

**55) A judge with a Nubian name in Achaemenid Susa** — LB *Il-tab/p-tu-ú-ku* from Susa, 22.XI.30 Darius I = 490 BC<sup>1)</sup> is listed as the 1st judge of a college of four judges after the operative section of a deed belonging to the Sippar archive of the *Šāhit ginē* clan (Waerzeggers 2014: 336-337:158, 15, 26, cf. Zawadzki 2000: 743-744:11, 12). The other three judges (arranged as the 2nd, 5th and 7th members of the list) bear Babylonian names. The 3rd judge, Zērīya, acted also as the scribe of the deed. Like the judges, also the three witnesses (arranged as the 3rd, 4th and 6th members of the list) have common Babylonian names, except for *Ur-ki-ki* whose name is perhaps Elamite. All the three witnesses bear neither a title nor have a filiation, which is exceptional in LB lists of witnesses. Does this lack of an additional identifier indicate that they were prominent? *Il-tab/p-tu-ú-ku*'s cylinder seal is in Achaemenid style.<sup>2)</sup> The name of *Il-tab/p-tu-ú-ku* may render \**Šab/ptV:k*, in which case it is the same name as NA *Šá-pa-ta-ku-<sup>r</sup>*. The latter refers to a ruler of the Kushite dynasty of Egypt (708-696 BC, see Morkot 2019: 129-133 with previous lit., especially Kahn 2001, cf. K. Kessler, PNA 3/2: 1228b). His name is thought to be Nubian and apparently ends in the same element as that of his predecessor *Šá-ba-ku-u* (cf. H.D. Baker and R. Mattila, PNA 3/2: 1180b and Macadam 1955: 124). He is identified with OT *Sbtk* which is depicted as an ethnons in the List of Nations of Genesis 10. This list might have been compiled in the middle of the 6th century BC. Astour (1965: 422-425) was of the opinion that the OT form with *s-* was copied from NA (BHeb. <*s*> = NA <*š*>). The grapheme <*l*> of LB *Il-tab/p-tu-ú-ku* renders a lateral sibilant (*š*), but such rendering is also encountered in LB *Il-tas-li-ma-tu-*' (van der Spek, Grondbesit, VIII, 202-203:5, 5, 12, 14, 17, 18), which in all probability is based on Š-L-M (in Akkadian one finds the doublette with *s-* for this root, see Zadok 1988: 75, 85 and 2000: 657, n. 34). In view of *Il-tab/p-tu-ú-ku*, the rendering of the lateral sibilant by <*l*> (see Fales 1978) is not confined to West Semitic material, but can also be applied to names originating in the wider Afroasiatic phylum. The difference in the vowels, viz. LB <*u*> vs NA <*a*>, and the elision of *-a-* after *-b/p-* may be explicable in view of the considerable chronological gap: *Il-tapb/-tu-ú-ku* is recorded 206 years after *Šá-pa-ta-ku-<sup>r</sup>*. In view of the elision it stands to reason that the stress was on the penultimate syllable, and a shift of *à/ā* to *o/ō* (<*u*>) is not unheard of. Lateral consonants are recorded in the Afroasiatic phylum (including Cushitic).<sup>3)</sup> By discussing the phonology of the single name presented here I do not claim that ancient Nubian belonged the forerunners of the modern Cushitic branch. This is merely a very partial exploratory attempt to present a phoneme of the areal phonological inventory. The occurrence of an individual with a Nubian dynastic name in Susa is understandable in view of the presence of Egyptians in Achaemenid Susa (see Joannès 1984, 1990: 180 and Zadok 1992: 144-146; 2011: 131, e.g., *Hu-ri-ia*, and 253). *Il-tab/p-tu-ú-ku* was not necessarily an ethnic Nubian; like the bearers of Libyan dynastic names, basilophoric anthroponyms might have been borne as prestigious names by ethnic Egyptians.

#### Notes

1. Abbreviations (mostly of editions of cuneiform texts) are as in A.L. Oppenheim et al. (eds.), *The Assyrian Dictionary of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago* (Chicago and Glückstadt 1956-2010), unless otherwise indicated. The months (in Roman figures) are the Babylonian ones.

2. See Altavilla and Walker 2009: 94, 140:C22, cf. 128:A57 for the cylinder seal of his colleague, the judge Iqīša-Marduk.

3. See Ehret 1995: 4, 9, 394:tab. 8, 418-429 and Appleyard 2011: 42. The latter draws attention to the existence of a lateral fricative/glottalised affricate pair in Iraaqw and adds that it is reconstructed for Proto-Semitic-Cushitic.

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