

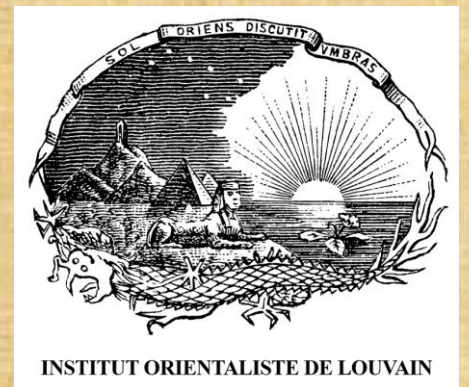


**From Cradle to Grave.
Everyday Life in the
Ancient Near East**

BANQUETING IN ANCIENT UGARIT

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Banqueting in ancient Ugarit: *akālu*

- *Akālu (ʾikl)* ‘banquet’
 - Derived from the common Semitic stem *ʾkl* ‘to eat’
 - Akk. *akālu*, Aram. *ʾkl*, Ar. *ʾakala*, Hebr. *ʾkl*; cf. Eth. *ʾəkl* ‘food’
 - One time attested (KTU³ 1.22 i 24)
 - *Bētu akāli (bt ʾikl)* ‘banquet hall (lit. house of eating)’
 - In a banquet hall the Rapa ʾūma enjoy a rich banquet (various foods and wines)
 - 7 days
 - Uncertain: KTU³ 1.82:26 (*h/ʾikl* in an unclear context)
 - Alternative explanation: equivalent of Akkadian *ikkillu* ‘house of mourning’



Banqueting in ancient Ugarit: *ʿašratu* and *ʿašru*

KTU³ 1.119



- *ʿAšratu* (*ʿšrt*) and *ʿašru* (*ʿšr*) ‘banquet; sacrificial banquet’
 - Eth. *ʿašur* ‘feast, banquet’
 - Noun derived from the verbal stem *ʿšr*
 - Hebr. *ʿšr* ‘to give to drink to’, Ar. *ʿāšara*, *ta ʿāšara* ‘to have social and familial relationships’, Eth. *ʿaššara* ‘invite’, *ta ʿaššara* ‘be invited’
 - Often used as internal object
 - *krtn dbḥ dbḥ mlk ʿšr ʿšrt* “Keret is sacrificing a sacrifice, the king is serving a banquet” (KTU³ 1.16 i 39-41, 61-62)
 - *ʿšr ʿšr b bt ilm* “A banquet is held in the temple of the gods” (KTU³ 1.43:2)
 - *ʿšrt b l [n] ʿšr* “A banquet, ô Baʿal, (for you) we will offer” (KTU³ 1.119:32)

Banqueting in ancient Ugarit: *ʿašratu* and *ʿašru*

- *ʿAšratu* (*ʿšrt*) and *ʿašru* (*ʿšr*) ‘banquet; sacrificial banquet’
 - Not necessarily religious or sacrificial connotation
 - *ndd yʿšr yšqynh* “He stood, served and offered him drink” (KTU³ 1.3 i 9)
 - *k bʿl k yḥwy yʿšr ḥwy yʿšr wyšqynh* “Whosoever lives as Baʿlu (lives), life is served (him). It is served (him) and he drinks of it” (KTU³ 1.17 vi 30-31)
 - *rb ʿšrt*
 - *Ršpāb rb ʿšrt mryn*: KTU³ 4.609:2; *Šmʿn rb ʿšrt*: KTU³ 4.609:5; *Bdʿnt rb ʿšrt*: KTU³ 4.609:7; *Bnīl rb ʿšrt*: KTU³ 4.609:8
 - *spr rb ʿšrt*: KTU³ 4.714:1
 - *rb ʿšrt PN* : KTU³ 4.807 iii 62 (list of people for corvée)
 - Proposed meanings
 - Decurion, chief of a group of ten (DUL)
 - Female kitchen staff (McGeough)
 - Banquet
 - *ʿšrm/āširūma* ‘kitchen staff, butler, cupbearer’
 - Semitic equivalents



