

ANCIENT NEAR EASTERN RELIGIONS

Enuma Elish (The Epic of Creation)

The Babylonian creation epic, recounting the primordial conflict among the gods and the rise of Marduk to kingship after his defeat of the chaos-goddess Tiamat. Presents L.W. King's 1902 translation across all seven tablets.

Presented by Earth's Sacred Texts — blackbetty.space

Contents

The First Tablet

The Second Tablet

The Third Tablet

The Fourth Tablet

The Fifth Tablet

The Sixth Tablet

The Seventh Tablet

The First Tablet

- ¹ When in the height heaven was not named,
- ² And the earth beneath did not yet bear a name,
- ³ And the primeval Apsu, who begat them,
- ⁴ And chaos, Tiamut, the mother of them both
- ⁵ Their waters were mingled together,
- ⁶ And no field was formed, no marsh was to be seen;
- ⁷ When of the gods none had been called into being,
- ⁸ And none bore a name, and no destinies were ordained;
- ⁹ Then were created the gods in the midst of heaven,
- ¹⁰ Lahmu and Lahamu were called into being...
- ¹¹ Ages increased,...
- ¹² Then Ansar and Kisar were created, and over them....
- ¹³ Long were the days, then there came forth.....
- ¹⁴ Anu, their son,...
- ¹⁵ Ansar and Anu...
- ¹⁶ And the god Anu...
- ¹⁷ Nudimmud, whom his fathers, his begetters.....
- ¹⁸ Abounding in all wisdom,...'
- ¹⁹ He was exceeding strong...
- ²⁰ He had no rival -
- ²¹ Thus were established and were... the great gods.
- ²² But Tiamat and Apsu were still in confusion...
- ²³ They were troubled and...
- ²⁴ In disorder...
- ²⁵ Apru was not diminished in might...
- ²⁶ And Tiamat roared...
- ²⁷ She smote, and their deeds...
- ²⁸ Their way was evil...
- ²⁹ Then Apsu, the begetter of the great gods,
- ³⁰ Cried unto Mummu, his minister, and said unto him:
- ³¹ "O Mummu, thou minister that rejoicest my spirit,
- ³² Come, unto Tiamut let us go!
- ³³ So they went and before Tiamat they lay down,

34 They consulted on a plan with regard to the gods, their sons.
35 Apsu opened his mouth and spake,
36 And unto Tiamut, the glistening one, he addressed the word:
37 ...their way...
38 By day I can not rest, by night I can not lie down in peace.
39 But I will destroy their way, I will...
40 Let there be lamentation, and let us lie down again in peace."
41 When Tiamat heard these words,
42 She raged and cried aloud...
43 She... grievously...,
44 She uttered a curse, and unto Apsu she spake:
45 "What then shall we do?
46 Let their way be made difficult, and let us lie down again in peace."
47 Mummu answered, and gave counsel unto Apsu,
48 ...and hostile to the gods was the counsel Mummu gave:
49 Come, their way is strong, but thou shalt destroy it;
50 Then by day shalt thou have rest, by night shalt thou lie down in peace."
51 Apsu harkened unto him and his countenance grew bright,
52 Since he (Mummu) planned evil against the gods his sons.
53 ... he was afraid...,
54 His knees became weak; they gave way beneath him,
55 Because of the evil which their first-born had planned.
56 ... their... they altered.
57 ... they...,
58 Lamentation they sat in sorrow
59
60 Then Ea, who knoweth all that is, went up and he beheld their muttering.
61 [about 30 illegible lines]
62 ... he spake:
63 ... thy... he hath conquered and
64 ... he weepeth and sitteth in tribulation.
65 ... of fear,
66 ... we shall not lie down in peace.
67 ... Apsu is laid waste,
68 ... and Mummu, who were taken captive, in...
69 ... thou didst...

70 ... let us lie down in peace.
71 ... they will smite....
72 ... let us lie down in peace.
73 ... thou shalt take vengeance for them,
74 ... unto the tempest shalt thou...!"
75 And Tiamat harkened unto the word of the bright god, and said:
76 ... shalt thou entrust! let us wage war!"
77 ... the gods in the midst of...
78 ... for the gods did she create.
79 They banded themselves together and at the side of Tiamat they advanced;
80 They were furious; they devised mischief without resting night and day.
81 They prepared for battle, fuming and raging;
82 They joined their forces and made war,
83 Ummu-Hubur [Tiamat] who formed all things,
84 Made in addition weapons invincible; she spawned monster-serpents,
85 Sharp of tooth, and merciless of fang;
86 With poison, instead of blood, she filled their bodies.
87 Fierce monster-vipers she clothed with terror,
88 With splendor she decked them, she made them of lofty stature.
89 Whoever beheld them, terror overcame him,
90 Their bodies reared up and none could withstand their attack.
91 She set up vipers and dragons, and the monster Lahamu,
92 And hurricanes, and raging hounds, and scorpion-men,
93 And mighty tempests, and fish-men, and rams;
94 They bore cruel weapons, without fear of the fight.
95 Her commands were mighty, none could resist them;
96 After this fashion, huge of stature, she made eleven [kinds of] monsters.
97 Among the gods who were her sons, inasmuch as he had given her support,
98 She exalted Kingu; in their midst she raised him to power.
99 To march before the forces, to lead the host,
100 To give the battle-signal, to advance to the attack,
101 To direct the battle, to control the fight,
102 Unto him she entrusted; in costly raiment she made him sit, saying:
103 I have uttered thy spell, in the assembly of the gods I have raised thee to power.
104 The dominion over all the gods have I entrusted unto him.
105 Be thou exalted, thou my chosen spouse,

