

Enuma Elish Tablet II

1. After Tiamat had made str[ong] preparations,
2. She made ready to join battle with the gods her offspring.
3. [To avenge] Apsu, Tiamat did (this) evil.
4. How she got ready for the attack was revealed to Ea.
5. When Ea heard of this matter,
6. He became benumbed with f[lea]r and sat in silent gloom.
7. Af[ter he had] reflected on (the matter) and his wrath had subsided,
8. He went to Anshar, his (grand)father.
9. And when he had [co]me into the presence of Anshar, his grandfather,
10. He communicated to him all that Tiamat had planned.
11. "My father, Tiamat, our bearer, hates us.
12. She held a meeting and raged furiously.
13. All the gods went over to her;
14. Even those whom ye have created march at her side.
15. They separated themselves(?) and went over to the side of Tiamat;
16. They were angry, they plotted, not resting day or night;
17. They took up the fight, fuming and raging;
18. They held a meeting and planned the conflict.
19. Mother Hubur, who fashions all things,
20. Added (thereto) irresistible weapons, bearing monster serpents
21. Sharp of tooth and not sparing the fang(?).
22. With poison instead of blood she filled their bodies.
23. Ferocious dragons she clothed with terror,
24. She crowned them with fear-inspiring glory (and) made them like gods,
25. So that he who woul.d look upon them should perish from terror,
26. So that their bodies might leap forward and none turn back their breasts.
27. She set up the viper, the dragon, and the lahamu,
28. The great lion, the mad dog, and the scorpion-man,
29. Driving storm demons, the dragonfly, and the bison,
30. Bearing unsparing weapons, unafraid of battle.
31. Powerful are her decrees, irresistible are they.
32. Altogether(?) eleven (kinds of monsters) of this sort she brought into being.
33. Of those among the gods, her first-born, who formed her assembly,
34. She exalted Kingu; in their midst she made him great.
35. To march at the head of the army, to direct the forces.
36. To raise the weapons for the engagement, to launch the attack,
37. The high command of the battle,
38. [She int]rusted to his hand; she caused him to sit in the assembly, (saying:)
39. '[I have] cast the spell for thee, I have made thee great in the assembly of the gods.
40. The dominion over all the gods I have given [into thy h]and.
41. Mayest thou be highly exalted, thou, my unique spouse!
42. [May] thy names become greater than (those of) [the Anun]naki!"
43. [She ga]ve him the tablet of destinies, she fa[sten]ed (it) upon his breast, (saying:)
44. '[As for thee], thy command shall not be changed, the word of thy mouth shall be

dependable!

45. Now when Kingu had been exalted (and) had received supreme dominion,
46. They decreed the destinies of [the gods], her sons, (saying:)
47. 'May [the opening] of your months quiet the fire-god!
48. May [thy overpowering poison] vanquish the (opposing) might!"
49. [When Anshar hear that Tiamat] was stirred profoundly,
50. [He smote his thigh and] bit his lip.
51. [His heart was full of gloom], his body did not rest.
52. [...] he suppresses his groaning.
53. [He says to Ea: "Arise, my son, go to] battle!
54. [The weapon which thou ha]st made thou shalt bear.
55. Thou hast slain Apsu [...];
56. [Slay thou also(?) Kin]gu, who goes before her.
57. [...] wisdom."
58. Nudi[immud, the counselor of the gods, answered him, (saying:)]
- 59 - 70. *(Destroyed. the break no doubt recorded Nudimmud's, i.e. Ea's, failure, even though he had succeeded in defeating Apsu. Anshar then turns to his son Anu.)*
71. [... Anshar cr]ied out [...] in anger(?);
72. [To Anu], his son, he spoke [a word], (saying:)
73. "[My first-born], thou there! my mighty hero,
74. Whose [po]wer is [great], whose onslaught is irresistible,
75. [Go a]nd stand thou before Tiamat,
76. [That] her spirit [become quiet and] her heart calm down.
77. [If] she does not hearken to thy work,
78. Speak our [word(?)] to her, that she may be quieted."
79. [When he had heard] the words of his father, Anshar,
80. [He took a direct rou]te to her and pursued the way to her.
81. Anu [drew nigh], but perceiving the (strategic) plan of Tiamat
82. And [not being able to withstand her], he turned back.
83. [He went in terror to] his [father], Anshar.
84. [Concerning Tiamat thus he] spoke to him:
85. "[...] of her hand is upon me!"
86. Anshar lapsed into silence, looking upon the ground.
87. He shakes his locks, shaking his head at Ea.
88. All the Anunnaki were assembled at the place.
89. Their lips were closed, [they sat in] silence.
90. "no god whatever ca go t[o battle]
91. (And) escape w[ith his life] from the presence of Tiamat."
92. Lord Anshar, the father of the gods, [arose in] majesty.
93. His heart [prom]pted (him) [to speak to the Anunnaki]:
94. "[He] whose [strength] is might shall be the avenger of [his] father.
95. [That one is] the in battle, the valia[nt] Mar[duk]!"
96. Ea called [Marduk] to [his] private room;
97. [He ad]vised (him), telling him the plan of his heart:
98. "Marduk, consider my idea, hearken to thy father.
99. Thou are he, my son, who relieves his heart;

100. Draw nigh [into the presence of] Anshar, (ready) for battle(?);
101. [Speak and] stand forth; when he sees thee, he will be at rest."
102. The lord was glad at the word of his father;
103. He drew nigh and stood before Anshar.
104. When Anshar saw him, he heart was filled with joy;
105. He kissed his lips, his fear was removed.
106. "[Anshar], be not silent, (but) open thy lips;
107. I will go and accomplish all that is in thy heart!
108. [Yea, Anshar], be not silent, (but) open thy lips;
109. [I will g]o and accomplish all that is in thy heart!
110. What man is it who had brought battle against thee?
111. [... T]iamat, who is a woman, is coming against thee with arms.
112. [My father, c]reator, be glad and rejoice;
113. Soon thou shalt trample upon the neck of Tiamat!
114. [Yea, my father, c]reator, be glad and rejoice;
115. Soon thou shalt trample upon the neck of Tiamat!
116. "My [so]n, who knowest all wisdom,
117. Quiet [Tiamat] with thy holy incantation.
118. On the storm [chari]ot(?) quickly pursue (the way)!
119. [...] turn (her) back!"
120. The lord [was glad] at the word of his father;
121. His heart [ex]ulted, and he said to his father;
122. "Lord of the gods, destiny of the great gods,
123. If I am indeed to be your avenger,
124. To vanquish Tiamat and to keep you alive,
125. Convene the assembly and proclaim my lot supreme.
126. When ye are joyfully seated together in the Court of Assembly,
127. May I through the utterance of my mouth determine the destinies, instead of you.
128. Whatever I create shall remain unaltered,
129. The command of my lips shall not return (void), it shall not be changed."

Catch Line

Anshar opened his mouth

Colophon I

1. Second [tablet of] *Enuma elish*; [written] according to [the tablet]
2. [...], a copy from Ashur.
3. [.....].

Colophon II

1. Written [like] its [original] and collated. The tablet of Nabu-ahhe-iddina,
2. [The son of] Etir-bel, the son of a priest of the god Mash. One shall not withhold (it) from use.

Source: The Babylonian Genesis by Alexander Heidel