

## **From The Babylonian Genesis**

In the beginning the deep lay  
Upon the deep and mist above  
Them: Apsu, Tiamat, Mummu.  
And Apsu begat Anshar and Kishar  
Upon his sister Tiamat; and Anshar  
Upon his sister Kishar begat  
Anu; and Anu begat Ea, his likeness.

Supreme in knowledge, skillful, wise,  
True son and master of his fathers,  
He who understands all things,  
Ea comprehended the evil plan.  
He drew a circle against it. He sang  
Over the waters from which sleep  
Poured down on Apsu and Apsu slept.

Ea loosened Apsu's chinstrap,  
Took Apsu's crown, cut off  
Apsu's authority and wore it  
On himself; then he killed  
Apsu. Mummu he made his own,  
Leading him by a nose ring.

Upon Apsu's corpse Ea,  
True son and master of his fathers,  
Raised the temple called Apsu. There  
Upon his wife Damkina, Ea  
Supreme in knowledge, skillful, wise,  
Begot Marduk, our Father, who split  
Tiamat into earth and sky,  
Disembowelled her lover Kingu,  
Set the moon and stars in motion,  
Numbered the days and made mankind  
To remember the gods.