

# FROM DISTANT DAYS

Myths, Tales, and Poetry  
of Ancient Mesopotamia



Translated with Introduction and Notes by  
**Benjamin R. Foster**

# From Distant Days Myths Tales And Poetry Of Ancient Mesopotamia

**Adele Berlin**



## **From Distant Days Myths Tales And Poetry Of Ancient Mesopotamia:**

**From Distant Days** Benjamin Read Foster,1995 A selection and abridgment of Benjamin Foster's comprehensive two volume work on Babylonian and Assyrian literature Before the Muses This paperback edition is well suited for college courses in Biblical Studies Classical Studies Religious Thought Mythology or Comparative Literature Among the many compositions included are Epic of Creation Story of the Flood When Ishtar Went to the Netherworld How Nergal Became King of the Netherworld How Adapa Lost Immortality Etana the King without an Heir Anzu the Bird Who Stole Destiny How Erra Wrecked the World Legends of Sargon of Akkad Legend of Naram Sin Tukulti Ninurta Epic Nebuchadnezzar and Marduk Tiglath Pileser and the Beasts The King of Justice Letters from Gods Marduk Prophecy Oracles to Assyrian Kings Prayers to the Gods Coronation Prayer for Assyrian Kings Sargon II for His New City Assurbanipal Pious Scholar Nebuchadnezzar II for His Public Works Diviners Prayers Dialogue between a Man and His God Poem of the Righteous Sufferer A Sufferer's Salvation The Babylonian Theodicy Who Has Not Sinned The Piteous Sufferer Elegy for a Woman Dead in Childbirth Love Charms Love Lyrics Ishtar at the Tavern The Faithful Lover At the Cleaners The Poor Man of Nippur Why Do You Curse Me The Jester The Gilgamesh Letter The Dialogue of Pessimism Land for the Birds Counsels of Wisdom

**The Epic of Gilgamesh** Anonymous,2016-06-02 The ancient Sumerian poem The Epic of Gilgamesh is one of the oldest written stories in existence translated with an introduction by Andrew George in Penguin Classics Miraculously preserved on clay tablets dating back as much as four thousand years the poem of Gilgamesh king of Uruk is the world's oldest epic predating Homer by many centuries The story tells of Gilgamesh's adventures with the wild man Enkidu and of his arduous journey to the ends of the earth in quest of the Babylonian Noah and the secret of immortality Alongside its themes of family friendship and the duties of kings The Epic of Gilgamesh is above all about mankind's eternal struggle with the fear of death The Babylonian version has been known for over a century but linguists are still deciphering new fragments in Akkadian and Sumerian Andrew George's gripping translation brilliantly combines these into a fluid narrative and will long rank as the definitive English Gilgamesh If you enjoyed The Epic of Gilgamesh you might like Homer's Iliad also available in Penguin Classics A masterly new verse translation The Times Andrew George has skilfully bridged the gap between a scholarly re edition and a popular work London Review of Books     *The Life and Times of Hammurabi* Tamera Bryant,2019-12-05 Hammurabi was an important leader in ancient Mesopotamia Following the model of the warrior king Sargon Hammurabi built the tiny city state of Babylon into a vast empire He was recognized as a hands on ruler Not content to delegate duties to governors and advisors Hammurabi was personally involved with all the goings on in his empire From the digging of canals to the construction of huge temples Hammurabi was very interested in justice and fairness He thought of himself as a shepherd and protector of all his people He wanted everyone the poor and the wealthy to be treated fairly In the second half of his reign Hammurabi compiled a lengthy collection of laws into a single code It is one of the oldest known law codes You