¹⁰⁶ May they magnify thy name over all of them the Anunnaki."
¹⁰⁷ She gave him the Tablets of Destiny, on his breast she laid them, saying:
¹⁰⁸ Thy command shall not be without avail, and the word of thy mouth shall be established."
¹⁰⁹ Now Kingu, thus exalted, having received the power of Anu,
¹¹⁰ Decreed the fate among the gods his sons, saying:
¹¹¹ "Let the opening of your mouth quench the Fire-god;
¹¹² Whoso is exalted in the battle, let him display his might!"

The Second Tablet

¹ Tiamat made weighty her handiwork,
² Evil she wrought against the gods her children.
³ To avenge Apsu, Tiamat planned evil,
⁴ But how she had collected her forces, the god unto Ea divulged.
⁵ Ea harkened to this thing, and
⁶ He was grievously afflicted and he sat in sorrow.
⁷ The days went by, and his anger was appeased,
⁸ And to the place of Ansar his father he took his way.
⁹ He went and, standing before Ansar, the father who begat him,
¹⁰ All that Tiamat had plotted he repeated unto him,
¹¹ Saying, "Tiamat our mother hath conceived a hatred for us,
¹² With all her force she rageth, full of wrath.
¹³ All the gods have turned to her,
¹⁴ With those, whom ye created, they go at her side.
¹⁵ They are banded together and at the side of Tiamat they advance;
¹⁶ They are furious, they devise mischief without resting night and day.
¹⁷ They prepare for battle, fuming and raging;
¹⁸ They have joined their forces and are making war.
¹⁹ Ummu-Hubur, who formed all things,
²⁰ Hath made in addition weapons invincible; she hath spawned monster-serpents,
²¹ Sharp of tooth, and merciless of fang.
²² With poison, instead of blood, she hath filled their bodies.
²³ Fierce monster-vipers she hath clothed with terror,
²⁴ With splendor she hath decked them; she hath made them of lofty stature.
²⁵ Whoever beholdeth them is overcome by terror,
²⁶ Their bodies rear up and none can withstand their attack.

27 She hath set up vipers, and dragons, and the monster Lahamu,
28 And hurricanes and raging hounds, and scorpion-men,
29 And mighty tempests, and fish-men and rams;
30 They bear cruel weapons, without fear of the fight.
31 Her commands are mighty; none can resist them;
32 After this fashion, huge of stature, hath she made eleven monsters.
33 Among the gods who are her sons, inasmuch as he hath given her support,
34 She hath exalted Kingu; in their midst she hath raised him to power.
35 To march before the forces, to lead the host,
36 To give the battle-signal, to advance to the attack.
37 To direct the battle, to control the fight,
38 Unto him hath she entrusted; in costly raiment she hath made him sit, saving:.
39 I have uttered thy spell; in the assembly of the gods I have raised thee to power,
40 The dominion over all the gods have I entrusted unto thee.
41 Be thou exalted, thou my chosen spouse,
42 May they magnify thy name over all of them
43 She hath given him the Tablets of Destiny, on his breast she laid them, saying:
44 'Thy command shall not be without avail, and the word of thy mouth shall be established.'
45 Now Kingu, thus exalted, having received the power of Anu,
46 Decreed the fate for the gods, her sons, saying:
47 'Let the opening of your mouth quench the Fire-god;
48 Whoso is exalted in the battle, let him display his might!'"
49 When Ansar heard how Tiamat was mightily in revolt,
50 he bit his lips, his mind was not at peace,
51 ..., he made a bitter lamentation:
52 ... battle,
53 ... thou...
54 Mummu and Apsu thou hast smitten
55 But Tiamat hath exalted Kingu, and where is one who can oppose her?
56 ... deliberation
57 ... the ... of the gods, -Nudimmud.
58 [A gap of about a dozen lines occurs here.]
59 Ansar unto his son addressed the word:
60 "... my mighty hero,
61 Whose strength is great and whose onslaught can not be withstood,
62 Go and stand before Tiamat,

