

# A GUIDE TO NARSAI'S HOMILIES

SEBASTIAN P. BROCK

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD  
ORIENTAL INSTITUTE  
PUSEY LANE, OXFORD OX1 2LE, GB

## ABSTRACT

*Memre by Narsai have been published in two large collections (Mingana, 1905; Patriarchal Press, 1970), and several smaller ones, including two in Patrologia Orientalis (34, 40). The present Guide provides a series of concordances between the different editions, together with (in Table 4) an indication of what modern translations are available.*

After Ephrem and Jacob of Serugh, Narsai is probably the next most famous Syriac poet. His long life spans chronologically the entire fifth century, and geographically the two Empires, his youth and the latter part of his life being spent in the Persian Empire, while his student and earlier teaching years were closely linked with the 'Persian School' in Edessa.<sup>1</sup> At an uncertain date before the closure of the School (489), Narsai moved across the border to Nisibis, where he was still Director of the School of Nisibis in 496 when the first Statutes of the School were promulgated. The date of his death is unknown, but must have been c.500.<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> The main source for Narsai's life is chapter 31 of Barhadbeshabba 'Arbaya's *Ecclesiastical History* (ed. F. Nau, PO 9:5).

<sup>2</sup> Mingana's date of 502, followed by many scholars, is based on the assumption that he left Edessa in 457 (which is far from certain), coupled

Although the verse homilies (*memre*) only constituted part of Narsai's literary output, to judge by the notice in the Catalogue by 'Abdisho', it is only the *memre* that have been preserved. These are best known from Alphonse Mingana's two-volume edition of 1905, in which he provided the text of 47 *memre*. This, however, only represented a little over half the total number of 81 homilies which survive, a list of which Mingana himself provided (I, pp.26–31). It was this list that Macomber used as the basis for his invaluable inventory of manuscripts of Narsai's homilies.<sup>3</sup> Although a few of these other *memre* have been published here and there, it was not until 1970 that a much fuller edition than that of Mingana was produced. This was in the form of a photographic reproduction of a fairly recent manuscript containing 72 of Narsai's *memre*.<sup>4</sup> Many of these, of course, overlap with Mingana's edition, and the main purpose of the present article is to provide two-way concordance between the two editions, taking into account at the same time editions of *memre* that have been published elsewhere, above all those edited by Gignoux and by McLeod in the *Patrologia Orientalis*.

The following Tables are provided:

TABLE 1: Concordance based on the complete List of *memre*, with indication of editions (where available) of the texts in Mingana and the Patriarchal Press. Also indicated are any other full editions, the number in my 'Index of incipits', and the opening word.

TABLE 2: Concordance based Mingana's edition of 47 *memre*, with indication of the corresponding List number, the presence or not in the Patriarchal Press edition, and the topic.

TABLE 3: Concordance based on Mingana's edition of the *memre* on Creation, with the correspondence of each page to Gignoux's re-edition of them in PO 34.

TABLE 4: Concordance based on the Patriarchal Press edition, indicating correspondences with the List number and with other editions, either in Mingana or elsewhere. For convenience, the topic is also given again.

---

with Barhadbeshabba's statement that he was Director of the School of Nisibis for 45 years (other sources give different figures).

<sup>3</sup> See under Macomber in the list of Abbreviations below. Macomber gives the first two Syriac words of each homily, rather than a title.

<sup>4</sup> The manuscript, which is dated 1901, is not among those listed by Macomber. The copyist has not always been very careful and has introduced a number of errors.

## Abbreviations

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| Bedjan               | P. Bedjan, <i>Homiliae Mar Narsetis in Joseph</i> (Paris/Leipzig, 1901). [Also published at the end of his <i>Liber Superiorum, seu Historia Monastica, auctore Thoma Episcopo Margensi</i> (Paris/Leipzig, 1901), pp.519–629; both paginations are given]. |
| Bedjan JS            | P. Bedjan, <i>Homiliae Selectae Mar-Jacobi Sarugensis</i> II (Paris/Leipzig, 1905); repr. Piscataway NJ, 2006).   |
| Brev. Chald.         | P. Bedjan (ed.), <i>Breviarium iuxta Ritum Syrorum Orientalium id est Chaldaeorum</i> , I-III (Rome, 1886–7; repr. 1938; one volume edn, ed. P. Yousif, 2002).  |
| Connolly             | R. H. Connolly, <i>The Liturgical Homilies of Narsai</i> (Texts and Studies 8:1; 1909).   |
| Frishman             | J. Frishman, <i>The Ways and Means of the Divine Economy. An Edition, Translation and Study of Six Biblical Homilies by Narsai</i> (Diss. Leiden, 1992).  |
| Gismondi             | H. Gismondi, <i>Linguae Syriacae Grammatica</i> (2 <sup>nd</sup> edn, Beirut, 1900).  |
| Homily/Hom. (number) | Homily number of those edited by Mingana.   |
| Hudra                | T. Darmo (ed.), <i>Hudra</i> I–III (Trichur, 1960–62).  |
| Index of incipits    | S.P. Brock, “The published verse homilies of Isaac of Antioch, Jacob of Serugh, and Narsai: index of incipits,” <i>Journal of Semitic Studies</i> 32 (1987), pp.279–313. <sup>5</sup>   |
| Khayyat              | E. Khayyat, <i>Syllabarium Chaldaicum</i> (Mosul, 1869) [non vidi].   |
| KP                   | <i>Ktabona d-Partute</i> (Urmī, 1898).  |
| List (number)        | Full numbered list of Narsai's <i>memre</i> , as given in Mingana I, pp.26–31, and in Macomber (see below).   |
| Macomber             | W. Macomber, “The manuscripts of the metrical homilies of Narsai,” <i>Orientalia Christiana Periodica</i> 39 (1973), pp.275–306.  |
| Manna                | E. Manna, <i>Morceaux choisis de littérature araméenne</i> I–II (Mosul, 1901).  |
| Martin               | F. Martin, “Homélie de Narsès sur les trois docteurs nestoriens,” <i>Journal asiatique</i> IX.14 (1899), pp.446–92 [text], IX.15 (1900), pp.469–525 [tr.].  |
| Mingana              | A. Mingana, <i>Narsai Doctoris Syri Homiliae et Carmina</i> , I-II (Mosul, 1905).   |

---

<sup>5</sup> This was written before I had access to the Patriarchal Press edition, and so references to it are absent there.

