

The Assyrian E-Vowel



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ešerit = *ešerat*, 'ašarat, constr. state of عشرة "ten," *tenešit* "man-kind," constr. state of תאנשת.

Cases in which the *a* is preserved like *šelabu* "fox," *belat* "lady," *elamu*, fem. *elamtu* "high," *epartu* (V R. 28, 68c), "garment," *mekaltu* "water reservoir," are relatively rare. In *enah* "he settled" or "it fell to ruins," the preservation of the primitive *a* is due to the following guttural.

I trust that the above statements sufficiently establish the existence of an *e*-vowel in Assyrian, being an *Umlaut* of *a*, and different from both the ordinary *i*, *î* and the diphthongal *î* or *ê*, contracted from *ai*.

PAUL HAUPT.

[April, 1887.]