Conventions for Damaged Text

[Gilgamesh]: Square brackets enclose words that are restored in passages where the tablet is broken. Small breaks can often be restored with certainty from context and longer breaks can sometimes be filled securely from parallel passages.

Gilqamesh: Italics are used to indicate insecure decipherments and uncertain renderings of words in the extant text.

[Gilgamesh]: Within square brackets, italics signal restorations that are not certain or material that is simply conjectural, i.e. supplied by the translator to fill in the context.

- ...: An ellipsis marks a small gap that occurs where writing is missing through damage or where the signs are present but cannot be deciphered. Each ellipsis represents up to one quarter of a verse.
-: Where a full line is missing or undeciphered the lacuna is marked by a sequence of four ellipses.
- * * *: Where a lacuna of more than one line is not signalled by an editorial note it is marked by a succession of three asterisks.
- *Humbaba: In old material that has been interpolated into the standard version of the epic some proper nouns are preceded by an asterisk. This is to signify that for consistency's sake the name in question (e.g. Huwawa) has been altered to its later form.

Dramatis Personae

Note: This is the listing of Principal Characters from beginning of the Penguin edition. An acute accent marks the vowel of a stressed syllable. Where such a vowel falls in an open syllable it will often be long (e.g., Humbaaba). In some names the position of the stress is conjectural.

Gilgámesh, king of the city-state of Úruk Nínsun, a goddess, his mother

Enkídu, his friend and companion

Shámhat, a prostitute of Uruk

Shámash, the Sun God

Humbába, the guardian of the Forest of Cedar

İshtar, the principal goddess of Uruk Shidúri, a minor goddess of wisdom Ur-shanábi, the ferryman of Uta-napishti Úta-napíshti, survivor of the Flood

Glossary of Proper Nouns

ABZU See Ocean Below.

ADAD The Storm God, venerated as a supreme power especially in Syria and Lebanon, where in the epic he has a particular association with the Forest of Cedar.

AKKA King of Kish, possibly Gilgamesh's nephew.

AN 'Sky': the name of heaven in Sumerian, equals Anu in Babylonian.

ANSHAN An area of south-western Iran. **ANTU** The wife of Anu, and at Uruk the mother of Ishtar.

ANU The father of the gods, the god of the sky, but also resident in Uruk, where he is Ishtar's father.

ANUNNA See Anunnaki.

ANUNNAKI A traditional name for one of the two divisions of the pantheon, in the later periods assigned to the gods of the Netherworld; see Igigi.

ARALLI A name of the Netherworld.

ARATTA A city-state far away in the high-lands of Iran, traditionally a rival of Uruk.

ARURU Another name for Belet-ili, the Mother Goddess.

ASAKKU See Azag.

ATRA-HASIS 'Surpassing Wise': an epi-

thet of Uta-napishti.

AYA Goddess of dawn, the bride of Shamash.

AZAG A demon.

BELET-ILI 'Lady of the Gods': the Mother Goddess, who created mankind with Ea, also known as Aruru. As Mother Earth she once enjoyed the attentions of Anu, the sky.

BELET-ŞERI 'Lady of the Desert': the scribe of the Netherworld, who keeps tally for Ereshkigal.

BIBBU Ereshkigal's butcher and cook.

BIRHURTURRA One of Gilgamesh's personal guard. The reading and meaning of the name are uncertain.

BITTI Or Bidu, 'He opens!'. The gate-keeper of the Netherworld.

DIMPIKUG A Netherworld deity.

DUMUZI 'Steadfast Child': the Babylonian Tammuz, lover and husband of Ishtar, punished with annual death and descent to the Netherworld.

EA The god of the freshwater Ocean Below $(Aps\hat{u})$. The wisest of the gods, he is adept in every skill and finds a solution to every problem. His expertise enabled the Mother Goddess to create mankind, whom he civilized and saved from the wrath of Enlil.

EANNA 'House of Heaven': the temple of the goddess Ishtar and the god Anu in the city of Uruk.

EBABBARA 'Shining House': the temple of Shamash at Larsa.

EBLA A town in north Syria, now Tell Mardikh, south-west of Aleppo.

EKUR 'Mountain House': the temple of Enlil at Nippur.

ENDASHURIMMA and NIN-DASHURIMMA Ancestors of Enlil, resident in the Netherworld.