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| Narsai, List | List of all Narsai's surviving <i>memre</i> , in Mingana I, pp.26–31 (the numbers are identical with those in Macomber's list of extant manuscripts). |
| PP           | <i>Homilies of Mar Narsai published by the Patriarchal Press</i> , I-II (San Francisco, 1970).  |
| PO           | Patrologia Orientalis.  |
| PO 34        | Ph. Gignoux, <i>Homélies de Narsai sur la Création</i> (PO 34.3–4; 1968).   |
| PO 40        | F. G. McLeod, <i>Narsai's Metrical Homilies on the Nativity, Epiphany, Passion, Resurrection and Ascension</i> (PO 40.1; 1979).                       |
| Siman        | E. P. Siman, <i>Narsai. Cinq homélies sur les paraboles évangéliques</i> (Paris, 1984).   |

**TABLE 1**

Column a = Macomber, homily number = Mingana, List no.

b = Mingana, Homily number

c = Mingana, volume number, + pages

d = Patriarchal Press, volume number, + pages

e = other full editions

f = Index of incipits, number + first word

| a   | b   | c            | d             | e         | f   |        |
|-----|-----|--------------|---------------|-----------|-----|--------|
| I   | I   | I, 1–<br>28  | I, 1–<br>39   | -         | 535 | ܕܡܪܝܬܐ |
| II  | II  | I, 29–<br>56 | I, 39–<br>77  | -         | 453 | ܕܡܪܝܬܐ |
| III | III | I, 57–<br>68 | -             | -         | 369 | ܕܡܪܝܬܐ |
| IV  | -   | -            | I, 77–<br>98  | PO 40, I  | 102 | ܕܡܪܝܬܐ |
| V   | -   | -            | I, 104–<br>28 | -         | 479 | ܕܡܪܝܬܐ |
| VI  | -   | -            | I, 134–<br>57 | PO 40, II | 456 | ܕܡܪܝܬܐ |
| VII | -   | -            | I, 168–<br>85 | -         | 167 | ܕܡܪܝܬܐ |

|       |      |                  |                    |                           |     |           |
|-------|------|------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|-----|-----------|
| VIII  | IV   | I,<br>68–<br>89  | I,<br>191–<br>220  | -                         | 255 | ܡܠܟܐ      |
| IX    | -    | -                | I,<br>220–<br>241  | -                         | 347 | ܡܠܟܐ      |
| X     | V    | I,<br>90–9       | I,<br>241–<br>53   | -                         | 345 | ܡܠܟܐ      |
| XI    | -    | -                | I,<br>253–<br>87   | Martin                    | 262 | ܡܠܟܐ      |
| XII   | VI   | I,<br>100–<br>17 | II,<br>654–<br>78  | -                         | 110 | ܡܠܟܐ      |
| XIII  | VII  | I,<br>117–<br>33 | II,<br>219–<br>42  | -                         | 63  | ܡܠܟܐ      |
| XIV   | VIII | I,<br>134–<br>49 | II,<br>242–<br>63  | -                         | 421 | ܡܠܟܐ      |
| XV    | IX   | I,<br>149–<br>67 | II,<br>263–<br>88  | -                         | 335 | ܡܠܟܐ      |
| XVI   | XVI  | I,<br>257–<br>70 | II,<br>288–<br>305 | <i>Hudra</i> I,<br>411–23 | 34  | ܡܠܟܐ ܡܠܟܐ |
| XVII  | -    | -                | -                  | -                         | 468 | ܡܠܟܐ      |
| XVIII | -    | -                | I,<br>743–<br>64   | -                         | 176 | ܡܠܟܐ      |
| XIX   | -    | -                | II,<br>596–<br>617 | -                         | 236 | ܡܠܟܐ      |
| XX    | X    | I,<br>167–<br>81 | I,<br>293–<br>312  | -                         | 495 | ܡܠܟܐ      |
| XXI   | -    | -                | I,<br>312–<br>34   | -                         | 469 | ܡܠܟܐ      |
| XXII  | -    | -                | II,<br>337–<br>55  | -                         | 9   | ܡܠܟܐ      |

