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BABYLONIAN AND ASSYRIAN CREATION MYTH

III THE TRIUMPH OF THE POWERS OF ORDER

THE COUNCIL OF THE GODS ELECTED MARDUK TO BE THEIR CHAMPION AGAINST THE POWERS OF EVIL

*They set him on the road which leadeth to
peace and obedience.
He strung [his] bow, he set ready his weapon
[in the stand].
He fixed his arrow, setting it on the cord.
He raised the club, he grasped it in his
right hand.
A bow and a quiver he hung at his side.
He set the lightning in front of him.
His body was filled with a glancing flame of fire.
He made a net wherewith to enclose Tiamat.*



DEMON OF THE
SOUTH-WEST WIND
FROM BRISTOL MUSEUM IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM



CONFLICT OF MARDUK AND TIAMAT
FROM THE BRITISH MUSEUM IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM

HE SET THE FOUR WINDS TO GUARD AGAINST HER ESCAPE

*He searches out the weakness of Kingu,
her husband.
Marduk looks, Kingu staggered in his
gait.
His will was destroyed, his motion was
paralysed.*



CONFLICT OF MARDUK AND TIAMAT
FROM THE BRITISH MUSEUM IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM

HE MATCHED HIMSELF AGAINST TIAMAT



THE GOD MARDUK
FROM THE BRITISH MUSEUM IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM

*Tiamat opened her mouth to its greatest extent.
Marduk made the evil wind to enter her so that
her lips could not unclose.
The raging winds filled out her belly.
Her heart was gripped, she opened wide her
mouth [panting].
Marduk shot the arrow, he split up her belly.
He clave open her bowels, he pierced [her] heart.
He brought her to naught, he destroyed her life.
He cast down her carcass, he took up his stand
upon it.*

BABYLONIAN AND ASSYRIAN CREATION MYTH

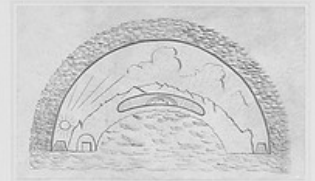
IV THE MAKING OF THE WORLD AND MAN

*The Lord [Marduk] paused, he examined Tiamat's carcass.
He divided the foetus, he worked cunningly.
He slit Tiamat open like a shell-fish into two pieces.
The one half he raised up and made the heavens as
a shade therewith.*

BENEATH THE VAULT OF THE SKY, OUT OF THE OTHER
HALF OF THE BODY OF TIAMAT, HE FASHIONED THE
LOWER VAULT OF THE EARTH; BENEATH THIS EARTH HE
ASSIGNED THE WATERS TO EA TO ORDER AND RULE



SYMBOLS OF DIVINITIES
AND SIGNS OF THE ZODIAC
FROM THE BRITISH MUSEUM IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM



THE THREEFOLD VAULT OF THE COSMOS
FROM THE BRITISH MUSEUM IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM

*He formed the Stations for the great
gods.
He set in heaven the constellations
which are their likenesses.
He fixed the year, he appointed
limits.
He set up for the twelve months
three stars apiece.*

*They bound him [Kingu] in fetters [they brought] him before Ea,
they inflicted punishment on him, they let his blood.
From his blood he [Ea] fashioned mankind for the service
of the gods, and he set the gods free.
After Ea had fashioned man he laid service of the gods upon
him.
That work was past human thought, done by the cunning of
Marduk and the wisdom of Ea.*