63 That her spirit may be appeased, that her heart may be merciful.
64 But if she will not harken unto thy word,
65 Our word shalt thou speak unto her, that she may be pacified."
66 He heard the word of his father Ansar
67 And he directed his path to her, toward her he took the way.
68 Ann drew nigh, he beheld the muttering of Tiamat,
69 But he could not withstand her, and he turned back.
70 ... Ansar
71 ... he spake unto him:
72 [A gap of over twenty lines occurs here.]
73 an avenger...
74 ... valiant
75 ... in the place of his decision
76 ... he spake unto him:
77 ... thy father
78 "Thou art my son, who maketh merciful his heart.
79 ... to the battle shalt thou draw nigh,
80 he that shall behold thee shall have peace."
81 And the lord rejoiced at the word of his father,
82 And he drew nigh and stood before Ansar.
83 Ansar beheld him and his heart was filled with joy,
84 He kissed him on the lips and his fear departed from him.
85 "O my father, let not the word of thy lips be overcome,
86 Let me go, that I may accomplish all that is in thy heart.
87 O Ansar, let not the word of thy lips be overcome,
88 Let me go, that I may accomplish all that is in thy heart."
89 What man is it, who hath brought thee forth to battle?
90 ... Tiamat, who is a woman, is armed and attacketh thee.
91 ... rejoice and be glad;
92 The neck of Tiamat shalt thou swiftly trample under foot.
93 ... rejoice and be glad;
94 The neck of Tiamat shalt thou swiftly trample under foot.
95 O my son, who knoweth all wisdom,
96 Pacify Tiamat with thy pure incantation.
97 Speedily set out upon thy way,
98 For thy blood shall not be poured out; thou shalt return again."

⁹⁹ The lord rejoiced at the word of his father,
¹⁰⁰ His heart exulted, and unto his father he spake:
¹⁰¹ "O Lord of the gods, Destiny of the great gods,
¹⁰² If I, your avenger,
¹⁰³ Conquer Tiamat and give you life,
¹⁰⁴ Appoint an assembly, make my fate preeminent and proclaim it.
¹⁰⁵ In Upsukkinaku seat yourself joyfully together,
¹⁰⁶ With my word in place of you will I decree fate.
¹⁰⁷ May whatsoever I do remain unaltered,
¹⁰⁸ May the word of my lips never be chanced nor made of no avail."

The Third Tablet

¹ Ansar opened his mouth, and
² Unto Gaga, his minister, spake the word.
³ "O Gaga, thou minister that rejoicest my spirit,
⁴ Unto Lahmu and Lahamu will I send thee.
⁵ ... thou canst attain,
⁶ ... thou shalt cause to be brought before thee.
⁷ ... let the gods, all of them,
⁸ Make ready for a feast, at a banquet let them sit,
⁹ Let them eat bread, let them mix wine,
¹⁰ That for Marduk, their avenger they may decree the fate.
¹¹ Go, Gaga, stand before them,
¹² And all that I tell thee, repeat unto them, and say:
¹³ 'Ansar, vour son, hath sent me,
¹⁴ The purpose of his heart he hath made known unto me.
¹⁵ The purpose of his heart he hath made known unto me.
¹⁶ He saith that Tiamat our mother hath conceived a hatred for us,
¹⁷ With all her force she rageth, full of wrath.
¹⁸ All the gods have turned to her,
¹⁹ With those, whom ye created, they go at her side.
²⁰ They are banded together, and at the side of Tiamat they advance;
²¹ They are furious, they devise mischief without resting night and day.
²² They prepare for battle, fuming and raging;
²³ They have joined their forces and are making war.

24 Ummu-Hubur, who formed all things,
25 Hath made in addition weapons invincible; she hath spawned monster-serpents,
26 Sharp of tooth and merciless of fang.
27 With poison, instead of blood, she hath filled their bodies.
28 Fierce monster-vipers she hath clothed with terror,
29 With splendor she hath decked them; she hath made them of lofty stature.
30 Whoever beboldeth them, terror overcometh him,
31 Their bodies rear up and none can withstand their attack.
32 She hath set up vipers, and dragons, and the monster Lahamu,
33 And hurricanes, and raging bounds, and scorpion-men,
34 And mighty tempests, and fish-men, and rams;
35 They bear merciless weapons, without fear of the fight.
36 Her commands are miahty; none can. resist them;
37 After this fashion, huge of stature, hath she made eleven monsters.
38 Among the gods who are her sons, inasmuch as he hath given her support,
39 She hath exalted Kingu; in their midst she hath raised him to power.
40 To march before the forces, to lead the host,
41 To give the battle-signal, to advance to the attack,
42 To direct the battle, to control the fight,
43 Unto him hath she entrusted; in costly raiment she hath made him sit, saying:
44 I have uttered thy spell; in the assembly of the gods
45 I have raised thee to power,
46 The dominion over all the gods have I entrusted unto thee.
47 Be thou exalted, thou my chosen spouse,
48 May they magnify thy name over all of them ... the Anunnaki."
49 She hath given him the Tablets of Destiny, on his breast she laid them, saying:
50 Thy command shall not be without avail, and the word of thy mouth shall be established."
51 Now Kingu, thus exalted, having received the power of Anu,
52 Decreed the fate for the gods, her sons, saving:
53 Let the opening of your mouth quench the Fire-god;
54 Whoso is exalted in the battle, let him display his might!"
55 I sent Anu, but he could not withstand her;
56 Nudimmud was afraid and turned back.
57 But Marduk hath set out, the director of the gods, your son;
58 To set out against Tiamat his heart hath prompted him.
59 He opened his mouth and spake unto me, saying: "If I, your avenger,

