***The Epic of Gilgamesh***

**Tablet I**

He who has seen everything, I will make known (?) to the lands.  
I will teach (?) about him who experienced all things,  
... alike,  
Anu granted him the totality of knowledge of all.  
He saw the Secret, discovered the Hidden,  
he brought information of (the time) before the Flood.  
He went on a distant journey, pushing himself to exhaustion,  
but then was brought to peace.  
He carved on a stone stela all of his toils,  
and built the wall of Uruk-Haven,  
the wall of the sacred Eanna Temple, the holy sanctuary.  
Look at its wall which gleams like copper(?),  
inspect its inner wall, the likes of which no one can equal!  
Take hold of the threshold stone--it dates from ancient times!  
Go close to the Eanna Temple, the residence of Ishtar,  
such as no later king or man ever equaled!  
Go up on the wall of Uruk and walk around,  
examine its foundation, inspect its brickwork thoroughly.  
Is not (even the core of) the brick structure made of kiln-fired brick,  
and did not the Seven Sages themselves lay out its plans?  
One league city, one league palm gardens, one league lowlands, the open area(?) of the Ishtar Temple,  
three leagues and the open area(?) of Uruk it (the wall) encloses.  
Find the copper tablet box,  
open the ... of its lock of bronze,  
undo the fastening of its secret opening.   
Take and read out from the lapis lazuli tablet  
how Gilgamesh went through every hardship.   
  
Supreme over other kings, lordly in appearance,  
he is the hero, born of Uruk, the goring wild bull.   
He walks out in front, the leader,  
and walks at the rear, trusted by his companions.  
Mighty net, protector of his people,  
raging flood-wave who destroys even walls of stone!  
Offspring of Lugalbanda, Gilgamesh is strong to perfection,  
son of the august cow, Rimat-Ninsun;... Gilgamesh is awesome to perfection.  
It was he who opened the mountain passes,   
who dug wells on the flank of the mountain.   
It was he who crossed the ocean, the vast seas, to the rising sun,   
who explored the world regions, seeking life.  
It was he who reached by his own sheer strength Utanapishtim, the Faraway,   
who restored the sanctuaries (or: cities) that the Flood had destroyed!   
... for teeming mankind.   
Who can compare with him in kingliness?   
Who can say like Gilgamesh: "I am King!"?   
Whose name, from the day of his birth, was called "Gilgamesh"?   
Two-thirds of him is god, one-third of him is human.   
The Great Goddess [Aruru] designed(?) the model for his body,   
she prepared his form ...   
... beautiful, handsomest of men,   
... perfect  
...   
He walks around in the enclosure of Uruk,  
Like a wild bull he makes himself mighty, head raised (over others).   
There is no rival who can raise his weapon against him.  
His fellows stand (at the alert), attentive to his (orders ?),  
and the men of Uruk become anxious in ...  
Gilgamesh does not leave a son to his father,  
day and night he arrogant[y(?) ...  
  
[The following lines are interpreted as rhetorical, perhaps spoken by the oppressed citizens of Uruk.]  
  
Is Gilgamesh the shepherd of Uruk-Haven,  
is he the shepherd. ...  
bold, eminent, knowing, and wise!  
Gilgamesh does not leave a girl to her mother(?)  
The daughter of the warrior, the bride of the young man,  
the gods kept hearing their complaints, so  
the gods of the heavens implored the Lord of Uruk [Anu]  
  
"You have indeed brought into being a mighty wild bull, head raised!  
"There is no rival who can raise a weapon against him.  
"His fellows stand (at the alert), attentive to his (orders !),  
"Gilgamesh does not leave a son to his father,  
"day and night he arrogantly ...  
"Is he the shepherd of Uruk-Haven,  
"is he their shepherd...  
"bold, eminent, knowing, and wise,  
"Gilgamesh does not leave a girl to her mother(?)!"  
The daughter of the warrior, the bride of the young man,  
Anu listened to their complaints,  
and (the gods) called out to Aruru:  
"it was you, Aruru, who created mankind(?),  
now create a zikru to it/him.  
Let him be equal to his (Gilgamesh's) stormy heart,  
let them be a match for each other so that Uruk may find peace!"  
When Aruru heard this she created within herself the zikrtt of Anu.  
Aruru washed her hands, she pinched off some clay, and threw it into the wilderness.  
In the wildness(?) she created valiant Enkidu,  
born of Silence, endowed with strength by Ninurta.  
His whole body was shaggy with hair,  
he had a full head of hair like a woman,  
his locks billowed in profusion like Ashnan.  
He knew neither people nor settled living,  
but wore a garment like Sumukan."  
He ate grasses with the gazelles,  
and jostled at the watering hole with the animals;  
as with animals, his thirst was slaked with (mere) water.  
A notorious trapper came face-to-face with him opposite the watering hole.  
A first, a second, and a third day  
he came face-to-face with him opposite the watering hole.  
On seeing him the trapper's face went stark with fear,  
and he (Enkidu?) and his animals drew back home.  
He was rigid with fear; though stock-still  
his heart pounded and his face drained of color.  
He was miserable to the core,  
and his face looked like one who had made a long journey.  
The trapper addressed his father saying:"  
  
"Father, a certain fellow has come from the mountains.  
He is the mightiest in the land,  
his strength is as mighty as the meteorite(?) of Anu!  
He continually goes over the mountains,  
he continually jostles at the watering place with the animals,  
he continually plants his feet opposite the watering place.  
I was afraid, so I did not go up to him.  
He filled in the pits that I had dug,  
wrenched out my traps that I had spread,  
released from my grasp the wild animals.  
He does not let me make my rounds in the wilderness!"  
The trapper's father spoke to him saying:  
"My son, there lives in Uruk a certain Gilgamesh.  
There is no one stronger than he,  
he is as strong as the meteorite(?) of Anu.  
Go, set off to Uruk,  
tell Gilgamesh of this Man of Might.  
He will give you the harlot Shamhat, take her with you.  
The woman will overcome the fellow (?) as if she were strong.  
When the animals are drinking at the watering place  
have her take off her robe and expose her sex.  
When he sees her he will draw near to her,  
and his animals, who grew up in his wilderness, will be alien to him."  
  
He heeded his father's advice.  
The trapper went off to Uruk,  
he made the journey, stood inside of Uruk,  
and declared to ... Gilgamesh:  
"There is a certain fellow who has come from the mountains--  
he is the mightiest in the land,  
his strength is as mighty as the meteorite(?) of Anu!  
He continually goes over the mountains,  
he continually jostles at the watering place with the animals,  
he continually plants his feet opposite the watering place.  
I was afraid, so I did not go up to him.  
He filled in the pits that I had dug,  
wrenched out my traps that I had spread,  
released from my grasp the wild animals.  
He does not let me make my rounds in the wilderness!"  
Gilgamesh said to the trapper:  
"Go, trapper, bring the harlot, Shamhat, with you.  
When the animals are drinking at the watering place  
have her take off her robe and expose her sex.  
When he sees her he will draw near to her,  
and his animals, who grew up in his wilderness, will be alien to him."  
  
