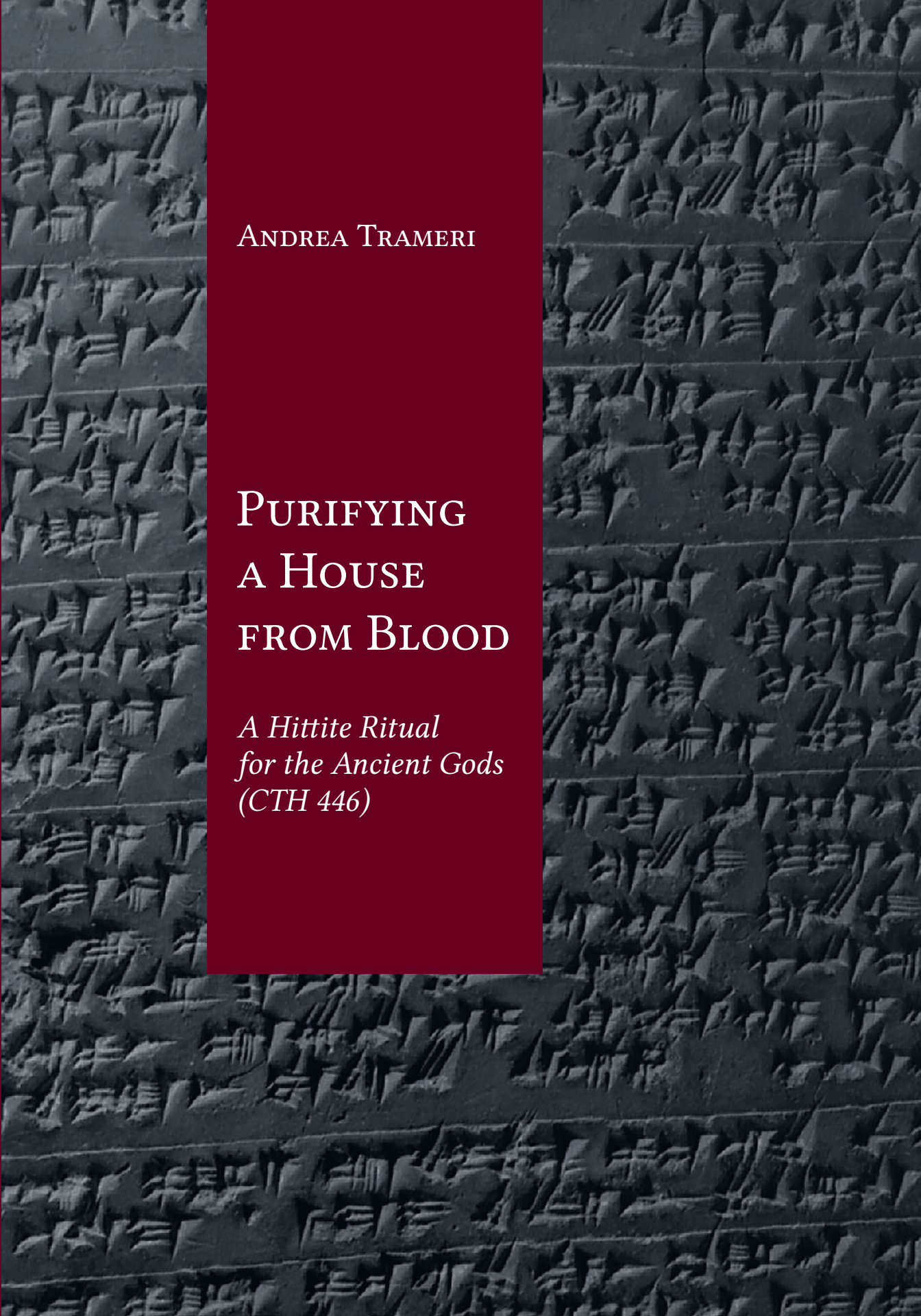

Andrea Trameri

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A Hittite Ritual for the Ancient Gods (CTH 446)

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by

Andrea Trameri

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PURIFYING A HOUSE FROM BLOOD

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Preface

Previous Studies

The *editio princeps* of the composition listed in Laroche's *Catalogue des textes hittites* under no. 446—a purification ritual for a house invoking the Ancient Gods—was published in 1961 by Heinrich Otten in the article "Eine Beschwörung der Unterirdischen aus Boğazköy" (*ZA* 54), with German translation and philological commentary. No complete and updated text editions of the ritual have been published since. Otten could rely on three well-preserved copies of the ritual for his edition. Afterward, more minor fragments of the same copies, and new ones belonging to other tablets, were retrieved in the excavations at Ḫattuša and published in the various autography series. These new materials have been included in more recent translations of the text (without transcriptions), published by Billie Jean Collins (1997, in English), and more recently Jared Miller (2008, German; additional notes in 2010). Heike Peter (2004) published an edition that includes a transcription and a commentary on the content, but the work closely follows the first publication by Otten and does not include other available manuscripts. An important fragment (AnAr 21626), which fills in the beginning and end of the ritual in tablet B, was published with a learned commentary in Akdoğan and Wilhelm 2003.

