

# author of epic of gilgamesh

Author of Epic of Gilgamesh: Unraveling the Origins of the World's Oldest Epic

**author of epic of gilgamesh** is a question that has intrigued historians, archaeologists, and literary enthusiasts for centuries. Unlike modern literary works attributed to a single individual, the Epic of Gilgamesh emerges from the depths of ancient Mesopotamian civilization, making the identification of its author a complex and fascinating pursuit. This epic poem, often hailed as one of the earliest surviving pieces of literature in human history, is not just a story about a legendary king but also a window into the cultural and spiritual life of ancient Sumer, Akkad, and Babylonia.

## The Enigmatic Author of Epic of Gilgamesh

When we talk about the author of the Epic of Gilgamesh, it is important to understand that the poem did not spring from the mind of a single author in the way modern novels do. Instead, it is the product of a long oral tradition, evolving over centuries before being inscribed on clay tablets in cuneiform script. This means the "author" is more accurately described as a collective of ancient Mesopotamian storytellers, scribes, and poets whose contributions shaped the narrative.

## Oral Tradition and Early Composition

The earliest versions of the Gilgamesh story date back to around 2100 BCE during the Third Dynasty of Ur in southern Mesopotamia. These initial tales were passed down orally, shared by bards and storytellers who adapted and embellished the story for their audiences. This oral tradition makes pinpointing a single author impossible but highlights the collaborative nature of storytelling in early civilizations.

## The Role of Scribes in Preserving the Epic

The transition from oral storytelling to written text was facilitated by scribes—highly trained individuals who mastered cuneiform writing. These scribes played an essential role in preserving and standardizing the epic, especially during the Old Babylonian period (circa 1800 BCE). It was during this era that the story began to take a more fixed form, with various versions compiled and edited on clay tablets.

# **The Historical and Mythical Roots Behind the Epic**

Understanding the author of the Epic of Gilgamesh also involves exploring the historical and mythical context behind the narrative. The central character, Gilgamesh, is believed to have been a real historical figure, a king of Uruk who ruled sometime between 2700 and 2500 BCE. However, the epic blends historical fact with mythology, weaving a rich tapestry of gods, monsters, and quests.

## **Gilgamesh: The Historical King or Mythical Hero?**

While the historical Gilgamesh likely existed, the stories about him evolved dramatically over time. The epic portrays him as two-thirds god and one-third human, a semi-divine hero whose adventures explore themes of friendship, mortality, and the search for eternal life. This mythologizing process was shaped by generations of storytellers who added layers of meaning and symbolism.

## **Influence of Mesopotamian Religion and Culture**

The religious beliefs of ancient Mesopotamia heavily influenced the epic's content and structure. The gods in the story reflect the pantheon worshiped by Sumerians and Babylonians, and the themes of divine intervention, fate, and human limitation mirror their worldview. The author(s) of the epic embedded these cultural elements to resonate deeply with their audience, turning Gilgamesh's quest into a spiritual journey.

## **Key Contributors and Versions of the Epic**

Though the original author remains anonymous, scholars have identified key versions and contributors who helped shape the epic as we know it today.

### **The Old Babylonian Version**

One of the earliest written versions of the epic, composed in Akkadian language, was discovered in the form of clay tablets dating back to around 1800 BCE. This version introduced many of the characters and episodes familiar to modern readers, such as the friendship between Gilgamesh and Enkidu.

# The Standard Babylonian Version by Sin-leqi-unninni

The most famous and complete version of the epic is attributed to a Babylonian scribe named Sin-leqi-unninni, who lived between 1300 and 1000 BCE. Although the exact extent of his authorship is debated, Sin-leqi-unninni is credited with compiling and refining the various stories into a cohesive narrative. His version consists of 12 tablets and includes profound reflections on mortality and the human condition.

