

## Enuma Elish Tablet IV

1. They erected for him a lordly throne-dais,
2. And he took his place before his fathers to (receive) sovereignty.
3. "Thou art (the most) important among the great gods.
4. Thy destiny is unequalled, thy command is (like that of) Anu.
5. Marduk, thou art (the most) important among the great gods,
6. Thy destiny is unequalled, thy command is (like that of) Anu.
7. From this day onward thy command shall not be changed.
8. To exalt and abase -- this shall be thy power!
9. Dependable shall be the utterance of thy mouth, thy command shall not prove vain.
10. None among the gods shall infringe upon thy prerogative.
11. Maintenance is the requirement of the sanctuaries of the gods;
12. And so at (each) place of their shrines shall be appointed a place for thee.
13. Marduk, thou art our avenger;
14. To these we have given kingship over the totality of the whole universe,
15. So that when thou sittest in the assembly, thy word shall be exalted.
16. May thy weapons not miss, may they smite thy foes.
17. O lord, preserve the life of him who puts his trust in thee;
18. But as for the god who has espoused evil, pour out his life!"
19. Then they placed a garment in their midst;
20. To Marduk, their first-born, they said:
21. "Thy destiny, O lord, shall be supreme among the gods.
22. Command to destroy and to create, (and) they shall be!
23. By the word of thy mouth, let the garment be destroyed;
24. Command again, and let the garment be whole!"
25. He commanded with his mouth, let the garment be destroyed;
26. He commanded again, and the garment was restored.
27. When the gods his fathers beheld the power of his word,
28. They were glad (and) did homage, (saying:) "Marduk is king!"
29. They bestowed upon him the scepter, the throne, and the royal robe(?);
30. They gave him an irresistible weapon smiting the enemy, (saying:)
31. "Go and cut off the life of Tiamat.
32. May the winds carry her blood to out-of-the-way places."
33. After the gods his fathers had determined the destiny of Bel,
34. They set him on the road -- the way to success and attainment.
35. He made a bow and decreed (it) as his weapon;
36. An arrowhead he put (on the arrow and) fastened the bowstring to it.
37. He took up the club and grasped (it) in his right hand;
38. The bow and the quiver he hung at his side.
39. The lightning he set before him;
40. With a blazing flame he filled his body.
41. He made a net to inclose Tiamat within (it),
42. (And) had the four winds take hold that nothing of her might escape;
43. The south wind, the north wind, the east wind, (and) the west wind,
44. The gift of his (grand)father, Anu, he caused to draw nigh to the border(s) of the net.

45. He created the *imhullu*: the evil wind, the cyclone, the hurricane,
46. The fourfold wind, the sevenfold winds, the whirlwind, the wind incomparable.
47. He set forth the winds which he had crested, the seven of them;
48. To trouble Tiamat within, they arose behind him.
49. The lord raised the rain flood, his might weapon.
50. He mounted (his) irresistible, terrible storm chariot;
51. He harnessed for it a team of four and yoked (them) to it,
52. The Destructive, the Pitiless, the Trampler, the Flier.
53. They were sharp of tooth, bearing poison;
54. They knew how to destroy, they had learned to overrun;
55. [...] thy [smo]te, they were frightful in battle;
56. To the left [...].
57. He was clad in a terrifying coat of mail;
58. Terror-inspiring splendor he wore on his head.
59. The lord took a direct (route) and pursued his way;
60. Toward the place of raging tiamat he set his face.
61. Between his lips he holds [a talisman(?)] of red paste;
62. An herb to destroy the poison he grasped in his hand.
63. Then the gods r[un] about him, the gods run about him;
64. The gods his fathers run about him, the gods run about him.
65. The lord drew nigh to look into the heart of Tiamat,
66. (And) to see the plan of Kingu, her spouse.
67. As he gazes, (Kingu) is confused in his plan;
68. Destroyed is his will and disordered his action.
69. As for the gods his helpers, who were marching at his side,
70. When they saw the valiant hero, their vision became blurred.
71. Tiamat set up a roar(?) without turning her neck,
72. Upholding with her li[ps] (her) meanness(?) (and) rebellion.
73. [...] .. have the gods risen up to thee?
74. (Or) have they gathered from their [place] to thy place?"
75. Then the lord [raised] the rain flock, his might weapon.
76. [As for] Tiamat, who was furious, thus he answered her:
77. "[In arrogance(?)] thou art risen (and) hast highly exalted thyself(?)"
78. [Thou hast caused] thy heart to plot the stirring-up of conflict.
79. [...] the sons treat their fathers unjustly;
80. (And) thou, their bearer, dost hate (them) wi[thout cause(?)].
81. Thou has exalted Kingu to by [thy] spouse;
82. Thine illegal [authority] thou has set up in place of the authority of Anu.
83. [Against] Anshar, the king of the gods, thou seekest evil.
84. And hast proven thy wickedness [against the god]s my fathers.
85. Let thin army be equipped! let them be girded with thy weapons!
86. Come thou forth (alone) and let us, me and thee, do single combat!"
87. When Tiamat heard this,
88. She became like one in a frenzy (and) lost her reason.
89. Tiamat cried out loud (and) furiously,
90. to the (very) roots her two legs shook back and forth.

