

Enuma Elish Tablet I

1. When above the heand had not (yet) been named,
2. (And) below the earth had not (yet) been called by a name;
3. (When) Apsu primeval, their begetter,
4. Mummu, (and) Tiamat, she who gave birth to them all,
5. (Still) mingled their waters together,
6. And no pasture land had been formed (and) not (even) a reed marsh was to be seen;
7. When none of the (other) gods had been brought into being,
8. (When) they had not (yet) been fixed,
9. (At that time) were the gods created within them.
10. Lahmu and Lahamu camin into being; they were called by (their) names.
11. Even before they had grown up (and) become tall,
12. Anshar and Kishar were created; they surpassed them (in stature).
13. They lived many days, adding years (to days).
14. Anu was their heir presumptive, the rival of his fathers;
15. Yea, Anu, his first-born, equaled Anshar.
16. And Anu begot Nudimmud, his likeness.
17. Nudimmud, the master of his fathers was he;
18. He was broad of understanding, wise, mighty in strength,
19. Much stronger than his grandfather, Anshar;
20. He had no rival among the gods his brothers.
21. The divine brothers gathered together.
22. They disturbed Tiamat and assaulted(?) their keeper;
23. Yea, they disturbed the inner parts of Tiamat,
24. Moving (and) running about in the divine abode(?)
25. Apsu could not diminish their clamor,
26. And Tiamat was silent in regard to their [behavior].
27. Yet, their doing was painful [to them].
28. Their way was not good...
29. Then Apsu, the getter of the great gods,
30. Called Mummu, his vizier, and said to him:
31. "Mummu, my vizier, who gladdenest my heart,
32. Come, let us [go] to Tiamat!"
33. They went and reposed before Tiamat;
34. They took counsel about the matter concerning the gods, their first-born.
35. Apsu opened his mouth
36. And said to Tiamat in a loud voice:
37. "Their way has become painful to me,
38. By day I cannot rest, by night I cannot sleep;
39. I will destroy (them) and put an end to their way,
40. That silence be established, and then let us sleep!"
41. When Tiamat heard this,
42. She was wroth and cried out to her husband;
43. She cried out and raged furiously, she alone.
44. She pondered the evil in her heart (and said):

45. "Why should we destroy that which we ourselves have wrought forth?
46. Their way is indeed very painful, but let us take it good-naturedly!"
47. Mummu spoke up and counseled Apsu;
48. [...] and unfavorable was the advice of his Mummu:
49. "Yes, my father, destroy (their) disorderly way;
50. (Then) verily thou shalt have rest by day (and) sleep by night!"
51. When Apsu [hear]d it, his face grew bright,
52. Because of the evil he planned against the gods his children.
53. Mummu embraced [his] neck,
54. Sat down on his knee, and kissed him.
55. Whatever they planned in their assembly
56. Was communicated to the gods, their first-born.
57. When the gods heard (it), they hasten(ed) about;
58. They took to silence, they sat quietly.
59. The one of supreme understanding, the skilful (and) wise,
60. Ea, who understands everything, saw through their plan.²⁸
61. He made and established against it a magical circle for all.
62. He skilfully composed his overpowering, holy incantation.
63. He recited it and thus caused (it) to be upon the water.²⁹
64. He poured out sleep upon him, (so that) he slept soundly.³⁰
65. When he had put Apsu to sleep, (Apsu) being suffused with sleep,
66. Mummu, his advisor,
67. He loosened his band (and) tore off [his] tiara;
68. He carried off his splendor (and) put (it) on himself.
69. When he had (thus) subdued Apsu, he slew him.
70. Mummu he shut in (and) barred (the door) against him.
71. On Apsu he established his dwelling place;
72. Mummu he seized for himself, holding (him) by his nose-rope.
73. After Ea had vanquished (and) subdued his enemies,
74. Had established his victory over his foes,
75. (And) had peacefully rested in his abode,
76. He named it *Apsu* and appointed (it) for shrines.
77. In his place he founded his chamber;
78. (There) Ea (and) Damkina, his wife, dwelt in splendor.
79. In the chamber of fates, the abode of destinies,
80. The wisest of the wise, the wisest of the gods, *the* god was begotten.
81. Within the *Apsu* Marduk was born;
82. Within the holy *Apsu* [Marduk] was born.
83. He who begot him was Ea, his father;
84. Damki[na], his mother, was she who bore him.
85. He sucked the breasts of the goddesses.
86. The nurse that cared for him filled (him) with awe-inspiring majesty.
87. Enticing was his figure, flashing the look of his eyes,
88. Manly was his going-forth, a leader(?) from the beginning.
89. When E[a], his father that begot (him), saw him,
90. He rejoiced, he beamed, his heart was filled with joy.

