



Text 3: The Verse Account

Introduction

The Verse Account is another Babylonian document which describes the reign of Nabonidus. Although written in the same language as the Nabonidus Chronicle, it is very different in style. The identity of the person who produced the source is unclear, although it was evidently written at some time during the reign of Cyrus; it is also unclear why the document is written or where it was circulated. One suspects, however, that the document was composed by a Babylonian priest, angered by Nabonidus' meddling in religious affairs and with an axe to grind; alternatively, it might be part of an attempt to blacken Nabonidus' name by Cyrus (aided by a few Babylonian collaborators).

Text

The text can be found here; http://www.livius.org/ct-cz/cyrus_1/babylon03.html.

Starter Activity

Make a list of the pros and cons of this source. You should consider questions such as: 'how likely is this source to be reliable', 'what kind of information does this source reveal?' and 'what kind of information can I not get from this particular source'.

Think particularly about **who** wrote the source, **why** they produced it, and **how** it was composed.