of the river name Azzi, as nouns of the *i*-stem form the dative-locative case by adding the ending -ya²¹. Therefore, non-linguistic arguments supporting the ^{1D}az-zi-ya reading would be required.

¹⁷ A. Garrett, "Wackernagel's Law and Unaccusativity in Hittite", pp. 85-133 (see p. 125 n. 21).

¹⁸ J. Friedrich, *Hethitisches Elementarbuch. 1. Teil*. Heidelberg 1960, p. 37.

¹⁹ N. Oettinger, *Die Militärischen Eide der Hethiter* (StBoT 22). Wiesbaden 1976, p. 23 n. 6.

²⁰ C. H. Craig, *Anatolian Historical Phonology*. Amsterdam - Atlanta 1994, p. 181; *idem*, *Ablative and Instrumental in Hittite*. Harvard University 1977, pp. 439-42. The best example that can support the reading ^{1D}az-zi-ja 'and from the river' is GÜB-la-az-zi-ja (KUB 55.28 ii 4) 'and from the left' contrasted with G]ÜB-la-az (VS NF 12.21 ii 16' = VAT 15604) 'from the left'.

²¹ W. P. Schmid von, "Sprachwissenschaftliche Bemerkungen zum hethitischen 'Direktiv,'" *Festschrift Heinrich Otten. 27. Dezember 1973*, E. Neu and Ch. Rüster eds., p. 295.

If one is to validate the *ÍD-az-zi-ya* reading, other augural texts should be examined to establish whether they use the expression *ÍD-az-zi-ya ša-ra-a* ‘up from the river’. KUB 18.5, which is one of the three texts that describe bird observations performed at a river, abounds in such noun phrases. One augural observation case is particularly interesting, in that it includes a sentence that demonstrates striking similarities to lines 33’-34’ of our passage:

KUB 18.5 i:

13 *na-aš-ta mar-ša-na[-aš-ši-in* $TI_8^{MUŠE}]^N$ *šal-u-i-ni-in-na*
 14 *ÍD-az ša-ra-a tar-u-an* [*a-ú-me-en...*

“Then up from the river we observed the *maršanšiš*-bird, an eagle and the *šaluiniš*-bird *taruan*”.

KUB 31.101 Rs.:

33*ÍD-az-zi-ja ša-ra-a*
 34 [*SIG₅-a*]*n-du-uš MUŠEN^{HI.A} a-uš-tén*

“And up from the river observe the [favo]rable birds”

The verb *au(š)-* meaning ‘to observe,’ first person plural preterit *aúmen* in KUB 18.5, and second person plural imperative *auštén* in KUB 31.101, appears in each of the above sentences, as does the expression *ÍD-az ša-ra-a* “upwards from the river”. It would also appear that generally designated birds of KUB 31.101 *SIG₅-a*]*n-du-uš MUŠEN^{HI.A}* are specified in KUB 18.5 as *mar-ša-na-aš-ši-in*, $TI_8^{MUŠEN}$, *šal-u-i-ni-in*. The similarities between these two sentences are so striking that it would be possible to postulate that the instructions of a king given in KUB 31.101 were carried out and recorded in KUB 18.5.

Furthermore, if one is to interpret *ÍD.az-zi-ya* as meaning “and from the river”, the relevant passage would have to be concerned with one river only. The structure of the paragraph provides sufficient evidence that such is indeed the case.

First, the paragraph begins and ends with a similar phrase:

30’ *ki-nu-na ú-wa-at ú-wa-at ma-ah-ha-an*
 31’ *I-NA^{ID} Ma-ra-aš-ša-an-da ar-te-ni*

“Now, *ú-wa-at ú-wa-at*. As soon as you reach **the Maraššanda river**”

35’ *ú-wa-a*]*t du-wa-ad-du ÍD-aš me-ik-ki na-ak-ki-iš*

“ú-wa-a]t du-wa-ad-du (the matter of) the river (is) very important”²²

This stylistic device of *ring-composition* serves to demarcate and form a closed and coherent textual unit. Therefore, since the river Maraššanda is mentioned at the beginning of the paragraph, the ÍD-aš at the end of the paragraph in line 35' should, in principle, refer to the same river. The same could be applied to ÍD-ya in line 32' and ÍD-az-zi-ya in line 33'. It is our view that if a new river were to be introduced in the paragraph, the river in line 35' would be expressly named²³.

Second, if one reconstructs MUŠEN^{HI.A} in line 33' and SIG₅-an-du-uš in line 34', one arrives at two parallel sentences that include noun-adverb-verb formulaic figures:

ÍD-ya kattan SIG₅-an-du-uš [MUŠEN^H]I.A daišten “down to the river release the favourable birds”

ÍD-az-zi=ya šara [SIG₅-a]n-du-uš MUŠEN^{HI.A} aušten “and up from the river observe the favourable birds.”

The use of such parallel sentences and formulaic figures was intentional and served to emphasize the equal importance of releasing and observing the birds at one and the same river.