## Other Versions and Fragments

Beyond these, multiple fragments and versions have been found across Mesopotamia, each adding unique variations to the story. These include Sumerian poems about Gilgamesh, such as “Gilgamesh and Huwawa” and “Gilgamesh and the Bull of Heaven,” which likely influenced the later Akkadian epic.

## Why the Author of Epic of Gilgamesh Remains Unknown

Given the fragmented history and collective authorship, it is understandable that the precise identity of the author remains elusive.

- **Oral Tradition:** The story evolved orally over centuries before being written down.
- **Multiple Contributors:** Different scribes and poets contributed over time, each adapting the story.
- **Lack of Attribution:** Ancient texts rarely credited individual authors as modern works do.
- **Lost Historical Records:** Many original tablets and records have been damaged or lost, obscuring the origins.

This lack of a single author does not diminish the epic’s significance; rather, it highlights the communal nature of ancient storytelling and the enduring power of myth.

## Understanding the Legacy of the Epic’s

## **Author(s)**

While we may never know the name of the author of the Epic of Gilgamesh, recognizing the collaborative and evolving nature of its creation offers valuable insights.

## **The Collective Genius of Ancient Mesopotamia**

The epic's creation reflects the intellectual and cultural environment of ancient Mesopotamia, where storytelling, poetry, and religious thought intertwined. The authors—whether individuals or groups—were custodians of a tradition that not only entertained but also taught moral lessons and explored profound questions about life and death.

## **Influence on Later Literature and Culture**

The Epic of Gilgamesh influenced many later literary works and civilizations, including Hebrew scriptures and Greek mythology. Understanding its authorship as a process of transmission and adaptation helps us appreciate how stories evolve and endure across cultures.

## **Lessons for Modern Readers and Writers**

For today's readers and writers, the epic serves as a reminder of the power of storytelling as a communal and dynamic art. It encourages us to consider how narratives are shaped by many voices and how they continue to resonate through time.

In exploring the author of the Epic of Gilgamesh, we uncover not just a mysterious figure or group but a rich cultural heritage that has shaped human expression for millennia. The epic stands as a testament to the enduring human desire to understand ourselves and our place in the universe through story.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Who is the author of the Epic of Gilgamesh?**

The Epic of Gilgamesh is an ancient Mesopotamian poem and does not have a single known author; it was composed by multiple anonymous authors over time.

## **When was the Epic of Gilgamesh written?**

The Epic of Gilgamesh was written around 2100 BCE to 1200 BCE, with the most complete version dating from the 7th century BCE.

## **Is there a specific person credited with writing the Epic of Gilgamesh?**

No, the Epic of Gilgamesh is considered a work of collective authorship from ancient Mesopotamian scribes rather than a single identifiable author.

## **What culture created the Epic of Gilgamesh?**

The Epic of Gilgamesh was created by the ancient Sumerian and later Akkadian civilizations in Mesopotamia.

## **How was the Epic of Gilgamesh originally recorded?**

It was originally recorded on clay tablets using cuneiform script by ancient Mesopotamian scribes.

## **Why is the author of the Epic of Gilgamesh unknown?**

Because it is an ancient oral tradition compiled over centuries before being written down, and individual authors were not recorded in that era.

## **What language was the Epic of Gilgamesh first written in?**

The earliest versions of the Epic of Gilgamesh were written in Sumerian; later versions were written in Akkadian.

## **Are there any theories about who might have authored the Epic of Gilgamesh?**

While no specific author is known, some scholars suggest it was developed by multiple anonymous poets and scribes in ancient Mesopotamia.

## **How has the authorship of the Epic of Gilgamesh influenced its interpretation?**

The anonymous and composite authorship means interpretations focus on cultural and historical contexts rather than individual authorial intent.

## **Is the Epic of Gilgamesh considered the oldest epic**

## poem?

Yes, the Epic of Gilgamesh is often regarded as the oldest surviving epic poem in human history.