can find reminders of this ancient code in law books around the world ,2018-11-30 The Apocalypse of Enoch and Bhu unda The Apocalypse of Enoch and Bhu unda challenges the underlying assumptions of the classical roots of civilization by restoring the original context of creation mythology In this second volume of A Chronology of the Primeval Gods and the Western Sunrise ancient myths from multiple geographies are correlated to spikes in cosmic rays over the past 120 000 years as documented in ice core data The chronology and content of these myths tell us that the primary forces behind these cataclysms were the most ancient gods hyper nova at the Galactic Center associated with Sgr A The Dragon Sgr West The Beast and Sgr East Hirany ksha and Hiranyakas ipu with secondary supernova seen as the birth of new destructive gods Ancient myth has documented the cataclysmic destruction of the world on at least twenty occasions with four major geo polar migrations which has resulted in a shift of the earth s equator on at least one occasion Multiple myths are shown to represent a view of the sky that can only be seen from the Antarctic region Multiple versions of the myths of Orion are analyzed showing clear linkages between the Vedic myth of Trisanku the Book of Genesis Senmut s Tomb and the myths of Praj pati Daksa representing the oldest version of the Orion myth older than Trishanku and Genesis by 20 000 years The stunning conclusion explains how the Watchers of Enoch were the Vedic descendants of Ila and Ikshvaku These descendants of the seventh Manu had been observing and recording the stars as a source of cataclysm for at least 15 000 years prior to Enoch thus allowing Enoch to prophesize a new heaven That prophecy became the foundation for St John s Book of Revelations which is shown to be a description of a series of cataclysms attributed to Sgr West The book offers a new theory for explaining geo polar migration That theory suggests small shifts in the location of the earth s center of gravity underlie each migration but that there are multiple causes for the shifts *Nations and Nationalism in World History* Steven Grosby,2021-08-25 Nations and Nationalism in World History challenges the commonly accepted understanding of nations as being exclusively modern and European in origin by drawing attention to evidence that indicates that nations are found in antiquity and the Middle Ages and throughout the world Locating the concept of nations at all periods of history and around the world Steven Grosby discusses a diverse array of manifestations of nations throughout history drawing upon its complex intersections with religion ethnicity law politics and warfare Among the societies discussed throughout the text are ancient Israel Sasanian Iran medieval Sri Lanka Korea Vietnam and Scotland Grosby analyzes how the category nation can be used for historical comparison indicating both the ways ancient and medieval nations differ from modern nations and the different relations over time between nation and civilization This analysis leads students to re examine the assumptions of the historical periodization of antiquity the Middle Ages and modern times It further distinguishes nation and the patriotic attachment to it from the uncivil ideology of nationalism This book will benefit students in world history and political science courses as well as ethnic studies or peace and conflict studies courses that wish to provide some historical context **A Short Introduction to the Hebrew Bible** John J. Collins,2014 This book is an abridgment edition of Introduction to the

Hebrew Bible with CD ROM published by Fortress Press in 2004 Preface      **Opening the Tablet Box** Sarah Melville, Alice Slotsky, 2010-08-09 This volume is a scholarly tribute to Benjamin R Foster Laffan Professor of Assyriology and Babylonian Literature and Curator of the Babylonian Collection at Yale University from some of his students colleagues and companions in appreciation of his outstanding achievements and in thanks for his friendship Reflecting on the remarkable breadth of the honoree s research interests the twenty six original papers in this Festschrift cover a wide range of topics in ancient Near Eastern and Egyptian literature economic and social history as well as art and archaeology      *The Jewish Study Bible* Adele Berlin, 2004 The Jewish Study Bible is a one volume resource tailored especially for the needs of students of the Hebrew Bible Nearly forty scholars worldwide contributed to the translation and interpretation of the Jewish Study Bible representing the best of Jewish biblical scholarship available today A committee of highly respected biblical scholars and rabbis from the Orthodox Conservative and Reform Judaism movements produced this modern translation No knowledge of Hebrew is required for one to make use of this unique volume The Jewish Study Bible uses The Jewish Publication Society TANAKH Translation Since its publication the Jewish Study Bible has become one of the most popular volumes in Oxford s celebrated line of bibles The quality of scholarship easy to navigate format and vibrant supplementary features bring the ancient text to life Informative essays that address a wide variety of topics relating to Judaism s use and interpretation of the Bible through the ages In text tables maps and charts Tables of weights and measures Verse and chapter differences Table of Scriptural Readings Glossary of technical terms An index to all the study materials Full color New Oxford Bible Maps with index