Finally, a brief analysis of another passage from the same letter (Vs. 6'-15') indicates that the correct reading of ÍD.az-zi-ya should be ÍD-az-zi=ya and not ^{1D}Az-zi-ja. The passage reads as follows:

- 6' šu-me-ša-an pa-ra-a da-a-at-ten na-aš-ta
 7' ÍD-an za-it-te-en a-pu-ú-un-na
 8' an-da da-a-li-eš-te-en nam-ma-an-na
 9' ki-iš-ša-an ha-at-at'-ra-at-ten MUŠEN^{HI.A}-wa-an-na-aš-kán
 10' wa-ar-pi(-)la-a-e-ir²⁴ nu-wa-kán ÍD a-pád-da
 11' za-i-ú-en nu^{LU.MEŠ} MUŠEN.DÛ^{TIM} QA-TAM-MA iš-šq-an-zì
 12' na-aš-ta ŠA ÍD MUŠEN^{HI.A} an-da da-li-iš-kán-zì

²² For a discussion of the meaning of the expression *úwat duwaddu* and its similarity to *úwat úwat*, see A. Hagenbuchner, *Die Korrespondenz. 1. Teil*. Heidelberg 1989, pp. 103-105.

²³ According to Hagenbuchner, the expressions *úwat úwat* and *úwat duwaddu* are probably similar to the encouraging call *ehu* 'come!' Hagenbuchner, *Korrespondenz 2*, p. 40. However, the present author is of the view that in this passage both expressions serve to emphasize the importance of the proper bird observation that is to take place at the Maraššanda River.

²⁴ Ünal, Hagenbuchner and Archi read here *wa-ar-pí da'-a-e-ir*, assuming that the sign *la* is an error. Ünal, *RHA 31* (1973), p. 49; Hagenbuchner, *Korrespondenz 2*, p. 37; Archi, *SMEA 16* (1975), p. 137. Other reading was proposed in CHD. Under the verb *la-*, *lai-* we read: MUŠEN^{HI.A}-wannaškan *warpi la-a-e-er* "They released for us the birds in/from the enclosure (?)" There is no space division between *warpi* and *la-a-e-ir*, which could imply that it is one word. CHD, vol., L-N, fasc. 1, p. 2.

13' *ma-a-an A-NA* ^{LÚ.MEŠ}MUŠEN.DÙ *ku-wa-pi-ik-ki* MUŠEN-iš *ku-ę-dą-ni*
 14' *pí-ę-di a-ra-a-iz-zi na-an Ú-UL a-pí-ya-pát hu-uš-kán-zi*
 15' *šų-me-ša* TI₈ ^{MUŠEN}*ku-wą-at Ú-UL hu-u-uš-ki-it-ten*

6' You, select it (the eagle). Then,
 7' cross the river and abandon
 8' it/let it fly! And then, you
 9' wrote about it as follows: "They released for us the birds
 10' from the enclosure (?)²⁵; at that point
 11' we crossed the river." Do the augurs do just that?
 12' Do they forsake the birds of the river?
 13' If at anytime a bird (appears) to the augurs in a place
 14' in which it flies upwards, do they not wait for it right there?
 15' So, why did you not wait for the eagle?

In the above paragraph, the king refers to a bird observation performed by his augurs at some time in the recent past, during which errors were committed since the king reminds his officials that a proper bird observation involves waiting for the birds in the same place in which they were released (Vs. 13'-14'). However, the augurs crossed the river without doing that (Vs. 9'-11', 15').

In paragraph Rs. 30'-35', the officials are sent to perform another bird observation. This time the king gives them clear instructions: they must travel to the Maraššanda River, and as soon as they arrive, they must release the birds towards the river and observe them as they fly up from the river. These two augural activities, releasing the birds and observing them, are equally important and must take place at the Maraššanda River. Neither is any other river mentioned nor was another such river necessary to the augural observation.

It has been argued in this article that *ÍD-az-zi=ya* "and from the river" is the correct reading of the word *ÍD.az-zi-ya*. Consequently, the question posed at the beginning of this article, namely whether the Azzi River can be identified in KUB 31.101, must be answered in the negative. Unless a text is uncovered that specifically names a river Azzi in a case other than the dative-locative, one is led to the conclusion that the Azzi River located in the Hittite territory did not in fact exist and thus could not have appeared in KUB 31.101. Therefore, the entry in the *Répertoire Géographique* should be deleted. Furthermore, the analysis of the paragraph Rs. 30'-35' in the context of other augural texts, such as KUB 18.5, KUB 49.60, KBo 15.28, and even the earlier passage of the letter KUB 31.101 (Vs. 6'-15'), shows that the augural protocol required that the birds were observed over a single river.

²⁵ "Die Vögel haben uns umzingelt", Ünal, *RHA* 31 (1973), p. 50; "Die Vögel haben uns von allen Seiten eingekreist", Hagenbuchner, *Korrespondenz* 2, p. 38; "Gli uccelli ci circondarono", Archi, *SMEA* 16 (1975), p. 138.

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