60 Conquer Tiamat and give you life,
61 Appoint an assembly, make my fate preeminent and proclaim it.
62 In Upsukkinaku seat yourself joyfully together;
63 With my word in place of you will I decree fate.
64 May whatsoever I do remain unaltered,
65 May the word of my lips never be changed nor made of no avail."
66 Hasten, therefore, and swiftly decree for him the fate which you bestow,
67 That he may go and fight your strong enemy.
68 Gaga went, he took his way and
69 Humbly before Lahmu and Lahamu, the gods, his fathers,
70 He made obeisance, and he kissed the ground at their feet.
71 He humbled himself; then he stood up and spake unto them saying:
72 "Ansar, your son, hath sent me,
73 The purpose of his heart he hath made known unto me.
74 He saith that Tiamat our mother hath conceived a hatred for us,
75 With all her force she rageth, full of wrath.
76 All the gods have turned to her,
77 With those, whom ye created, they go at her side.
78 They are banded together and at the side of Tiamat they advance;
79 They are furious, they devise mischief without resting night and day.
80 They prepare for battle, fuming and raging;
81 They have joined their forces and are making war.
82 Ummu-Hubur, who formed all things,
83 Hath made in addition weapons invincible; she hath spawned monster-serpents,
84 Sharp of tooth and merciless of fang.
85 With poison, instead of blood, she hath filled their bodies.
86 Fierce monster-vipers she hath clothed with terror,
87 With splendor she hath decked them, she hath made them of lofty stature.
88 Whoever beboldeth them, terror overcometh him,
89 Their bodies rear up and none can withstand their attack.
90 She hath set up vipers, and dragons, and the monster Lahamu,
91 And hurricanes, and raging hounds, and scorpion-men,
92 And mighty tempests, and fish-men, and rams;
93 They bear merciless weapons, without fear of the fight.
94 Her commands are mighty; none can resist them;
95 After this fashion, huge of stature, hath she made eleven monsters.

⁹⁶ Among the gods who are her sons, inasmuch as he hath given her support,
⁹⁷ She hath exalted Kingu; in their midst she hath raised him to power.
⁹⁸ To march before the forces, to lead the host,
⁹⁹ To give the battle-signal, to advance to the attack, To direct the battle, to control the fight,
¹⁰⁰ Unto him hath she entrusted; in costly raiment she hath made him sit, saying:
¹⁰¹ I have uttered thy spell; in the assembly of the gods I have raised thee to power,
¹⁰² The dominion over all the gods have I entrusted unto thee.
¹⁰³ Be thou exalted, thou my chosen spouse,
¹⁰⁴ May they magnify thy name over all of them...the Anunnaki.
¹⁰⁵ She hath given him the Tablets of Destiny on his breast she laid them, saying:
¹⁰⁶ Thy command shall not be without avail, and the word of thy mouth shall be established.'
¹⁰⁷ Now Kingu, thus exalted, having received the power of Anu,
¹⁰⁸ Decreed the fate for the gods, her sons, saying:
¹⁰⁹ 'Let the opening of your mouth quench the Fire-god;
¹¹⁰ Whoso is exalted in the battle, let him display his might!'
¹¹¹ I sent Anu, but he could not withstand her;
¹¹² Nudimmud was afraid and turned back.
¹¹³ But Marduk hath set out, the director of the gods, your son;
¹¹⁴ To set out against Tiamat his heart hath prompted him.
¹¹⁵ He opened his mouth and spake unto me, saying:
¹¹⁶ 'If I, your avenger,
¹¹⁷ Conquer Tiamat and give you life,
¹¹⁸ Appoint an assembly, make my fate preeminent and proclaim it.
¹¹⁹ In Upsukkinaku seat yourselves joyfully together;
¹²⁰ With my word in place of you will I decree fate.
¹²¹ May, whatsoever I do remain unaltered,
¹²² May the word of my lips never be changed nor made of no avail.'
¹²³ Hasten, therefore, and swiftly decree for him the fate which you bestow,
¹²⁴ That he may go and fight your strong enemy!
¹²⁵ Lahmu and Lahamu heard and cried aloud
¹²⁶ All of the Igigi [The elder gods] wailed bitterly, saying:
¹²⁷ What has been altered so that they should
¹²⁸ We do not understand the deed of Tiamat!
¹²⁹ Then did they collect and go,
¹³⁰ The great gods, all of them, who decree fate.
¹³¹ They entered in before Ansar, they filled...

