

An Account of the Capture of Babylon by Cyrus Translation – (Transcription)

*From a cylinder in the British Museum [No. 12,049]

Marduk sought me out [me] a righteous prince and a man after his own heart, whom he could take by the hand. He proclaimed my name “Cyrus King of Anshan,” and declared my name for sovereignty over the whole world. He (i.e. Cyrus) compelled the land of Kutu, and all the tribes thereof, to bow down at his feet; all the Black Heads whom Marduk had delivered into his hands he governed with justice and righteousness. Marduk, the great lord, the protector of his people, looked on his beneficent deeds and his righteous heart with joy. Marduk commanded him to go to his city of Babylon; he made him to set out on the road to Babylon, and he marched by his side as a friend and helper. His countless soldiers, with their armor girded on them, advanced by his side like a wide-spreading flood. Without fighting, an unopposed, Marduk made him to enter into his city of Babylon, and he refrained from sacking it. He delivered into his hands Nabonidus, who did not worship him [Marduk]. All the men of Babylon, all the people of Sumer and Akkad, and their princes and governors bowed down before him and kissed his feet; they rejoiced in his sovereignty, their faces were bright. They bowed down in reverence to him, and adored the name of Marduk, the lord, who by his power had raised to life the dead, and had saved all from destruction and want.

I am Cyrus, King of the world, the great king, the mighty king, the king of Babylon, king of Sumer and Akkad, king of the four quarters of the world, the son of Cambyses, the great king of Anshan, descendant of Teispes, the great king, king of Anshan, the everlasting seed of royalty, whose reign Bel [of Babylon] and Nabu [of Borsippa] love, and whose sovereignty they desired with joyful hearts. When I had entered Babylon, I entered under favorable auspices; I made my abode in the Royal Palace, a splendid building, amid shouts of gladness and cries of joy. Marduk, the great lord, the darling god of the Babylonians, inclined graciously to me, and daily did I duly worship him. In vast numbers my soldiers marched peacefully into Babylon. I took care that all the people of Sumer and Akkad, a great race, should suffer no molestation; I had respect for the tribulation of Babylon and all her cities. And the gods of Sumer and Akkad which Nabonidus had brought into Babylon, whereat the wrath of the lord of the gods was roused, by the command of Marduk, the great lord, one and all I restore to their shrines, and made them to inhabit once again the places in which their hearts rejoiced. May all the gods whom I have brought into their own cities pray daily before Bel and Nabu for the lengthening of my days! May they speak the word which shall bring me prosperity, and may they say unto Marduk, my lord, “Let king Cyrus, who worshippeth thee, and his son Cambyses [be prosperous!]”

Source: Babylonian Life and History
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