KTU³ 1.3

Banqueting in ancient Ugarit: *dabḥu*

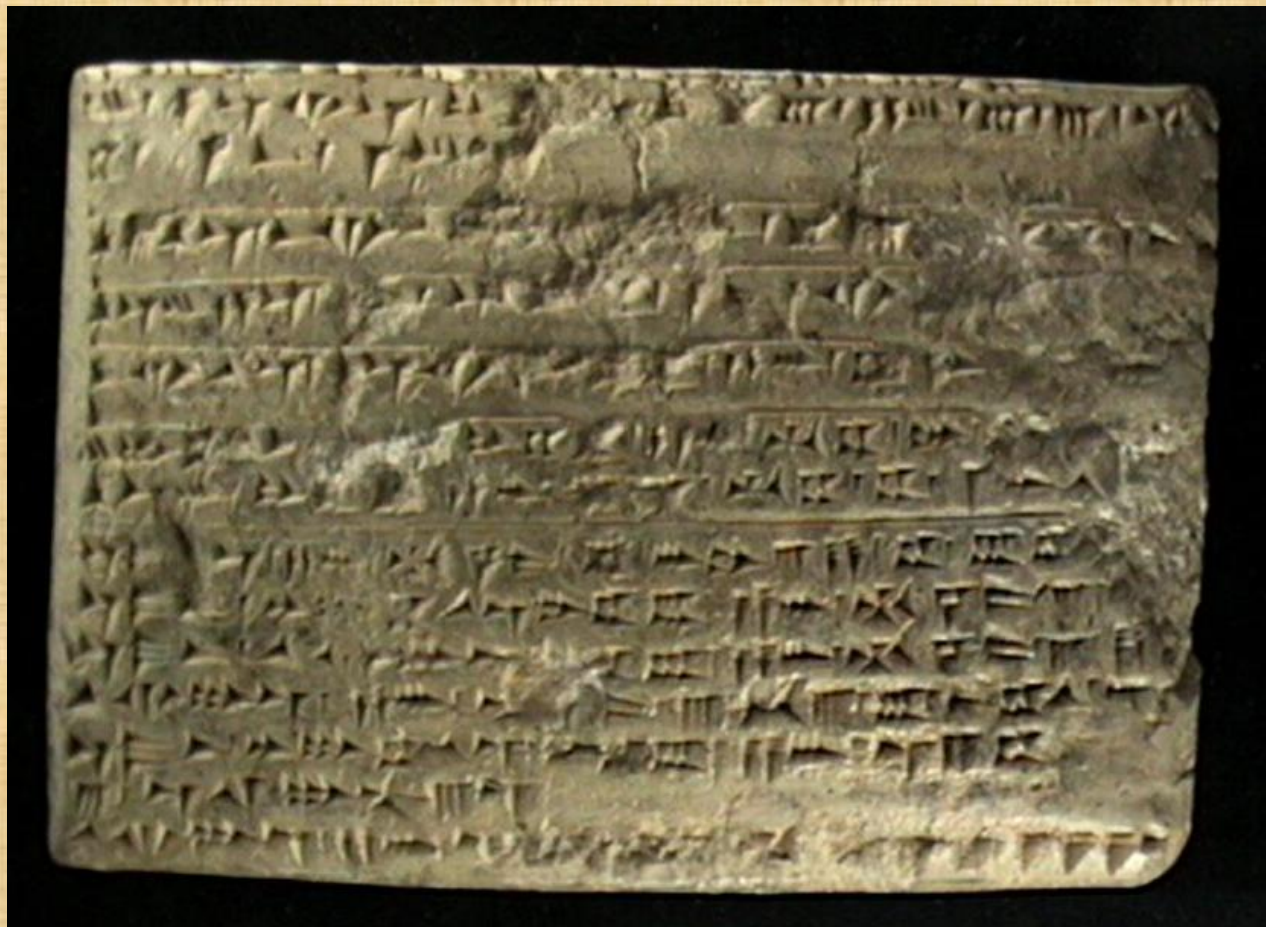
- ***Dabḥu* (*dbḥ*) ‘sacrifice; sacrificial banquet’**
 - Eblaite *zubbū* ‘sacrifice’, Akk. *zību* ‘food offering’, Hebr. *zebah* ‘communal sacrifice, food offering’, Aram. *dbḥ* ‘sacrifice’, Phoen. and Pun. *zbḥ* ‘sacrifice’, Ar. *dabḥ* ‘slaughter’ and *dibḥ* ‘sacrifice’, Eth. *zəbḥ* ‘sacrifice’
 - Cf. also Phoen., Aram. *zbḥ* “sacrifice” and Old Aram. *zbḥh* ‘sacrifice’
 - Noun derived from the verbal stem *dbḥ* “to sacrifice; offer a sacrificial banquet”
 - Akk. *zebû* ‘to sacrifice’, Aram. *dbḥ* and *zbḥ* ‘to sacrifice’, Hebr. *zbḥ* ‘to sacrifice’, Punic *zbḥ* ‘to sacrifice’, Ar. *dabaḥa* “to slaughter”, Eth. *zabḥa* “to offer as a sacrifice, to slaughter for a sacrifice”
- In combination with ‘*ašratu* / ‘*ašru* and *marziḥu* / *marzi*‘u
- Used as internal object
 - *krtn dbḥ dbḥ mlk šr šrt* “Keret is sacrificing a sacrifice, the king is serving a banquet” (KTU³ 1.16 i 39-41, 61-62)
 - *dbḥn ndbḥ* “Behold the sacrifice that we offer” (KTU³ 1.40:32)