132 They kissed one another, in the assembly...;
133 They made ready for the feast, at the banquet they sat;
134 They ate bread, they mixed sesame-wine.
135 The sweet drink, the mead, confused their...
136 They were drunk with drinking, their bodies were filled.
137 They were wholly at ease, their spirit was exalted;
138 Then for Marduk, their avenger, did they decree the fate.

The Fourth Tablet

1 They prepared for him a lordly chamber,
2 Before his fathers as prince he took his place.
3 "Thou art chiefest among the great gods,
4 Thy fate is unequaled, thy word is Anu!
5 O Marduk, thou art chiefest among the great gods,
6 Thy fate is unequaled, thy word is Anu!
7 Henceforth not without avail shall be thy command,
8 In thy power shall it be to exalt and to abase.
9 Established shall be the word of thy mouth, irresistible shall be thy command,
10 None among the gods shall transgress thy boundary.
11 Abundance, the desire of the shrines of the gods,
12 Shall be established in thy sanctuary, even though they lack offerings.
13 O Marduk, thou art our avenger!
14 We give thee sovereignty over the whole world.
15 Sit thou down in might; be exalted in thy command.
16 Thy weapon shall never lose its power; it shall crush thy foe.
17 O Lord, spare the life of him that putteth his trust in thee,
18 But as for the god who began the rebellion, pour out his life."
19 Then set they in their midst a garment,
20 And unto Marduk,- their first-born they spake:
21 "May thy fate, O lord, be supreme among the gods,
22 To destroy and to create; speak thou the word, and thy command shall be fulfilled.
23 Command now and let the garment vanish;
24 And speak the word again and let the garment reappear!
25 Then he spake with his mouth, and the garment vanished;
26 Again he commanded it, and. the garment reappeared.

27 When the gods, his fathers, beheld the fulfillment of his word,
28 They rejoiced, and they did homage unto him, saying, " Marduk is king!"
29 They bestowed upon him the scepter, and the throne, and the ring,
30 They give him an invincible weapon which overwhelmeth the foe.
31 Go, and cut off the life of Tiamat,
32 And let the wind carry her blood into secret places."
33 After the gods his fathers had decreed for the lord his fate,
34 They caused him to set out on a path of prosperity and success.
35 He made ready the bow, he chose his weapon,
36 He slung a spear upon him and fastened it...
37 He raised the club, in his right hand he grasped it,
38 The bow and the quiver he hung at his side.
39 He set the lightning in front of him,
40 With burning flame he filled his body.
41 He made a net to enclose the inward parts of Tiamat,
42 The four winds he stationed so that nothing of her might escape;
43 The South wind and the North wind and the East wind and the West wind
44 He brought near to the net, the gift of his father Anu.
45 He created the evil wind, and the tempest, and the hurricane,
46 And the fourfold wind, and the sevenfold wind, and the whirlwind, and the wind which had no
equal;
47 He sent forth the winds which he had created, the seven of them;
48 To disturb the inward parts of Tiamat, they followed after him.
49 Then the lord raised the thunderbolt, his mighty weapon,
50 He mounted the chariot, the storm unequaled for terror,
51 He harnessed and yoked unto it four horses,
52 Destructive, ferocious, overwhelming, and swift of pace;
53 ... were their teeth, they were flecked with foam;
54 They were skilled in... , they had been trained to trample underfoot.
55 mighty in battle,
56 Left and right....
57 His garment was... , he was clothed with terror,
58 With overpowering brightness his head was crowned.
59 Then he set out, he took his way,
60 And toward the raging Tiamat he set his face.
61 On his lips he held ...,

62 ... he grasped in his hand.
63 Then they beheld him, the gods beheld him,
64 The gods his fathers beheld him, the gods beheld him.
65 And the lord drew nigh, he gazed upon the inward parts of Tiamat,
66 He perceived the muttering of Kingu, her spouse.
67 As Marduk gazed, Kingu was troubled in his gait,
68 His will was destroyed and his motions ceased.
69 And the gods, his helpers, who marched by his side,
70 Beheld their leader's..., and their sight was troubled.
71 But Tiamat... , she turned not her neck,
72 With lips that failed not she uttered rebellious words:
73 "... thy coming as lord of the gods,
74 From their places have they gathered, in thy place are they! "
75 Then the lord raised the thunderbolt, his mighty weapon,
76 And against Tiamat, who was raging, thus he sent the word:
77 Thou art become great, thou hast exalted thyself on high,
78 And thy heart hath prompted thee to call to battle.
79 ... their fathers...,
80 ... their... thou hatest...
81 Thou hast exalted Kingu to be thy spouse,
82 Thou hast... him, that, even as Anu, he should issue decrees.
83 thou hast followed after evil,
84 And against the gods my fathers thou hast contrived thy wicked plan.
85 Let then thy host be equipped, let thy weapons be girded on!
86 Stand! I and thou, let us join battle!
87 When Tiamat heard these words,
88 She was like one possessed, .she lost her reason.
89 Tiamat uttered wild, piercing cries,
90 She trembled and shook to her very foundations.
91 She recited an incantation, she pronounced her spell,
92 And the gods of the battle cried out for their weapons.
93 Then advanced Tiamat and Marduk, the counselor of the gods;
94 To the fight they came on, to the battle they drew nigh.
95 The lord spread out his net and caught her,
96 And the evil wind that was behind him he let loose in her face.
97 As Tiamat opened her mouth to its full extent,