|        |       |                   |                    |               |     |        |
|--------|-------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------|-----|--------|
| XXIII  | XI    | I,<br>181–<br>94  | -                  | -             | 20  | 𐭪𐭭𐭮𐭭𐭮𐭭 |
| XXIV   | XII   | I,<br>195–<br>209 | II,<br>679–<br>99  | -             | 128 | 𐭪𐭭𐭮𐭭𐭮𐭭 |
| XXV    | XIII  | I,<br>210–<br>23  | II,<br>830–<br>50  | -             | 366 | 𐭪𐭭𐭮𐭭𐭮𐭭 |
| XXVI   | XIV   | I,<br>223–<br>43  | -                  | -             | 82  | 𐭪𐭭𐭮𐭭𐭮𐭭 |
| XXVII  | XV    | I,<br>243–<br>56  | II,<br>699–<br>716 | -             | 509 | 𐭪𐭭𐭮𐭭𐭮𐭭 |
| XXVIII | -     | -                 | I,<br>341–<br>63   | -             | 133 | 𐭪𐭭𐭮𐭭𐭮𐭭 |
| XXIX   | -     | -                 | I,<br>382–<br>93   | -             | 523 | 𐭪𐭭𐭮𐭭𐭮𐭭 |
| XXX    | -     | -                 | II,<br>305–<br>18  | -             | 458 | 𐭪𐭭𐭮𐭭𐭮𐭭 |
| XXXI   | XVIII | I,<br>299–<br>312 | I,<br>363–<br>82   | Khayyat       | 514 | 𐭪𐭭𐭮𐭭𐭮𐭭 |
| XXXII  | -     | -                 | -                  | -             | 409 | 𐭪𐭭𐭮𐭭𐭮𐭭 |
| XXXIII | -     | -                 | II,<br>318–<br>36  | Siman 2       | 317 | 𐭪𐭭𐭮𐭭𐭮𐭭 |
| XXXIV  | XIX   | I,<br>313–<br>27  | I,<br>399–<br>419  | -             | 192 | 𐭪𐭭𐭮𐭭𐭮𐭭 |
| XXXV   | XVII  | I,<br>270–<br>90  | -                  | -             | 86  | 𐭪𐭭𐭮𐭭𐭮𐭭 |
| XXXVI  | -     | -                 | I,<br>419–<br>38   | PO 40,<br>III | 175 | 𐭪𐭭𐭮𐭭𐭮𐭭 |
| XXXVII | XX    | I,<br>327–<br>40  | I,<br>438–<br>57   | -             | 174 | 𐭪𐭭𐭮𐭭𐭮𐭭 |

|                    |        |                   |                   |                  |     |      |
|--------------------|--------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----|------|
| XXXVIII            | XXI    | I,<br>341–<br>56  | I,<br>457–<br>79  | -                | 387 | ܡܬܟܐ |
| XXXIX              | XXII   | I,<br>356–<br>68  | II,<br>617–<br>34 | -                | 365 | ܡܬܟܐ |
| XL                 | -      | -                 | I,<br>479–<br>95  | PO 40,<br>IV     | 346 | ܡܬܟܐ |
| XLI                | XXIV   | II,<br>28–<br>45  | I,<br>495–<br>520 | -                | 466 | ܡܬܟܐ |
| XLII               | XXV    | II,<br>46–<br>55  | II,<br>355–<br>68 | -                | 118 | ܡܬܟܐ |
| XLIII <sup>6</sup> | -      | -                 | -                 | Bedjan<br>JS 56! | 244 | ܡܬܟܐ |
| XLIV               | XXVI   | II,<br>55–<br>72  | II,<br>369–<br>93 | -                | 235 | ܡܬܟܐ |
| XLV                | -      | -                 | I,<br>546–<br>63  | PO 40,<br>V,     | 178 | ܡܬܟܐ |
| XLVI               | XXVII  | II,<br>72–<br>84  | I,<br>563–<br>81  | -                | 186 | ܡܬܟܐ |
| XLVII              | -      | -                 | -                 | Siman 4          | 467 | ܡܬܟܐ |
| XLVIII             | XXVIII | II,<br>84–<br>99  | II,<br>850–<br>72 | -                | 455 | ܡܬܟܐ |
| XLIX               | XXIX   | II,<br>100–<br>13 | II,<br>57–<br>77  | PO, 34,<br>IV    | 341 | ܡܬܟܐ |
| L                  | -      | -                 | II,<br>578–<br>96 | -                | 126 | ܡܬܟܐ |
| LI                 | -      | -                 | -                 | -                | 254 | ܡܬܟܐ |
| LII                | XXIII  | II,<br>1–28       | II,<br>539–<br>78 | -                | 404 | ܡܬܟܐ |

<sup>6</sup> Although this Homily is sometimes transmitted under Narsai's name, it is certainly by Jacob, rather than Narsai; see Mingana, I, p.23.

|       |         |                    |                    |               |     |     |
|-------|---------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------|-----|-----|
| LIII  | -       | -                  | II,<br>872–<br>86  | Siman 5       | 231 | 𐤊𐤍𐤁 |
| LIV   | XXX     | II,<br>114–<br>30  | II,<br>414–<br>39  | -             | 89  | 𐤊𐤍𐤁 |
| LV    | -       | -                  | II,<br>439–<br>55  | Frishman<br>6 | 463 | 𐤊𐤍𐤁 |
| LVI   | -       | -                  | I,<br>581–<br>98   | -             | 416 | 𐤊𐤍𐤁 |
| LVII  | -       | -                  | II,<br>455–<br>71  | Frishman<br>5 | 173 | 𐤊𐤍𐤁 |
| LVIII | XXXI    | II,<br>131–<br>44  | II,<br>471–<br>90  | KP 235–<br>50 | 499 | 𐤊𐤍𐤁 |
| LIX   | XXXII   | II,<br>144–<br>56  | II,<br>505–<br>22  | -             | 215 | 𐤊𐤍𐤁 |
| LX    | XXXIII  | II,<br>156–<br>67  | II,<br>490–<br>505 | -             | 249 | 𐤊𐤍𐤁 |
| LXI   | XXXIV   | II,<br>168–<br>80  | II,<br>21–<br>39   | PO 34,<br>II  | 172 | 𐤊𐤍𐤁 |
| LXII  | XXXV    | II,<br>180–<br>92  | II,<br>39–<br>57   | PO 34,<br>III | 112 | 𐤊𐤍𐤁 |
| LXIII | XXXVI   | II,<br>193–<br>207 | II,<br>1–21        | PO 34, I      | 44  | 𐤊𐤍𐤁 |
| LXIV  | XXXVII  | II,<br>207–<br>22  | II,<br>77–<br>99   | PO 34, V      | 524 | 𐤊𐤍𐤁 |
| LXV   | XXXVIII | II,<br>222–<br>37  | II,<br>99–<br>122  | PO<br>34, VI  | 429 | 𐤊𐤍𐤁 |
| LXVI  | XXXIX   | II,<br>238–<br>54  | II,<br>182–<br>206 | -             | 497 | 𐤊𐤍𐤁 |