**Sunlight and Shade in the First Cities** Mary Shepperson, 2017-01-16 The emergence of urbanism in Iraq occurred under the distinctive climatic conditions of the Mesopotamian plain rainy winters and extremely hot summers profoundly affected the formation and development of these early cities Sunlight and Shade in the First Cities explores the relationship between society culture and lived experience through the way in which sunlight was manipulated in the urban built environment Light is approached as both a physical phenomenon which affects comfort and the practical usability of space and as a symbolic phenomenon rich in social and religious meaning Through the reconstruction of ancient urban light environments to the extent possible from the archaeological remains the location timing and meaning of activities within early Mesopotamian cities become accessible Sunlight is shown to have influenced the formation and symbolism of urban architecture and shaped the sensory experience of urban life From cities as part of the sunlit landscape this work progresses to consider city forms as a whole and then to the examination of architectural types residential sacred and palatial Architectural analysis is complemented by analysis of contemporary textual sources along with iconographic and artefactual evidence The cities under detailed examination are limited to those on the Mesopotamian plain focusing on the Early Dynastic periods up to the end of the second millennium BC This volume demonstrates the utility of light as a tool with which to analyse not just ancient Mesopotamian settlements but the built environment of any past society especially where

provision of or protection from sunlight critically affects life The active influence of sunlight is demonstrated within Mesopotamian cities at every scale of analysis      *Boundaries of the Ancient Near Eastern World* Meir Lubetski, Claire Gottlieb, Sharon Keller, 1997-01-01 For over threescore years Cyrus H Gordon s scholarship and teaching have provided new directions to the study of the ancient Near East This collection of 34 essays in honour of his 90th birthday edited by three of his former pupils celebrates his fascinating and remarkable achievements and reflects his broad command of ancient studies The global impact of his research can be seen from the geographical dispersion of the outstanding scholars who have written here on the following topics archaeology Bible studies Ugaritic Aramaic Arabic Egypto Semitic the cuneiform world Indo European Samaritan the Graeco Roman world mediaeval studies The inclusion of a complete bibliography of Gordon s works is of singular value      *Rhetoric before and beyond the Greeks* Carol S. Lipson, Roberta A. Binkley, 2012-02-01 Focusing on ancient rhetoric outside of the dominant Western tradition this collection examines rhetorical practices in Egypt Mesopotamia Israel and China The book uncovers alternate ways of understanding human behavior and explores how these rhetorical practices both reflected and influenced their cultures The essays address issues of historiography and raise questions about the application of Western rhetorical concepts to these very different ancient cultures A chapter on suggestions for teaching each of these ancient rhetorics is included      *Seeking Out the Wisdom of the Ancients* Ronald L. Troxel, Kelvin G. Friebel, Dennis R. Magary, 2005-06-30 Michael V Fox long time professor in the Dept of Hebrew and Semitic Studies at the University of Wisconsin Madison is known both for his scholarship and his teaching As the editors of this volume in his honor note the care and sensitivity of his reading of the Hebrew text are well known and he lavishes equal attention on his own writing to the benefit of all who read his work which now includes the first of two volumes in the Anchor Bible commentary on Proverbs the next volume is in preparation as well as monographs on wisdom literature in ancient Israel and elsewhere and many articles The rigor that he brought to his own work he also inflicted on his students and they and a number of his colleagues honor him with their contributions to this volume Contributors include Menahem Haran Kelvin G Friebel Cynthia L Miller Theron Young Adele Berlin William P Brown James L Crenshaw John A Cook Robert D Holmstedt Shamir Yona Christine Roy Yoder Carol R Fontaine Nili Shupak Victor Avigdor Horowitz Tova Forti Richard L Schultz J Cheryl Exum Dennis R Magary Theodore J Lewis Sidnie White Crawford Ronald L Troxel Karl V Kutz Heidi M Szpek Claudia V Camp Johann Cook Leonard Greenspoon Stephen G Burnett Carol A Newsom Shemaryahu Talmon and Frederick E Greenspahn The book is organized around themes that reflect Prof Fox s interests and work Part 1 Seeking Out Wisdom and Concerned with Prophecies Sir 39 1 Studies in Biblical Texts Part 2 Preserving the Sayings of the Famous Sir 39 2 Text Versions and Method      *Death in the Iron Age II and in First Isaiah* Christopher B. Hays, 2011 Death is one of the major themes of First Isaiah although it has not generally been recognized as such Images of death are repeatedly used by the prophet and his earliest tradents The book begins by concisely summarizing what is known about death in the Ancient Near

