Gilgamesh Tablet 1 Enkidu

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.