|         |       |                    |                    |                                    |     |           |
|---------|-------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|-----|-----------|
| LXVII   | -     | -                  | II,<br>716–<br>35  | Frishman<br>3                      | 73  | 𐭪𐭫𐭮       |
| LXVIII  | -     | -                  | II,<br>735–<br>56  | Frishman<br>4; <i>KP</i><br>99–116 | 79  | 𐭪𐭫𐭮       |
| LXIX    | XL    | II,<br>254–<br>64  | II,<br>167–<br>82  | -                                  | 311 | 𐭪𐭫𐭮𐭪𐭫𐭮    |
| LXX     | XLI   | II,<br>265–<br>88  | I,<br>691–<br>725  | -                                  | 488 | 𐭪𐭫𐭮𐭪𐭫𐭮    |
| LXXI    | -     | -                  | II,<br>145–<br>67  | Frishman<br>2                      | 247 | 𐭪𐭫𐭮       |
| LXXII   | XLII  | II,<br>288–<br>302 | II,<br>393–<br>414 | -                                  | 241 | 𐭪𐭫𐭮       |
| LXXIII  | XLIII | II,<br>303–<br>14  | II,<br>756–<br>73  | -                                  | 454 | 𐭪𐭫𐭮       |
| LXXIV   | -     | -                  | II,<br>773–<br>96  | -                                  | 306 | 𐭪𐭫𐭮𐭪𐭫𐭮    |
| LXXV    | -     | -                  | II,<br>796–<br>812 | -                                  | 194 | 𐭪𐭫𐭮       |
| LXXVI   | -     | -                  | II,<br>122–<br>45  | Frishman<br>1                      | 243 | 𐭪𐭫𐭮𐭪𐭫𐭮    |
| LXXVII  | XLIV  | II,<br>314–<br>28  | I,<br>526–<br>46   | -                                  | 131 | 𐭪𐭫𐭮       |
| LXXVIII | XLV   | II,<br>328–<br>39  | II,<br>522–<br>39  | -                                  | 226 | 𐭪𐭫𐭮       |
| LXXIX   | XLVI  | II,<br>340–<br>52  | II,<br>635–<br>54  | -                                  | 111 | 𐭪𐭫𐭮𐭪𐭫𐭮𐭪𐭫𐭮 |
| LXXX    | XLVII | II,<br>353–<br>65  | II,<br>812–<br>30  | -                                  | 237 | 𐭪𐭫𐭮       |

LXXXI - - II, - 21 *revision*  
 206–  
 18

**TABLE 2**

Concordance between Narsai Homily no. and Narsai/Macomber List, no, indicating publication in *PP* and/or elsewhere. For the locations in *PP*, see TABLE 1, using Narsai/Macomber List number.

| Narsai Hom. | Narsai List/Macomber List | Published elsewhere                  | Topic                     |
|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| I           | I                         | <i>PP</i>                            | Revelations to Prophets   |
| II          | II                        | <i>PP</i>                            | Revelations of Prophets   |
| III         | III                       | -                                    | Revelation to Abraham     |
| IV          | VIII                      | <i>PP</i>                            | Peter and Paul            |
| V           | X                         | <i>PP</i>                            | Stephen                   |
| VI          | XII                       | <i>PP</i>                            | Iniquity of world         |
| VII         | XIII                      | <i>PP</i>                            | Supplication              |
| VIII        | XIV                       | <i>PP</i>                            | Jonah                     |
| IX          | XV                        | <i>PP</i>                            | Reproof                   |
| X           | XX                        | <i>PP</i>                            | Lent I                    |
| XI          | XXIII                     | -                                    | Lent III                  |
| XII         | XXIV                      | <i>PP</i>                            | Lent IV                   |
| XIII        | XXV                       | <i>PP</i>                            | Reproof                   |
| XIV         | XXVI                      | -                                    | Lent V                    |
| XV          | XXVII                     | <i>PP</i> , Siman 1                  | Ten Virgins               |
| XVI         | XVI                       | <i>PP</i> , <i>Hudra</i> , <i>BC</i> | Human Nature              |
| XVII        | XXXV                      | -                                    | Mysteries                 |
| XVIII       | XXXI                      | <i>PP</i>                            | Hosanna, Against the Jews |
| XIX         | XXXIV                     | <i>PP</i>                            | Holy Week                 |
| XX          | XXXVII                    | <i>PP</i>                            | Repentant Thief           |
| XXI         | XXXVIII                   | <i>PP</i>                            | Mysteries and Baptism     |

|         |         |                        |                          |
|---------|---------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| XXII    | XXXIX   | <i>PP</i>              | Baptism                  |
| XXIII   | LII     | <i>PP</i>              | Second<br>Coming         |
| XXIV    | XL I    | <i>PP</i>              | Confessors               |
| XXV     | XLII    | <i>PP</i>              | Martyrs                  |
| XXVI    | XLIV    | <i>PP</i>              | New Sunday               |
| XXVII   | XLVI    | <i>PP</i>              | Pentecost                |
| XXVIII  | XLVIII  | <i>PP</i> , Siman 3    | Dives and<br>Lazarus     |
| XXIX    | XLIX    | <i>PP</i> , PO 34, IV  | Creation                 |
| XXX     | LIV     | <i>PP</i>              | Cross                    |
| XXXI    | LVIII   | <i>PP</i> , <i>KP</i>  | Isaiah's Vision          |
| XXXII   | LIX     | <i>PP</i>              | Church and<br>Priesthood |
| XXXIII  | LX      | <i>PP</i>              | Dedication of<br>Church  |
| XXXIV   | LXI     | <i>PP</i> , PO 34, II  | Creation                 |
| XXXV    | LXII    | <i>PP</i> , PO 34, III | Creation                 |
| XXXVI   | LXIII   | <i>PP</i> , PO 34, I   | Creation                 |
| XXXVII  | LXIV    | <i>PP</i> , PO 34, V   | Creation                 |
| XXXVIII | LXV     | <i>PP</i> , PO 34, VI  | Creation                 |
| XXXIX   | LXVI    | <i>PP</i>              | Soul                     |
| XL      | LXIX    | <i>PP</i>              | Job                      |
| XL I    | LXX     | <i>PP</i>              | Joseph                   |
| XLII    | LXXII   | <i>PP</i>              | Miracles of<br>Moses     |
| XLIII   | LXXIII  | <i>PP</i>              | Samson                   |
| XLIV    | LXXVII  | <i>PP</i>              | Three<br>Children        |
| XLV     | LXXVIII | <i>PP</i>              | Reproof of<br>clergy     |
| XLVI    | LXXIX   | <i>PP</i>              | Reproof                  |
| XLVII   | LXXX    | <i>PP</i>              | Reproof of<br>women      |

