

# Mesopotamian Extispicy

the art of reading entrails

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# | Why Extispicy?

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Fortress of Al-Ukhaidir (حصن الأخيضر), Iraq



# Why Extispicy?



# | When & Where?

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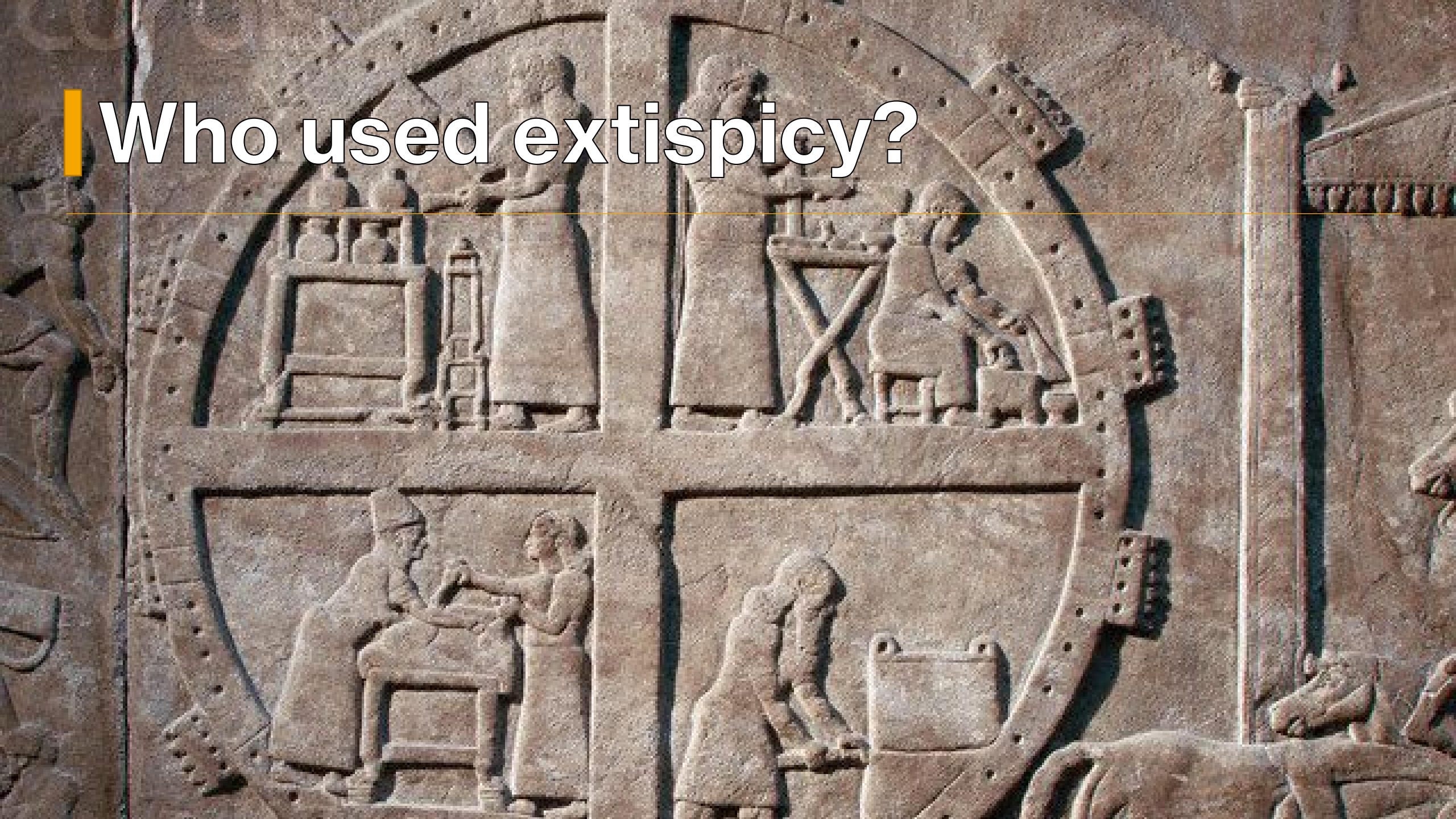




# When & Where?



# Who used extispicy?





# Who used extispicy?

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Now, Assurbanipal, king of Assyria, a king created by you, the one attentive to your gentle breath and whose eyes are set on your personal protection, has heard:

“Shamash-shuma-ukin is fleeing to Elam.”

Is the rumor true?  
Is he indeed fleeing to Elam?

5 unfavorable features in the extispicy. It is unfavorable.





I How did it work?





# How did it work?

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The nobles are guarded, doorbolts are shut,  
Rabble-rousers are silent, all the gates closed.  
The gods of the land, the goddesses of the land,  
Adad, Ea, Shamash, and Ishtar  
enter the bosom of Heaven to sleep.  
They no longer judge; they no longer decide.  
Veiled is the night.

The palace is still, forks and knives are quiet,  
a traveler calls to god, the petitioner fast asleep.  
Judge of justice, father of reality, Shamash  
has gone to his room.

Shining Girra, Warrior Erra, the Bow,  
Elamattum, Pleiades, Orion, the Dragon,  
Ursa Major, Lyra, and Bison: gods of the night,  
stand by me!

Through a message Shamash sends  
by means of sacrifice, make a decision!

# | What is extispicy?