Banqueting in ancient Ugarit: *dabḥu*

- Both noun and verb have a predominantly religious character
 - Specific types
 - *dbḥ mlk/mlkt* “Sacrifice of the king/queen” (KTU³ 1.91:2, 4.149:15)
 - *msrr dbḥ ṣr* “The entrails of a sacrificial bird” (KTU³ 1.14 iii 59)
 - *dbḥ dt nāt*, a specific type of sacrifice (‘sacrifice of lamentation’)
 - Semitic equivalents
- Possible counter-examples
 - Noun
 - *db[h] l krt ʾdnkm* “A banquet Kirtu, your lord, celebrates” (KTU³ 1.15 vi 5; DUL)
 - BUT: “(I have called you to eat and drink), to make sacrifice for Keret, your lord” (Gibson, Wyatt)
 - *krtn dbḥ dbḥ* “Kirtu offers a banquet” (KTU³ 1.16 i 40)
 - BUT: followed by *mlk ṣr ṣrt* “The king offers a banquet”, which highlights the distinction between *dbḥ* and *ṣr(t)*. The latter being the common denotation for a banquet, one may suppose that the *dbḥ* has more religious connotations
 - *mītm yn ḥṣp d nkly b dbḥ* “200 (jars) of decanted/drawn wine that have been used up during (royal) sacrifices/banquets” (KTU³ 4.213:24)
 - BUT: too vague (“during the sacrifice”)
 - Verb
 - *il dbḥ b bth mṣd . ṣd . b qrb hklh* “’Ilu offers a banquet of game in his house, the produce of the hunt in the midst of his palace” (KTU³ 1.114:1-2)
 - BUT: not certain!
- Especially in literature and ritual texts and its sub-genres, e.g. offering lists