**TABLE 3**

## CORRESPONDENCES BETWEEN MINGANA II and PO 34

Since Gignoux's edition of the six *memre* on Creation was a new edition of *memre* already published by Mingana, the following Table provides the correspondences between the page numbers in Mingana II and the line numbers in Gignoux's edition of each of the six homilies.

| <b>Homily<br/>I</b> |                 | <b>Homily<br/>II</b> |                 | <b>Homily<br/>III</b> |                |
|---------------------|-----------------|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Mingana<br>II       | Gignoux         | Mingana<br>II        | Gignoux         | Mingana<br>II         | Gignoux        |
| p.193               | = lines<br>1–28 | p.168                | = lines<br>1–27 | p.180                 | = lines<br>1–8 |
| 194                 | = 29–61         | 169                  | = 28–63         | 181                   | = 9–40         |
| 195                 | = 62–94         | 170                  | = 64–95         | 182                   | = 41–71        |
| 196                 | = 95–<br>132    | 171                  | = 96–<br>129    | 183                   | = 72–99        |
| 197                 | = 133–<br>67    | 173                  | = 130–<br>67    | 184                   | = 100–<br>31   |
| 198                 | = 168–<br>201   | 174                  | = 168–<br>205   | 185                   | = 132–<br>61   |
| 199                 | = 202–<br>38    | 175                  | = 206–<br>39    | 186                   | = 162–<br>91   |
| 200                 | = 239–<br>69    | 176                  | = 240–<br>75    | 187                   | = 192–<br>223  |
| 201                 | = 270–<br>306   | 177                  | = 276–<br>310   | 188                   | = 224–<br>54   |
| 202                 | = 307–<br>35    | 178                  | = 311–<br>36    | 189                   | = 255–<br>87   |
| 203                 | = 336–<br>66    | 179                  | = 337–<br>72    | 190                   | = 288–<br>318  |
| 204                 | = 367–<br>402   | 180                  | = 373–<br>408   | 191                   | = 319–<br>51   |
| 205                 | = 403–<br>38    | 181                  | = 409–<br>21.   | 192                   | = 352–<br>81   |
| 206                 | = 439–<br>76    |                      |                 |                       |                |
| 207                 | = 477–<br>80    |                      |                 |                       |                |

| Homily<br>IV |                 | Homily<br>V |                 | Homily<br>VI |                |
|--------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|--------------|----------------|
| Mingana      | Gignoux         | Mingana     | Gignoux         | Mingana      | Gignoux        |
| II           |                 | II          |                 | II           |                |
| p.100        | = lines<br>1–22 | p.207       | = lines<br>1–19 | p.222        | = lines<br>1–9 |
| 101          | = 23–55         | 208         | = 20–55         | 223          | = 10–45        |
| 102          | = 56–85         | 209         | = 56–90         | 224          | = 46–75        |
| 103          | = 86–<br>115    | 210         | = 91–<br>124    | 225          | = 76–<br>110   |
| 104          | = 116–<br>45    | 211         | = 125–<br>63    | 226          | = 111–<br>47   |
| 105          | = 146–<br>75    | 213         | = 164–<br>200   | 227          | = 148–<br>80   |
| 106          | = 176–<br>208   | 214         | = 201–<br>234   | 228          | = 181–<br>217  |
| 107          | = 209–<br>39    | 215         | = 235–<br>67    | 229          | = 218–<br>54   |
| 108          | = 240–<br>72    | 217         | = 268–<br>305   | 230          | = 255–<br>90   |
| 109          | = 273–<br>302   | 219         | = 306–<br>37    | 231          | = 291–<br>328  |
| 110          | = 303–<br>35    | 220         | = 338–<br>74    | 232          | = 329–<br>62   |
| 111          | = 336–<br>67    | 221         | = 375–<br>406   | 233          | = 363–<br>396  |
| 112          | = 368–<br>99    | 222         | = 407–<br>43    | 234          | = 397–<br>434  |
| 113          | = 400–<br>431.  | 223         | = 444–<br>75    | 235          | = 435–<br>71   |
| -            | -               | 224         | = 476–<br>512   | 236          | = 472–<br>505  |
| -            | -               | 225         | = 513–<br>528.  | 237          | = 506–<br>540  |

**TABLE 4**

CORRESPONDENCES BETWEEN HOMILIES IN *PP*, THE LIST NUMBERS AND MINGANA'S HOMILY NUMBERS.