The trapper went, bringing the harlot, Shamhat, with him.  
They set off on the journey, making direct way.  
On the third day they arrived at the appointed place,  
and the trapper and the harlot sat down at their posts(?).  
A first day and a second they sat opposite the watering hole.  
The animals arrived and drank at the watering hole,  
the wild beasts arrived and slaked their thirst with water.  
Then he, Enkidu, offspring of the mountains,  
who eats grasses with the gazelles,  
came to drink at the watering hole with the animals,  
with the wild beasts he slaked his thirst with water.  
Then Shamhat saw him--a primitive,  
a savage fellow from the depths of the wilderness!  
"That is he, Shamhat! Release your clenched arms,  
expose your sex so he can take in your voluptuousness.  
Do not be restrained--take his energy!  
When he sees you he will draw near to you.  
Spread out your robe so he can lie upon you,  
and perform for this primitive the task of womankind!  
His animals, who grew up in his wilderness, will become alien to him,  
and his lust will groan over you."  
Shamhat unclutched her bosom, exposed her sex, and he took in her voluptuousness.  
She was not restrained, but took his energy.  
She spread out her robe and he lay upon her,  
she performed for the primitive the task of womankind.  
His lust groaned over her;  
for six days and seven nights Enkidu stayed aroused,  
and had intercourse with the harlot  
until he was sated with her charms.  
But when he turned his attention to his animals,  
the gazelles saw Enkidu and darted off,  
the wild animals distanced themselves from his body.  
Enkidu ... his utterly depleted(?) body,  
his knees that wanted to go off with his animals went rigid;  
Enkidu was diminished, his running was not as before.  
But then he drew himself up, for his understanding had broadened.  
Turning around, he sat down at the harlot's feet,  
gazing into her face, his ears attentive as the harlot spoke.  
The harlot said to Enkidu:  
"You are beautiful," Enkidu, you are become like a god.  
Why do you gallop around the wilderness with the wild beasts?  
Come, let me bring you into Uruk-Haven,  
to the Holy Temple, the residence of Anu and Ishtar,  
the place of Gilgamesh, who is wise to perfection,  
but who struts his power over the people like a wild bull."  
What she kept saying found favor with him.  
Becoming aware of himself, he sought a friend.  
Enkidu spoke to the harlot:  
"Come, Shamhat, take me away with you  
to the sacred Holy Temple, the residence of Anu and Ishtar,  
the place of Gilgamesh, who is wise to perfection,  
but who struts his power over the people like a wild bull.  
I will challenge him ...  
Let me shout out in Uruk: I am the mighty one!'  
Lead me in and I will change the order of things;  
he whose strength is mightiest is the one born in the wilderness!"  
[Shamhat to Enkidu:]  
"Come, let us go, so he may see your face.  
I will lead you to Gilgamesh--I know where he will be.  
Look about, Enkidu, inside Uruk-Haven,  
where the people show off in skirted finery,  
where every day is a day for some festival,  
where the lyre(?) and drum play continually,  
where harlots stand about prettily,  
exuding voluptuousness, full of laughter  
and on the couch of night the sheets are spread (!)."  
Enkidu, you who do not know, how to live,  
I will show you Gilgamesh, a man of extreme feelings (!).  
Look at him, gaze at his face--  
he is a handsome youth, with freshness(!),  
his entire body exudes voluptuousness  
He has mightier strength than you,  
without sleeping day or night!  
Enkidu, it is your wrong thoughts you must change!  
It is Gilgamesh whom Shamhat loves,  
and Anu, Enlil, and La have enlarged his mind."  
Even before you came from the mountain  
Gilgamesh in Uruk had dreams about you.""  
  
Gilgamesh got up and revealed the dream, saying to his mother:  
"Mother, I had a dream last night.  
Stars of the sky appeared,  
and some kind of meteorite(?) of Anu fell next to me.  
I tried to lift it but it was too mighty for me,  
I tried to turn it over but I could not budge it.  
The Land of Uruk was standing around it,  
the whole land had assembled about it,  
the populace was thronging around it,  
the Men clustered about it,  
and kissed its feet as if it were a little baby (!).  
I loved it and embraced it as a wife.  
I laid it down at your feet,  
and you made it compete with me."  
The mother of Gilgamesh, the wise, all-knowing, said to her Lord;  
Rimat-Ninsun, the wise, all-knowing, said to Gilgamesh:  
"As for the stars of the sky that appeared  
and the meteorite(?) of Anu which fell next to you,  
you tried to lift but it was too mighty for you,  
you tried to turn it over but were unable to budge it,  
you laid it down at my feet,  
and I made it compete with you,  
and you loved and embraced it as a wife."  
"There will come to you a mighty man, a comrade who saves his friend--  
he is the mightiest in the land, he is strongest,  
his strength is mighty as the meteorite(!) of Anu!  
You loved him and embraced him as a wife;  
and it is he who will repeatedly save you.  
Your dream is good and propitious!"  
A second time Gilgamesh said to his mother: "Mother, I have had another dream:  
"At the gate of my marital chamber there lay an axe,  
"and people had collected about it.  
"The Land of Uruk was standing around it,  
"the whole land had assembled about it,  
"the populace was thronging around it.  
"I laid it down at your feet,  
"I loved it and embraced it as a wife,  
"and you made it compete with me."  
The mother of Gilgamesh, the wise, all-knowing, said to her son;  
Rimat-Ninsun, the wise, all-knowing, said to Gilgamesh:  
""The axe that you saw (is) a man.  
"... (that) you love him and embrace as a wife,  
"but (that) I have compete with you."  
"" There will come to you a mighty man,  
"" a comrade who saves his friend--  
"he is the mightiest in the land, he is strongest,  
"he is as mighty as the meteorite(!) of Anu!"  
Gilgamesh spoke to his mother saying:  
""By the command of Enlil, the Great Counselor, so may it to pass!  
"May I have a friend and adviser, a friend and adviser may I have!  
"You have interpreted for me the dreams about him!"  
After the harlot recounted the dreams of Gilgamesh to Enkidu  
the two of them made love.

## Tablet II

Enkidu sits in front of her.  
  
  
[The next 30 lines are missing; some of the fragmentary lines from 35 on are restored  
from parallels in the Old Babylonian.]  
  
"Why ..."(?)  
His own counsel ...  
At his instruction ...  
Who knows his heart...  
Shamhat pulled off her clothing,  
and clothed him with one piece  
while she clothed herself with a second.  
She took hold of him as the gods do'  
and brought him to the hut of the shepherds.  
The shepherds gathered all around about him,  
they marveled to themselves:  
"How the youth resembles Gilgamesh--  
tall in stature, towering up to the battlements over the wall!  
Surely he was born in the mountains;  
his strength is as mighty as the meteorite(!) of Anu!"  
They placed food in front of him,  
they placed beer in front of him;  
Enkidu knew nothing about eating bread for food,  
and of drinking beer he had not been taught.  
The harlot spoke to Enkidu, saying:  
"Eat the food, Enkidu, it is the way one lives.  
Drink the beer, as is the custom of the land."  
Enkidu ate the food until he was sated,  
he drank the beer-seven jugs!-- and became expansive and sang with joy!  
He was elated and his face glowed.  
He splashed his shaggy body with water,  
and rubbed himself with oil, and turned into a human.  
He put on some clothing and became like a warrior(!).  
He took up his weapon and chased lions so that the shepherds could eat  
He routed the wolves, and chased the lions.  
With Enkidu as their guard, the herders could lie down.  
A wakeful man, a singular youth, he was twice as tall (?) (as normal men  
  
[The next 33 lines are missing in the Standard Version; lines 57-86 are taken from the  
Old Babylonian.]  
  
Then he raised his eyes and saw a man.  
He said to the harlot:  
"Shamhat, have that man go away!  
Why has he come'? I will call out his name!"  
The harlot called out to the man  
and went over to him and spoke with him.  
"Young man, where are you hurrying!  
Why this arduous pace!"  
The young man spoke, saying to Enkidu:  
"They have invited me to a wedding,  
as is the custom of the people.  
... the selection(!) of brides(!) ..   
I have heaped up tasty delights for the wedding on the ceremonial(!) platter.  
For the King of Broad-Marted Uruk,  
open is the veil(!) of the people for choosing (a girl).  
For Gilgamesh, the King of Broad-Marted Uruk,  
open is the veil(?) of the people for choosing.  
He will have intercourse with the 'destined wife,'  
he first, the husband afterward.  
This is ordered by the counsel of Anu,  
from the severing of his umbilical cord it has been destined  
for him."  
At the young man's speech his (Enkidu's) face flushed (with anger).  
[Several lines are missing.]  
Enkidu walked in front, and Shamhat after him.  
[The Standard Version resumes.]  
He (Enkidu) walked down the street of Uruk-Haven,  
... mighty...  
He blocked the way through Uruk the Sheepfold.  
The land of Uruk stood around him,  
the whole land assembled about him,  
the populace was thronging around him,  
the men were clustered about him,  
and kissed his feet as if he were a little baby(!).  
Suddenly a handsome young man ...  
For Ishara the bed of night(?)/marriage(?) is ready,  
for Gilgamesh as for a god a counterpart(!) is set up.  
Enkidu blocked the entry to the marital chamber,  
and would not allow Gilgamreh to be brought in.  
They grappled with each other at the entry to the marital chamber,  
in the street they attacked each other, the public square of the land.  
The doorposts trembled and the wall shook,  
  
[About 42 lines are missing from the Standard Version; lines 103-129 are taken from  
the Old Babylonian version.]  
  