Banqueting in ancient Ugarit: *dabḥu*

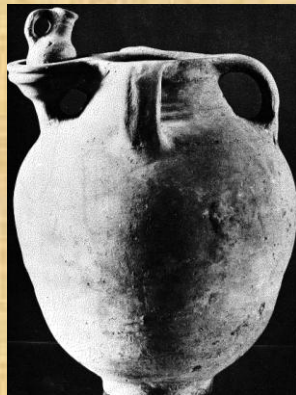
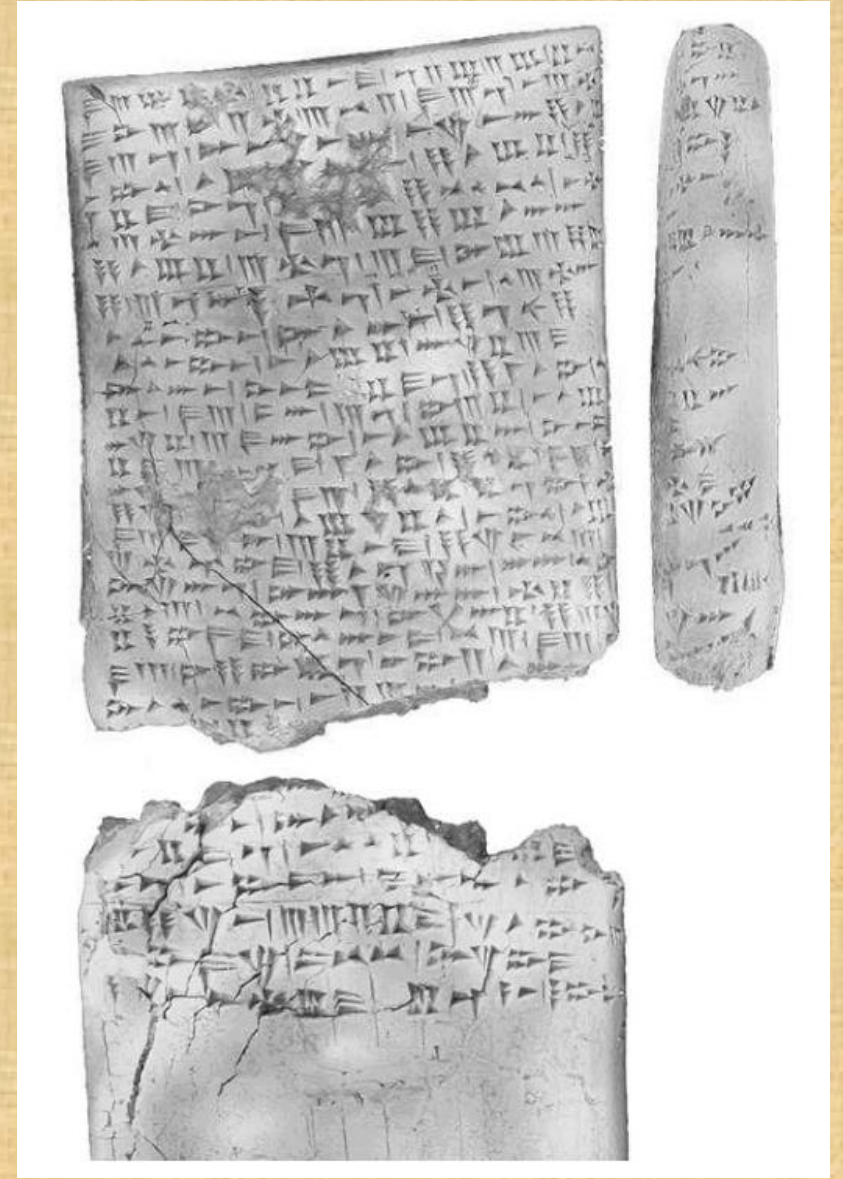
KTU³ 4.213:2



KTU³ 1.16 i

Banqueting in ancient Ugarit: *marziḥu* and *marzi'u*

- *Marziḥu* (mrzḥ) and *marzi'u* (mrz'u)
 - Eblaite *marza'u*, Akk. *marzaḥu*, *marziḥu* and *marzi'u*, Moabite, Phoen., Aram., Hebr. *mrzḥ*, Arabic *marzaḥa*(?)
- Versatile term
 - Ceremonial activity held by gods and humans
 - The association organising this activity
 - The physical location where this activity takes place
 - Always private house, not a temple
 - Month in which this activity takes place
- Festive aspect is dominant
- Important role for consumption of meat and wines



