

Assur "Nature boy" Nasirpal (pastiche by /cual @ August 2005)

There was a boy...*
*their many houses I burned;***
A very strange enchanted boy.
many soldiers I took alive;
They say he wandered very far,
their spoil in abundance I carried off;
very far
the city I overthrew razed and burnt with fire; ...
Over land and sea.
I withdrew; to Lara,
A little shy
(the rugged hill-country,
and sad of eye
unfitted for the passage of chariots and armies,
But very wise
with instruments [axes] of iron I cut through
was he.
and with rollers of metal I beat down)...
And then one day,
six lakes I crossed over in Kasyari,
One magic day he passed my way,
a rugged highland for the passage of chariots and an army unsuited;
And while we spoke of many things,
(the hills with instruments of iron I cut through
Fools and kings,
[and] with rollers of metal I beat down;)
This he said
I drew near to Pitura two forts facing each other,
to me:
whose castle like the summit of a mountain stood up:
"The greatest thing
by the mighty hands of Assur my Lord
you'll ever learn
and the impetuosity of my army...I gave them battle;
Is just to love
on two days before sunrise
and be loved
like Yav the inundator I rushed upon them;
in return."
destruction upon them I rained...
"The greatest thing
a trophy of the living and of heads about his great gate I built;
you'll ever learn
700 soldiers I there impaled on stakes;
Is just to love
the city I overthrew, razed, and reduced
and be loved
to a heap of ruins all round;
their boys, their maidens,
I defiled;...
in return."

* From the song **Nature Boy**, lyrics by Eden Ahbez (originally recorded by Nat King Cole in 1948)

** All text in italics from an inscription was found in the ruins of the temple at the foot of the pyramid at Nimroud, known as **The Annals of Assur-Nasir-Pal** (king of Assyria from 883 to 858 B.C.), quoted in **Babylonian and Assyrian Literature**, translated by J. M. Rodwell, P. F. Collier & Son, New York, Colonial Press, 1901.