In this Table the topic is again indicated, and reference is made in the notes to any translations (and partial editions) that are available.

| Column a = Patriarchal Press edition, vol. + page        |          |           |   |
|--|----------|-----------|---|
| b = Mingana/Macomber, List number                        |          |           |   |
| c = Mingana edition, Homily number/other editions        |          |           |   |
| d = topic  |          |           |   |
| <b>a</b>   | <b>b</b> | <b>c</b>  | <b>d</b>  |
| Vol. I   |          |           |   |
| pp.1–39  | I        | I         | Revelations to Patriarchs and Prophets <sup>7</sup> |
| 39–77  | II       | II        | Revelations to Patriarchs and Prophets              |
| 77–98  | IV       | PO 40, I  | Nativity  |
| 98–104 ( <i>Soghitha</i> , Mary and Magi) <sup>8</sup>   |          |           |   |
| 104–28   | V        |           | Mary <sup>9</sup>                                   |
| 128–34 ( <i>Soghitha</i> , Angel and Mary) <sup>10</sup> |          |           |   |
| 134–57   | VI       | PO 40, II | Epiphany  |

<sup>7</sup> Partial edition in G. Cardahi, *Liber Thesauri de arte poetica Syrorum* (Rome, 1875), pp.47–51.

<sup>8</sup> Also ed. E. Beck, *Des heiligen Ephraem des Syrers Hymnen de Nativitate (Epiphania)* (CSCO 186–7; 1959), as ‘Sogita IV’. ET in S.P. Brock, *Bride of Light. Hymns on Mary from the Syriac Churches* (Moran Etho 6, 1994), pp.125–32. Most of the *Soghyatha* are also to be found in the edition by F. Feldmann, *Syrische Wechsellieder von Narses* (Leipzig, 1896).

<sup>9</sup> Cf. P. Krüger, “Das Bild der Gottesmutter bei dem Syrer Narsai,” *Ostkirchliche Studien* 2 (1953), pp.110–20, and C. Payngot, “The Homily of Narsai on the Virgin Mary,” *The Harp* 13 (2000), pp.33–7 (outline, based on Vat. Syr. 588).

<sup>10</sup> Also ed. T. J. Lamy, *S. Ephraim Syri Hymni et Sermones* II (Malines, 1886), cols 589–604. ET in *Bride of Light*, pp.111–18.

|         |   |        |   |
|---------|---|--------|---|
| 157–63  | <i>(Soghitha, Jesus and John the Baptist)</i> <sup>11</sup> |        |   |
| 163–85  | VII   |        | John the Baptist <sup>12</sup>          |
| 185–91  | <i>(Soghitha, John the Baptist and the Crowd)</i>           |        |   |
| 191–220 | VIII  | IV     | Peter and Paul <sup>13</sup>            |
| 220–41  | IX  |        | Four Evangelists                        |
| 241–53  | X   | V      | Stephen                                 |
| 253–87  | XI  | Martin | Three Doctors <sup>14</sup>             |
| 287–92  | <i>(Soghitha, Cyril and Nestorius)</i> <sup>15</sup>        |        |   |
| 293–312 | XX  | X      | Lent I                                  |
| 312–34  | XXI   |        | Temptation of Christ                    |
| 334–40  | <i>(Soghitha, Cain and Abel)</i> <sup>16</sup>              |        |   |
| 341–63  | XXVIII  |        | Week before Hosanna                     |
| 363–82  | XXXI  | XVIII  | Hosanna, Against the Jews <sup>17</sup> |
| 382–93  | XXIX  |        | Hosanna (Palm Sunday)                   |

<sup>11</sup> Also ed. E. Beck, *Hymnen de Nativitate* ("Sogita V"). ET in J. Gwynn (ed.), *Selections Translated into English from the Hymns and Homilies of Ephraim the Syrian* (Select Library of Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers II.13; Oxford/New York, 1898), pp.284–6, and in Brock, *Sogitha* (Syrian Churches Series 11; Kottayam, 1987), pp.21–27.

<sup>12</sup> Excerpt in H. Gismondi, *Linguae Syriacae Grammatica* (2<sup>nd</sup> edn Beirut, 1900), pp.103–10.

<sup>13</sup> GT by P. Krüger in *Zeitschrift für Missionswissenschaft und Religionswissenschaft* 42 (1958), pp.271–91.

<sup>14</sup> On this homily see L. Abramowski, "Das Konzil von Chalkedon in der Homilie des Narses über die drei nestorianischen Lehrer," *Zeitschrift für Kirchengeschichte* 66 (1954/5), pp.140–43; see also *The Harp* 20 (2006), pp.333–48; and K. McVey, "The *memra* of Narsai on the Three Nestorian Doctors as an example of forensic rhetoric," in R. Lavenant (ed.), *III Symposium Syriacum* (OCA 221; 1983), pp.87–96.

<sup>15</sup> Edition and FT in Martin; ET in Brock, "Syriac Dialogue: an example from the past," *The Harp* 15 (2002), pp.305–18 (also in *Journal of Assyrian Academic Studies* 18:1 (2004), pp.57–70).

<sup>16</sup> Also edited, with ET, in Brock, "Two Syriac dialogue poems on Abel and Cain," *Le Muséon* 113 (2000), pp.333–75.

<sup>17</sup> Cf J. Frishman, "Narsai's Homily for the Palm Festival—Against the Jews," in *IV Symposium Syriacum* (OCA 229; 1987), pp.217–29.

|         |   |                  |                                |
|---------|---|------------------|--------------------------------|
| 393–99  | <i>(Soghitha, Pharisees and Christ)</i>             |                  |                                |
| 399–    | XXXIV   | XIX              | Holy Week                      |
| 419     |   |                  |                                |
| 419–38  | XXXVI   | PO 40, III       | Passion <sup>18</sup>          |
| 438–57  | XXXVII  | XX               | Repentant Thief                |
| 457–79  | XXXVIII   | XXI              | Mysteries and Baptism          |
|         |   |                  | <sup>19</sup>                  |
| 479–95  | XL  | PO 40, IV        | Resurrection                   |
| 495–    | XLI   | XXIV             | Confessors                     |
| 520     |   |                  |                                |
| 520–26  | <i>(Soghitha, Shabur and Martyrs)</i> <sup>20</sup> |                  |                                |
| 526–46  | LXVII   | XLIV             | Three Children                 |
| 546–63  | XLV   | PO 40, V         | Ascension                      |
| 563–81  | XLVI  | XXVII            | Pentecost <sup>21</sup>        |
| 581–98  | LVI   |                  | Dedication of Church           |
| 598–613 | <i>(David Eskolaya, On Finding of Cross)</i>        |                  |                                |
| 614–47  |   | Bedjan 521–58/3– | Joseph I <sup>22</sup> Incipit |
|         |   | 40               | 516                            |
| 647–89  |   | Bedjan 559–      | Joseph II <sup>23</sup> 370    |
|         |   | 608/41–88        |                                |
| 689–91  |   | Bedjan 606–9/91– | Joseph <sup>24</sup> 400       |
|         |   | 110              |                                |
| 691–    | LXX   | XLI              | Joseph                         |
| 725     |   |                  |                                |