Gilgamesh bent his knees, with his other foot on the ground,  
his anger abated and he turned his chest away.  
After he turned his chest Enkidu said to Gilgamesh:  
"Your mother bore you ever unique(!),  
the Wild Cow of the Enclosure, Ninsun,  
your head is elevated over (other) men,  
Enlil has destined for you the kingship over the people."  
[19 lines are missing here.]  
  
They kissed each other and became friends.  
[The Old Babylonian becomes fragmentary. The Standard Version resumes]  
"His strength is the mightiest in the land!  
His strength is as mighty as the meteorite(?) of Anu,  
The mother of Gilgamesh spoke to Gilgamesh, saying;  
Rimat-Ninsun said to her son:  
"(I!), Rimar-Ninsun...  
My son...  
Plaintively ...  
She went up into his (Shamash's) gateway,  
plaintively she implored ...:  
"Enkidu has no father or mother,  
his shaggy hair no one cuts.  
He was born in the wilderness, no one raised him."  
Enkidu was standing there, and heard the speech.  
He ... and sat down and wept,  
his eyes filled with tears,  
his arms felt limp, his strength weakened.  
They took each other by the hand,  
and.., their hands like ...  
Enkidu made a declaration to (Gilgamesh').  
[32 lines are missing here.]  
"in order to protect the Cedar Forest  
Enlil assigned (Humbaba) as a terror to human beings,  
Humbaba's roar is a Flood, his mouth is Fire, and his breath is Death!  
He can hear 100 leagues away any rustling(?) in his forest!  
Who would go down into his forest!  
Enlil assigned him as a terror to human beings,  
and whoever goes down into his forest paralysis(?) will strike!"  
Gilgamesh spoke to Enkidu saying:  
"What you say .. ."  
[About 42 lines are missing here in the Standard Version; lines 228-249 are taken from  
the Old Babylonian.]  
"Who, my Friend, can ascend to the heavens!"  
(Only) the gods can dwell forever with Shamash.  
As for human beings, their days are numbered,  
and whatever they keep trying to achieve is but wind!  
Now you are afraid of death--  
what has become of your bold strength!  
I will go in front of you,  
and your mouth can call out: 'Go on closer, do not be afraid!'  
Should I fall, I will have established my fame.  
(They will say:)'It was Gilgamesh who locked in battle with Humbaba the Terrible!'  
You were born and raised in the wilderness,  
a lion leaped up on you, so you have experienced it all!'  
[5 lines are fragmentary]  
I will undertake it and I will cut down the Cedar.  
It is I who will establish fame for eternity!  
Come, my friend, I will go over to the forge  
and have them cast the weapons in our presence!"  
Holding each other by the hand they went over to the forge.  
[The Standard Version resumes at this point.]  
The craftsmen sat and discussed with one another.  
"We should fashion the axe...  
The hatchet should he one talent in weight ...  
Their swords should be one talent...  
Their armor one talent, their armor ..."  
Gilgamesh said to the men of Uruk:  
"Listen to me, men...  
[5 lines are missing here.  
You, men of Uruk, who know ...  
I want to make myself more mighty, and will go on a distant(!) journey!  
I will face fighting such as I have never known,  
I will set out on a road I have never traveled!  
Give me your blessings! ...  
I will enter the city gate of Uruk ...  
I will devote(?) myself to the New Year's Festival.  
I will perform the New Year's (ceremonies) in...  
The New Year's Festival will take place, celebrations ...  
They will keep shouting 'Hurrah!' in...""  
Enkidu spoke to the Elders:  
"What the men of Uruk...  
Say to him that he must nor go to the Cedar Forest--  
the journey is not to be made!  
A man who...  
The Guardian of the Cedar Forest ...  
The Noble Counselors of Uruk arose and   
delivered their advice toGilgamesh:  
"You are young, Gilgamesh, your heart carries you off  
you do not know what you are talking about!  
...gave birth to you.  
Humbaba's roar is a Flood,  
his mouth is Fire, his breath Death!  
He can hear any rustling(!) in his forest 100 leagues away!  
Who would go down into his forest!  
Who among (even!) the Igigi gods can confront him?  
In order to keep the Cedar safe, Enlil assigned him as a terror  
to human beings."  
Gilgamesh listened to the statement of his Noble Counselors.  
[About 5 lines are missing to the end of Tablet II.]

## Tablet III

The Elders spoke to Gilgamesh, saying:  
"Gilgamesh, do not put your trust in (just) your vast strength,  
but keep a sharp eye out, make each blow strike in mark!  
'The one who goes on ahead saves the comrade."  
'The one who knows the route protects his friend.'  
Let Enkidu go ahead of you;  
he knows the road to the Cedar Forest,  
he has seen fighting, has experienced battle.  
Enkidu will protect the friend, will keep the comrade safe.  
Let his body urge him back to the wives ())."  
"in our Assembly we have entrusted the King to you (Enkidu),  
and on your return you must entrust the King back to us!"  
Gilgamesh spoke to Enkidu, saying:  
"Come on, my friend, let us go to the Egalmah Temple,  
to Ninsun, the Great Queen;  
Ninsun is wise, all-knowing.  
She will put the advisable path at our feet."  
Taking each other by the hand,  
Gilgamesh and Enkidu walked to the Egalmah ("Great Palace"),  
to Ninsun, the Great Queen.  
Gilgamesh arose and went to her.  
"Ninsun, (even though) I am extraordinarily strong (!)...  
I must now travel a long way to where Humbaba is,  
I must face fighting such as I have not known,  
and I must travel on a road that I do not know!  
Until the time that I go and return,  
until I reach the Cedar Forest,  
until I kill Humbaba the Terrible,  
and eradicate from the land something baneful that Shamash hates,  
intercede with Shamash on my behalf' (!)  
If I kill Humbaba and cut his Cedar  
let there be rejoicing all over the land ,  
and I will erect a monument of the victory (?) before you!"  
The... words of Gilgamesh, her son,  
grieving, Queen Ninsun heard over and over.  
Ninsun went into her living quarters.  
She washed herself with the purity plant,  
she donned a robe worthy of her body,  
she donned jewels worthy of her chest,  
she donned her sash, and put on her crown.  
She sprinkled water from a bowl onto the ground.  
She... and went up to the roof.  
She went up to the roof and set incense in front of Shamash,  
.I she offered fragrant cuttings, and raised her arms to Shamash.  
"Why have you imposed--nay, inflicted!--a restless heart on  
my son, Gilgamesh!  
Now you have touched him so that he wants to travel  
a long way to where Humbaba is!  
He will face fighting such as he has not known,  
and will travel on a road that he does not know!  
Until he goes away and returns,  
until he reaches the Cedar Forest,  
until he kills Humbaba the Terrible,  
and eradicates from the land something baneful that you hate,  
on the day that you see him on the road(?)  
may Aja, the Bride, without fear remind you,  
and command also the Watchmen of the Night,  
the stars, and at night your father, Sin."  
\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
She banked up the incense and uttered the ritual words.'  
She called to Enkidu and would give him instructions:  
"Enkidu the Mighty, you are not of my womb,  
but now I speak to you along with the sacred votaries of Gilgamesh,  
the high priestesses, the holy women, the temple servers."  
She laid a pendant(?) on Enkidu's neck,  
the high-priestesses took...  
and the "daughters-of-the-gods" ...  
"I have taken ... Enkidu...  
Enkidu to... Gilgamesh I have taken."  
"Until he goes and returns,  
until he reaches the Cedar Forest,  
be it a month ...  
be it a year.. ."  
[About 11 lines are missing here, and the placement of the following fragment is uncertain.]  
... the gate of cedar...  
Enkidu ... in the Temple of Shamash,  
(and) Gilgamesh in the Egalmah.  
He made an offering of cuttings ...  
... the sons of the king(!) ...  
[Perhaps some 60 lines are missing here.]  
"Enkidu will protect the friend, will keep the comrade safe,  
Let his body urge him back to the wives (?).  
In our Assembly we have entrusted the King to you,  
and on your return you must entrust the King back to us!"  
Enkidu spoke to Gilgamesh saying:  
"My Friend, turn back!...  
The road..."  
[The last lines are missing.]