91. She recites and incantation, repeatedly casting her spell;
92. As for the gods of battle, they sharpen their weapons.
93. Tiamat (and) Marduk, the wisest of the gods, advanced against one another;
94. They pressed on to single combat, they approached for battle.
95. the lord spread out his net and enmeshed her;
96. The evil wind, following after, he let loose in her face.
97. When Tiamat opened her mouth to devour him,
98. He drove in the evil wind, in order that (she should)not (be able) to close her lips.
99. The raging winds filled her belly;
100. Her belly became distended, and she opened with her mouth.
101. He shot off an arrow, and it tore her interior;
102. It cut through her inward parts, it split (her) heart.
103. When he had subdued her, he destroyed her life.
104. He cast down her carcass (and) stood upon it.
105. After he had slain Tiamat, the leader,
106. Her band broke up, her host dispersed.
107. As for the gods her helpers, who marched at her side,
108. They trembled for fear (and) faced about.
109. They tried to break away to save their lives,
110. (But) they were completely surrounded, (so that) it was impossible to flee.
111. He imprisoned them and broke their weapons.
112. In the net they lay and in the snare they were;
113. They hid in the corners (and) were filled with lamentation;
114. They bore his wrath, being confined in prison.
115. As for the eleven (kinds of) creatures which she had laden with terror-inspiring splendor,
116. The host of demons that marched impetuously before her,
117. He cast (them) into fetters (and) [tied(?)] their arms [together(?)];
118. With (all) their resistance, [he tr]ampled (them) underfoot.
119. As for Kingu, who had become chief among them,
120. He bound him and counted him among the dead gods.
121. He took from him the tablet of destinies, which was not his rightful possession.
122. He sealed (it) with (his) seal and fastened (it) on his breast.
123. After he had vanquished (and) subdued his enemies,
124. Had overpowered the arrogant foe like a bull(?),
125. Had fully established Anshar's victory over the enemy,
126. Had attained the desire of Nudimmud, the valiant Marduk
127. Strengthened his hold upon the captive gods;
128. And then he returned to Tiamat, whom he had subdued.
129. The lord trod upon the hinder part of Tiamat,
130. And with his unsparing club he split (her) skull.
131. he cut the arteries of her blood.
132. And caused the north wind to carry (it) to out-of-the-way places.
133. When his fathers say (this), thy were glad and rejoiced
134. (And) sent him dues (and) greeting-gifts.
135. The lord rested, examining her dead body,

136. To divide the abortion (and) to create ingenious things (therewith).
137. He split her open like a mussel(?) into two (parts);
138. Half of her he set in place and formed the sky (therewith) as a roof.
139. he fixed the crossbar (and) posted guards;
140. He commanded them not to let her waters escape.
141. He crossed the heavens and examined the regions.
142. He placed himself opposite the *Apsu*, the dwelling of Nudimmud.
143. The lord measured the dimensions of the *Apsu*.
144. And a great structure, its counterpart, he established, (namely,) Esharra,
145. The great structure Esharra which he made as a canopy.
146. Anu, Enlil, and Ea he (then) caused them to inhabit their residences.

### **Catch Line**

He created stations for the great gods.

### **Colophon**

1. 146 lines. Fourth tablet of *Enuma elish*. Incomplete.
2. Written according to a table whose text was crossed out.
3. Nabu-belshu, (the son of) Naid-Marduk, the son of a smith, wrote (it) for the life of his soul.
4. And the life of his house and deposited (it) in (the temple) Ezida.

Source: [The Babylonian Genesis](#) by Alexander Heidel