

**Ur-šanabi** (*Sursunabu*). The ferryman of Ūta-napišti\* in the Standard Babylonian Epic of Gilgameš. He and his crew of Stone Ones are attacked by Gilgameš, and he agrees to ferry Gilgameš across the world-encompassing ocean and the Waters of Death to the place where Ūta-napišti and his wife dwell (GE X). Consequently banished from Ūta-napišti's service he accompanies Gilgameš back to Uruk, where he is addressed in the final verses of the poem as a proxy for the poem's reader (GE XI). His name is spelled <sup>m</sup>Ur-šanabi(40) and <sup>m</sup>Ur-<sup>d</sup>šanabi(40) in first-millennium manuscripts of the epic from Nineveh and Babylonia, but <sup>m</sup>Ur-šu-na-be in an early Neo-Assyrian manuscript from Kalḫu. In the Hittite paraphrase of the epic his name occurs as <sup>m</sup>(U)-ur-ša-na-bi and <sup>d</sup>Ur-ša-na-bi. An Old Babylonian tablet, probably from Sippar, gives his name as *Su-ur-su-na-bu*, in which initial /s/ is inexplicable. Outside the epic the name appears in a bilingual list of personal names, <sup>m</sup>Ur-šanabi! = <sup>m</sup>Amēl(lú)-<sup>d</sup>É-a (V R 44 iii 48). Names on the pattern Ur-DN/GN are typical of Sumerian anthroponymy, but the element šánabi "two-thirds" is not, and it is likely that the name U. represents a learned coinage of the late Old Babylonian period, deriving from the common Akkadian name Awīl-Ea "Man of Ea". Another suggestion links the fraction two-thirds with Gilgameš's constitution as "two-thirds god" (GE I 48) and takes the name U. to mean "servant of Gilgameš" (Fink 2014).

Fink S. 2014: Gilgameš und Uršanabi, RA 108, 67–69. – George A. R. 2003: The Babylonian Gilgamesh Epic, 149–151.

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