## Additional Resources

Author of Epic of Gilgamesh: Unraveling the Origins of the Ancient Masterpiece

**author of epic of gilgamesh** remains an enigmatic figure in the field of ancient literature and history. Unlike many classical works whose creators are well-documented, the Epic of Gilgamesh stands apart as one of the oldest known literary compositions, yet its authorship is shrouded in mystery. This Mesopotamian poem, originating from the early civilizations of Sumer, Akkad, and Babylon, is a compilation of myths, legends, and folklore that evolved over centuries. Understanding who penned this epic, or if it was even the product of a single author, requires an investigation into the historical, cultural, and literary contexts of ancient Mesopotamia.

## The Historical Context of the Epic's Creation

The Epic of Gilgamesh dates back to approximately 2100 BCE, making it one of humanity's earliest surviving works of literature. The story centers on Gilgamesh, the semi-divine king of Uruk, and explores themes of friendship, mortality, and the quest for immortality. However, pinpointing the author of the Epic of Gilgamesh is complicated by the text's origin as an oral tradition, transmitted and transformed by successive generations of scribes and storytellers.

Early versions of the epic appeared as separate Sumerian poems, each recounting different episodes of Gilgamesh's life. It was not until the Old Babylonian period (circa 1800 BCE) that these disparate tales were likely compiled into a more cohesive narrative. The most complete version of the epic, inscribed on twelve clay tablets in Akkadian cuneiform, dates from the first millennium BCE and is attributed to the Babylonian scribe Sin-liqe-unninni.

## The Role of Sin-liqe-unninni

While the true "author" of the epic cannot be definitively named, Sin-liqe-unninni is often credited as the editor or compiler of the standard Akkadian version. His contributions are significant, shaping the epic into a unified story with philosophical depth and literary sophistication. Scholars debate whether Sin-liqe-unninni invented original content or merely refined a pre-

existing oral tradition, but his role underscores the collaborative nature of ancient texts.

The absence of a singular author reflects the cultural practice in Mesopotamia, where stories were collectively owned and adapted rather than authored in the modern sense. This communal authorship challenges contemporary notions of literary creation and complicates efforts to assign credit.

## **Literary Features and Authorship Attribution**

From a literary perspective, the Epic of Gilgamesh exhibits characteristics that suggest multiple layers of authorship over time. The poem's stylistic variations, thematic inconsistencies, and duplications indicate it was not the work of a single individual. Instead, it evolved through centuries of oral storytelling, with various bards and scribes contributing to its development.

## **Stylistic and Thematic Evolution**

The earliest Sumerian poems focus mainly on heroic exploits and divine interactions, whereas later Akkadian versions introduce introspective and existential themes such as the fear of death and the search for meaning. This shift suggests a gradual authorial evolution, reflecting changing societal values and philosophical inquiries.

## **The Impact of Oral Tradition**

Oral tradition played a critical role in shaping the epic before it was inscribed on tablets. Each retelling allowed for modifications, expansions, and reinterpretations, which complicates the idea of a fixed author. This fluidity in storytelling is a hallmark of many ancient epics and illustrates how collective cultural memory can produce enduring literary masterpieces.

## **Comparisons with Other Ancient Epics**

To better understand the authorship of the Epic of Gilgamesh, it is useful to compare it with other ancient epics such as Homer's Iliad and Odyssey or the Indian Mahabharata. These works also originated in oral traditions and were compiled or written down by unknown or semi-legendary figures.

- **Homeric Epics:** Traditionally attributed to Homer, whose historicity

remains debated, these epics were likely the product of many contributors over time, similar to Gilgamesh.

- **Mahabharata:** An ancient Indian epic credited to Vyasa, it also evolved from oral narratives and was compiled over centuries.
- **Enuma Elish:** Another Mesopotamian creation myth, it shares the characteristic anonymous, collective authorship common in ancient Near Eastern literature.

These parallels emphasize that ancient epics often do not conform to modern concepts of authorship, instead reflecting communal cultural expression.