## Tablet IV

At twenty leagues they broke for some food,  
at thirty leagues they stopped for the night,  
walking Fifty leagues in a whole day,  
a walk of a month and a half.  
On the third day they drew near to the Lebanon.  
They dug a well facing Shamash (the setting sun),  
Gilgamesh climbed up a mountain peak,  
made a libation of flour, and said:  
"Mountain, bring me a dream, a favorable message from  
Shamash."  
Enkidu prepared a sleeping place for him for the night;  
a violent wind passed through so he attached a covering.  
He made him lie down, and... in a circle.  
they... like grain from the mountain...  
While Gilgamesh rested his chin on his knees,  
sleep that pours over mankind overtook him.  
in the middle of the night his sleep came to an end,  
so he got up and said to his friend:  
"My friend, did you not call out to me? Why did I wake up?  
Did you not touch me? Why am I so disturbed?  
Did a god pass by? Why are my muscles trembling?  
Enkidu, my friend, I have had a dream--  
and the dream I had was deeply disturbing(?)  
in the mountain gorges...  
the mountain fell down on me (us?) ...  
Wet(?)... like flies(?)...  
He who was born in the wilderness,  
  
Enkidu, interpreted the dream for his friend:  
"My friend, your dream is favorable.  
The dream is extremely important.  
My friend, the mountain which you saw in the dream is  
Humbaba.  
"It means we will capture Humbaba, and kill him  
and throw his corpse into the wasteland.  
In the morning there will be a favorable message from Shamash.  
At twenty leagues they broke for some food,  
at thirty leagues they stopped for the night,  
walking fifty leagues in a whole day,  
a walk of a month and a half.  
They dug a well facing Shamash  
Gilgamesh climbed up a mountain peak,  
made a libation of flour, and said,  
"Mountain, bring me a dream, a favorable message from  
Shamash."  
Enkidu prepared a sleeping place for him for the night;  
a violent wind passed through so he attached a covering.  
He made him lie down, and... in a circle.  
They ... like grain from the mountain...  
While Gilgamesh rested his chin on his knees,  
sleep that pours over mankind overtook him.  
,, in the middle of the night his sleep came to an end,  
so he got up and said to his friend:  
My friend, did you not call out to me? Why did I wake up?  
Did you not touch me? Why am I so disturbed?  
Did a god pass by? Why are my muscles trembling?  
Enkidu, my friend, I have had a dream,  
besides my first dream, a second.  
And the dream I had--so striking, so...,so disturbing!' I was grappling with a wild bull of the wilderness,  
with his bellow he split the ground, a cloud of dust...to  
the sky.  
I sank to my knees in front of him.  
He holds... that encircled(?) my arm.  
(My?) tongue(?) hung out(?) ...  
My temples throbbed(?) ...  
He gave me water to drink from his waterskin."  
"My friend, the god to whom we go  
is not the wild bull? He is totally different?  
The wild bull that you saw is Shamash, the protector,  
in difficulties he holds our hand.  
The one who gave you water to drink from his waterskin  
is your personal) god, who brings honor to you, Lugalbanda.  
We should join together and do one thing,  
a deed such as has never (before) been done in the land."  
At twenty leagues they broke for some food,  
at thirty leagues they stopped for the night,  
walking fifty leagues in a whole day,  
a walk of a month and a half.  
They dug a well facing Shamash,  
Gilgamesh climbed up a mountain peak,  
made a libation of flour, and said:  
"Mountain, bring me a dream, a favorable message from  
Shamash."  
Enkidu prepared a sleeping place for him for the night;  
a violent wind passed through so he attached a covering.  
He made him lie down, and... in a circle.  
They... like grain from the mountain...  
While Gilgamesh rested his chin on his knees,  
sleep that pours over mankind overtook him.  
In the middle of the night his sleep came to an end,  
so he got up and said to his friend:  
"My friend, did you nor call out to me? Why did I wake up?  
Did you not touch me? Why am I so disturbed?  
Did a god pass by) Why are my muscles trembling?  
Enkidu, my friend, I have had a third dream,  
and the dream I had was deeply disturbing.  
,, The heavens roared and the earth rumbled;  
(then) it became deathly still, and darkness loomed.  
A bolt of lightning cracked and a fire broke out,  
and where(?) it kept thickening, there rained death.  
Then the white-hot name dimmed, and the fire went out,  
and everything that had been falling around turned to ash.  
Let us go down into the plain so we can talk it over."  
,,, Enkidu heard the dream that he had presented and said to Gilgamesh  
(About 40 lines are missing here.)   
At twenty leagues they broke for some food, at thirty leagues they stopped for the night,  
walking fifty leagues in a whole day,  
a walk of a month and a half.  
They dug a well facing Shamash,  
Gilgamesh climbed up a mountain peak, made a libation of flour, and said:  
"Mountain, bring me a dream, a favorable message from  
Shamash."  
Enkidu prepared a sleeping place for him for the night;  
a violent wind passed through so he attached a covering.  
He made him lie down, and... in a circle.  
They... like grain from the mountain...  
While Gilgamesh rested his chin on his knees,  
sleep that pours over mankind overtook him.  
in the middle of the night his sleep came to an end, so he got up and said to his friend:  
"My friend, did you not call out to me? Why did I wake up?  
Did you nor touch me? Why am I so disturbed?  
Did a god pass by? Why are my muscles trembling)  
Enkidu, my friend, I have had a fourth dream,  
and the dream I had was deeply disturbing (?).  
(About 11 lines are missing)  
"He was... cubits tall...  
... Gilgamesh  
Enkidu listened to his dream  
"The dream that you had is favorable, it is extremely important? My friend, this...  
Humbaba Eke...  
Before it becomes light...  
We will achieve (victory?) over him,  
Humbaba, against whom we rage,  
we will.., and triumph over him.  
In the morning there will be a favorable message from Shamash.  
At twenty leagues they broke for some food, at thirty leagues they stopped for the night,  
walking fifty leagues in a whole day,  
a walk of a month and a half.  
They dug a well facing Shamash,  
Gilgamesh climbed up a mountain peak, made a libation of flour, and said:  
"Mountain, bring me a dream, a favorable message from  
Shamash."  
Enkidu prepared a sleeping place for him for the night;  
a violent wind passed through so he attached a covering.  
He made him lie down, and... in a circle. They... like grain from the mountain ...  
While Gilgamerh rested his chin on his knees,  
sleep that pours over mankind overtook him.  
,, in the middle of the night his sleep came to an end,  
so he got up and said to his friend:  
"My friend, did you not call out to me? Why did I wake up? Did you not touch me? Why am I so disturbed?  
Did a god pass by? Why are my muscles trembling?  
Enkidu, my friend, I had a fifth(?) dream,  
and the dream I had was deeply disturbing (?).  
...His tears were running in the presence of Shamash. 'What you said in Uruk...,  
be mindful of it, stand by me... ?"  
Gilgamesh, the offspring of Uruk-Haven,  
Shamash heard what issued from his mouth,  
and suddenly there resounded a warning sound from the sky.  
"Hurry, stand by him so that he (Humbaba) does nor enter  
the forest,  
and does not go down into the thickets and hide (?)  
He has not put on his seven coats of armor(?)  
he is wearing only one, but has taken off six."  
,,, They(Gilgamesh and Enkidu ')...  
They lunge at each other like raging wild bulls...  
One name he bellowed full of...  
The Guardian of the Forest bellowed ...Humbaha like...  
..."'One alone cannot  
'Strangers ...  
'A slippery path is not feared by two people who help each  
other.'  
'Twice three times...  
'A three-ply rope cannot be cut.'  
'The mighty lioness cubs can roll him over."'  
Enkidu spoke to Gilgamesh, saying:  
"As soon as we have gone down into the Cedar Forest,  
let us split open the tree (?) and strip off its branches(?)."  
Gilgamesh spoke to Enkidu, saying:  
"Why, my friend, we...so wretchedly (?)  
We have crossed over all the mountarns together,  
in front of us, before we have cut down the Cedar.  
My friend, you who are so experienced in battle,  
who... fighting,  
you...' and (need) not fear death.  
Let your voice bellow forth like the kettledrum, let the stiffness in your arms depart,  
let the paralysis in your legs go away.  
Take my hand, my friend, we will go on together.  
Your heart should burn to do battle  
--pay no heed to death, do not lose heart!  
The one who watches from the side is a careful man,  
but the one who walks in front protects himself and saves his  
comrade,  
and through their fighting they establish fame'"  
As the two of them reached the evergreen forest  
they cut off their talk, and stood still.

