

is nothing of value?

The Wisdom Books of our world include what some call “*vanity*” works; we are warned not to stray far from eating, drinking and abundant joy in earthly lives. The best known is *Qoheleth*, or *Ecclesiastes* from King Solomon the Wise. He said he searched out sources of wisdom, and then-current variants of what modern scholars call ‘*Nothing is of value*’ were better than our meagre Sumerian cuneiform fragments. My rendering here¹ echoes a very old message. This and other wisdom came to us from Noah after he landed the Ark upon the mountains of Urartu (Ararat) some 1600 years before Solomon’s reign in Jerusalem. Noah’s sons instructed youth until folly at Babel sent them off in many directions. The Wisdom of Sumer was not a new thing under the sun.

is nothing of value?

but life itself should be sweet-tasting!
even when a man owns no property,
still he does hold a real possession.

One sets himself against destiny
hastens to turn cunning into wealth
to his own detriment
the outcome of such a plan
was carried away by the whirlwind!
That house was counted a ruin,
turned into a waste land.
the surplus silver from transactions
became lost wealth!

who of mankind can lead us to GOD?
what might we say of such?
The tallest one cannot touch the sky!
the broadest cannot visit Sheol!
the strongest cannot stretch out
to cover the whole Earth!

The good life, let it be filled with joy!
let the journey here be spent in joy!
a man's good house is that house
of his sojourn in life!

is nothing of value?

but life itself should be sweet-tasting!
even when a man owns no property,
still he does hold a real possession.

Life that ends is the share of man
the consequence of his choices
no man can escape
Above is his elevated house
below is his everlasting house
Let the strong one exert himself
let his heart's desires be accomplished

But, whatever a man long possesses
is given by GOD as a gift.
If GOD has looked favorably on him,
only then his ears are opened.
so GOD and HIS Protection will be
present on that man’s journey

A man’s offering to GOD
sent by fire - it finds no ceiling!
by itself may such increase
the stature of any man?

Is an offering by fire accepted from
a heart bent upon divination?
who performs a smoke offering?
let him serve GOD with upright heart!
one who performs smoke offerings
can our tallest one touch the sky?
can our broadest one visit Sheol?

The good life, let it be filled with joy!
a man's good house is that house
of his sojourn in life!

a migrant labourer

March, 2016



This work is © non-commercial, share alike. For my fellow students, this is not to deter you. I request you to freely use and improve upon these writings as you pass along your own to others, without need to mention me. Find a way to leave me a message if you wish to at www.primeconcord.info.

¹ To left are scholarly variants “B+A”. Bottom left, continued at right is the scholarly variant “D” incorporating “C”. I seek no debate on the few liberties taken with the contents of meager remnants of ancient fragments. While more details may emerge by diligent search among more fragments transmitted via Sumer, the underlying message is from One Master Builder as King Solomon noted in Eccl. 12:11.