

	<b>Genesis verhale (Gen. 1:1-2:4 en 2:4b-25)</b>	<b>Babiloniese verhaal (Enuma Elish)</b>	<b>Egiptiese verhaal</b>	<b>Persiese verhaal (Zoroaster)</b>
<b>Tydperk</b>	600-500 v.C.	12de eeu v.C. (Tablet dateer uit 7de eeu v.C.)	Ouer as 17de eeu v.C.	
<b>God(e) se oorsprong</b>	Jahwe bestaan voor skepping	Soet- (Apsu) en Soutwater (Tiamat) {Die water van die Tigris en Eufraat} vermeng (Mummu), dit wat ontstaan is 'n gevolg hiervan. (Tablet I)	Ogdod: 8 Gode (4 slange, 4 paddas [Nun & Nunet (water), Heh & Hehet (oneindige ruimte), Kek & Keket (donkerte), Amon & Amonet (onsigbare) – hulle het in die waters geswem en die eier bewaar wat die skepper bevat het. Eier breek oop, skei waters en skep ruimte vir skepper om in te werk.	
<b>Oorspronklike staat</b>	Chaos en onbewoonbaar, donker, Gees van God teenwoordig	Niks het name, gode (behalwe oorsprong Apsu en Tiamat) bestaan nog nie (Tablet I)	Nun: die kosmiese waters en diepte van die naghemel het bestaan.	Terwyl die skepper gerus het, het die eerste berg (Harabatz) gegroei, dit het 800 jaar geneem om sy wortels in die aarde in te groei en sy piek die hemel te laat raak. (1)
<b>Eerste beweging</b>	God skep lig, daarna word die gewelf geskep	Gewelf word geskep (Lahmu [modder] en Lahamu vanuit die geboorte van Anshar - hemel ["hele lug"] en Kishar - aarde ["hele horison"]) ('n ander deel van die verhaal, maak Marduk vir Tiamat dood en haar lyk word verdeel Aarde en hemel met gedeeltes wat dit van mekaar skei - Tablet IV)	Die skepper (Amen-Re of Ra) kom in stilte met 'n blou lotusblom uit eier en verban die donkerte na die verre heelal. Hy laat 'n kreet uit wat dit as lewende God bestempel het, God wat self geskep is, Logos – Woord is (Johannes 1 se skeppingsverhaal is in reaksie hierop). Hy (nou bekend as Kephra) skep 'n eiland om vanaf te werk, met die waters wat van die eiland geskei is. Hy skep deur te spreek. Daarna skep hy die godin Maat (regverdigheid), hy skep balans. Hy skep ander gode (Shu – lug, Tefnut – Klammigheid) ook en gee hulle name	

			(parallel met mens wat vir diere name gee in Genesis). Die gode raak verlore in die oopte en hy neem 'n oog van hom, plaas krag daarin en noem dit sy dogter Hathor (godin van lug) om ander kinders te vind. Hulle word gevind en het kinders: Geb (aarde) en Nut (Hemele), Ra neem Nut as vrou, maar sy hou meer van Geb en hy betrap hulle, uit woede skeur hy die die hemel en aarde weg van mekaar.	
<b>Volgende bewegings</b>	Water en aarde word geskei, groenigheid word geskep (sê iets van voorsiening van Jahwe) (Die 2de Skeppingsverhaal noem dat grond van onder af nat word – ontken moontlik gode se betrokkenheid en sê dat Jahwe voorsien)	(Vanuit Tiamat se dood skep Marduk reën vir die aarde - Babilon) (Tablet IV)		Die sirkulêre aksie van die son, maan en sterre het reën gebring en die see Vourukash is gevorm. Ander berge en streke is gevorm. Die twee riviere (een wes en een oos) het die wêreld afgebaken. Die Vourukash see se middel het begin skuim en die eerste boom (Seana boom) is daaruit gevorm (3)
	Son, Maan en sterre geskep (hulle dien as tekens van orde – seisoene)	Son, maan en sterre word geskep (almal gode: Anu, Enlil, Ea, Damkina, Marduk) (Tiamat – dui deurgaans op onrus en wanorde [winter], Apsu kom in opstand teen sy nasate) (Tablet II)	Nut kan nie geboorte gee aan haar kinders as haar straf, maar Toth (self geskep) onderhandel met Seline (maan godin) vir ekstra lig (siklusse van die maan) en 5 ekstra dae word geskep (360+5) waarin Osiris, Oudste Horus (Regter oog son, linker oog maan), Set (oorlog), Isis (liefde, wysheid en toorkuns) en Nephthys gebore. [Ander weergawes het die son	Soos wat die eerste berg gegroei het en aan die hemel geraak het, is die son, maan en sterre gevorm om die Alburtz te sirkel (2)