## Tablet V

... They stood at the forest's edge,  
gazing at the top of the Cedar Tree,  
gazing at the entrance to the forest.  
Where Humbaba would walk there was a trail,  
the roads led straight on, the path was excellent.  
Then they saw the Cedar Mountain, the Dwelling of the Gods, the  
throne dais of Imini.  
Across the face of the mountain the Cedar brought forth luxurious  
foliage,  
its shade was good, extremely pleasant.  
The thornbushes were matted together, the woods(?) were a thicket  
... among the Cedars,... the boxwood,  
the forest was surrounded by a ravine two leagues long,  
... and again for two-thirds (of that distance),  
...Suddenly the swords...,  
and after the sheaths ...,  
the axes were smeared...  
dagger and sword...  
alone ...  
Humbaba spoke to Gilgamesh saying:"He does not come (?) ...  
...  
Enlil.. ."  
Enkidu spoke to Humbaba, saying:  
"Humbaba...'One alone..  
'Strangers ...  
'A slippery path is not feared by two people who help each other.  
'Twice three times...  
'A three-ply rope cannot be cut.  
'The mighty lion--two cubs can roll him over."'  
...  
Humbaba spoke to Gilgamesh, saying:  
..An idiot' and a moron should give advice to each other,  
but you, Gilgamesh, why have you come to me!  
Give advice, Enkidu, you 'son of a fish,' who does not even  
know his own father,  
to the large and small turtles which do not suck their mother's milk!  
When you were still young I saw you but did not go over to you;  
... you,... in my belly.  
...,you have brought Gilgamesh into my presence,  
... you stand.., an enemy, a stranger.  
... Gilgamesh, throat and neck,  
I would feed your flesh to the screeching vulture, the eagle, and  
the vulture!"  
Gilgamerh spoke to Enkidu, saying: "My Friend, Humbaba's face keeps changing!·  
Enkidu spoke to Gilgamesh, saying:'  
"Why, my friend, are you whining so pitiably, hiding behind your whimpering?  
Now there, my friend,...  
in the coppersmith's channel ...,  
again to blow (the bellows) for an hour, the glowing (metal)(?)  
...for an hour.  
To send the Flood, to crack the Whip."  
Do not snatch your feet away, do not turn your back,  
... strike even harder!"  
... may they be expelled.... head fell ... and it/he confronted him...  
The ground split open with the heels of their feet,  
as they whirled around in circles Mt. Hermon and Lebanon split.  
The white clouds darkened,  
death rained down on them like fog.  
Shamash raised up against Humbaba mighty tempests'--  
Southwind, Northwind, Eastwind, Westwind, Whistling Wind, Piercing Wind, Blizzard, Bad Wind, Wind of Simurru,  
Demon Wind, Ice Wind, Storm, Sandstorm--  
thirteen winds rose up against him and covered Humbaba's face.  
He could nor butt through the front, and could not scramble out  
the back,  
so that Gilgamesh'a weapons were in reach of Humbaba.  
Humbaba begged for his life, saying to Gilgamesh:  
"You are young yet, Gilgamesh, your mother gave birth to you,  
and you are the offspring of Rimnt-Nlnsun (?) ...  
(It was) at the word of Shamash, Lord of the Mountain,  
that you were roused (to this expedition).  
O scion of the heart of Uruk, King Gilgamesh!  
... Gilgamesh...  
Gilgamesh, let me go (?), I will dwell with you as your servant (?)  
As many trees as you command me I will cut down for you,  
I will guard for you myrtle wood...,  
wood fine enough for your palace!"  
Enkidu addressed Gilgamesh, saying:  
"My friend, do not listen to Humbaba,  
[io lines are misring Apparently Humbaba sees thar Gilgamrsh is influenced by Enkidu, and moves to dissuade Enkidu.]  
"You understand the rules of my forest, the rules...,  
further, you are aware of all the things so ordered (by Enlil)."  
I should have carried you up, and killed you   
at the very entrance to the branches of my forest.  
I should have fed your flesh to the screeching vulture, the eagle,  
and the vulture.  
So now, Enkidu, clemency is up to you.  
Speak to Gilgamesh to spare my life!"  
Enkidu addressed Gilgamesh, saying:  
My friend, Humbaba, Guardian of the Cedar Forest,  
grind up, kill, pulverize(?), and destroy him!  
Humbaba, Guardian of the Forest, grind up, kill, pulverize(?),  
and destroy him!  
Before the Preeminent God Enlil hears...  
and the ...gods be filled with rage against us.  
Enlil is in Nippur, Shamash is in Sippar.  
Erect an eternal monument proclaiming...  
how Gilgamesh killed(?) Humbaba."  
When Humbaba heard...  
[Abour l0 linrs are misiing.]  
... the forest.  
and denunciations(?) have been made.  
But you are sitting there like a shepherd...  
and like a 'hireling of his mouth.'  
Now, Enkidu, clemency is up to you.  
Speak to Gilgamesh that he spare my life!"  
Enkidu spoke to Gilgamesh, saying:  
"My friend, Humbaba, Guardian of the Forest,  
grind up, kill, pulverize(?), and destroy him!  
Before the Preeminent God Enlil hears,  
and the ... gods are full of rage at us.  
Enlil is in Nippur, Shamash is in Sippar.  
Erect an eternal monument proclaiming...  
how Gilgamesh killed(?) Humbaba."  
Humbaba heard ...  
[About 10 lines are missing.]  
"May he not live the longer of the two,  
may Enkidu not have any 'share'(?) more than his friend  
Gilgamesh!"  
Enkidu spoke to Gilgamesh, saying:  
"My friend, 1 have been talking to you but you have not been  
listening to me,"  
You have been listening to the curse of Humbaba!"  
... his friend  
... by his side  
.. they pulled out his insides including his tongue.  
... he jumped(?).  
...abundance fell over the mountain,  
...abundance fell over the mountain.  
They cut through the Cedar,  
While Gilgamesh cuts down the trees, Enkidu searches through  
the urmazallu.  
Enkidu addressed Gilgamesh, saying:  
"My friend, we have cut down the towering Cedar whose top  
scrapes the sky.  
Make from it a door 72 cubits high, 24 cubits wide,  
one cubit thick, its fixture, its lower and upper pivots will be out of one piece.  
Let them carry it to Nippur, the Euphrates will carry it down, Nippur will rejoice.  
..."  
They tied together a raft...  
Enkidu steered it...  
while Gilgamesh held the head of Humbaba.

