

THE KIKKULI TEXT

on the Training of Horses

(Ca. 1350 B.C.)

translated from the German by Gerhard F. Probst

The First Day

In the fall he turns the horses into the pasture. He hitches them up and trots them three miles, and he gallops them over seven fields; returning, he gallops them over ten fields. He unhitches them, takes off their harness, and waters them. He takes them to the stable and gives them a handful of wheat, two handfuls of barley, and one handful of hay, all mixed together, and they eat it all. When they have finished their fodder he ties them up. When evening comes he leads them out of the stable and hitches them up. He trots them a mile and gallops them over seven fields. When he trots them back he unhitches them, takes off the harness, and waters them. He takes them to the stable and gives them three handfuls of hay, two handfuls of barley, and two handfuls of wheat, all mixed together. When they are finished with their fodder he muzzles them. When midnight comes he leads them out of the stable and hitches them up. He trots them a mile and gallops them over seven fields, and for two miles the driver rides on them. He trots them back, unhitches them, takes off the harness, and waters them. He takes them to the stable and gives them two handfuls of wheat, one handful of barley, and four handfuls of hay, all mixed together, and still one more handful of barley for every two horses. When they have eaten their fodder, they eat hay all night long.

The Second Day

When dawn comes he takes them out of the stable and hitches them up. He trots them two miles and a half and gallops them over seven fields. On the way back he gallops them over ten fields, and for three miles the driver rides on them and trots them. He unhitches them, takes off the harness, muzzles them, and ties them up. When noon comes they eat hay for a while. Later he waters them and ties them up. When evening comes he hitches them up and trots them a mile. When he trots them back he unhitches them, unharnesses them, and takes them to the stable. All night long they eat hay.

The Third Day

When dawn comes he takes them out of the stable and hitches them up. He trots them two miles and trots them back. He unhitches them and takes the harness off, but does not water them. He takes them to the stable. When evening comes he hitches them up again and trots them one mile,

and trots them back. He unhitches them and takes the harness off, but does not water them. He takes them to the stable, and all night long they eat hay.

The Fourth Day

When dawn comes he takes them out of the stable and hitches them up. He trots them two miles and gallops them over eighty fields. Returning, he gallops them a mile and over twenty fields. He trots them back. He unhitches them and covers them with blankets and takes them to the stable. Later the stable becomes very warm, the horses grow restless, and the sweat comes. He takes off their halters and blankets and snaffles them. On the hearth salt is crushed and malted barley is soaked in a vat. He gives them one measure of salt water and one measure of malt liquid, and they drink all. He takes them to the river and washes them and douses them. He brings them back from the river and takes them to the stable, and again gives them one measure of salt water and one measure of malt liquid to drink. When they have drunk all, he takes them again to the river and washes them and douses them. He brings them back from the water and gives them one handful of hay, and he washes them and douses them again. He brings them back and gives them water, and he washes them and douses them again. All day long he washes them and douses them, and every time when they come back from the river they eat moistened grain, and every time he gives them three scoopfuls of water. When evening comes he takes them to the stable and gives them one scoopful of coarse grain mixed with chaff of straw, and all night long they eat hay.

The Fifth Day

At daybreak he takes them from the stable to be washed in the river, and five times he washes them and douses them. When noon comes he turns the horses into the pasture.

The Sixth Day to the Eighth Day

He washes them thrice daily for three days.

The Ninth Day to the Twelfth Day

For four days he harnesses them once every day and washes and douses them, and they eat their fodder and hay day after day.

The Thirteenth Day

And on the fifth day he rubs them well with fine oil.

The Fourteenth Day to the Nineteenth Day

For six days they stand in the straw. Fodder is placed for them on one side and moistened barley on the other side, and they eat hay.

The Twentieth Day

He takes them out of the stable and pours warm water over them. Then they eat hay. He rubs them with fine oil and takes them back to the stable.

The Twenty-first Day to the Twenty-third Day

For three days they stand in the straw.

The Twenty-fourth Day

He takes them out of the stable and for the whole day they stand hungry and thirsty. When evening comes he leads them by the rein over ten fields.

The Twenty-fifth Day

Very early in the morning he takes them out of the stable and douses them five times with warm water. He takes them to the pasture, and they eat all during the day. When night falls they eat hay all night long.

The Twenty-sixth Day to the Thirty-fifth Day

Each day for ten days he hitches them to the cart and leads them by the halter for two miles.

