

Enuma Elish Tablet III

1. Anshar opened his mouth
2. And addressed (these) words to Kaka, his vizier:
3. "Kaka, my vizier, who gladdenest my heart,
4. Unto Lahmu (and) Lahamu I will send thee;
5. Thou knowest (how) to [disce]rn (and) art able to relate.
6. Cause the gods may fathers to be brought before me.
7. [Let] them bring all the gods to me!
8. Let them converse (and) sit down to a banquet.
9. Let them eat bread (and) prepare wine.
10. For [Marduk], their avenger, let them decree the destiny.
11. Set out, O Kaka, go, and stand thou before them.
12. What i am about to tell thee repeat unto them:
13. 'Anshar, your son, has sent me.
14. [The command of] his heart he has charged me to convey,
15. [Saying: "Tia]mat, our bearer, hates us.
16. She he[ld a meeting] and raged furiously.
17. All the gods went over to her;
18. Even those whom ye have created march at her side.
19. They separat5ed themselves(?) and went over to the side of Tiamat;
20. They were angry, they plotted, not resting day or night;
21. They took up the fight, fuming and raging;
22. They held a meeting and planned the conflict.
23. Mother Hubur, who fashions all things;
24. Added (thereto) irresistible weapons, bearing monster serpents
25. Sharp of tooth and not sparing the fang(?).
26. With poison instead of blook she filled their bodies.
27. Ferocious dragons she clothed with terror,
28. She crowned them with fear-inspiring glory (and) made them like gods,
29. So that [they] might cause him who would look upon them to perish from terror,
30. So that their bodies might leap forward and none turn back their breasts.
31. She set up the viper, the dragon, and the laha[mu],
32. The great lion, the mad dog, and the scorpion-man,
33. Driving storm demons, the dragonfly, and the bison,
34. Bearing unsparing weapons, unafraid of battle.
35. Powerful are her decrees, irresistible are they.
36. Altogether(?) eleven (kinds of monsters) of this sort she brought [into being].
37. Of those among the gods, her first-born, who formed her [assembly],
38. She exalted Kingu; in their midst she made [him gr]eat.
39. To march at the head of the army, to [direct the forces],
40. [To rai]se the weapons for the engagement, to la[unch the attack],
41. The high com[mand of the b]attle,
42. [She intrusted] to his hand; she caused him to sit [in the assembly], (saying:)
43. '[I have ca]st the spell for thee, [I have made thee great] in the assembly of the gods.
44. The dominion over all the gods [I have given] into thy hand.

45. [Mayest] thou be highly exalted, [thou], my unique spouse!
46. May thy names become greater than (those of) [the Anunnaki]!'!
47. She gave him the tablet of destinies, she fastened (it) upon his breast, (saying:)
48. 'As for thee, thy command shall not be changed, the word of thy mouth shall be dependable!'
49. Now when Kingu had been exalted (and) had received supreme dominion,
50. They decreed the destinies of the gods, her sons, (saying:)
51. 'May the opening of your mouths quiet the fire-god!
52. May thy overpowering poison vanquish the (opposing) might!'
53. I sent Anu, (but) he could not face her.
54. Nudimmud (also) was afraid and turned back.
55. (Then) Marduk, the wisest of the gods, your son, came forward.
56. His heart prompted (him) to face Tiamat.
57. He opened his mouth (and) said to me:
58. 'If I am indeed to be your avenger,
59. To vanquish Tiamat and to keep you alive,
60. Convene the assembly and proclaim my lot supreme.
61. When ye are joyfully seated together in the Court of Assembly,
62. May I through the utterance of my mouth determine the destinies, instead of you.
63. Whatever I create shall remain unaltered,
64. The command of my lips shall not return (void), it shall not be changed.'
65. Hasten to me (then) and speedily fix for him your destiny,
66. That he may go to meet your powerful enemy!'"
67. Kaka went and pursued his way.
68. Before Lahmu and Lahamu, the gods his ancestors,
69. He prostrated himself and kissed the ground at their feet;
70. He sat up, stood forth, and said to them:
71. "Anshar, your son, has sent me.
72. The command of his heart he has charged me to convey,
73. Saying: "Tiamat, our bearer, hates us.
74. She held a meeting and raged furiously.
75. All the gods went over to her;
76. even those whom ye have created march at her side.
77. They separated themselves(?) and went over to the side of Tiamat;
78. They were angry, they plotted, not resting day or night;
79. They took up the fight, fuming and raging;
80. They held a meeting and planned the conflict.
81. Mother Hubur, who fashions all things,
82. Added (thereto) irresistible weapons, bearing monster serpents
83. Sharp of tooth and not sparing the fang(?).
84. With poison instead of blood she filled their bodies.
85. Ferocious dragons she clothed with terror,
86. She crowned them with fear-inspiring glory (and) made them like gods,
87. So that he who would look upon them should perish from terror,
88. So that their bodies might leap forward and none turn back their breasts.
89. She set up the viper, the dragon, and the *lahamu*,