ENDUKUGA and NINDUKUGA Ancestors of Enlil, resident in the Netherworld.

ENGILUA Or Idengilua, a waterway of Uruk. Perhaps a variant form of Idurungal, the principal eastern branch of the river Euphrates.

ENKI The name of Ea in Sumerian.

ENKI and NINKI Ancestors of Enlil, resident in the Netherworld.

ENKIDU 'Lord of the Pleasant Place': in the Babylonian tradition a wild man created by the gods as Gilgamesh's equal, in the Sumerian his favoured servant.

ENLIL 'Lord Air': the divine ruler of Earth and its human inhabitants. Aided by Anu, Ea and the Mother Goddess he governs the cosmos. His cult-centre was Nippur. His ancestors counted as 'dead' gods, and dwelt in the Netherworld.

ENMEBARAGESI Apparently the elder sister of Gilgamesh, but in history an early ruler of Kish, and assumed to be male.

ENMESHARRA Uncle of Enlil, resident in the Netherworld.

ENMUL and NINMUL Ancestors of Enlil, resident in the Netherworld.

ENUTILA Ancestor of Enlil, resident in the Netherworld.

ERESHKIGAL 'Mistress of the Great Earth': the queen of the Netherworld.

ERIDU An ancient city in the far south of Babylonia, the cult-centre of Enki-Ea. Now Tell Abu Shahrein, south-west of Nasiriyah.

ERRAKAL A manifestation of Nergal as a god of wanton devastation.

ETANA A legendary king of Kish, who rode an eagle to heaven, but remained a mortal. In the afterlife he was, like Gilgamesh, an officer in the court of the Netherworld.

GANZIR The first of seven gates of the Netherworld.

GILGAMESH A legendary king of Uruk, son of a goddess but doomed to die. In the afterlife he became a judge in the Nether-

GIPAR The private chambers of Inanna in her temple Eanna.

GIRSU A city-state of eastern Babylonia, now Telloh, north of Nasiriyah.

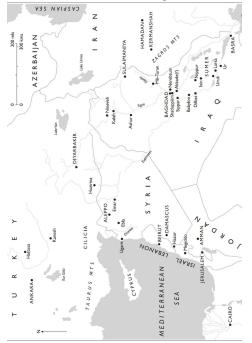
HAMRAN A mountain of uncertain location, on the way to the Cedar Forest.

HUMBABA The monstrous guardian of the Forest of Cedar, appointed by Enlil to protect its timber.

- HUSHBISHA 'Its Fury is Fine': a member of Ereshkigal's court.
- **HUWAWA** An old form of the name Humbaba.
- IGIGI A traditional name for one of the two divisions of the pantheon, in the later periods assigned to the great gods of heaven; see Anunnaki.
- INANNA 'Queen of Heaven': in Sumerian texts the name of Ishtar.
- IRKALLA 'Great City': a name of the Netherworld, and also of its queen, the goddess Ereshkigal.
- IRNINA A name given to the goddess Ishtar, but also a deity of the Netherworld.
- **ISHTAR** Deity of the city of Uruk, the goddess of sexual love and war, daughter of Anu. Sometimes she is a mature woman, sometimes an impetuous young virgin. In heaven she is Venus, daughter of the Moon God.
- ISHULLANU 'Shorty': a cultivator of dates, one of Ishtar's former lovers.
- KISH An ancient city-state, the early centre of power in northern Babylonia. It is modern Tell Uhaimir, east of Babylon.
- KULLAB Part of the city of Uruk.
- LARSA Modern Senkereh, a town between Uruk and Ur, which housed one of the cult-centres of Shamash.
- LION-BIRD The Babylonian Anzû, a mythical being imagined sometimes as a lion-headed eagle, sometimes as a flying stallion. It dwelt in the mountains, where it was defeated by Ninurta.
- LUGALBANDA 'Little Lord': a mortal king of Uruk, later deified. In one tradition he was the father of Gilgamesh, in another his guardian deity.
- LUGALGABANGAL 'Chest-endowed Lord': Gilgamesh's minstrel.
- MAGAN A land far away across the Gulf, possibly modern Oman.
- MAMMITUM A name of the Mother Goddess, creatress of mankind; see Beletili.
- MARDUK The god of Babylon, son of Ea, with expertise in exorcism. He became king of the gods in the theological reforms of the late second millennium, but in the pantheon of Uruk at the time the epic found its final form he was a minor fig-
- MASHU 'Twin Peaks': the mountains where the sun rose and set.
- NAMTAR 'Doom': the minister of Ereshkigal, and angel of Death.
- NANNA The name of Sîn. the Moon God. in Sumerian.
- NERGAL A god of plague and war, later SHAMKATUM An older form of the