## Modern Scholarship and the Search for the Author

Contemporary scholars approach the question of the author of the Epic of Gilgamesh with caution, focusing more on the socio-cultural processes behind the text's creation than on identifying an individual. Archaeological discoveries, such as the tablets from the library of Ashurbanipal, have deepened understanding of the epic's transmission and preservation.

## Challenges in Authorship Attribution

Several factors hinder definitive authorship attribution:

1. **Lack of Authorial Signatures:** Unlike modern texts, Mesopotamian works rarely name individual authors.
2. **Fragmentary Evidence:** Many tablets are damaged or incomplete, making it difficult to reconstruct the original text fully.
3. **Multiple Versions:** Variants of the epic exist across different regions and time periods.

## Contributions of Assyriologists and Linguists

Experts in Assyriology and ancient languages have pieced together the epic's narrative and linguistic evolution, highlighting the role of scribes as both preservers and creators. Through philological analysis, these scholars trace

the layers of editing and adaptation, revealing how the epic was shaped by cultural shifts and political contexts.

## The Legacy of the Epic's Anonymous Authorship

The fact that the author of the Epic of Gilgamesh is unknown does not diminish the work's timeless value. On the contrary, it highlights the power of collective storytelling and the transmission of cultural identity through shared narratives. The epic's themes resonate universally, transcending its ancient origins and influencing literature, philosophy, and art across millennia.

In the digital age, the epic continues to captivate audiences and scholars alike, prompting ongoing debates about the nature of authorship, creativity, and cultural heritage. Understanding that the Epic of Gilgamesh was shaped by a lineage of voices rather than a single author enriches appreciation for this foundational text of world literature.

### [Author Of Epic Of Gilgamesh](#)

**author of epic of gilgamesh:** [Gilgamesh](#) Stephen Mitchell, 2014-02-27 Vivid, enjoyable and comprehensible, the poet and pre-eminent translator Stephen Mitchell makes the oldest epic poem in the world accessible for the first time. Gilgamesh is a born leader, but in an attempt to control his growing arrogance, the Gods create Enkidu, a wild man, his equal in strength and courage. Enkidu is trapped by a temple prostitute, civilised through sexual experience and brought to Gilgamesh. They become best friends and battle evil together. After Enkidu's death the distraught Gilgamesh sets out on a journey to find Utnapishtim, the survivor of the Great Flood, made immortal by the Gods to ask him the secret of life and death. Gilgamesh is the first and remains one of the most important works of world literature. Written in ancient Mesopotamia in the second millennium B.C., it predates the Iliad by roughly 1,000 years. Gilgamesh is extraordinarily modern in its emotional power but also provides an insight into the values of an ancient culture and civilisation.

**author of epic of gilgamesh:** [Gilgamesh, The New Translation](#) Gerald J. Davis, 2014-07-07 The EPIC OF GILGAMESH is the oldest story that has come down to us through the ages of history. It predates the BIBLE, the ILIAD and the ODYSSEY. The EPIC OF GILGAMESH relates the tale of the fifth king of the first dynasty of Uruk (in what is modern day Iraq) who reigned for one hundred and twenty-six years, according to the ancient Sumerian King List. GILGAMESH was first inscribed in cuneiform writing on clay tablets by an unknown author during the Sumerian era and has been described as one of the greatest works of literature in the recounting of mankind's unending quest for immortality.

**author of epic of gilgamesh:** [The Epic of Gilgamesh](#) , 1960-12-30 N. K. Sandars's landmark translation of one of the first and greatest works of Western literature A Penguin Classic Gilgamesh, King of Uruk, and his companion Enkidu are the only heroes to have survived from the ancient literature of Babylon, immortalized in this epic poem that dates back to the third millennium BC. Together they journey to the Spring of Youth, defeat the Bull of Heaven and slay the monster Humbaba. When Enkidu dies, Gilgamesh's grief and fear of death are such that they lead him to undertake a quest for eternal life. A timeless tale of morality, tragedy and pure adventure, The Epic

of Gilgamesh is a landmark literary exploration of man's search for immortality. N. K. Sandars's lucid, accessible translation is prefaced by a detailed introduction that examines the narrative and historical context of the work. In addition, there is a glossary of names and a map of the Ancient Orient. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