<sup>18</sup> On this homily see L. Abramowski, “Narsai, Ephräm und Kyrill über Jesu Verlassenheitsruf, Matth. 27.46,” in H.-J. Feulner, E. Velkovska and R.F. Taft (eds), *Crossroad of Cultures. Studies in Liturgy and Patristics in Honor of Gabriele Winkler* (OCA 260; 2000), pp.43–67.

<sup>19</sup> ET in Connolly, pp.46–61; FT by P. Brouwers, in *Mélanges de l’Université Saint-Joseph* 41 (1965), 179–207; see also E. C. Ratcliff, “A note on the Anaphoras described in the Liturgical Homilies of Narsai,” in J. N. Birdsall and R. W. Thomson (eds), *Biblical and Patristic Studies in Memory of R. P. Casey* (Freiburg, 1963), pp.235–49.

<sup>20</sup> Also in Manna, I, pp.222–7.

<sup>21</sup> Cf. I. Arickappillil, “Mar Narsai, the ‘charismatic’: a study based on Mar Narsai’s Homily on Pentecost,” *The Harp* 13 (2000), pp.125–34.

<sup>22</sup> GT in Näf, pp.91–106.

<sup>23</sup> GT in Näf, pp.107–27.

<sup>24</sup> ET by A. S. Rodriguez Pereira, “Two Syriac verse homilies on Joseph,” *Jaarbericht Ex Oriente Lux* 31 (1989/90), pp.105–6. This consists almost entirely of excerpts from the *Histoire de Joseph* (ed. Bedjan), variously attributed to Ephrem or to Balai.



|             |        |                          |                                |     |
|-------------|--------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|-----|
| 725–42      |        | Bedjan 609–<br>28/91–110 | Joseph                         | 500 |
| 743–64      | XVIII  |                          | Departed and<br>Resurrection   |     |
| Vol. II     |        |                          |                                |     |
| 1–21        | LXIII  | XXXVI, PO 34, I          | Creation I                     |     |
| 21–39       | LXI    | XXXIV, PO 34, II         | Creation II <sup>25</sup>      |     |
| 39–57       | LXII   | XXXV, PO 34, III         | Creation III                   |     |
| 57–77       | XLIX   | XXIX, PO 34, IV          | Creation IV                    |     |
| 77–99       | LXIV   | XXXVII, PO 34,<br>V      | Creation V                     |     |
| 99–122      | LXV    | XXXVIII, PO 34,<br>VI    | Creation VI                    |     |
| 122–45      | LXXVI  | Frishman 1               | Enoch and Elijah <sup>26</sup> |     |
| 145–67      | LXXI   | Frishman 2               | Flood                          |     |
| 167–82      | LXIX   | XL                       | Job                            |     |
| 182–<br>206 | LXVI   | XXXIX                    | Soul <sup>27</sup>             |     |
| 206–18      | LXXXI  |                          | John 1:14 <sup>28</sup>        |     |
| 219–42      | XIII   | VII                      | Supplication                   |     |
| 242–63      | XIV    | VIII                     | Jonah                          |     |
| 263–88      | XV     | IX                       | Reproof                        |     |
| 288–<br>305 | XVI    | XVI                      | Human Nature <sup>29</sup>     |     |
| 305–18      | XXX    |                          | Palm Sunday                    |     |
| 318–36      | XXXIII | Siman 2                  | Prodigal Son                   |     |

<sup>25</sup> On this homily see N. Sed, “Notes sur l’homélie 34 de Narsai,” *L’Orient Syrien* 10 (1965), pp.511–24, and T. Jansma, “Études sur la pensée de Narsai; l’homélie no. 34: Essai d’interprétation,” *L’Orient Syrien* 11 (1966), pp.147–68, 265–90, 393–430.

<sup>26</sup> An excerpt is given in Manna, I, pp.228–35. On this homily see J. Frishman, “The style and composition of Narsai’s Hom. 76,” in *V Symposium Syriacum* (OCA 236; 1990), pp.285–97.

<sup>27</sup> The text is also given in Manna, I, pp.247–74. GT by A. Allgeier in *Archiv für Religionswissenschaft* 21 (1922), pp.364–93, and partial FT by P. Krüger in *L’Orient Syrien* 4 (1959), pp.200–4 (= Mingana II, pp.249–54).

<sup>28</sup> Cf. J. Frishman, “Narsai’s christology according to his Homily on The Word became flesh,” *The Harp* 8/9 (1995/6), pp.289–303.

<sup>29</sup> Also in *Hudra* I, pp.411–23 and *Brev. Chald.* I, pp.468\*–79\*.

