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## BABYLONIAN AND ASSYRIAN CREATION MYTH

### I THE BEGINNING OF LIFE

IN THE BEGINNING WAS NOTHING BUT PRIMEVAL  
WATER FORMLESS CHAOS RESISTANT TO ORDER  
IMAGINED UNDER THE FORM OF MONSTERS



THE GOD EA

FROM JAYNE, W.A. *The Handbook of Ancient Egyptology*  
PAG. 102-103

When the heavens above were yet  
unvamed,  
And no dwelling beneath was called  
by a name,  
Apsû, the oldest of beings, their  
progenitor,  
Mummu, Tiamat, who bare each and  
all of them,  
Mingled their waters into a single  
mass.

IN THIS WATERY CHAOS  
WERE BORN  
THE GOD LAKHMU AND  
THE GODDESS LAKHAMU  
ANSHAR AND KISHAR

THE GOD ANSHAR MADE HIS ELDEST SON  
ANU IN HIS OWN IMAGE  
AND THE GOD ANU BEGAT EA THE IMAGE  
OF HIMSELF

NOTE: THE ACCOUNT FOLLOWED HERE IS THAT OF THE SEVEN TABLETS OF CREATION (c. 600 B.C.) IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM,  
SUPPLEMENTED BY FRAGMENTS IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM. THE LEGEND WAS KNOWN AT LEAST AS EARLY AS 1842 B.C.  
QUOTATIONS FROM THE ORIGINAL SOURCES ARE COLLOURED.

## BABYLONIAN AND ASSYRIAN CREATION MYTH

### II THE STRUGGLE OF GOOD AND EVIL

THE GODS WISHED TO ESTABLISH ORDER IN CHAOS  
APSU AND MUMMU PLANNED RESISTANCE THE GOD  
EA MADE MAGIC

*He overcame Mummu and slew Apsû,  
He bound Mummu, and smashed his skull.  
After Ea had displayed his glorious victory  
over his enemies,  
He rested quietly within his dwelling.*

AND BEGAT MARDUK .  
EA EQUIPPED HIM AND ADDED UNTO  
HIM THE DOUBLE FORM OF A GOD SO  
THAT HE WAS EXCEEDINGLY TALL . . . .  
THERE ROSE ON HIGH HIS FIGURE,  
SURPASSING AMONG THE GODS  
MEANWHILE TIAMAT, ENRAGED AT THE  
DEATH OF HER HUSBAND APSU ,  
RESOLVED TO AVENGE HIM  
SHE CREATED A NEW BROOD OF  
MONSTROUS ALLIES



THE GOD MARDUK



DEMON



DEMON



DEMON

*She set up the Viper, and the Snake, and the goddess  
Lakhamu  
The Whirlwind, the Ravening Dog, the Scorpion-man,  
The Storm-wind, the Fish-man, the Horned Beast,  
They carried the Weapon which spared not, nor flinched  
from the battle .  
Most mighty were Tiamat's decrees, they could not be  
resisted,  
Thus she caused Eleven [monsters] of this kind to come  
into being,  
Kingu, she set on high, she made him the great one  
among them*

EA FEARED TO CHALLENGE THE  
MIGHT OF TIAMAT AND HER  
HELPERS  
ANU ALSO FAILED TO SUBDUCE  
HER BY MAGIC

*Anu drew nigh, he searched for the  
weakness of Tiamat,  
He could not prevail against her, he  
turned back.*