The Thirty-sixth Day

He leads them for two miles and leads them back. He ties them up and they stand the whole day long. When noon comes they eat hay. When evening comes he hitches them up and trots them over thirty fields. He trots them back and unhitches them and takes off the harness. He does not water them, but takes them to the stable, and all night long they eat much hay.

The Thirty-seventh Day

The next morning he takes them out of the stable and hitches them up. He trots them for half a mile, but does not gallop them. When he drives them back he unhitches them and pours warm water over them and takes them to the pasture. He gives them their fodder mixed together with a scoopful of crushed grain.

The Thirty-eighth Day to the Forty-sixth Day

He trots them for two miles each day and leads them at the cart for two miles each day. They eat only their ration of barley.

The Forty-seventh Day

He ties them up in their stall and all day they stand like that. He gives them neither fodder nor water, but when noon comes he gives them a handful of hay. In the evening he takes them out of the stable and hitches them up. He trots them half a mile. He trots them back, and he unhitches them and takes the harness off and gives them water, and he takes them to the stable. All night long they eat hay.

The Forty-eighth Day

When morning comes he takes them out of the stable and hitches them up. He trots them half a mile, and when he trots them back he unhitches them. He takes the harness off and ties them up. They stand hungry and thirsty. When evening comes he hitches them up and trots them half a mile and over twenty fields, and he gallops them over seven fields. When he trots them back he unhitches them and takes the harness off, but gives them no water. He takes them into the stable. All night long they eat hay.

The Forty-ninth Day

When morning comes he takes them out of the stable and hitches them up. He trots them half a mile and over twenty fields and gallops them over seven fields. He trots them back and unhitches them. He washes them and douses them three times and gives them three scoopfuls of water and takes them into the stable. He gives them one scoopful of crushed grain mixed together. All night long they eat hay.

The Fiftieth Day to the Sixty-ninth Day

Night after night for ten nights he hitches them up and trots them a little, but he makes them gallop over seven fields. On the fifth night he pours warm water over them and they eat their fodder. Night after night for ten nights he also leads them at the cart for four miles.

The Seventy-second Day

When morning comes he takes them out of the stable and hitches them up. He trots them half a mile and over twenty fields and gallops them over ten fields. When he trots them back he washes them and douses them five times. He gives them three scoopfuls of water. When he brings them back from the river for the first time he gives them no hay. When he brings them back for the second time he gives them one handful of hay.

The Seventy-third Day to the Seventy-fifth Day

From the morning on they stand for three days, eating their fodder and hay.

The Seventy-sixth Day to the Seventy-ninth Day

For four days he moves them at the cart for four miles each day and trots them half a mile and over twenty fields each day and gallops them over seven fields. Then he unhitches them and takes the harness off. They drink water and eat two handfuls of barley mixed together.

The Eightieth Day

When evening comes he hitches them up and trots them slowly one mile and gallops them over seven fields. When he trots them back he unhitches them and takes the harness off. They drink water and he takes them to the stable. All night long they eat hay.

The Eighty-first Day

When morning comes he hitches them up and trots them half a mile and over twenty fields and gallops them in rounds over twenty fields. When he unhitches them he pours water over them and douses them five times. The first time he douses them he gives them nothing. The second time he gives them one handful of fresh hay, but three times he gives them nothing. He gives them one scoopful of water four times, and on the fifth time they drink their fill of water. When they come back they eat one scoopful of crushed grain with straw and fodder of their ration, and all night long they eat hay.

The Eighty-second Day to the Eighty-ninth Day

For eight nights he moves them at a trot over five miles and each night he makes them gallop over seven fields. On the fifth night he bathes them with warm water, but he does not douse them. They eat their fodder. On the last day he ties them up and gives them two handfuls of barley mixed together. When evening comes he hitches them up and trots them a mile and gallops them over seven fields. He unhitches them and takes the harness off. All night long they eat hay.

The Ninetieth Day

When morning comes he hitches them up and trots them two miles. When he unhitches them he takes the harness off and ties them up. He gives them neither fodder nor water. When noon comes he gives them a handful of hay. When evening comes he hitches them up and trots them half a mile and over twenty fields and gallops them over thirty-eight fields, two-fold galloping. When he unhitches them he douses them five times in this one night. When he washes them he

gives them no hay the first time. The second time he gives them one handful of hay. The third time he gives them nothing. The fourth time he gives them one handful of hay. Each time they drink a scoopful of water. When they come back from the river for the last time he gives them a scoopful of crushed grain mixed with chaff of straw, and he pours for them their fodder.

