

Enūma Eliš

Tablet I:

The cosmos starts with the primordial waters, Apsu (freshwater) and Tiamat (saltwater), birthing younger gods. These gods become rowdy, causing disturbance.

"Their ways are verily loathsome unto me. By day I find no relief, nor repose by night. I will destroy, I will wreck their ways, that quiet may be restored. Let us have rest! For their ways are loathsome to me."

Tablet II:

Ea, among the younger gods, learns of Apsu's malicious intent. He employs enchantments to incapacitate Apsu and kills him. Marduk is then born, showing remarkable prowess.

"Anu begot in his image Nudimmud. This Nudimmud was the man of Anu, he begot him as his equal... His members were manifold, fire shot from his mouth."

Tablet III:

Tiamat, grieving and furious over Apsu's death, assembles a formidable force of monsters led by her consort, Kingu. In response, Marduk steps forward to battle Tiamat, demanding supreme authority as his reward.

"Tiamat made weighty her handiwork, evil she wrought against the gods her children... She exalted Kingu; in their midst she raised him to power."

Tablet IV:

Marduk prepares with a net, four winds, a bow, and arrows. He challenges Tiamat.

"Stand! and face me that we may meet in battle! When Tiamat heard this, she was like one possessed; she took leave of her senses."

Utilizing his weapons and winds, Marduk ensnares Tiamat and ultimately ends her life.

Tablet V:

From half of Tiamat's carcass, Marduk fashions the sky, and from the other half, the earth. He establishes the positions of celestial bodies.

"He split her like a shell into two parts; half of her he set up and ceiled it as sky, pulled down the bar and posted guards. He bade them to allow not her waters to escape."

Tablet VI:

Marduk creates landmarks like the Euphrates and Tigris rivers from Tiamat's teary eyes. As he builds the world and cities, humans are birthed from Kingu's blood, intended to bear the burden of work for the gods.

"Blood I will mass and cause bones to be. I will establish a savage, 'Man' shall be his name. Verily, savage-man I will create. He shall be charged with the service of the gods that they might be at ease!"

Tablet VII:

To commemorate Marduk's victory, the gods bestow upon him fifty names, each symbolizing his dominion over various facets of existence.

"Thou, Marduk, art the most honored of the great gods, thy decree is unrivaled, thy command is Anu. ...O Marduk, thou art king, the giver of benefits to the gods."