			as 'n eier wat daagliks gelê word of Khepri as hy opkom en Horus as hy onder gaan, so ook is Nut soms 'n sog/koei wat haar kinders (sterre) voer, haar maag is die pad van die son.]	
	Lewende wesens – visse, voëls en diere	Marduk skep plek vir gode en skep Babilon as sy oudiënsie vertrek (Tablet V)		Die eerste voël het, gaan nes maak in die Seana boom, waar sy blare geval het, het die eerste plante (Gaokerene) ook opgekom. Hierdie plante het helende kragte gehad en kon mense uit die dood opwek. (Parallel met 2de skeppingsverhaal) Die eerste dier wat ontstaan het, was 'n wit bul en het op die rivierbanke van die Vah Daiti (Veh Rod) gebly. Angra Manyu het hom dood gemaak en sy saad het van die maan af na die aarde toe geval om ander diere te skep (4)
	Die mens word geskep as verteenwoordiger en beeld van God (Die 2de verhaal noem dat die mens uit stof geskep is en Sy asem in hom geblaas, hierdie verhaal het ook met die ontstaan van sonde te make – soos met die Persiese skeppingsverhaal)	Marduk skep die mens uit bloed en been van Kingu (die god wat hom op Apsu se dood namens Tiamat gewreek het) (Tablet VI)	Die mens word op Khnemu se pottebakker wiel geskep en Ra blaas van sy asem in hulle.	Die eerste mens, Gayomarta, het aan die oorkant van die oewer gebly. Hy het spontaan ontstaan uit die skepping. Angra Manyu het ook die eerste mens doodgemaak, sy saad is vir 40 jaar deur die son gereinig, tot die rabarberplant daaruit gegroei het, die rabarberplant het stadig gegroei om Mashya en Mashyanag (die eerste paartjie) te vorm. Angra Manyu het hulle gekul om hom te aanbid en so het die slegte in die wêreld in gekom. Die paartjie het 'n tweeling gehad, maar hulle het die tweeling geëet

				omdat hulle so korrup was, die tweede tweeling is die voorouers van die mensdom, maar veral die Perse. (5)
<b>Slot</b>	God rus en stel rusdag vir mense in	Marduk se lof word besing, die gode vier fees (Tablet VII)	Saans keer Ra terug na die Lotus en dit word nag. Die wêreld word aan die gang gehou deur die stryd tussen lig en donker, wanneer die stryd ophou sal die wêreld ophou bestaan.	

## Enuma Elish

### Tablet I

The stage is set for the story. The various gods represent aspects of the physical world. Apsu is the god of fresh water and thus male fertility. Tiamat, wife of Apsu, is the goddess of the sea and thus chaos and threat. Tiamat gives birth to Anshar and Kishar, gods who represented the boundary between the earth and sky (the horizon). To Anshar and Kishar is born Anu, god of sky, who in turn bears Ea. These "sons of the gods" make so much commotion and are so ill-behaved that Apsu decides to destroy them. When Ea learns of the plan, he kills Apsu and with his wife Damkina establishes their dwelling above his body. Damkina then gives birth to Marduk, the god of spring symbolized both by the light of the sun and the lightning in storm and rain. He was also the patron god of the city of Babylon. Meanwhile Tiamat is enraged at the murder of her husband Apsu, and vows revenge. She creates eleven monsters to help her carry out her vengeance. Tiamat takes a new husband, Kingu, in place of the slain Apsu and puts him in charge of her newly assembled army.