Other studies have been dedicated to the interesting content of this ritual, in particular its mythological and religious-cultural background, and its formal and narrative components. From a comparative perspective, Gerd Steiner (1971) and Mary Bachvarova (2006; 2016, 95–108) have pointed out distinctive parallels in content and textual-narrative patterns with archaic Greek literary compositions, specifically Homeric epic and Attic tragedy. Gernot Wilhelm discussed this text at some length in a contribution on the conceptions of purity in Anatolia and the ancient Near East (1999), and in another work dealing with the conceptual connection between ancestor cult and the theology of the Netherworld in a Hurrian-Hittite context (2009).

Content Overview

The present study provides an updated philological edition of the ritual CTH 446 with transliteration and English translation. The texts of all available manuscripts are presented in parallel with a scored transliteration and a composite transcription. Following the publication standards of the Hethitologie Portal

Mainz (HPM), the transcription is arranged and numbered according to syntactical units, or *kola*. The line numbers cited in this volume for the text under consideration refer to these *kola*. A concordance between the univocal line numbering of this edition and each manuscript can be retrieved through the tablet synopsis provided on pp. 233. A glossary to the text can be found at the end of the volume.

In addition to the updated critical edition, this work aims to provide a comprehensive study of this ritual text. Chapters 1 and 2 introduce the texts' manuscripts and content. Chapter 1 discusses the paleography and chronology of the manuscripts, while chapter 2 discusses the conception of purity and the techniques of purification in Hittite rituals (ch. 2.1), the role of the Netherworld gods (ch. 2.2), the composite historical-cultural and religious background of the text (ch. 2.3), and includes an overview of the text's structure and content (ch. 2.4–5).

Chapter 3 presents the critical text edition proper, followed by a detailed philological commentary, with a line by line discussion of problematic aspects of content and unclear passages. Chapters 4–6 aim at defining the nature and scope of the purification ritual, and the context of its creation; they also review previous interpretations of this complex composition.

Chapter 4 surveys ritual texts of various typologies, and shows that CTH 446 shares a number of elements of content, practice, and form with several other ritual texts of similar scope and goals. These considerations are relevant to the discussion in the following chapters, which investigate the nature and origins of this composition against the broader background of the Hittite ritual corpus.

Chapter 5 analyzes the structure and content of CTH 446 in order to verify whether the text was created on the basis of written models, and, more precisely, compiled from separate self-standing ritual texts. This possibility has been suggested in previous studies on the basis of logical inconsistencies in the ritual procedure and other textual peculiarities (e.g., Wilhelm 1999; Miller 2008).

Chapter 6 explores another aspect of the problem of the nature of CTH 446 in discussing whether this ritual, in light of its elaborate compositional characteristics, can be considered a literary text as opposed to a text whose primary goal was actual ritual performance (as suggested, e.g., by Trémouille 2004, 168).

Acknowledgments

The core of the present work derives from my MA thesis, written under the supervision of Mauro Giorgieri and Clelia Mora (University of Pavia, 2012). I am particularly indebted to Professor Giorgieri for the preparation of the original text edition. In subsequent years I had the opportunity to review the text edition, in particular during an individual course with Lorenzo d'Alfonso during my doctoral study at the ISAW of New York University. I thank him for supporting this project and for having followed closely the writing process of the volume;

I also thank Professors Beate Pongratz-Leisten and Daniel Fleming for reading multiple drafts and providing insightful feedback during the process. The text edition was completed at the Department of Ancient Near Eastern Studies at the Julius-Maximilians-Universität in Würzburg (Germany), where I was kindly hosted for a period of research in Spring 2018. There, I was able to read and discuss in depth the ritual during a seminar course with Daniel Schwemer. I thank him for his invaluable advice during the review of the entire work. Finally, I thank Billie Jean Collins wholeheartedly, for she immediately took interest in this work when I inquired for publishing the volume with Lockwood Press and helped immensely with careful review of the whole work. I am also indebted to the useful advice and feedback of an anonymous reviewer, who read the draft of this work before its publication.