## Tablet VI

He washed out his marred hair and cleaned up his equipment(?),   
shaking out his locks down over his back,  
throwing off his dirty clothes and putting on clean ones.  
He wrapped himself in regal garments and fastened the sash.  
When Gilgamesh placed his crown on his head,  
a princess Ishtar raised her eyes to the beauty of Gilgamesh.  
"Come along, Gilgamesh, be you my husband,  
to me grant your lusciousness.'  
Be you my husband, and I will be your wife.  
I will have harnessed for you a chariot of lapis lazuli and gold,  
with wheels of gold and 'horns' of electrum(?).  
It will he harnessed with great storming mountain mules!  
Come into our house, with the fragrance of cedar.  
And when you come into our house the doorpost(?) and throne dais(?)'will kiss your feet.  
Bowed down beneath you will be kings, lords, and princes.  
The Lullubu people' will bring you the produce of the mountains and countryside as tribute.  
Your she-goats will bear triplets, your ewes twins,  
your donkey under burden will overtake the mule,  
your steed at the chariot will be bristling to gallop,  
your ax at the yoke will have no match."  
Gilgamesh addressed Princess Ishtar saying:  
"What would I have to give you if I married you!  
Do you need oil or garments for your body! Do you lack anything for food or drink!  
I would gladly feed you food fit for a god,  
I would gladly give you wine fit for a king,  
... may the street(?) be your home(?), may you be clothed in a garment,  
and may any lusting man (?) marry you!  
...an oven who... ice,  
a half-door that keeps out neither breeze nor blast,  
a palace that crushes down valiant warriors,  
an elephant who devours its own covering,  
pitch that blackens the hands of its bearer,  
a waterskin that soaks its bearer through,  
limestone that buckles out the stone wall,  
a battering ram that attracts the enemy land,  
a shoe that bites its owner's feet!  
Where are your bridegrooms that you keep forever'  
Where is your 'Little Shepherd' bird that went up over you!  
See here now, I will recite the list of your lovers.  
Of the shoulder (?) ... his hand,  
Tammuz, the lover of your earliest youth,  
for him you have ordained lamentations year upon year!  
You loved the colorful 'Little Shepherd' bird  
and then hit him, breaking his wing, so  
now he stands in the forest crying 'My Wing'!  
You loved the supremely mighty lion,  
yet you dug for him seven and again seven pits.  
You loved the stallion, famed in battle,  
yet you ordained for him the whip, the goad, and the lash,  
ordained for him to gallop for seven and seven hours,  
ordained for him drinking from muddled waters,'  
you ordained far his mother Silili to wail continually.  
You loved the Shepherd, the Master Herder,  
who continually presented you with bread baked in embers,  
and who daily slaughtered for you a kid.  
Yet you struck him, and turned him into a wolf,  
so his own shepherds now chase him  
and his own dogs snap at his shins.  
You loved Ishullanu, your father's date gardener,  
who continually brought you baskets of dates,  
and brightened your table daily.  
You raised your eyes to him, and you went to him:  
'Oh my Ishullanu, let us taste of your strength,  
stretch out your hand to me, and touch our vulva.  
Ishullanu said to you:  
'Me! What is it you want from me!  
Has my mother not baked, and have I not eaten  
that I should now eat food under contempt and curses  
and that alfalfa grass should be my only cover against  
the cold?  
As you listened to these his words  
you struck him, turning him into a dwarf(?),  
and made him live in the middle of his (garden of) labors,  
where the mihhu do not go up, nor the bucket of dates (?) down.  
And now me! It is me you love, and you will ordain for me as  
for them!"  
When Ishtar heard this, in a fury she went up to the heavens,  
going to Anu, her father, and crying,  
going to Anrum, her mother, and weeping:  
"Father, Gilgamesh has insulted me over and over,  
Gilgamesh has recounted despicable deeds about me,  
despicable deeds and curses!"  
Anu addressed Princess Ishtar, saying: "What is the matter?  
Was it not you who provoked King Gilgamesh?  
So Gilgamesh recounted despicable deeds about you,  
despicable deeds and curses!"  
Ishtar spoke to her father, Anu, saying:  
"Father, give me the Bull of Heaven,  
so he can kill Gilgamesh in his dwelling.  
If you do not give me the Bull of Heaven,  
I will knock down the Gates of the Netherworld,  
I will smash the door posts, and leave the doors flat down,  
and will let the dead go up to eat the living!  
And the dead will outnumber the living!"  
Anu addressed princess Ishtar, saying:  
"If you demand the Bull of Heaven from me,  
there will be seven years of empty husks for the land of Uruk.  
Have you collected grain for the people!  
Have you made grasses grow for the animals?"  
Ishtar addressed Anu, her father, saying:  
"I have heaped grain in the granaries for the people,  
I made grasses grow for the animals,  
in order that they might eat in the seven years of empty husks.  
I have collected grain for the people,  
I have made grasses grow for the animals."  
When Anu heard her words, he placed the noserope of the Bull of Heaven in her hand.  
Ishtar led the Bull of Heaven down to the earth.  
When it reached Uruk It climbed down to the Euphrates...  
At the snort of the Bull of Heaven a huge pit opened up,  
and 100 Young Men of Uruk fell in.  
At his second snort a huge pit opened up,  
and 200 Young Men of Uruk fell in.  
At his third snort a huge pit opened up,  
and Enkidu fell in up to his waist.  
Then Enkidu jumped out and seized the Bull of Heaven by its horns.  
the Bull spewed his spittle in front of him,  
with his thick tail he flung his dung behind him (?).  
Enkidu addressed Gilgamesh, saying:  
"My friend, we can be bold(?) ...  
How shall we respond...  
My friend, I saw...  
And my strength...  
I will rip out...  
I and you, we must share (?)  
I shall grasp the Bull  
I will fill my hands (?) ..  
In front...  
...  
between the nape, the horns, and... thrust your sword."  
Enkidu stalked and hunted down the Bull of Heaven.  
He grasped it by the thick of its tail  
and held onto it with both his hands (?),  
while Gilgamesh, like an expert butcher,  
boldly and surely approached the Bull of Heaven.  
Between the nape, the horns, and... he thrust his sword.  
After they had killed the Bull of Heaven,  
they ripped out its heart and presented it to Shamash.  
They withdrew bowing down humbly to Shamash.  
Then the brothers sat down together.  
Ishtar went up onto the top of the Wall of Uruk-Haven,  
cast herself into the pose of mourning, and hurled her woeful curse:  
"Woe unto Gilgamesh who slandered me and killed the Bull of  
Heaven!"  
When Enkidu heard this pronouncement of Ishtar,  
he wrenched off the Bull's hindquarter and flung it in her face:  
"If I could only get at you I would do the same to you!  
I would drape his innards over your arms!"  
Ishtar assembled the (cultic women) of lovely-locks, joy-girls, and harlots,  
and set them to mourning over the hindquarter of the Bull.  
Gilgamesh summoned all the artisans and craftsmen.  
(All) the artisans admired the thickness of its horns,  
each fashioned from 30 minas of lapis lazuli!  
Two fingers thick is their casing(?).  
Six vats of oil the contents of the two  
he gave as ointment to his (personal) god Lugalbanda.  
He brought the horns in and hung them in the bedroom of the family  
head (Lugalbanda?).  
They washed their hands in the Euphrates,  
and proceeded hand in hand,  
striding through the streets of Uruk.  
The men of Uruk gathered together, staring at them.  
Gilgamesh said to the palace retainers:  
"Who is the bravest of the men)  
Who is the boldest of the males!  
Gilgamesh is the bravest of the men,  
the boldest of the males!  
She at whom we flung the hindquarter of the Bull of Heaven in  
anger,  
Ishtar has no one that pleases her... in the street (?)  
Gilgamesh held a celebration in his palace.  
The Young Men dozed off, sleeping on the couches of the night.  
Enkidu was sleeping, and had a dream.  
He woke up and revealed his dream to his friend.