### Tablet II

Tiamat represents the forces of disorder and chaos in the world. In the cycle of seasons, Tiamat is winter and barrenness. In the second tablet, to avenge the murder of her husband Tiamat prepares to unleash on the other gods the destructive forces that she has assembled. Ea learns of her plan and attempts to confront Tiamat. While the tablet is damaged, it is apparent that Ea fails to stop Tiamat. Then Anu attempts to challenge her but fails as well. The gods become afraid that no one will be able to stop Tiamat's vengeful rampage.

### Tablet III

Anshar's minister Gaga is dispatched to the other gods to report the activities of Tiamat and to tell them of Marduk's willingness to face her. Much of this tablet is poetic repetition of previous conversations.

### Tablet IV

The council of the gods tests Marduk's powers by having him make a garment disappear and then reappear. After passing the test, the council enthrones Marduk as high king and commissions him to fight Tiamat. With the authority and power of the council, Marduk assembles his weapons, the four winds as well as the seven winds of destruction. He rides in his chariot of clouds with the weapons of the storm to confront Tiamat. After entangling her in a net, Marduk unleashes the Evil Wind to

inflate Tiamat. When she is incapacitated by the wind, Marduk kills her with an arrow through her heart and takes captive the other gods and monsters who were her allies. He also captured her husband Kingu. After smashing Tiamat's head with a club, Marduk divided her corpse, using half to create the earth and the other half to create the sky complete with bars to keep the chaotic waters from escaping. The tablet ends with Marduk establishing dwelling places for his allies.

#### **Tablet V**

Marduk builds dwelling places for the other gods. As they take their place, they establish the days and months and seasons of the year. Since this is a myth about the natural world, the "stations" that Marduk establishes for the gods correspond to the celestial luminaries that figured in Babylonian astrology. The phases (horns) of the Moon determine the cycles of the months. From the spittle of Tiamat Marduk creates rain for the earth. The city of Babylon is established as the audience room of King Marduk.

#### **Tablet VI**

Marduk decides to create human beings, but needs blood and bone from which to fashion them. Ea advises that only one of the gods should die to provide the materials for creation, the one who was guilty of plotting evil against the gods. Marduk inquires of the assembly of the gods about who incited Tiamat's rebellion, and was told that it was her husband Kingu. Ea kills Kingu and uses his blood to fashion mankind so they can perform menial tasks for the gods. To honor Marduk, the gods construct a house for him in Babylon. After its completion, Marduk gives a great feast for the gods in his new house who all praise Marduk for his greatness in subduing Tiamat. The first group of the fifty throne names of Marduk are recited.

#### **Tablet VII**

Continuation of praise of Marduk as chief of Babylon and head of the Babylonian pantheon because of his role in creation. The rest of Marduk's fifty throne names declaring his dominion are recited. Final blessings on Marduk and instructions to the people to remember and recite Marduk's deeds.

## Egypties

In the beginning there was only the Nun: the great celestial waters of the Unmanifest; the depths of the nighttime sky. Swimming within this primordial Deep were the mighty Ogdoad: eight Gods who consisted of four Serpents, and four Frogs. Their names were Nun and Nunet, deities of the watery abyss; Heh and Hehet, deities of infinite space; Kek and Keket, deities of darkness; and Amon and Amonet, deities of the invisible. These primordial Gods swam within the Waters, guarding the Great Egg that incubated the Creator.

In time, the Egg began to hatch. It split into two halves, dividing the waters of the Nun into the upper and lower, and making between them a space wherein the Creator could fashion the world.

From the Egg arose a single blue Lotus. It rose high above the darkness of the abyss, and opened its great petals. Within its golden heart rested a beautiful young God, the Creator Amen-Re, with one single finger pressed against His lips in Silence.

Light streamed from the body of this Divine Child, banishing darkness to the far reaches of the universe. Like a phoenix with flaming plumage He arose, uttering a cry that shattered the eternal silence. This was the first sound- the first Word- and that Word manifested as a living God. That was His name: the Self-Created, the Logos, Wisdom.