Parts of this work were presented in various forms at workshops and conferences in the United States: in particular, a separate study on the variants and errors of the manuscripts of CTH 446 was presented as a self-standing paper at the Tenth International Congress of Hittitology in Chicago (August–September 2017) and will be published in the forthcoming acts of the congress.

Abbreviations

Bibliographical Abbreviations

AfO	*Archiv für Orientforschung*
ALASP	Abhandlungen zur Literatur Alt-Syrien-Palästinas und Mesopotamiens
AMD	Ancient Magic and Divination
AnOr	Analecta Orientalia
AnSt	*Anatolian Studies*
AOAT	Alter Orient und Altes Testament – Neukirchen-Vluyn.
AOATS	AOAT Sonderreihe
AoF	*Altorientalische Forschungen*
ARM	Archives royales de Mari
AS	Assyriological Studies
BO	*Bibliotheca Orientalis*
CAD	Gelb, Ignace J., et al. *The Assyrian Dictionary of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago* 21 vols. Chicago: Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, 1956–2010.
CDOG	Colloquien der Deutschen Orient-Gesellschaft
CHANE	Culture and History of the Ancient Near East
CHD	Güterbock, Hans G., Harry A. Hoffner Jr., and Theo P. J. van den Hout, eds. *The Hittite Dictionary of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago*. Chicago: The Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, 1980–.
ChS	Corpus der hurritischen Sprachdenkmäler
CM	Cuneiform Monographs
CTH	Laroche, Emmanuel. *Catalogue des textes hittites*. 2nd ed. Paris: Klincksieck, 1971.
DBH	Dresdner Beiträge zur Hethitologie
DMOA	Documenta et monumenta Orientis antiqui
HdO	Handbuch der Orientalistik/Handbook of Oriental Studies
HED	Puhvel, Jaan. *Hittite Etymological Dictionary*. Berlin: de Gruyter, 1984–.
HHW^2	Tischler Johann. *Hethitisches Handwörterbuch: Mit dem Wortschatz der Nachbarsprachen*, 2., vermehrte und verbesserte Auflage. Innsbrucker Beiträge zur Sprachwissenschaft 128. Innsbruck: Institut für Sprachen und Literaturen der Universität Innsbruck, 2008.

HPM	Hethitologie Portal Mainz. Online: https://www.hethport.uni-wuerzburg.de/HPM/index.php
HSS	Harvard Semitic Studies
HW²	Friedrich, Johannes, and Annelies Kammenhüber. *Hethitisches Wörterbuch.* 2nd ed. Heidelberg: Winter, 1975–.
HZL	Rüster, Christel, and Erich Neu. *Hethitisches Zeichenlexikon: Inventar und Interpretation der Keilschriftzeichen aus den Boğazköy-Texten.* StBoT Beiheft 2. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 1989.
IBS	Innsbrucker Beiträge zur Sprachwissenschaft
IEED	Leiden Indo-European Etymological Dictionary
JANER	*Journal of Ancient Near Eastern Religions*
JANES	*Journal of the Ancient Near Eastern Society*
JAOS	*Journal of the American Oriental Society*
JCS	*Journal of Cuneiform Studies*
KBo	Keilschrifttexte aus Boghazköi
Konk.	*Konkordanz der hethitischen Keilschrifttafeln.* Online: https://www.hethport.uni-wuerzburg.de/hetkonk/
KUB	Keilschrifurkunden aus Boghazköi
LANE	Languages of the Ancient Near East
LSAAR	Lund Studies in African and Asian Religions
MC	Mesopotamian Civilizations
MDOG	*Mitteilungen der Deutschen Orient-Gesellschaft*
MGBT	Middle Babylonian Grammatical Texts. Pages 72–91 in Miguel Civil and O. R. Gurney, *The Sag-Tablet, Lexical Texts in the Ashmolean Museum, Middle Babylonian Grammatical Texts, Miscellaneous Texts.* MSLSup 1. Rome: Pontificium Institutum Biblicum, 1986.
MSL	Materials for the Sumerian Lexicon. Rome: Pontificium Institutum Biblicum, 1937–.
MSLSup	supplements to the Materials for the Sumerian Lexicon
MSS	*Münchener Studien zur Sprachwissenschaft*
NABU	*N.A.B.U. Nouvelles Assyriologiques Brèves et Utilitaires*
NS	New Series
OBO	Orbis Biblicus et Orientalis
OLP	*Orientalia Lovaniensia Periodica*
Or	*Orientalia* Nova Series
PIHANS	Publications de l'Institut historique et archéologique néerlandais de Stamboul/Uitgaven van het Nederlands Historischarchaeologisch Instituut te Istanbul
RAI	Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale

RAnt	*Res Antiquae*
RGRW	Religions in the Graeco-Roman World
RHA	*Revue Hittite et Asianique*
RlA	Ebeling, Erich, et al. *Reallexikon der Assyriologie und Vorderasiatischen Archäologie*. Berlin: de Gruyter, 1928–2019.
SAA	State Archives of Assyria
SAAS	State Archives of Assyria Studies
SAMR	Studies in Ancient Mediterranean Religions
SDOG	Sendschriften der Deutschen Orient-Gesellschaft
SMEA	*Studi Micenei ed Egeo Anatolici*
StBoT	Studien zu den Boğazköy Texten
StudAs	Studia Asiana
THeth	Texte der Hethiter
TUAT-NF	Kaiser, Otto, et al, eds. *Texte aus der Umwelt des Alten Testaments*. Gütersloh: Gütersloher Verlagshaus, 1984–.
UF	*Ugarit-Forschungen*
WAW	Writings of the Ancient World
WZKM	*Wiener Zeitschrift für die Kunde des Morganlandes*
ZA	*Zeitschrift für Assyriologie und und vorderasiatische Archäologie*

General Abbreviations

abl.	ablative
abs.	absolutive
acc.	accusative
act.	active
add.	*addidit* (adds)
adj.	adjective
adv.	adverb
ah.	*althethitisch* (Old Hittite)
Akk.	Akkadian
bibl.	bibliography
c.	common (gender) (in the glossary)
ca.	circa
caus.	causative
ch(s).	chapter(s)
cf.	compare
col.	column
coll.	collective
com.	common (gender)
compl.	complement(ed)
conj.	conjunction

dat.	dative
det.	determinative
dat.-loc.	dative-locative
dir.	directive
dupl(s).	duplicate(s)
dur.	durative
ed.	edition
e.g.	for example
encl.	enclitic
ENK	early New Kingdom
eras.	erasure
erg.	ergative
esp.	especially
et al.	and others
fem.	feminine
fig.	figure
fr.	fragment
gen.	genitive
Ger.	German
Gr.	Ancient Greek
Hitt.	Hittite
Hurr.	Hurrian
i.e.	that is
IE	Indo-European
imp.	imperative
impf.	imperfective
indef.	indefinite (pronoun)
inf.	infinitive
instr.	instrumental
intr.	intransitive
iter.	iterative
jh.	*junghethitisch* (New Hittite)
lit.	literally
LMS	Late Middle Hittite Script
LNS	Late New Hittite Script
loc.	locative
log.	logogram, logographic
Luw.	Luwian
m.	masculine
mh.	*Mittelhethitisch* (Middle Hittite)
mid.	middle (voice)
m.-p.	middle-passive (voice)
MS	Middle Hittite Script
man(s).	manuscript(s)
n.	note

N	(undetermined number)
neut.	neuter (gender)
no.	number
nom.	nominative
NS	New Hittite Script
obj.	object
obv.	obverse
OS	Old Hittite Script
p./pp.	page/ pages
part.	participle
pass.	passive
perf.	perfect
pl.	plural
poss.	possessive (pronoun)
pres.	present (tense)
pret.	preterite (tense)
prev.	preverb
pron.	pronoun
ref.	reference
rel.	relative
rev.	reverse
scil.	*scilicet* (namely)
sg.	singular
sjh.	*spätjunghethitisch* (Late New Hittite)
subj.	subject
subst.	substantive
Sum.	Sumerian
trans.	transitive
V	vowel
var.	variant
vb.	verb
voc.	vocative
vs.	versus

Philological Conventions

( )	in master text: variant/addition in one or more manuscripts
[ ]	text gap (when restored: supplied in parallel version)
⌜ ⌝	damaged/partially readable
⟨ ⟩	omissis/ necessary restoration
{ }	addidit error
⟨⟨ ⟩⟩	mistaken repetition
$x^{!}(y)$	emendation[!] (original mistaken sign/logogram)
$x^{?}$	doubtful reading
* eras. *	erasure; overwritten text
--	major omission (possibly variant)
x	one-sign space in lacuna
†	*crux desperationis* (text corrupted); restoration not possible