## Tablet XI The Story of the flood

Gilgamesh spoke to Utanapishtim, the Faraway:  
"I have been looking at you,  
but your appearance is not strange--you are like me!  
You yourself are not different--you are like me!  
My mind was resolved to fight with you,  
(but instead?) my arm lies useless over you.  
Tell me, how is it that you stand in the Assembly of the Gods,  
and have found life!"  
Utanapishtim spoke to Gilgamesh, saying:  
"I will reveal to you, Gilgamesh, a thing that is hidden,  
a secret of the gods I will tell you!  
Shuruppak, a city that you surely know,  
situated on the banks of the Euphrates,  
that city was very old, and there were gods inside it.  
The hearts of the Great Gods moved them to inflict the Flood.  
Their Father Anu uttered the oath (of secrecy),  
Valiant Enlil was their Adviser,  
Ninurta was their Chamberlain,  
Ennugi was their Minister of Canals.  
Ea, the Clever Prince(?), was under oath with them  
so he repeated their talk to the reed house:  
'Reed house, reed house! Wall, wall!  
O man of Shuruppak, son of Ubartutu:  
Tear down the house and build a boat!  
Abandon wealth and seek living beings!  
Spurn possessions and keep alive living beings!  
Make all living beings go up into the boat.  
The boat which you are to build,  
its dimensions must measure equal to each other:  
its length must correspond to its width.  
Roof it over like the Apsu.  
I understood and spoke to my lord, Ea:  
'My lord, thus is the command which you have uttered  
I will heed and will do it.  
But what shall I answer the city, the populace, and the  
Elders!'  
Ea spoke, commanding me, his servant:  
'You, well then, this is what you must say to them:  
"It appears that Enlil is rejecting me  
so I cannot reside in your city (?),  
nor set foot on Enlil's earth.  
I will go down to the Apsu to live with my lord, Ea,  
and upon you he will rain down abundance,  
a profusion of fowl, myriad(!) fishes.  
He will bring to you a harvest of wealth,  
in the morning he will let loaves of bread shower down,  
and in the evening a rain of wheat!"'  
Just as dawn began to glow  
the land assembled around me-  
the carpenter carried his hatchet,  
the reed worker carried his (flattening) stone,  
... the men ...  
The child carried the pitch,  
the weak brought whatever else was needed.  
On the fifth day I laid out her exterior.  
It was a field in area,  
its walls were each 10 times 12 cubits in height,  
the sides of its top were of equal length, 10 times It cubits each.  
I laid out its (interior) structure and drew a picture of it (?).  
I provided it with six decks,  
thus dividing it into seven (levels).  
The inside of it I divided into nine (compartments).  
I drove plugs (to keep out) water in its middle part.  
I saw to the punting poles and laid in what was necessary.  
Three times 3,600 (units) of raw bitumen I poured into the  
bitumen kiln,  
three times 3,600 (units of) pitch ...into it,  
there were three times 3,600 porters of casks who carried (vege-  
table) oil,  
apart from the 3,600 (units of) oil which they consumed (!)  
and two times 3,600 (units of) oil which the boatman stored  
away.  
I butchered oxen for the meat(!),  
and day upon day I slaughtered sheep.  
I gave the workmen(?) ale, beer, oil, and wine, as if it were  
river water,  
so they could make a party like the New Year's Festival.  
... and I set my hand to the oiling(!).  
The boat was finished by sunset.  
The launching was very difficult.  
They had to keep carrying a runway of poles front to back,  
until two-thirds of it had gone into the water(?).  
Whatever I had I loaded on it:  
whatever silver I had I loaded on it,  
whatever gold I had I loaded on it.  
All the living beings that I had I loaded on it,  
I had all my kith and kin go up into the boat,  
all the beasts and animals of the field and the craftsmen I  
had go up.  
Shamash had set a stated time:  
'In the morning I will let loaves of bread shower down,  
and in the evening a rain of wheat!  
Go inside the boat, seal the entry!'  
That stated time had arrived.  
In the morning he let loaves of bread shower down,  
and in the evening a rain of wheat.  
I watched the appearance of the weather--  
the weather was frightful to behold!  
I went into the boat and sealed the entry.  
For the caulking of the boat, to Puzuramurri, the boatman,  
I gave the palace together with its contents.  
Just as dawn began to glow  
there arose from the horizon a black cloud.  
Adad rumbled inside of it,  
before him went Shullat and Hanish,  
heralds going over mountain and land.  
Erragal pulled out the mooring poles,  
forth went Ninurta and made the dikes overflow.  
The Anunnaki lifted up the torches,  
setting the land ablaze with their flare.  
Stunned shock over Adad's deeds overtook the heavens,  
and turned to blackness all that had been light.  
The... land shattered like a... pot.  
All day long the South Wind blew ...,  
blowing fast, submerging the mountain in water,  
overwhelming the people like an attack.  
No one could see his fellow,  
they could not recognize each other in the torrent.  
The gods were frightened by the Flood,  
and retreated, ascending to the heaven of Anu.  
The gods were cowering like dogs, crouching by the outer wall.  
Ishtar shrieked like a woman in childbirth,  
the sweet-voiced Mistress of the Gods wailed:  
'The olden days have alas turned to clay,  
because I said evil things in the Assembly of the Gods!  
How could I say evil things in the Assembly of the Gods,  
ordering a catastrophe to destroy my people!!  
No sooner have I given birth to my dear people  
than they fill the sea like so many fish!'  
The gods--those of the Anunnaki--were weeping with her,  
the gods humbly sat weeping, sobbing with grief(?),  
their lips burning, parched with thirst.  
Six days and seven nights  
came the wind and flood, the storm flattening the land.  
When the seventh day arrived, the storm was pounding,  
the flood was a war--struggling with itself like a woman  
writhing (in labor).  
The sea calmed, fell still, the whirlwind (and) flood stopped up.  
I looked around all day long--quiet had set in  
and all the human beings had turned to clay!  
The terrain was as flat as a roof.  
I opened a vent and fresh air (daylight!) fell upon the side of  
my nose.  
I fell to my knees and sat weeping,  
tears streaming down the side of my nose.  
I looked around for coastlines in the expanse of the sea,  
and at twelve leagues there emerged a region (of land).  
On Mt. Nimush the boat lodged firm,  
Mt. Nimush held the boat, allowing no sway.  
One day and a second Mt. Nimush held the boat, allowing  
no sway.  
A third day, a fourth, Mt. Nimush held the boat, allowing  
no sway.  
A fifth day, a sixth, Mt. Nimush held the boat, allowing  
no sway.  
When a seventh day arrived  
I sent forth a dove and released it.  
The dove went off, but came back to me;  
no perch was visible so it circled back to me.  
I sent forth a swallow and released it.  
The swallow went off, but came back to me;  
no perch was visible so it circled back to me.  
I sent forth a raven and released it.  
The raven went off, and saw the waters slither back.  
It eats, it scratches, it bobs, but does not circle back to me.  
Then I sent out everything in all directions and sacrificed  
(a sheep).  
I offered incense in front of the mountain-ziggurat.  
Seven and seven cult vessels I put in place,  
and (into the fire) underneath (or: into their bowls) I poured  
reeds, cedar, and myrtle.  
The gods smelled the savor,  
the gods smelled the sweet savor,  
and collected like flies over a (sheep) sacrifice.  
Just then Beletili arrived.  
She lifted up the large flies (beads) which Anu had made for  
his enjoyment(!):  
'You gods, as surely as I shall not forget this lapis lazuli  
around my neck,  
may I be mindful of these days, and never forget them!  
The gods may come to the incense offering,  
but Enlil may not come to the incense offering,  