**author of epic of gilgamesh:** *The Epic of Gilgamesh* Reginald Campbell Thompson, 2019-05-30 The Epic of Gilgamesh is among the earliest surviving works of literature, with the earliest versions dating from around the Third Dynasty of Ur in early Sumeria (2150-2000 BC). Preserved in Cuneiform, the Epic was retold over the centuries, and the most complete version was discovered in the ruins of the library palace of the seventh century BC Assyrian king, Ashurbanipal. The Epic is most notable as being the obvious source of the biblical story of Noah and the flood. The Epic tells the story of the king of Uruk, Gilgamesh, and his adventures with his erstwhile foe and then friend, Enkidu. Together they journey to the Cedar Mountain to defeat Humbaba, its monstrous guardian, then they kill the Bull of Heaven, which the goddess Ishtar sends to punish Gilgamesh for spurning her advances. As a punishment for these actions, the gods sentence Enkidu to death. Gilgamesh then sets out to avoid his friend's fate and seek the secret to eternal life, a quest in which he is ultimately thwarted. Contains original author's preface and a new overview of the storyline. Contents Author's Preface Overview of the Storyline of the Epic of Gilgamesh The First Tablet: Of the Tyranny of Gilgamesh, and the Creation of Enkidu The Second Tablet: Of the Meeting of Gilgamesh and Enkidu The Third Tablet: The Expedition to the Forest of Cedars against Humbaba The Fourth Tablet: The Arrival at the Gate of the Forest The Fifth Tablet: Of the Fight with Humbaba The Sixth Tablet: Of the Goddess Ishtar, Who Fell In Love with the Hero after His Exploit against Humbaba The Seventh Tablet: The Death of Enkidu The Eighth Tablet: Of the Mourning of Gilgamesh, and What Came of It The Ninth Tablet: Gilgamesh in Terror of Death Seeks Eternal Life The Tenth Tablet: How Gilgamesh Reached Uta-Napishtim The Eleventh Tablet: The Flood The Twelfth Tablet: Gilgamesh, In Despair, Enquires of the Dead

**author of epic of gilgamesh:** *Gilgamesh* Derrek Hines, 2004-10-19 In his thrillingly contemporary retelling of the world's oldest epic, award-winning poet Derrek Hines brings us as close as we may ever come to re-creating the power it had over its original listeners more than four thousand years ago in the ancient Near East. Gilgamesh, the semi-divine ruler of Uruk, is a larger-than-life bully and abuser of his people. In order to tame the arrogant king, the gods create the wild and handsome Enkidu. But after Enkidu and Gilgamesh become fast friends, they defy the gods in a series of outsized adventures that brings Gilgamesh face to face with both loss and death itself. Hines energizes this timeless tale with vivid and electrifyingly modern images, from the goddess Ishtar cracking the sound barrier, to a battlefield nightmare of spectral snipers and exploding hand grenades, to the CAT-scan image of a dying friend. The themes of love and friendship, grief, despair, and hope had their first great expression in this story, and this dazzling new interpretation brings us into its thrall again.

**author of epic of gilgamesh:** *The Epic of Gilgamesh* Sam Kuraishi, 2012 The Epic of Gilgamesh is the oldest documented story in the history of humankind. And after 4000 years from its inception, we can still relate to its message for its striking account on human condition, bright or bleak, which we have to deal with in our daily life: love and relationship, life and death, tyranny and ruthlessness, and soul searching. Although The Epic of Gilgamesh roots cultivated in Mesopotamia, however, its thematic message is still relevant to our daily life. The personal relationship in our daily life, the value of friendship, the lose of loved one, the pesuit of happiness, the quest for longevity, the conflict between logic and illusion, are shaping our daily life. Sam Kuraish's adaptation of The Epic of Gilgamesh is different than othe versions. He clarified and substituted some achaic words that are troubling the reader of modern poetry. He also worked some lines into simplified free verse.

