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left Ashurbanipal as king of Assyria ruling in Ninevah, but he took another son of his, Sharma and (I don't know as you need to remember his name) but he made king of Babylon and he was a son of the king of Assyria --he gave him great prominence and glory as the king of Babylon, supreme in everything except subject to Ashurbanipal. Well that was an arrangement which didn't work any better than the previous arrangement. The people of Babylon kept telling Sha , "Why should you be subject to your brother and that barbarian up there in Nineveh? After all, you are a much finer man than he is. Why shouldn't you be independent here in Babylon?"

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and he gave in to their suggestions and as Ashurbanipal tells us in his beautiful literary inscriptions, he broke the bonds of brotherhood and closed the gates of the cities of southern Mesopotamia and the result was there was a tremendous war which enveloped the whole civilized world and lasted for many years, but in the end Babylon was conquered, Sha shut himself up in the palace and set fire to it and perished in the flames and then Ashurbanipal treated the city again as his grandfather Sennacherib. First, he says, he punished those who were implicated in the murder of his grandfather, and that is a strange statement. We don't know just what it means. It is one of the interesting mystery stories of ancient times, just who were the people in the conspiracy against Sennacherib. What is the whole situation? A number of monographs have been written on it but we need further evidence to know the full story, but at any rate Ashurbanipal claimed to have wrought terrific devastation in Babylon even as Senaccherib had, and yet in the next generation we find Babylon rising to heights it had never reached before, so evidently he also didn't destroy it as completely as he claimed to have done. Now Ashurbanipal was, as I said, much interested in literary things and he built a great library in nineveh.