The Ninety-first Day to the Ninety-eighth Day

He hitches them up and for eight nights he moves them at a trot for six miles.

The Ninety-ninth Day

He gives them one handful of fresh hay with two handfuls of barley mixed together, and he ties them up. When evening comes he hitches them up and trots them two miles slowly. Then he unhitches them and takes the harness off and they drink water. All night long they eat fresh hay.

The One Hundredth Day

When morning comes he hitches them up and trots them two miles. When he unhitches them he takes the harness off and ties them up. He gives them neither water nor fodder. When evening comes he hitches them up and trots them for half a mile and over twenty fields. Then he gallops them over eight fields and then thirty fields, two-fold galloping. When he unhitches them he douses them five times in this one night. The first time he douses them he gives them no hay. The second time he gives them a handful of hay. The third time he gives them nothing. The fourth time he gives them a handful of hay. But each time he gives them a scoopful of water.

The One Hundred and First Day to the One Hundred and Fourth Day

For four nights he trots them seven miles, and team after team he gallops them over seven fields. On the fourth night he unhitches them and pours warm water over them and takes them to the stable.

The One Hundred and Fifth Day to the One Hundred and Eighth Day

For three days he moves them at a trot over seven miles at the cart. On the last day of the three days he moves them at a trot for seven miles and again another seven miles, and as often as he hitches them up he gallops them over seven fields. He unhitches them and takes the harness off, and they eat one extra handful of hay each time, and two handfuls of barley mixed with chaff of straw; and each time they eat and each time he ties them up. When evening comes he hitches them up again and trots them for one mile. He unhitches them and takes the harness off. They drink water and he takes them to the stable. All night long they eat hay.

The One Hundred and Ninth Day to the One Hundred and Fifteenth Day

For seven nights of seven days he moves them at a trot twice seven miles, and each time he gallops them over eight fields. When he unhitches them he takes the harness off and they drink water. He takes them to the stable and all night long they eat fresh hay.

The One Hundred and Sixteenth Day

When morning comes he hitches them up and trots them three miles and gallops them over eight fields. He unhitches them and takes the harness off. He gives them neither fodder nor water. When noon comes he gives them hay and waters them and ties them up. When evening comes he hitches them up and trots them for one mile.

[There is little variation in the instructions for the 9 days following]

The One Hundred and Twenty-sixth Day to the One Hundred and Thirty-first Day

For six nights they stand in the stable and eat their fodder. But night after night he hitches them up. The first night he trots them two and a half miles and gallops them over seven fields and ten fields returning. And for four nights he trots and gallops them the same distances. On the fifth night he washes them with warm water and takes them to the stable. They eat their fodder. Then

he hitches them up and trots them six miles and gallops them over seven fields. He trots them back.

The One Hundred and Thirty-second Day

He gallops them over ten fields. He unhitches them and takes the harness off and gives them water. He takes them to the stable and he gives them hay. At dawn of the sixth day he trots them two and a half miles and gallops them over seven fields. He trots them back and gallops them over ten fields, and for three miles the driver rides them. He unhitches them and takes the harness off. They drink water. He takes them into the stable and gives them a handful of hay and a handful of wheat, and they eat three handfuls of barley mixed into it. In the evening he hitches them up and trots them for one mile. He unhitches them and takes them to the stable. All night long they eat hay.

The One Hundred and Thirty-second Day (continuation into darkness)

In the darkness he trots them for two and a half miles and gallops them over seven fields and ten fields returning. He unhitches them and takes the harness off and leads them to the stable. When noon comes he gives them fresh hay. They drink water. When evening comes he hitches them up and trots them one mile. He unhitches them and takes the harness off, but he does not water them. He takes them to the stable and they eat fresh hay all night long.

The One Hundred and Thirty-third Day

When morning comes he hitches them up and trots them for two miles. He unhitches them and takes the harness off, but he gives them no water. He ties them up. When noon comes he gives them one handful of hay. When evening comes he hitches them up and trots them half a mile and over twenty fields, five rounds. He unhitches them and takes them to the stable, and when they have calmed down he washes and douses them five times. The first time he gives them nothing. The second time he gives them a handful of hay. The third time he gives them nothing, and the fourth time he gives them a handful of hay. Each time he gives them one scoopful of water. The fifth time he leads them back to the stable from the river and feeds them a scoopful of crushed grain, and they eat their fodder.