98 He drove in the evil wind, while as yet she had not shut her lips.
99 The terrible winds filled her belly,
100 And her courage was taken from her, and her mouth she opened wide.
101 He seized the spear and burst her belly,
102 He severed her inward parts, he pierced her heart.
103 He overcame her and cut off her life;
104 He cast down her body and stood upon it.
105 When he had slain Tiamat, the leader,
106 Her might was broken, her host was scattered.
107 And the gods her helpers, who marched by her side,
108 Trembled, and were afraid, and turned back.
109 They took to flight to save their lives;
110 But they were surrounded, so that they could not escape.
111 He took them captive, he broke their weapons;
112 In the net they were caught and in the snare they sat down.
113 The ... of the world they filled with cries of grief.
114 They received punishment from him, they were held in bondage.
115 And on the eleven creatures which she had filled with the power of striking terror,
116 Upon the troop of devils, who marched at her...,
117 He brought affliction, their strength he...;
118 Them and their opposition he trampled under his feet.
119 Moreover, Kingu, who had been exalted over them,
120 He conquered, and with the god Dug-ga he counted him.
121 He took from him the Tablets of Destiny that were not rightly his,
122 He sealed them with a seal and in his own breast he laid them.
123 Now after the hero Marduk had conquered and cast down his enemies,
124 And had made the arrogant foe even like
125 And had fully established Ansar's triumph over the enemy
126 And had attained the purpose of Nudimmud,
127 Over the captive gods he strengthened his durance,
128 And unto Tiamat, whom he had conquered, he returned.
129 And the lord stood upon Tiamat's hinder parts,
130 And with his merciless club he smashed her skull.
131 He cut through the channels of her blood,
132 And he made the North wind bear it away into secret places.
133 His fathers beheld, and they rejoiced and were glad;

¹³⁴ Presents and gifts they brought unto him.
¹³⁵ Then the lord rested, gazing upon her dead body,
¹³⁶ While he divided the flesh of the ... , and devised a cunning plan.
¹³⁷ He split her up like a flat fish into two halves;
¹³⁸ One half of her he stablished as a covering for heaven.
¹³⁹ He fixed a bolt, he stationed a watchman,
¹⁴⁰ And bade them not to let her waters come forth.
¹⁴¹ He passed through the heavens, he surveyed the regions thereof,
¹⁴² And over against the Deep he set the dwelling of Nudimmud.
¹⁴³ And the lord measured the structure of the Deep,
¹⁴⁴ And he founded E-sara, a mansion like unto it.
¹⁴⁵ The mansion E-sara which he created as heaven,
¹⁴⁶ He caused Anu, Bel, and Ea in their districts to inhabit.

The Fifth Tablet

¹ He (Marduk) made the stations for the great gods;
² The stars, their images, as the stars of the Zodiac, he fixed.
³ He ordained the year and into sections he divided it;
⁴ For the twelve months he fixed three stars.
⁵ After he had ... the days of the year ... images,
⁶ He founded the station of Nibir [the planet Jupiter] to determine their bounds;
⁷ That none might err or go astray,
⁸ He set the station of Bel and Ea along with him.
⁹ He opened great gates on both sides,
¹⁰ He made strong the bolt on the left and on the right.
¹¹ In the midst thereof he fixed the zenith;
¹² The Moon-god he caused to shine forth, the night he entrusted to him.
¹³ He appointed him, a being of the night, to determine the days;
¹⁴ Every month without ceasing with the crown he covered him, saying:
¹⁵ "At the beginning of the month, when thou shinest upon the land,
¹⁶ Thou commandest the horns to determine six days,
¹⁷ And on the seventh day to divide the crown.
¹⁸ On the fourteenth day thou shalt stand opposite, the half....
¹⁹ When the Sun-god on the foundation of heaven...thee,
²⁰ The ... thou shalt cause to ..., and thou shalt make his...

21 ... unto the path of the Sun-god shalt thou cause to draw nigh,
22 And on the ... day thou shalt stand opposite, and the Sun-god shall...
23 ... to traverse her way.
24 ... thou shalt cause to draw nigh, and thou shalt judge the right.
25 ... to destroy..."
26 [Nearly fifty lines are here lost.]
27 The gods, his fathers, beheld the net which he had made,
28 They beheld the bow and how its work was accomplished.
29 They praised the work which he had done...
30 Then Anu raised the ... in the assembly of the gods. He kissed the bow, saving, " It is...!"
31 And thus he named the names of the bow, saving,
32 "'Long-wood' shall be one name, and the second name shall be ...,
33 And its third name shall be the Bow-star, in heaven shall it...!"
34 Then he fixed a station for it...
35 Now after the fate of...
36 He set a throne...
37 ...in heaven...
38 [The remainder of this tablet is missing.]