90. The great lion, the mad dog, and the scorpion-man,
91. Driving storm demons, the dragonfly, and the bison,
92. Bearing unspaining weapons, unafraid of battle.
93. Powerful are her decrees, irresistible are they.
94. Altogether(?) eleven (kinds of monsters) of this sort she brought into being.
95. Of those among the gods, her first-born, who formed her assembly,
96. She exalted Kingu; in their midst she made him great.
97. To march at the head of the army, to direct the forces,
98. To raise the weapons for the engagement, to launch the attack,
99. The high command of battle,
100. She intrusted to his hand; she caused him to sit in the assembly, (saying:)
101. "I have cast the spell for thee, I have made thee great in the assembly of the gods.
102. The dominion over all the gods I have given into thy hand.
103. Mayest thou be highly exalted, thou, my unique spouse!
104. May thy names become greater than (those of) the Anunna[ki]!"
105. She gave him the tablet of destinies, [she fastened (it) upon his breast], (saying:)
106. "As for thee, they command shall not [be changed, the word of thy mouth shall be dependable]!"
107. Now when Kingu had been exa[lted (and) had received supreme dominion],
108. [They decreed] the des[tinies] to the gods, her sons, (saying")
109. "[May] the opening of your mouths [quiet the fire-god]!"
110. [May] the overpowering poison [vanquish] the (opposing) mi[ght]!"
111. I sent Anu, (but) he [could] not [face her].
112. Nudimmud (also) was afraid and [turned back].
113. (Then) Marduk, the wisest of [the gods, your son], came forward.
114. [His heart prompted (him)] to face Tiamat.
115. He opened his mouth (and) [said to me]:
116. "If I am indeed to be [your avenger],
117. To vanquish Tiamat (and) [to keep you alive],
118. Convene the assembly and [proclaim my lot supreme].
119. [When ye are joyfully seated together] in the Court of Assembly,
120. [May I] through the utterance of my mouth [determine the destinies], instead of [you].
121. Whatever I create shall remain unaltered,
122. The command of [my lips] shall not return (void), it shall [not be] changed."
123. Hasten to me (then) and speedily [fix for him] your destiny,
124. [That he may] go to meet your powerful enemy!" "
125. When Lahha (and) Lahamu heard (this), they cried aloud;
126. All the Igigi wailed painfully:
127. "What has happened that she has come to [such a de]cision?
128. We do not understand Tiamat's ac[tion]!"
129. They gathered together and departed,
130. All the great gods who determine [the destinies].
131. They entered into the presence of Anshar and filled [the Court of Assembly];
132. They kissed one another [as they came together] in the assembly;
133. They conversed (and) [sat down] to a banquet.

134. They ate bread (and) prepared w[ine].
135. The sweet wine dispelled their fears;
136. [Their] bod[ies] swelled as they drank the strong drink.
137. Exceedingly carefree were tgetm tgeur spirit was exalted,
138. For Marduk, their avenger, the decreed the destiny.

Catch Line

The erected for him a lordly throne-dais.

Source: The Babylonian Genesis by Alexander Heidel