336–7 (*Soghitha, Tawdi l-Taba*)<sup>30</sup>

|         |        |            |                                     |
|---------|--------|------------|-------------------------------------|
| 337–55  | XXII   |            | Temptation of Christ                |
| 355–68  | XLII   | XXV        | Martyrs <sup>31</sup>               |
| 369–93  | XLIV   | XXVI       | New Sunday                          |
| 393–414 | LXXII  | XLII       | Miracles of Moses                   |
| 414–39  | LIV    | XXX        | Cross <sup>32</sup>                 |
| 439–55  | LV     | Frishman 6 | Bronze Serpent                      |
| 455–71  | LVII   | Frishman 5 | Tabernacle                          |
| 471–90  | LVIII  | XXXI       | Isaiah's Vision <sup>33</sup>       |
| 490–505 | LX     | XXXIII     | Dedication of Church <sup>34</sup>  |
| 505–22  | LIX    | XXXII      | Church and Priesthood <sup>35</sup> |
| 522–39  | LXVIII | XLV        | Reproof of Clergy                   |
| 539–78  | LII    | XXIII      | Second Coming <sup>36</sup>         |
| 578–96  | L      |            | Humility                            |
| 596–617 | XIX    |            | Works                               |
| 617–34  | XXXIX  | XXII       | Baptism <sup>37</sup>               |
| 635–54  | LXXIX  | XLVI       | Reproof                             |

<sup>30</sup> ET in Maclean, *East Syrian Daily Offices* (London, 1894), repr. 1969, 161–2, and by Brock, in *Journal of Assyrian Academic Studies* 18:1 (2004), pp.41–2. This *teshbhotha* also features as a *sughitho* in the Maronite *Shebimto* (at Sunday, *Lilho*).

<sup>31</sup> GT by P. Krüger, in *L'Orient Syrien* 3 (1958), pp.304–16.

<sup>32</sup> On this homily, see L. Abramowski, “Narsai (c.415?-502), Hom. LIV (30), ‘unser König Jesus Christus, der gekreuzigte Mann’,” in P. Gemeinhart and U. Kühneweg (eds), *Patristica et Oecumenica. Festschrift für W. A. Bienart* (Marburg, 2004), pp.157–66.

<sup>33</sup> ET in T. Kuzhuppil, *The Vision of the Prophet Isaiah. A Theological Study of Narsai's Interpretation of Isaiah 6* (Diss. Rome, 2006), pp.171–89.

<sup>34</sup> GT by A. Allgeier in *Der Katholik* 1917, pp.151–63. An excerpt of the text is given in Manna, I, pp.240–47.

<sup>35</sup> ET in Connolly, pp.62–74; see also Ratcliff, “A note on the Anaphoras.” [see note 19, above].

<sup>36</sup> Latin translation by E. Delly in *Divinitas* 3 (1959), pp.514–53.

<sup>37</sup> ET in Connolly, pp.33–45; FT by A. Guillaumont in *L'Orient Syrien* 1 (1956), pp.190–207. Text and Arabic translation in *Qala Suryaya* (Baghdad) 32/3 (1983/4), pp.16–61.

|         |        |                 |                                 |
|---------|--------|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| 654–78  | XII    | VI              | Iniquity of the World           |
| 679–99  | XXIV   | XII             | Lent IV                         |
| 699–716 | XXVII  | XV, Siman 1     | Ten Virgins <sup>38</sup>       |
| 716–35  | LXVII  | Frishman 3      | Blessings of Noah               |
| 735–56  | LXVIII | Frishman 4      | Tower of Babel                  |
| 756–73  | LXXIII | LXIII           | Sampson                         |
| 773–96  | LXXIV  |                 | David and Saul                  |
| 796–812 | LXXV   |                 | Solomon                         |
| 812–30  | LXXX   | XLVII           | Reproof of Women <sup>39</sup>  |
| 830–50  | XXV    | XIII            | Reproof <sup>40</sup>           |
| 850–72  | XLVIII | XXVIII, Siman 3 | Dives and Lazarus <sup>41</sup> |
| 872–86  | LIII   | Siman 5         | Wheat and Tares                 |

In conclusion, it may be helpful to indicate those *memre* in the List which are absent from Patriarchal Press edition:

- III Revelation to Abraham (= ed. Mingana, Hom. III).
- XXIII Lent III (= ed. Mingana, Hom. XI).
- XXVI Lent V (= ed. Mingana, Hom. XIV).
- XXXV Mysteries (= ed. Mingana Hom. XVII).<sup>42</sup>
- XLIII Confessors and Martyrs (= Jacob of Serugh, Hom. 56).

<sup>38</sup> Italian translation by M. Nin, *Narsai di Edessa, L'Olio della misericordia* (Testi dei Padri della Chiesa 29; Monastero di Bose, 1997).

<sup>39</sup> ET in C. Molenberg, "Narsai's *memra* on the reproof of Eve's daughters and 'tricks and devices' they perform," *Le Muséon* 106 (1993), pp.65–87.

<sup>40</sup> Cf. C. Molenberg, "As if from another world. Narsai's *memra* "Bad is the time," in H. L. J. Vanstiphout (ed.), *All those Nations ... Cultural Encounters within and with the Near East. Studies presented to Han Drijvers* (Groningen, 1999), pp.95–100.

<sup>41</sup> Also ed. with FT in Siman, pp.40–60.

<sup>42</sup> ET in Connolly, pp. 1–32; FT by Ph. Gignoux in *L'Initiation chrétienne* (Paris, 1963), pp.214–47. Part of the text is given in KP, pp.23–8. On the basis of linguistic usage this Homily must date from slightly later than Narsai's time; see S. P. Brock, "Diachronic aspects of Syriac word formation," in R. Lavenant (ed.), *V Symposium Syriacum* (OCA 236; 1990), pp.321–30, esp. 327–8, and L. Abramowski, "Die liturgische Homilie des Ps. Narses mit dem Messbekenntnis und einem Theodor-Zitat," in J. F. Coakley and K. Parry (eds), *The Church of the East: Life and Thought* (= *Bulletin of the John Rylands Library* 78:3 (1996), pp.87–100.

XLVII Workers in Vineyard (= Siman, no. 4).

And those *memre* which have not yet been published at all:

XVII Saint's day

XXXII Canaanite woman

LI Antichrist