The Sixth Tablet

1 When Marduk heard the word of the gods,
2 His heart prompted him and he devised a cunning plan.
3 He opened his mouth and unto Ea he spake
4 That which he had conceived in his heart he imparted unto him:
5 "My blood will I take and bone will I fashion
6 I will make man, that man may
7 I will create man who shall inhabit the earth,
8 That the service of the gods may be established, and that their shrines may be built.
9 But I will alter the ways of the gods, and I will change their paths;
10 Together shall they be oppressed and unto evil shall they....
11 And Ea answered him and spake the word:
12 "... the ... of the gods I have changed
13 ... and one...
14 ... shall be destroyed and men will I...
15 ... and the gods .

- ¹⁶ ... and they..."
- ¹⁷ [The rest of the text is wanting with the exception of
- ¹⁸ the last few lines of the tablet, which read as follows.]
- ¹⁹ They rejoiced...
- ²⁰ In Upsukkinnaku they set their dwelling.
- ²¹ Of the heroic son, their avenger, they cried:
- ²² " We, whom he succored.... !"
- ²³ They seated themselves and in the assembly they named him...,
- ²⁴ They all cried aloud, they exalted him...

The Seventh Tablet

- ¹ O Asari, [Marduk] "Bestower of planting," "Founder of sowing"
- ² "Creator of grain and plants," "who caused the green herb to spring up!"
- ³ O Asaru-alim, [Marduk] "who is revered in the house of counsel," "who aboundeth in counsel,"
- ⁴ The gods paid homage, fear took hold upon them!
- ⁵ O Asaru-alim-nuna, [Marduk] "the mighty one," "the Light of the father who begat him,"
- ⁶ "Who directeth the decrees of Anu Bel, and Ea!"
- ⁷ He was their patron, be ordained their...;
- ⁸ He, whose provision is abundance, goeth forth...
- ⁹ Tutu [Marduk] is "He who created them anew";
- ¹⁰ Should their wants be pure, then are they satisfied;
- ¹¹ Should he make an incantation, then are the gods appeased;
- ¹² Should they attack him in anger, he withstandeth their onslaught!
- ¹³ Let him therefore be exalted, and in the assembly of the gods let him... ;
- ¹⁴ None among the gods can rival him!
- ¹⁵ 15 Tutu [Marduk] is Zi-ukkina, "the Life of the host of the gods,"
- ¹⁶ Who established for the gods the bright heavens.
- ¹⁷ He set them on their way, and ordained their path;
- ¹⁸ Never shall his ... deeds be forgotten among men.
- ¹⁹ Tutu as Zi-azag thirdly they named, "the Bringer of Purification,"
- ²⁰ "The God of the Favoring Breeze," "the Lord of Hearing and Mercy,"
- ²¹ "The Creator of Fulness and Abundance," " the Founder of Plenteousness,"
- ²² "Who increaseth all that is small."
- ²³ In sore distress we felt his favoring breeze,"
- ²⁴ Let them say, let them pay reverence, let them bow in humility before him!

25 Tutu as Aga-azag may mankind fourthly magnify!
26 "The Lord of the Pure Incantation," " the Quickener of the Dead,"
27 "Who had mercy upon the captive gods,"
28 "Who removed the yoke from upon the gods his enemies,"
29 "For their forgiveness did he create mankind,"
30 "The Merciful One, with whom it is to bestow life!"
31 May his deeds endure, may they never be forgotten ,
32 In the mouth of mankind whom his hands have made!
33 Tutu as Mu-azag, fifthly, his "Pure incantation" may their mouth proclaim,
34 Who through his Pure Incantation hath destroyed all the evil ones!"
35 Sag-zu, [Marduk] "who knoweth the heart of the gods," " who seeth through the innermost part!"
36 "The evil-doer he hath not caused to go forth with him!"
37 "Founder of the assembly of the gods," who ... their heart!"
38 "Subduer of the disobedient," "...!"
39 "Director of Righteousness," "...,"
40 " Who rebellion and...!"
41 Tutu as Zi-si, "the ...,"
42 "Who put an end to anger," "who...!"
43 Tutu as Suh-kur, thirdly, "the Destroyer of the foe,"
44 "Who put their plans to confusion,"
45 "Who destroyed all the wicked," "...,"
46 ... let them... !
47 [There is a gap here of sixty lines. But somewhere among the lost lines belong the following fragments.]
48 who...
49 He named the four quarters of the world, mankind hecreated,
50 And upon him understanding...
51 "The mighty one...!"
52 Agil...
53 "The Creator of the earth...!"
54 Zulummu... .
55 "The Giver of counsel and of whatsoever...!"
56 Mummu, " the Creator of...!"
57 Mulil, the heavens...,
58 "Who for...!"
59 Giskul, let...,

