

**PRESENTATION TO THE MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY TEACHER CONFERENCE
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UNIVERSITY – LECTURE HANDOUT**

The incantation *amsi qātīyai* is found in *Maqlû* VII 114-140. This incantation provides an excellent example of expansion and adaptation. In translation, this incantation in the Standard Version reads:

114 I wash my hands, I cleanse my body
115 In the pure spring water that was formed in Eridu.
116 Everything evil, everything unfavorable
117 That is in my body, flesh, and sinews,
118 The evil of (i.e., portended by) evil, unfavorable dreams, signs, and portents,
119 The evil of defective, frightening, evil, unfavorable entrails
120 (observed) in the ritual act (of extispicy), in the killing of the she[ep], in the offering of the
sacrifice, or in the exercise (var. + of any sort) of divination,
121 That I have looked at daily,
122 Have stepped on in the street, or have repeatedly seen in the outskirts,
123 A spirit of evil, an evil demon,
124 Illness, he[ad]ache, sleeplessness,
125 dumbness, torpor, misery, grief, losses, moaning,
126 (Cries of) woe (and) alas, depression,
127 Terror, fear, apprehension,
128 (The evil consequences of) a curse by the gods, an appeal to the gods, a complaint to the
[gods, an o]ath by the god, the raising of hands, ban,
129 The evil(s) of witchcraft, spittle, enchainment, evil machinations of mankind—
130 With the water of my body and the washing of my hands
131 May it (the various evils) rinse off and come [up]on a figurine of a substitute,
132 May the figurine of the sub[stitute] bear my sin as a replacement,

- 133 May street and way undo my sins,
134 May a (female) substitute stand in for me, may one who encounters (me) take (it) over from
me,
135 I have encountered an ominous encounter; may they take (it) over from me.
136 May the day bring well being, the month joy, the year prosperity.
137 O Ea, Šamaš, and Marduk, help me so that
138 Witchcraft, spittle, enchainment,
139 Evil machinations of mankind be released,
140 And oath go forth from my body.

In the Neo-Babylonian recension of *Maqlû* Tablet VII, an earlier version of this incantation reads:

[Incantation. I wash my hands, I clean]se my body
[In the pure spring water that] was formed [in Eridu].
May [everything evil, everything unfavorable that i]s [in] my [bo]dy, my flesh,
[and my sinews] rinse off with the water of my body
[and the washin]g of my hands
and come [upon your head and] upon your body.
[May a substitute s]tand in for me, may one who encounters (me) take (it) over from me,
[I have encountered an ominous encounter; may] they [t]ake (it) over from me.