Amon-Re then constructed an island for Himself to rest upon, and He surveyed the expanse of water around Him. He knew that He was alone, and soon found He could not bear the solitude. He longed for others to share the Light with Him.

Thus, He began his creation. In this He is known as Khephera, the God of Creation, the God of the Rising Sun. He brought order to the chaotic Ogdoad- setting Them in Their proper places- and it was thus the world came into existence. He accomplished this through the mighty power of the Divine Word, Thoth, and that power was yet another God: Ptah, the architect of the world and all of its creatures.

The first to be created was the Great Goddess Maat; Justice, Truth, the Judge and Balance of Dualities; for, duality is the law of the universe. Thoth took Her as His wife, and the two sustain the universe even unto this day; the Divine Word and Truth.

And more were created, in Their turn, by the thoughts of Amen-Re. He empowered Them with His word- by naming Them. First among Them were Shu, the God of Air, and Tefnut, the Goddess of Moisture.

Yet, Shu and Tefnut were quickly lost to Re in the waters of the abyss, and He was once again alone. He therefore took an Eye from His face and filled it with His own power. He called the Eye his daughter, Hathor, Goddess of the Sky, and sent Her out into the darkness to find His children.

The light of Hathor pierced the forces of darkness and Shu and Tefnut were quickly found and returned to Their Father. As a reward, Re set the Eye upon His brow in the form of the Great Cobra, the Uraeus Serpent. He swore an oath to Her that She would ever have power over His enemies, and in ages to come both Gods and men would fear Her.

Now Shu and Tefnut loved each other, and in time Tefnut gave birth to twins. The eldest was Geb, God of the Earth. The younger was Nut, Goddess of the Heavens. Re took the Star Goddess Nut for His wife, yet it was Geb for whom She yearned. It was Geb that She moved toward. The Earth and Sky, entangled in love, were intermixed and chaotic. The universe was formless; as if rebelling against order.

Re, unaware, stumbled upon this union of Geb and Nut. Angered at his unfaithful wife, He forced the lovers apart. He pulled the Sky far above the Earth, and held Them distant by force. He then set Shu between the lovers, upholding Nut in Her place to keep Them forever apart. It was thus that the Air came to reside between Sky and Earth.

Though Re's wrath against His wife was not yet complete. He further decreed that Nut, impregnated by Her union with Geb, should never give birth to Her young in any month of any year. Instead, They were to be locked within Her, never to see the light of day.

Nut mourned for Her loss; the loss of both Her lover and Her unborn children. Her lamentations reached even unto the ears of Thoth, the Self Created. He rushed to Her side, and dried Her tears. He soothed Her and spoke with Her, discovering the pain which inflicted Her. Thoth, who was the Lord of all magick and spells, knew that Re's decree could not be undone. Yet, he knew also that there was a way in which to relieve great Nut of Her suffering.

To this end, Thoth created the game of draughts, and challenged the Moon Goddess Silene; whose light then rivaled that of the sun. Thoth convinced Her to gamble a seventieth part of Her light for each day of the year. Being the Lord of Wisdom, He easily won from Her this light, and to this day the moon dwindles and darkens at certain periods. Thoth pieced together the light he had won- enough to fashion five whole days- and added them to the end of the 360-day lunar year.



These days did not rest within any month, nor any year, and thus Nut was able to bear Her children, one on each day. On the first was born Osiris. As he came into the World a Great Voice was heard throughout the heavens proclaiming that the Lord of Creation was born.

On the second day was born the great Elder Horus, whose right eye is the sun, and left eye the Moon. The Sky Goddess' name, Hathor, literally means "The Abode of Horus."

On the third day was born dark Set, the Lord of warfare and the burning deserts.

On the fourth day was born Isis, Goddess of Love, Magick, and Wisdom. The Great Lady of the heavens. Osiris took Her as His wife, and there was great love between Them.