- the husband of Ereshkigal.
- NIMUSH A high peak of the Zagros mountains, probably Pir Omar Gudrun (Piramagrun) near Suleimaniyah in southern Kurdistan.
- NINAZU 'Lord Doctor': the son of Ereshkigal.
- NINGAL 'Great Lady': the wife of the Moon, the mother of the Sun.
- NINGISHZIDA 'Lord of the True Tree': the chamberlain of the Netherworld, a senior figure in the court of Ereshkigal.
- NINHURSANGA 'Lady of the Uplands': a name of the Mother Goddess: see Beletili.
- NINSHULUHHAtumma 'Lady whose Hands are Fit for Cleansing': a member of Ereshkigal's court.
- NINSUN 'Lady Wild Cow': a minor goddess who was Gilgamesh's mother.
- NINTU 'Lady who Gives Birth': a name of the Mother Goddess; see Belet-ili
- NINURTA 'Lord Earth': the son of Enlil, the epitome of youthful vigour, champion of the gods and god of agriculture.
- NIPPUR The cult-centre of Enlil, modern Nuffar, near 'Afaq in central Babylonia.
- ${f NISSABA}$ A cereal goddess, patron of writing and accountancy.
- NUDIMMUD 'Man-fashioner': a name of the god Ea which alludes to his part in the creation of mankind.
- **NUNGAL** A goddess, patron of jails and stewardess of Enlil.
- OCEAN BELOW A freshwater ocean below the earth, whence wells and springs take their water. The cosmic domain of Ea, known in Babylonian as the $Aps\hat{u}$.
- **PESHTUR** 'Little Fig': the younger sister of Gilgamesh.
- PUZUR-ENLIL 'Protected by Enlil': the boatbuilder who made Uta-napishti's ark. The name can also be read Puzur-Amurru.
- SEVEN SAGES Legendary figures in Babylonian mythology, who were sent by the god Ea at the beginning of history to civilize mankind.
- SHAKKAN The god of gazelles, wild asses and other animals.
- SHAMASH The Sun God, arbiter of justice and patron of travellers, so responsible for Gilgamesh's welfare on his adventures. His chief cult-centres were Sippar and Larsa.
- SHAMHAT A cultic prostitute from Uruk, whose task was to entice Enkidu into the ways of man. The name means something between 'Good-looking' and 'Wellendowed'.

- name Shamhat.
- SHIDURI 'She is my Rampart': a wise goddess who kept an alehouse at the edge of the world.
- SHULPAE 'Manifest Hero': a minor deity, husband of the Mother Goddess.
- SHURUPPAK Modern Fara, an ancient city between Nippur and Uruk.
- SILILI The mythical mother of all horses, attested only in the Gilgamesh epic.
- SîN The Moon God. His cult-centre was Ur.
- SIRION The Anti-Lebanon mountain range, including Mount Hermon.
- SURSUNABU A variant form of the name Ur-shanabi.
- **ULAY** The river Karun in Khuzistan, classical Eulaeus.
- UR A city in southern Babylonia, modern Tell al-Mugayyar, west of Nasiriyah.
- URLUGAL Gilgamesh's son.
- UR-SHANABI The ferryman of Utanapishti.
- URUK A very ancient city in southern Babylonia, the modern site of Warka, east of Samawah.
- UTA-NAISHTIM A variant form of the name Uta-napishti.
- UTA-NAPISHTI 'I Found Life': the Babylonian Noah, a legendary king of Shuruppak who survived the Deluge and was made immortal.
- UTU The name of the Sun God in Sumerian, equated with Babylonian Shamash.
- WER 'Violent One': a name of Adad, particularly in the west.
- **ZIUSUDRA** 'Life of Distant Days': the Sumerian name for Uta-napishti.



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