When appropriate, he used dialogue in his adaptation. He used a style of free verse that doesn't follow a regular pattern or a steady backbeat as well as combining short and long lines as Frank O'Hara and Allen Ginsburg did it with harmony. He also used initial repetition (anaphora) as Walt Whitman did in (*Leaves of Grass*). Regardless of what it was altered, or what liberty Sam Kuraishi has taken in his composition of the epic, he coherently retained the thematic basis of the epic. This is the story that exhibits a striking meaning of life and death, of love and friendship, and of one's deeds. This is the story of Gilgamesh, king of Uruk (Eridu in *The Book of Genesis*)--the greatest city of its time.

**author of epic of gilgamesh:** Epic of Gilgamesh Gilgamesh, 2023-11 Gilgamesh, the King of Uruk, and his friend Enkidu are the only heroes from ancient Babylonian stories that have survived. They are the main characters in an old poem from around 3000 years ago. In the poem, they go on adventures together, like defeating a powerful bull and killing a scary monster. But when Enkidu dies, Gilgamesh is very sad and afraid of dying himself. This makes him go on a journey to find a way to live forever. The Epic of Gilgamesh is a story that teaches us about right and wrong, sad things, and exciting adventures. It's an important piece of literature that explores the idea of people wanting to live forever.

**author of epic of gilgamesh: How Isaiah Became an Author** David Davage, 2022-08-30 Traditionally, biblical studies has been an academic discipline with roots deeply embedded in historical inquiries about the genesis of texts. It should come as no surprise that a significant amount of scholarly attention has been on the formation of the book of Isaiah, especially since the compelling imagination of Isaiah comprises an anthology of prophetic voices, each with its own historical context. At the same time, it is well known that the chasteness of ancient texts discloses precious little specific information to aid with this reconstructive task. *How Isaiah Became an Author* tackles this historical irony head-on. David Davage begins by describing two contrasting ways authorship was conceived in antiquity: Mesopotamian and Greek. He next analyzes the processes through which Isaiah ben Amos came to be imagined as an author of the book of Isaiah. In doing so, Davage changes the question from Who wrote the 'book' of Isaiah? to How, and in what ways, was the relation between the prophet called Isaiah and the book that came to bear his name conceived in the Second Temple period? Davage shows how a prophetic anthology that originally circulated anonymously eventually became transmitted together with a name. Although that name originally did not convey any notion of penning, but rather portrays Isaiah ben Amos as a tradent of divine revelation transmitted by many agents over time, it came to be reimagined as a statement about the origins of the book. This transformation is, then, explained as the result of negotiations between the Mesopotamian and the Greek author concepts in the late Second Temple period, negotiations that have continued even to this day.

**author of epic of gilgamesh: Contemporary Studies in Acts** Thomas E. Phillips, 2009 The book of Acts contains the only biblical narrative of the events that occurred in the early church between the early first-century ministry of Jesus and the early to mid-second-century emergence of the Christian apologists. This title includes essays that reveal the best in contemporary thought about this one-of-a-kind book.

**author of epic of gilgamesh:** *The New Cambridge History of the Bible: Volume 1, From the Beginnings to 600* James Carleton Paget, Joachim Schaper, 2013-05-09 Recent years have witnessed significant discoveries of texts and artefacts relevant to the study of the Old and New Testaments and remarkable shifts in scholarly methods of study. The present volume mirrors the increasing specialization of Old Testament studies, including the Hebrew and Greek Bibles, and reflects rich research activity that has unfolded over the last four decades in Pentateuch theory, Septuagint scholarship, Qumran studies and early Jewish exegesis of biblical texts. The second half of the volume discusses the period running from the New Testament to 600, including chapters on the Coptic, Syriac and Latin bibles, the 'Gnostic' use of the scriptures, pagan engagement with the Bible, the use of the Bible in Christian councils and in popular and non-literary culture. A fascinating in-depth account of the reception of the Bible in the earliest period of its history.