Banqueting in ancient Ugarit: *marziḥu* and *marzi‘u*

	Chef	Membres (élite)	Maison du marzēaḥ	Divinité tutélaire	Ville	Rôle économique / financier	Vin (banquet)	Viande (banquet)	Indication de temps
Ebla	X	X				X		X	X
Ugarit	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Emar		X		(X)					X
Bible		X	X	X			X	X	
Moab	X	X	X			X			
Éléphantine	X	X				X			
Phénicie	X	X		X		X	X		X
Nabatène	X	X		X	X		X		
Palmyre	X	X	X	X		X	X		X
Rabbinique							X	X	
Madaba			X				X	X	

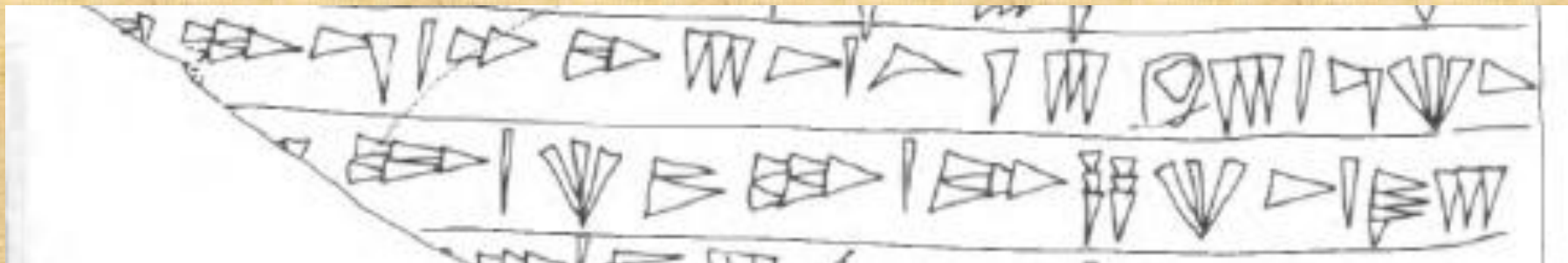
Banqueting in ancient Ugarit: *qarītu*

- *Qarītu* (*qrāt*) ‘sacrificial banquet’
 - One time attested, in a Hurrian text (KTU³ 1.116:2), a list of offerings to various divinities
 - Preceded by an *incipit* in Ugaritic: *dbḥ . ṯtrt qrāt . b grn*
 - ‘convocation, invocation’ (*qr* ‘to call, shout; invite’)
 - Hebrew *qr* ‘to shout’ and *qariy āh* ‘proclamation, message’, Syriac *qerāytā* ‘calling, summoning’, Mandaic *qrita* ‘call, vocation’ and Arabic *qirā’at* ‘recitation, reading’
 - ‘meeting, gathering’ (*qry* ‘to meet’)
 - Hebrew *qiryāh* ‘meeting point; town’
 - ‘banquet’ (*qr* ‘to invite’)
 - Akkadian *qerītu* ‘banquet, festival’, Mandaic *qrita* ‘invitation’
 - Religious context



Banqueting in ancient Ugarit: *mšt*

- *Mištu* (*mšt*) ‘banquet’
 - Derived from *šty* ‘to drink’
 - Hebrew *mišteh* ‘drink; banquet’
 - One time attested
 - *áklt . ‘gl i’l . mšt [mklt . i]mr . špr* “Who eats the calf of ’Ilu at the banquet, who [devours] the comely lambs” (KTU³ 1.108:9b-10a)
 - Context with preceding description of a deity playing music and of dancers
- Alternatively: “beverage” (to *šty* ‘to drink’)



Thank you