East during the Iron Age II covering beliefs and practices in Mesopotamia Egypt Syria Palestine and Judah Israel Incorporating both textual and archeological data Christopher B Hays surveys and analyzes existing scholarly literature on these topics from multiple fields Focusing on the text s meaning for its producers and its initial audiences he describes the ways in which the rhetoric of death functioned in its historical context and offers fresh interpretations of more than a dozen passages in Isa 5 38 He shows how they employ the imagery of death that was part of their cultural contexts and also identifies ways in which they break new creative ground This holistic approach to questions that have attracted much scholarly attention in recent decades produces new insights not only for the interpretation of specific biblical passages but also for the formation of the book of Isaiah and for the history of ancient Near Eastern religions *From an Antique Land* Carl S. Ehrlich, 2009-01-16 Many of the world s first written records have been found in the area of the Ancient Near East in what is today known as the Middle East While many people are familiar with the ancient Israelite literature recorded in the Hebrew Bible most Near Eastern literature remains a mystery From an Antique Land lifts the veil from these fascinating writings explaining the ancient stories in the context of their cultures From the invention of writing through the conquest of Alexander the Great expert scholars examine literature originally written in Egyptian Sumerian Akkadian Hittite Ugaritic Canaanite Hebrew and Aramaic Each chapter includes an overview of the culture a discussion of literary genres and descriptions and short analyses of the major literary works Photos of archaeological remains further illustrate these people and their writings **Mythology for Storytellers** Howard J Sherman, 2014-12-18 Illustrated in full color throughout this delightful collection puts the riches of world mythology at the fingertips of students and storytellers alike It is a treasury of favorite and little known tales from Africa Asia Europe the Americas Australia and Oceania gracefully retold and accompanied by fascinating detailed information on their historic and cultural backgrounds The introduction provides an informative overview of mythology its purpose in world cultures and myth in contemporary society and popular culture Mythic themes are defined and the often misunderstood difference between myth and legend explained Following this the main sections of the book are arranged thematically covering The Creation Death and Rebirth Myths of Origins Myths of the Gods and Myths of Heroes Each section begins by comparing its theme cross culturally explaining similarities and differences in the mythic narratives Myths from diverse cultures are then presented introduced and retold in a highly readable fashion A bibliography follows each retelling so readers can find more information on the culture myth and deities Character geographical and general indexes round out this volume and a master bibliography facilitates research For students storytellers or anyone interested in the wealth of world mythology *Mythology Stories and Themes from Around the World* provides answers to common research questions sources for myths and stories that will delight inform and captivate **The Novel: An Alternative History** Steven Moore, 2013-09-17 Encyclopedic in scope and heroically audacious *The Novel An Alternative History* is the first attempt in over a century to tell the complete story of our most popular literary form Contrary

to conventional wisdom the novel did not originate in 18th century England nor even with Don Quixote but is coeval with civilization itself After a pugnacious introduction in which Moore defends innovative demanding novelists against their conservative critics the book relaxes into a world tour of the pre modern novel beginning in ancient Egypt and ending in 16th century China with many exotic ports of call Greek romances Roman satires medieval Sanskrit novels narrated by parrots Byzantine erotic thrillers 5000 page Arabian adventure novels Icelandic sagas delicate Persian novels in verse Japanese war stories even Mayan graphic novels Throughout Moore celebrates the innovators in fiction tracing a continuum between these pre modern experimentalists and their postmodern progeny Irreverent iconoclastic informative entertaining *The Novel An Alternative History* is a landmark in literary criticism that will encourage readers to rethink the novel

**A Covenant with Death** Christopher B. Hays, 2015 Shows how ancient Near Eastern attitudes toward death illumine the Hebrew Bible Death is one of the major themes of First Isaiah although it has not generally been recognized as such In this work Christopher Hays offers fresh interpretations of more than a dozen passages in Isaiah 53 in light of ancient beliefs about death What especially distinguishes Hays's study is its holistic approach as he brilliantly synthesizes both literary and archaeological evidence resulting in new insights Hays first summarizes what is known about death in the ancient Near East during the Second Iron Age covering beliefs and practices in Mesopotamia Egypt Syria Palestine and Judah Israel He then shows how select passages in the first part of Isaiah employ the rhetorical imagery of death that was part of their cultural context further he identifies ways in which these texts break new creative ground