because without considering he brought about the Flood  
and consigned my people to annihilation.'  
Just then Enlil arrived.  
He saw the boat and became furious,  
he was filled with rage at the Igigi gods:  
'Where did a living being escape?  
No man was to survive the annihilation!'  
Ninurta spoke to Valiant Enlil, saying:  
'Who else but Ea could devise such a thing?  
It is Ea who knows every machination!'  
La spoke to Valiant Enlil, saying:  
'It is yours, O Valiant One, who is the Sage of the Gods.  
How, how could you bring about a Flood without consideration  
Charge the violation to the violator,  
charge the offense to the offender,  
but be compassionate lest (mankind) be cut off,  
be patient lest they be killed.  
Instead of your bringing on the Flood,  
would that a lion had appeared to diminish the people!  
Instead of your bringing on the Flood,  
would that a wolf had appeared to diminish the people!  
Instead of your bringing on the Flood,  
would that famine had occurred to slay the land!  
Instead of your bringing on the Flood,  
would that (Pestilent) Erra had appeared to ravage the land!  
It was not I who revealed the secret of the Great Gods,  
I (only) made a dream appear to Atrahasis, and (thus) he  
heard the secret of the gods.  
Now then! The deliberation should be about him!'  
Enlil went up inside the boat  
and, grasping my hand, made me go up.  
He had my wife go up and kneel by my side.  
He touched our forehead and, standing between us, he  
blessed us:  
'Previously Utanapishtim was a human being.  
But now let Utanapishtim and his wife become like us,  
the gods!  
Let Utanapishtim reside far away, at the Mouth of the Rivers.'  
They took us far away and settled us at the Mouth of the Rivers."  
"Now then, who will convene the gods on your behalf,  
that you may find the life that you are seeking!  
Wait! You must not lie down for six days and seven nights."  
soon as he sat down (with his head) between his legs  
sleep, like a fog, blew upon him.  
Utanapishtim said to his wife:  
"Look there! The man, the youth who wanted (eternal) life!  
Sleep, like a fog, blew over him."  
his wife said to Utanapishtim the Faraway:  
"Touch him, let the man awaken.  
Let him return safely by the way he came.  
Let him return to his land by the gate through which he left."  
Utanapishtim said to his wife:  
"Mankind is deceptive, and will deceive you.  
Come, bake loaves for him and keep setting them by his head  
and draw on the wall each day that he lay down."  
She baked his loaves and placed them by his head  
and marked on the wall the day that he lay down.  
The first loaf was dessicated,  
the second stale, the third moist(?), the fourth turned white,  
its ...,  
the fifth sprouted gray (mold), the sixth is still fresh.  
the seventh--suddenly he touched him and the man awoke.  
Gilgamesh said to Utanapishtim:  
"The very moment sleep was pouring over me  
you touched me and alerted me!"  
Utanapishtim spoke to Gilgamesh, saying:  
"Look over here, Gilgamesh, count your loaves!  
You should be aware of what is marked on the wall!  
Your first loaf is dessicated,  
the second stale, the third moist, your fourth turned white,  
its ...  
the fifth sprouted gray (mold), the sixth is still fresh.  
The seventh--suddenly he touched him and the man awoke.  
Gilgamesh said to Utanapishtim:  
"The very moment sleep was pouring over me  
you touched me and alerted me!"  
Utanapishtim spoke to Gilgamesh, saying:  
"Look over here, Gilgamesh, count your loaves!  
You should be aware of what is marked on the wall!  
Your first loaf is dessicated,  
the second stale, the third moist, your fourth turned white,  
its ...  
the fifth sprouted gray (mold), the sixth is still fresh.  
The seventh--at that instant you awoke!"  
Gilgamesh said to Utanapishtim the Faraway:  
"O woe! What shall I do, Utanapishtim, where shall I go!  
The Snatcher has taken hold of my flesh,  
in my bedroom Death dwells,  
and wherever I set foot there too is Death!"  
Home Empty-Handed  
Utanapishtim said to Urshanabi, the ferryman:  
"May the harbor reject you, may the ferry landing reject you!  
May you who used to walk its shores be denied its shores!  
The man in front of whom you walk, matted hair chains  
his body,  
animal skins have ruined his beautiful skin.  
Take him away, Urshanabi, bring him to the washing place.  
Let him wash his matted hair in water like ellu.  
Let him cast away his animal skin and have the sea carry it off,  
let his body be moistened with fine oil,  
let the wrap around his head be made new,  
let him wear royal robes worthy of him!  
Until he goes off to his city,  
until he sets off on his way,  
let his royal robe not become spotted, let it be perfectly new!"  
Urshanabi took him away and brought him to the washing place.  
He washed his matted hair with water like ellu.  
He cast off his animal skin and the sea carried it oh.  
He moistened his body with fine oil,  
and made a new wrap for his head.  
He put on a royal robe worthy of him.  
Until he went away to his city,  
until he set off on his way,  
his royal robe remained unspotted, it was perfectly clean.  
Gilgamesh and Urshanabi bearded the boat,  
they cast off the magillu-boat, and sailed away.  
The wife of Utanapishtim the Faraway said to him:  
"Gilgamesh came here exhausted and worn out.  
What can you give him so that he can return to his land (with  
honor) !"  
Then Gilgamesh raised a punting pole  
and drew the boat to shore.  
Utanapishtim spoke to Gilgamesh, saying:  
"Gilgamesh, you came here exhausted and worn out.  
What can I give you so you can return to your land?  
I will disclose to you a thing that is hidden, Gilgamesh,  
a... I will tell you.  
There is a plant... like a boxthorn,  
whose thorns will prick your hand like a rose.  
If your hands reach that plant you will become a young  
man again."  
Hearing this, Gilgamesh opened a conduit(!) (to the Apsu)  
and attached heavy stones to his feet.  
They dragged him down, to the Apsu they pulled him.  
He took the plant, though it pricked his hand,  
and cut the heavy stones from his feet,  
letting the waves(?) throw him onto its shores.  
Gilgamesh spoke to Urshanabi, the ferryman, saying:  
"Urshanabi, this plant is a plant against decay(!)  
by which a man can attain his survival(!).  
I will bring it to Uruk-Haven,  
and have an old man eat the plant to test it.  
The plant's name is 'The Old Man Becomes a Young Man.'"  
Then I will eat it and return to the condition of my youth."  
At twenty leagues they broke for some food,  
at thirty leagues they stopped for the night.  
Seeing a spring and how cool its waters were,  
Gilgamesh went down and was bathing in the water.  
A snake smelled the fragrance of the plant,  
silently came up and carried off the plant.  
While going back it sloughed off its casing.'  
At that point Gilgamesh sat down, weeping,  
his tears streaming over the side of his nose.  
"Counsel me, O ferryman Urshanabi!  
For whom have my arms labored, Urshanabi!  
For whom has my heart's blood roiled!  
I have not secured any good deed for myself,  
but done a good deed for the 'lion of the ground'!"  
Now the high waters are coursing twenty leagues distant,'  
as I was opening the conduit(?) I turned my equipment over  
into it (!).  
What can I find (to serve) as a marker(?) for me!  
I will turn back (from the journey by sea) and leave the boat by  
the shore!"  
At twenty leagues they broke for some food,  
at thirty leagues they stopped for the night.  
They arrived in Uruk-Haven.  
Gilgamesh said to Urshanabi, the ferryman:  
"Go up, Urshanabi, onto the wall of Uruk and walk around.  
Examine its foundation, inspect its brickwork thoroughly--  
is not (even the core of) the brick structure of kiln-fired brick,  
and did not the Seven Sages themselves lay out its plan!  
One league city, one league palm gardens, one league lowlands, the open area(?) of the Ishtar Temple,  
three leagues and the open area(?) of Uruk it encloses.