**author of epic of gilgamesh:** The Epic of Gilgamesh , 1928

**author of epic of gilgamesh:** *The epic of Gilgamesh* Gilgamesh, 1960 . One of the finest surviving epic poems of world literature.

**author of epic of gilgamesh: The Eden Narrative** Tryggve N. D. Mettinger, 2007 In a book marked by unusually readable yet academic style, Mettinger transforms our knowledge of the story of Eden in Genesis. He shows us a story focused on a divine test of human obedience, with human disobedience and its consequences as its main theme. Both of the special trees in Eden had a function: the tree of knowledge as the test case, and the tree of life as the potential reward for obedience. Mettinger adopts a two-tiered approach. In a synchronic move, he undertakes a literary analysis that yields striking observations on narratology, theme, and genre in the text studied. He defines the genre as myth and subjects the narrative to a functional analysis. He then applies a diachronic approach and presents a tradition-historical reconstruction of an Adamic myth in Ezekiel 28. The presence of both wisdom and immortality in this myth leads to a discussion of these divine prerogatives in Mesopotamian literature (remember Adapa and Gilgamesh). The two prerogatives demarcated an ontological boundary between the divine and human spheres. Nevertheless, the Eden Narrative does not evaluate the human desire to obtain knowledge or wisdom negatively. A piece of fresh, original scholarship in accessible form, this book is ideal for courses on creation, primeval history, the Bible and literature, and the Bible and the ancient Near East.

**author of epic of gilgamesh:** *Epic of Gilgamesh* , 2018-10-21 One of the earliest surviving works of literature, dating from around the Third Dynasty of Ur in Sumeria (2150-2000 BC). Notable as being the source of the story of Noah and the flood, which was taken up into Judaism, and the Christian Bible.

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**author of epic of gilgamesh: Mesopotamian Myths** Henrietta McCall, 1990-01-01 Briefly describes the rediscovery and decipherment of the Mesopotamian myths and legends, introduces and retells the Epic of Gilgamesh, and others, and examines their importance, both past and present

**author of epic of gilgamesh: The Age of Agade** Benjamin R. Foster, 2015-12-14 *The Age of Agade* is the first book-length study of the Akkadian period of Mesopotamian history, which saw the rise and fall of the world's first empire during more than a century of extraordinary political, social, and cultural innovation. It draws together more than 40 years of research by one of the world's leading experts in Assyriology to offer an exhaustive survey of the Akkadian empire. Addressing all aspects of the empire, including its statecraft and military, territory and cities, arts, religion,

economy, and production, The Age of Agade considers what can be said of Akkadian political and social history, material culture, and daily life. A final chapter also explores how the empire has been presented in modern historiography, from the decipherment of cuneiform to the present, including the extensive research of Soviet historians, summarized here in English for the first time. Drawing on contemporaneous written and artifactual sources, as well as relevant materials from succeeding generations, Foster introduces the reader to the wealth of evidence available. Accessibly written by a specialist in the field, this book is an engaging examination of a critical era in the history of early Mesopotamia.

**author of epic of gilgamesh:** *The Comparative Textual Criticism of Religious Scriptures* , 2024-05-13 This collection of articles uniquely brings into scholarly dialogue the textual history and criticism of authoritative literatures from diverse cultures: they study Mesopotamian literature, the Hebrew Bible, the New Testament, the Homeric epics, the Quran, and Hindu and Buddhist literatures with an interest in all matters of their textual transmission. Contributors address questions such as: What role does textual criticism play in the study of authoritative texts in these fields? How much variation exists in these textual traditions? Can you observe processes of textual standardization? What role does the oral transmission play? How are critical editions prepared? While these questions have produced a wealth of scholarly literature for each individual field, this volume is the first to study them from a comparative perspective.

**author of epic of gilgamesh:** *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

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