Finally, on the fifth day, was born Isis' beloved sister Nephthys. The dark aspect of Her sister, She was taken by Set as His wife, but there was never love between Them at all. She, instead, remained always loyal to Her sister.

And thus is the birth of the Great Shining Ones, the Company of the Gods of Annu. They are the Ennead, the Great Company of Gods: Re; His children Shu and Tefnut, His grandchildren Geb and Nut, and His great-grandchildren Osiris, Isis, Set, and Nephthys. Many other Gods were also created by Re; and He filled the sky above the earth, and the abyss below it with spirits, demons, and lesser Deities.

Last of all was created Man and the other creatures of the earth. The mighty Khnem'u fashioned them upon His potter's wheel, and Re breathed into them the breath of life. Further, He made a land for them to dwell within, and named the kingdom Khemet (Egypt).

He protected the land with great barriers of desert, and created the river Nile so that it's waters would flood the land and rich crops would be plentiful. He also made other countries, and for them he created a Nile in the sky that would rain down its waters and sustain their life. He populated the world with all forms of animal, bird, fish, and plant; and gave them also the breath of life.

Each day Re walks through His kingdom, or sails across the sky in His Barque of Millions of Years (that is- the Ship of Eternity). To restrain the forces of darkness and chaos, He created the kingship; He then established Himself as the first and greatest King of Egypt and reigned for countless centuries in joy and peace.

But, alas, every evening the great primordial Lotus closes it's petals and sinks once more into the waters of the abyss. Darkness reigns throughout the Night until the young God within the Lotus is reborn. The forces of darkness were not conquered forever at the beginning of time; instead they

surrounded the earth as serpents poised to attack the Sun God. The war between darkness and light sustains the world; and when it comes to a final end, so too will the world.

## Persies

First the sky was created from rock crystal (note 1) in the shape of a hollow sphere so that it was both above and below where the earth would be. First water was created and then earth. Plants were created next and then animals. Finally humans were born and the seventh creation fire, most perfect of all, was made and all was done.

As the creator rested, the first mountain grew, Alburz (note 2) also known as Mount Hara or Harbatz taking 800 years to grow its roots into the earth and its crown upwards until it touched the sky. And when it touched the sky the sun, moon and stars were born and circled the top of Alburz. As they revolved water fell from the sky and the tree collected it all about it into a sea called Vourukash. Thusly Alburz was the source of all light and all water. (Note 5)

As the rains fell seven regions, or Karshvars (note 3) formed. The largest of these regions was Khvanrath, which was to be occupied by humans, and it was as large as the other six combined. As Alburz grew it sprouted other mountains, 2244 in all. (Note 4)

The Vourukash Sea sent out two mighty rivers, one to the west and one to the east, making the boundaries of the known world. The water flowing into the rivers was purified, and it flowed from them to the Peak of Hara which threw the water into the air and became the rain again. The Vourukasha Sea began to foam in its center and from that came the first tree, the Saena Tree (note 6). And as the first tree grew its crown provided a place for the first nest so the first bird appeared the Saena (note 7) and from the dropping leaves of the Saena Tree came the first plants, the very first plant being called Gaokerene which had healing properties when eaten and gave immortality to resurrected bodies of the dead. With the great forces of creation so unleashed the first animal came into existence, the white bull as bright as the moon, and it first lived on the banks of the River Vah Daiti (Veh Rod). It was killed by Angra Manyu (Note 8) and its seed flew upwards to the moon where it was purified and created many of the animals seen today. Also it created many plants when its seeds dropped back to earth from the moon.

Across from the bull's home on the river was the first man, Gayomarta (note 9) who also was created spontaneously by the force of creation. Angra Manyu in great anger destroyed this first human as well. The sun purified the man's seed for forty years when a rhubarb plant grew from them. The rhubarb plant slowly grew into Mashya and Mashyanag, the first mortal couple. Angra Manyu tricked them into worshipping him as their creator thusly the first sin occurred, filling the world with corruption and evil. After 50 years they had twins, but because of their sin, they ate the children.

After a long long time they had another set of twins from which comes all of us humans, but especially the Persians.