

Contents

Foreword — VII

Acknowledgments — XIII

Introduction — XIX

Bibliographical abbreviations — XXI

Editorial abbreviations and sigla — XXIII

Part I: Interpretative analysis of the corpus

Chapter I

***Niš libbi* therapies and theoretical and methodological introduction — 3**

The sources — 3

Catalogues and tablet inventories — 6

Forschungsgeschichte of *niš libbi* therapies and the ‘reflective’ approach
in anthropology and gender studies — 8

Forschungsgeschichte — 8

Criticisms of the biomedical approach — 12

Theoretical and methodological introduction — 19

Illness, disease, sickness — 19

Medical system as cultural system — 21

The body — 24

And the mind? — 29

Logical thinking — 31

Sexuality — 34

Meaning of *niš libbi* — 37

From *libbu inaššīšu* to *niš libbi* — 37

Sexual desire or potency? — 42

Sexual desire: *libbu* between physicality and psychic faculties — 52

The cause of sickness — 54

Symptoms — 59

Niš libbi texts — 59

Fear, distress, and insomnia — 66

Other Texts — 73

Couples therapy — 78

Who does what? — 82

Authority and therapeutic efficacy — 84

Chapter II

***Niš libbi* incantations — 87**

Incantation, poetry, and text function — 87

First group: animal metonymies and performer of suffering — 93

Animal metonymies — 93

The agent of suffering — 108

Unknown agent — 108

Similes concerning the action of the witch — 111

The binding — 113

Lengthening and slackening of tendons — 117

Blocking the street and the canal — 121

Second group: erotic similes with animals — 123

Invocation of animal arousal — 123

Animals tied to the bed — 124

Bestiality or figure of speech? — 127

Ascending climax relative to the mating of the animal species — 129

“I am young!” — 130

Mention of gods and operations of the therapeutic operator — 135

The formulas “*ina qibīt DN*” and “*šiptu ul yuttun šipāt DN*” — 135

“I am the daughter of Ningirsu” — 142

Third group: sexuality and nature — 146

Fourth group: *historiola* and its function — 150

Fifth group: abracadabra — 153

Chapter III

Rituals and prescriptions — 157

The pharmaceutical — 157

The ingredients — 159

Plant ingredients — 160

Animal-based ingredients — 165

Potions — 173

The astral influence — 176

Ointments and amulets — 180

Libations to Ištar — 186

Etiological analysis — 187

The figurines — 188

The pig — 191

Bow ritual and battle metaphors — 195

Conclusions

Therapeutic efficacy and analogical thinking — 201

- Therapeutic efficacy — 201
- Patient and recipients of therapy — 202
- Etiology, symptoms, and ingredients — 203
- Animals, metaphors, and substances — 204
- Linguistic analogy — 205
- Poeticity of incantations — 206
- Abracadabra and *historiolae* — 206
- Normativity: animality and battle metaphors — 207
- Returning to effectiveness — 208

Part II: Edition

Niš libbi catalogue LKA 94 — 217

I Texts from Aššur (with duplicates from other sites) — 227

- Niš libbi* A — 227
- Niš libbi* B — 257
- Niš libbi* C — 272
- Niš libbi* D — 277
- Niš libbi* E — 301
- Niš libbi* F — 333
- Niš libbi* G — 356

II Texts from Nineveh (with duplicates from other sites) — 361

- Niš libbi* H — 361
- Niš libbi* I — 368
- Niš libbi* J — 373

III Text from Sultantepe (with duplicates from other sites) — 381

- Niš libbi* K — 381

IV Texts from Uruk (with duplicates from other sites) — 417

- Niš libbi* L — 417
- Niš libbi* M — 426

V Texts from Boghazköy — 436

- Niš libbi* N — 436
- Niš libbi* O — 458

VI Ritual fragments from Nineveh and Aššur — 465

Niš libbi P — 465

Niš libbi Q — 473

Niš libbi R — 477

Niš libbi S — 480

VII Ritual fragments from Sippar and Uruk — 485

Niš libbi T — 485

Niš libbi U — 491

VIII Ritual fragments from Boghazköy — 492

Niš libbi V — 492

Niš libbi W — 496

Niš libbi X — 501

Niš libbi Y — 505

List of mineral and botanical ingredients — 509

Index of ingredients — 523

Concordances — 531

Bibliography — 537

Index of Akkadian terms and expressions discussed — 583

Index — 585