A Kassite Seal Addressed to Marduk

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The cylinder seal NBC 3211 was drawn to the author’s attention by Agnete W. Lassen, associate curator of the Yale Babylonian Collection, and is published here with the permission of Benjamin R. Foster, curator of the same. The seal is made of agate, and features a worshipping figure. The inscription contains a short hymn to Marduk, for which no parallels could be found, and which represents the god under the names Rakinga (?) and Tutu. The latter name is given the sobriquet “lord of life,” an epithet that was previously known for Tutu only from the bilingual šu ‘ila prayer to Marduk edited by J. S. Cooper in Fs Sachs (1988), p. 86 l. 6. The owner is one Sāniq-pī-Enlil, an individual otherwise unattested in Middle Babylonian texts (information courtesy of J. A. Brinkman).

1. re-e-im-šu marduk(ŠAMAR.UTU)
2. na-šir(SU)-šu ʾra-qin-ša
3. d’tu-tu bēl(EN) ba-la-ʾti
4. mu-da-am-mi-iq šumi(MU)-šu
5. mu-ša-al-lim pi-ḥa-at
6. sa-mi-iq-pī(KA)-ʾen-lil
7. ardī(lR) pa-li-i₇ ilītī(DINGIR-ti)-šu

(1) Marduk is his redeemer,
(2) Rakinga is his guardian,
(3) Tutu, the lord of life,
(4) Is the benefactor of his family,
(5) The protector of the office of
(6) Sāniq-pī-Enlil,
(7) The servant who reveres his divinity.

2. Si vera lectio, the name is probably identical with Marduk’s name ʾir-qin-gu||gš||gal||gal, attested in An = Anu II 231, Ḫulbazizi 243 (ll SpTU 3 82 iv 5), and Enûma eliš VII 105.