The One Hundred and Thirty-fourth Day to the One Hundred and Thirty-eighth Day

For five days they eat their fodder, and day after day he hitches them up and trots them two and a half miles and gallops them over seven fields. Returning he gallops them over ten fields, and for three miles the driver rides upon them. For five days they do this.

The One Hundred and Thirty-ninth Day

On the sixth day he unhitches them. He washes them and gives them water for drinking and takes them to the stable. He gives them one handful of hay, one handful of wheat, and one handful of barley mixed together, and he ties them up. When evening comes he hitches them up and trots them a mile. He unhitches them and takes the harness off. They drink water. He takes them to the stable and gives them two handfuls of wheat, one handful of barley, and four handfuls of hay. When they have finished eating their fodder they eat fresh hay all night long.

The One Hundred and Fortieth Day (four-round racing)

When the time of the middle night watch comes he hitches them up and trots them half a mile and over twenty fields and gallops them over thirty-seven fields, the two rounds of the middle night watch. When he unhitches them he pours water over them three times and douses them.

The One Hundred and Forty-first Day (six-round racing)

The One Hundred and Forty-second Day to the One Hundred and Forty-sixth Day

For five days they eat their fodder and he hitches them up day after day, and for five days he trots them over two and one half miles and gallops them over seven fields and gallops them back over ten fields, and for two miles the driver rides upon them. When he unhitches them he takes them to the stable.

The One Hundred and Forty-seventh Day

When he unhitches them he pours warm water over them and near midnight he washes them at the river three times and douses them and they drink water. When they come back from the river he hitches them up and trots them half a mile and gallops them one mile, seven rounds. He unhitches them and takes off the harness. He gives them no water. They eat one handful of wheat, two handfuls of crushed grain, one handful of barley, and four handfuls of hay, all mixed together.

[For the next three days, training varies little]

The One Hundred and Forty-ninth Day

When dawn comes they drink water. He hitches them up and trots them two miles and gallops them over seven fields, and trots them half a mile and gallops them back over ten fields. He unhitches them and takes the harness off. He gives them water and takes them to the stable. They eat half a handful of wheat mixed with one handful of hay. When they have finished their fodder in the evening he hitches them up and trots them half a mile and gallops them over fifteen fields. When he unhitches them he takes the harness off and gives them water. He takes them into the stable and ties them up.

The One Hundred and Fifty-fourth Day to the One Hundred and Fifty-fifth Day

When noon comes he gives them a handful of hay. When evening comes he hitches them up and trots them half a mile and over twenty-seven fields, and he gallops them half a mile and over twenty-seven fields, five rounds. He unhitches them and takes the harness off and they drink water. He mixes together three handfuls of wheat, two handfuls of barley, and five handfuls of hay. They eat it. At the time of the middle night watch he hitches them up and trots them half a mile and over twenty fields and gallops them half a mile, three rounds. When he unhitches them he washes them with warm water and leads them down to the river and pours water over them three times. Then he douses them. When they have been washed he hitches them up and for one mile and over twenty fields he gallops them around the course. The length of the course is five fields and its width is three and a half fields, and it is fenced in. For six rounds the horses cover this course. He unhitches them and takes the harness off. He gives them no water. They eat one handful of wheat, one handful of crushed grain, one handful of barley, and four handfuls of hay mixed together. When they have finished their fodder they eat hay all day long.

The One Hundred and Fifty-sixth Day

When evening comes he hitches them up and trots them half a mile and over twenty fields and gallops them over half a mile, three-round galloping. He gallops them back to the city. When he unhitches them he covers them with blankets and takes them to the stable. When it becomes very warm in the stable the horses become restless and the sweat comes. He takes off the blankets and the halter and snaffles them. In the night he takes them outside and washes them with warm water. Then he takes them down to the river and douses them five times. The first time he gives them nothing. The second time he gives them one handful of hay. The third time he gives them nothing. The fourth time he douses them he gives them a handful of hay. Each time he gives them water. The fifth time he leads them back to the stable and gives them one scoopful of crushed grain and their ration of barley.