**A Companion to Ancient Epic** John Miles Foley, 2008-11-03 A Companion to Ancient Epic presents for the first time a comprehensive up to date overview of ancient Near Eastern Greek and Roman epic It offers a multi disciplinary discussion of both longstanding ideas and newer perspectives A Companion to the Near Eastern Greek and Roman epic traditions Considers the interrelation between these different traditions Provides a balanced overview of longstanding ideas and newer perspectives in the study of epic Shows how scholarship over the last forty years has transformed the ways that we conceive of and understand the genre Covers recently introduced topics such as the role of women the history of reception and comparison with living analogues from oral tradition The editor and contributors are leading scholars in the field Includes a detailed index of poems poets technical terms and important figures and events

**Folktales of the Jews, Volume 1** Dov Noy, Dan Ben-Amos, Ellen Frankel, 2006-09-03 Tales from the Sephardic Dispersion begins the most important collection of Jewish folktales ever published It is the first volume in Folktales of the Jews the five volume series to be released over the next several years in the tradition of Louis Ginzberg's classic *Legends of the Jews* The 71 tales here and the others in this series have been selected from the Israel Folktale Archives Named in Honor of Dov Noy The University of Haifa IFA a treasure house of Jewish lore that has remained largely unavailable to the entire world until now Since the creation of the State of Israel the IFA has collected more than 20 000 tales from newly arrived immigrants long lost stories shared by their families from around the world The tales come from



the major ethno linguistic communities of the Jewish world and are representative of a wide variety of subjects and motifs especially rich in Jewish content and context Each of the tales is accompanied by in depth commentary that explains the tale s cultural historical and literary background and its similarity to other tales in the IFA collection and extensive scholarly notes There is also an introduction that describes the Sephardic culture and its folk narrative tradition a world map of the areas covered illustrations biographies of the collectors and narrators tale type and motif indexes a subject index and a comprehensive bibliography Until the establishment of the IFA we had had only limited access to the wide range of Jewish folk narratives Even in Israel the gathering place of the most wide ranging cross section of world Jewry these folktales have remained largely unknown Many of the communities no longer exist as cohesive societies in their representative lands the Holocaust migration and changes in living styles have made the continuation of these tales impossible This volume and the others to come will be monuments to a rich but vanishing oral tradition      The Garden of Eden Myth Walter

Mattfeld,2010-11-01 Scholarly proposals are presented for the pre biblical origin in Mesopotamian myths of the Garden of Eden story Some Liberal PhD scholars 1854 2010 embracing an Anthropological viewpoint have proposed that the Hebrews have recast earlier motifs appearing in Mesopotamian myths Eden s garden is understood to be a recast of the gods city gardens in the Sumerian Edin the floodplain of Lower Mesopotamia It is understood that the Hebrews in the book of Genesis are refuting the Mesopotamian account of why Man was created and his relationship with his Creators the gods and goddesses They deny that Man is a sinner and rebel because he was made in the image of gods and goddesses who were themselves sinners and rebels who made man to be their agricultural slave to grow and harvest their food and feed it to them in temple sacrifices thereby ending the need of the gods to toil for their food in the city gardens of Edin in ancient Sumer

## Reviewing **From Distant Days Myths Tales And Poetry Of Ancient Mesopotamia**: Unlocking the Spellbinding Force of Linguistics

In a fast-paced world fueled by information and interconnectivity, the spellbinding force of linguistics has acquired newfound prominence. Its capacity to evoke emotions, stimulate contemplation, and stimulate metamorphosis is really astonishing. Within the pages of "**From Distant Days Myths Tales And Poetry Of Ancient Mesopotamia**," an enthralling opus penned by a highly acclaimed wordsmith, readers set about an immersive expedition to unravel the intricate significance of language and its indelible imprint on our lives. Throughout this assessment, we shall delve in to the book is central motifs, appraise its distinctive narrative style, and gauge its overarching influence on the minds of its readers.

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