60 "Who brought the gods to naught....!"
61
62 ... " the Chief of all lords,"
63 ... supreme is his might!
64 Lugal-durmah, "the King of the band of the gods," " the Lord of rulers."
65 "Who is exalted in a royal habitation,"
66 "Who among the gods is gloriously supreme!"
67 Adu-nuna, " the Counselor of Ea," who created the gods his fathers,
68 Unto the path of whose majesty
69 No god can ever attain!
70 ... in Dul-azag be made it known,
71 ... pure is his dwelling!
72 ... the... of those without understanding is Lugaldul-azaga!
73 ... supreme is his might!
74 ... their... in the midst of Tiamat,
75 ... of the battle!
76 [Here follows the better-preserved ending.]
77 ... the star, which shineth in the heavens.
78 May he hold the Beginning and the Future, may they pay homage unto him,
79 Saying, "He who forced his way through the midst of Tiamat without resting,
80 Let his name be Nibiru, 'the Seizer of the Midst'!
81 For the stars of heaven he upheld the paths,
82 He shepherded all the gods like sheep!
83 He conquered Tiamat, he troubled and ended her life,"
84 In the future of mankind, when the days grow old,
85 May this be heard without ceasing; may it hold sway forever!
86 Since he created the realm of heaven and fashioned the firm earth,
87 The Lord of the World," the father Bel hath called his name.
88 This title, which all the Spirits of Heaven proclaimed,
89 Did Ea hear, and his spirit was rejoiced, and he said:
90 "He whose name his fathers have made glorious,
91 Shall be even as I, his name shall be Ea!
92 The binding of all my decrees shall he control,
93 All my commands shall he make known! "
94 By the name of "Fifty " did the great gods
95 Proclaim his fifty names, they, made his path preeminent.

96 EPILOGUE

97 Let them [i.e. the names of Marduk] be held in remembrances and let the first man proclaim them;

98 Let the wise and the understanding consider them together!

99 Let the father repeat them and teach them to his son;

100 Let them be in the ears of the pastor and the shepherd!

101 Let a man rejoice in Marduk, the Lord of the gods,

102 That he may cause his land to be fruitful, and that he himself may have prosperity!

103 His word standeth fast, his command is unaltered;

104 The utterance of his mouth hath no god ever annulled.

105 He gazed in his anger, he turned not his neck;

106 When he is wroth, no god can withstand his indignation.

107 Wide is his heart, broad is his compassion;

108 The sinner and evil-doer in his presence...

109 They received instruction, they spake before him,

110 ... unto...

111 ... of Marduk may the gods...;

112 ... May they ... his name... !

113 ... they took and...

114!

115 END OF THE CREATION EPIC

116 THE FIGHT WITH TIAMAT

117 (ANOTHER VERSION)

118 [Note: Strictly speaking, the text is not a creation-legend, though it gives a variant form of the principal incident in the history of the creation according to the Enuma Elish. Here the fight with the dragon did not precede the creation of the world, but took place after men had been created and cities had been built.]

119 The cities sighed, men ...

120 Men uttered lamentation, they ...

121 For their lamentation there was none to help,

122 For their grief there was none to take them by the hand.

123 · Who was the dragon... ?

124 Tiamat was the dragon.....

125 Bel in heaven hath formed.....

126 Fifty kaspu [A kaspu is the space that can be covered in two hours travel, i.e. six or seven miles]
in his length, one kaspu in his height,

127 Six cubits is his mouth, twelve cubits his...,

128 Twelve cubits is the circuit of his ears...;

129 For the space of sixty cubits he ... a bird;
130 In water nine cubits deep he draggeth...."
131 He raiseth his tail on high...;
132 All the gods of heaven...
133 In heaven the gods bowed themselves down before the Moon-god...;
134 The border of the Moon-god's robe they hastily grasped:
135 "Who will go and slay the dragon,"
136 And deliver the broad land from...
137 And become king over... ?
138 " Go, Tishu, slay the dragon,
139 And deliver the broad land from...,
140 And become king over...!"
141 Thou hast sent me, O Lord, to... the raging creatures of the river,
142 But I know not the... of the Dragon!
143 [The rest of the Obverse and the upper part of the Reverse of the tablet are wanting.]
144 REVERSE
145
146 And opened his mouth and spake unto the god...
147 " Stir up cloud, and storm and tempest!
148 The seal of thy life shalt thou set before thy face,
149 Thou shalt grasp it, and thou shalt slay the dragon."
150 He stirred up cloud, and storm and tempest,
151 He set the seal of his life before his face,
152 He grasped it, and he slew the dragon.
153 For three years and three months, one day and one night
154 The blood of the dragon flowed. ...