Gilgamesh Tablet 10

Utnapishtim on the inevitability of death for mortals

Utanapishtim spoke to Gilgamesh, saying:

"Why, Gilgamesh, do you ... sadness?

You who were created (!) from the flesh of gods and mankind

who made ... like your father and mother?

Have you ever... Gilgamesh ... to the fool ...

They placed a chair in the Assembly, ...

But to the fool they gave beer dregs instead of butter,

bran and cheap flour which like ...

Clothed with a loincloth (!) like ...

And ... in place of a sash,

because he does not have ...

does not have words of counsel ...

Take care about it, Gilgamesh,

... their master...

... Sin...

... eclipse of the moon ...

The gods are sleepless ...

They are troubled, restless(!) ...

Long ago it has been established...

You trouble yourself...

... your help ...

If Gilgamesh ... the temple of the gods

... the temple of the holy gods,

... the gods ...

... mankind,

they took ... for his fate.

You have toiled without cease, and what have you got!

Through toil you wear yourself out,

you fill your body with grief,

your long lifetime you are bringing near (to a premature end)!

Mankind, whose offshoot is snapped off like a reed in a

canebreak,

the fine youth and lovely girl

... death.

No one can see death,

no one can see the face of death,

no one can hear the voice of death,

yet there is savage death that snaps off mankind.

For how long do we build a household?

For how long do we seal a document!

For how long do brothers share the inheritance?

For how long is there to be jealousy in the land(!)!

For how long has the river risen and brought the overflowing

waters,

so that dragonflies drift down the river!'

The face that could gaze upon the face of the Sun

has never existed ever.

How alike are the sleeping(!) and the dead.

The image of Death cannot be depicted.

(Yes, you are a) human being, a man (?)!

After Enlil had pronounced the blessing,'"

the Anunnaki, the Great Gods, assembled.

Mammetum, she who forms destiny, determined destiny with them.

They established Death and Life,

but they did not make known 'the days of death'".