

## **An axe for Nergal**

(Catalogue number 5.7.3 in the ETCSL)

*A man named Nibrutalu dedicates an axe to the god Nergal.*

- Nibrutalu,  
son of Lugalsubi the merchant,  
had a tin axe made  
for Nergal.
- 5 Its wood is *arganum* of the mountains,  
higher than *alal*.  
Its stone is *antasura*,  
having no equal.  
When he swings it, his arm will not get tired.
- 10 Should he break it,  
I will repair it for him.  
Should he lose it,  
I will replace it for him.  
May he see me while I am alive.
- 15 And in the world beyond, when I have died,  
may he let me drink clear water.

*Victor Voermans*

*Leiden, September 2022*