91. He distinguished(?) him and conferred upon him(?) double equality with the gods.
92. (So that) he was highly exalted (and) surpassed them in everything.
93. Artfully arranged beyond comprehension were his members,
94. Not fit for (human) understanding, hard to look upon.
95. Four were his eyes, four were his ears.
96. When his lips moved, fire blazed forth.
97. Each of (his) four ears grew large,
98. And likewise (his) eyes, to see everything.
99. He was exalted among the gods, surpassing was [his] form;
100. His members were gigantic, he was surpassing in height.
101. Mariyutu, Mariyutu:
102. Son of the sun-god, the sun-god of the gods!
103. He was clothed with the rays of ten gods, exceedingly powerful was he;
104. The terror-inspiring majesty with its consuming brightness(?) rested upon him.
105. [...] the four winds did Anu create,
106. To restrain with his [...] the strong(est) of the host.
107. He caused waves and disturbed Tiamat.
108. Disturbed is Tiamat, and day and night she (relentlessly) hastens about.
109. [The gods] were not at rest, carrying on(?) like the storm(?);
110. They planned evil in their heart(s).
111. They said to Tiamat, their mother:
112. "When they slew Apsu, thy spouse,
113. Thou didst not march at his side, but thou didst sit quietly.
114. He made fear.
115. Disturbed is thine interior, and we cannot rest.
116. Remember(?) Apsu, thy spouse,
117. And Mummu, who were vanquished; thou dwellest alone.
118. Thou art [not a m[other], rest[less]ly thou runnest about.
119. [...] thou dost not love us (anymore).
120. [...] .., our eyes are heavy.
121. [...] without ceasing(?) let us sleep!
122. [Go to battle(?) (and) requite them!
123. [...] and give (them) over to the storm!"
124. [When] Tiamat [heard it], the word pleased her,
125. [And she said: "...] let us make storm.
126. [...] and the gods in the midst of [...].
127. [... let us] make war, against the gods let us [...]!"
128. They [separated themselves(?)] and went to the side of Tiamat;
129. They [were angry], they plotted, not resisting day or [night];
130. They [took up] the fight, fuming (and) raging;
131. They held a meeting and planned the conflict.
132. Mother Hubur, who fashions all things,
133. Added (thereto) irresistible weapons, bearing monster serpents
134. [Sharp] of tooth (and) not sparing the fang(?).
135. [With poison] instead of blood she filled [their] bodies.
136. Ferocious [dragons she clothed] with terror,

137. She crowned (them) with fear-inspiring glory (and) made (them) like gods,
138. So that he who would look upon them should pe[rish] from terror,
139. So that their bodies might leap forward and none turn back [their breasts].
140. She set up the viper, the dragon and the *lahamu*,
141. The great lion, the mad dog, and the scorpion-man,
142. Driving the storm demons, the dragonfly, and the bis[on],
143. Bearing unsparing weapons, unafraid of ba[ttle].
144. Powerful were her decrees, irresistible were they.
145. Altogether(?) eleven (kinds of monsters) of this sort she brought [into being].
146. Of those among the gods, her first-born, who formed her [assembly],
147. She exalted Kingu; in their midst she made him great.
148. To march at the head of the army, to direct the for[ces],
149. To raise the weapons for the engagement, to launch the attack,
150. The high command of the battle,
151. She intrusted to his hand; she caused him to sit in the assembly, [saying:]
152. "I have cast a spell for thee, I have made thee great in the assembly of the gods.
153. The dominion over all the gods I have given into thy hand.
154. Mayest thou be highly exalted, thou, my unique spouse!
155. May thy names become greater than (those of) all the Anunnaki!"
156. She gave him the tablet of destinies, she fastened (it) upon his breast, (saying:)
157. "As for thee, thy command shall not be changed, [the word of thy mouth] shall be dependable!"
158. Now when Kingu had been exalted (and) had received [supreme dominion],
159. [They decreed] the destinies to the gods, her sons, (saying:)
160. "May the opening of your mouths [quiet] the fire-god!
161. May thy overpowering poison vanquish the (opposing) might!"

Catch Line

After Tiamat had made strong [preparations].

Colophon I

1. First tablet of Enuma elish; [written] like [its] original [and collated].
2. The tablet of Nabu-balatsu-iqbi, the son of Naid-Ma[rduk].
3. By the hand of Nabu-balatsu-iqbi, the son of Naid-Marduk

Colophon II

1. First tablet of the Enuma elish, after the ta[blet],
2. A copy from Babylon; written like its original [and collated].
3. The tablet of Nabu-mushetiq-umi, the son of [....].
4. He who fears Marduk and Sarapani[tu shall not take it away illegitimately]
5. Or withhold (it) from use [....].
6. The month of Iyyar, the ninth day, the twenty-seventh year of D[arius].