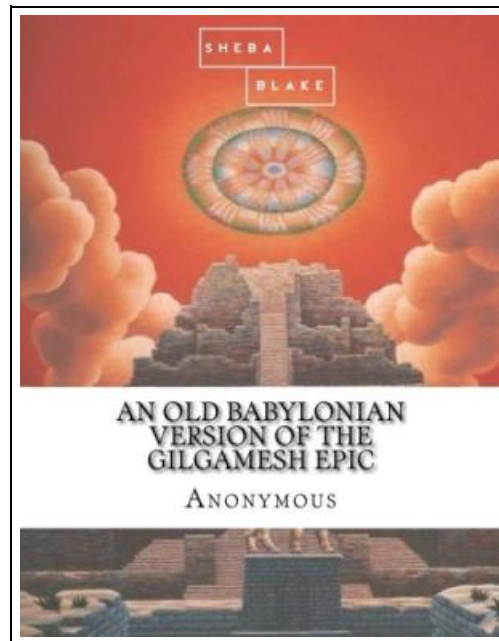


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AN OLD BABYLONIAN VERSION OF THE GILGAMESH EPIC (PAPERBACK)



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Createspace Independent Publishing Platform, 2017. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. An Old Babylonian Version of the Gilgamesh Epic is a poem from ancient Mesopotamia that is often regarded as the earliest surviving great work of literature. The literary history of Gilgamesh begins with five Sumerian poems about Bilgamesh (Sumerian for Gilgamesh), king of Uruk, dating from the Third Dynasty of Ur (circa 2100 BC). These independent stories were later used as source material for a combined epic. The first surviving version of this combined epic, known as the Old Babylonian version, dates to the 18th century BC and is titled after its incipit, Shutur eli sharri (Surpassing All Other Kings). Only a few tablets of it have survived. The later Standard version dates from the 13th to the 10th centuries BC and bears the incipit Sha naqba imuru (He who Saw the Deep, in modern terms: He who Sees the Unknown). Approximately two thirds of this longer, twelve-tablet version have been recovered. Some of the best copies were discovered in the library ruins of the 7th-century BC Assyrian king Ashurbanipal. The first half of the story discusses Gilgamesh, king of Uruk, and Enkidu, a wild man created by the gods to stop Gilgamesh from oppressing the people of Uruk. After an initial fight, Gilgamesh and Enkidu become close friends. Together, they journey to the Cedar Mountain and defeat Humbaba, its monstrous guardian. Later 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. In the second half of the epic, distress about Enkidu s death causes Gilgamesh to undertake a long and perilous journey to discover...



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