[For the next four days, training varies little]

The One Hundred and Sixtieth Day to the One Hundred and Sixty-first Day

They eat their ration of barley for two days, twice each day. On the first day he trots them two and a half miles and gallops them over seven fields and gallops them back over ten fields. On the second day he trots them for three miles. He unhitches them and washes them with warm water and takes them to the stable, and they eat one handful of hay and one handful of wheat mixed together. Then they eat four handfuls of wheat with their fodder. When evening comes he hitches them up and trots them one mile. He unhitches them and takes the harness off and gives them water and takes them to the stable, and they eat two handfuls of wheat, one handful of barley, and four handfuls of hay mixed together, and all night long they eat hay.

The One Hundred and Sixty-second Day

When morning comes he gives them water and hitches them up. He trots them two miles and gallops them over seven fields. He trots them back half a mile and gallops them over ten fields. When he unhitches them he takes the harness off. He waters them and takes them to the stable, and he gives them a handful of hay mixed with a handful of wheat. When noon comes he hitches them up and trots them a half mile and gallops them over fifteen fields. He unhitches them and takes the harness off and gives them water. He takes them to the stable and ties them up and gives them one handful of hay. When evening comes he hitches them up and trots them half a

mile and over twenty fields and gallops them half a mile and over twenty-seven fields, five rounds. He unhitches them and takes the harness off and waters them and takes them to the stable, and they eat three handfuls of wheat, one handful of barley, and five handfuls of hay mixed together, and all night long they eat hay.

The One Hundred and Sixty-third Day

Very early in the morning he hitches them up. He trots them half a mile and gallops them half a mile, three rounds. When he unhitches them he washes them with warm water and takes them to the river and douses them. The first and second times he gives them nothing. The third time he gives them a handful of hay. The fourth time he gives them nothing. When he brings them up from the river he twists up their tails and hitches them up. He trots them half a mile and gallops them one mile, seven rounds. He unhitches them but leaves the halter on them. He takes the harness off, and when they quiet down he hitches them up and trots them half a mile and gallops them half a mile and over seven fields. He unhitches them and takes the harness off. He gives them water and grain and one handful of hay and one handful of wheat. When they have finished their fodder he hitches them up and trots them half a mile and gallops them over twenty fields. When he unhitches them he takes the harness off and waters them. He takes them to the stable and they eat three handfuls of wheat, two handfuls of barley, and six handfuls of hay mixed together. When they have finished their fodder he hitches them up at the time of the middle night watch. He trots them half a mile and over twenty fields and gallops them over thirty fields. When he unhitches them he washes them with warm water and takes them to the river and douses them three times. He hitches them up and trots them, nine rounds, and gallops them one mile and over eighty fields. The length of the course is six fields and the width is four fields. When he unhitches them he takes the harness off. He gives them no water.

The One Hundred and Sixty-fourth Day

All day long they eat hay. When evening comes he hitches them up and trots them half a mile and over twenty fields and gallops them over thirty-seven fields and gallops them back to the city. He unhitches them and covers them and takes them to the stable. The stable becomes very warm and the horses become restless. He takes off the halter and blankets and snaffles them. During the night he takes them outside and washes them with warm water and leads them down to the river. He douses them four times. The first time he gives them nothing. The second time he gives them a handful of hay. The third time he gives them nothing. The fourth time he gives them a handful of hay. When he brings them back from the river he gives them a scoopful of crushed grain with their fodder.

[For the next three days, training varies little]

The One Hundred and Sixty-eighth Day

When morning comes he hitches them up and trots them two miles. He unhitches them and takes the harness off, but gives them no water. He takes them to the stable and ties them up. When noon comes he gives them a handful of hay. When evening comes he hitches them up and trots them half a mile and over twenty fields and gallops them one mile, seven rounds. He unhitches them and takes the harness off.

The One Hundred and Sixty-ninth Day

When morning comes he hitches them up and trots them half a mile and over twenty fields and gallops them half a mile and over seven fields, three rounds. He gallops them back to the city. When he unhitches them he covers them and takes them to the stable. The stable is warm, and when the horses become restless and sweat he takes off the halter and blankets and snaffles them. He takes them out of the stable and washes them with warm water. Then he takes them to the river and douses them four times, and each time he gives them one handful of hay and one of barley. He takes them to the stable and gives them a scoopful of crushed grain and a ration of barley.