

THE MYTH OF ADAPA

Adapa, in Mesopotamian mythology, endowed with vast intelligence by Ea (Sumerian: Enki), the god of wisdom. Adapa became the hero of the Sumerian version of the myth of the fall of man.

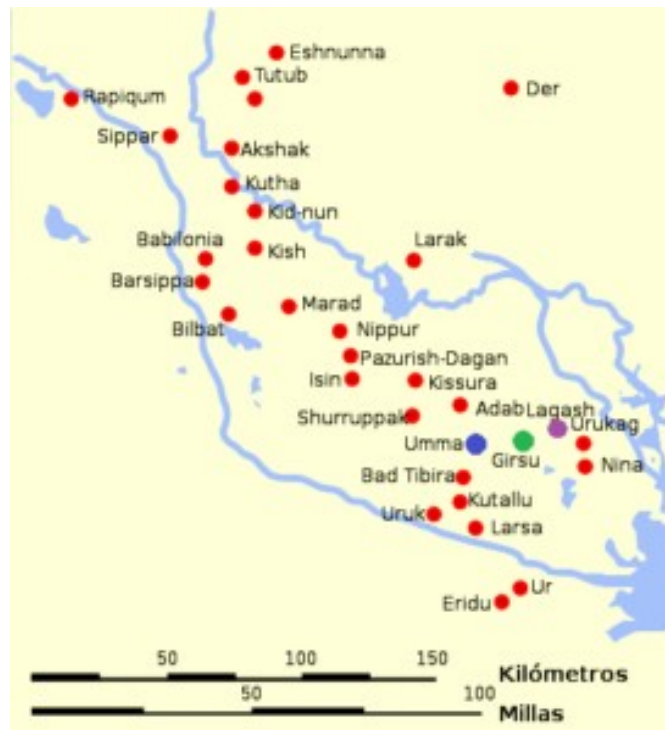


([Enki](#) holding his new upgraded species to become replacement workers for alien gods, the baby [Adapa](#) / [Adam](#))

THE MYTH

The myth relates that Adapa, in spite of his possession of all wisdom, was not given immortality. One day, while he was fishing, the south wind blew so violently that he was thrown into the sea. In his rage he broke the wings of the South Wind, which then ceased to blow. Anu (Sumerian: An), the sky god, summoned him before his gates to account for his behavior, but Ea warned him not to touch the bread and water that he had offered him. When Adapa came before Anu, the two heavenly doorkeepers Tammuz and Ningishzida interceded for him

and explained to Anu that as Adapa had been endowed with omniscience he needed only immortality to become a god. Anu, in a change of heart, then offered Adapa the bread and water of eternal life, which he refused to take. Thus mankind remained mortal.



- 1) Adapa is given wisdom. But this is very different from the knowing of good and evil, and Adapa was given it from the beginning by Ea.
- 2) Adapa is either misled or deceived by Ea and thus loses immortality. But Ea was friendly towards him and not his enemy, even though he did not give him immortality. Thus, it is very questionable whether Adapa was deliberately deceived or merely misled. It is very conceivable that Ea really thought they would give him the bread and water of death. There is no emphasis in the story at all on the idea of deception.
- 3) He refuses the bread and water of life and returns to earth. But he returns to the same state he had left and there is no suggestion of punishment.

- 4) He is clothed by the gods and anointed with oil. However, this is more an act of courtesy and goodwill. It bears no resemblance whatsoever, either to the attempts by Adam and Eve to cover themselves with fig-leaves, nor with God's action in covering them with skins.



WE CAN ALSO SAY ...

The myth comes from the Babylonian Kassite period of the 14th century BCE (when the Kassite tribe ruled in Babylon). The 3rd century BCE writer Berossus called Adapa "Oannes" and described him as a fish-man who lived in the Persian Gulf and taught wisdom and civilization to human beings. Berossus was following the tradition of Adapa as one of the Abgal (or Apkallu) the seven sage demi-gods who gave civilization to human beings in the ancient days before the Great Flood. In The Myth of Adapa, however, the central character is depicted as a wise king who is duped by a god, not as a semi-god himself. In addition, many people have said that the myth of Adapa is like Adam and Eva especially they said <<If

Adam and Eve were immortal they would be on par with Yahweh and there would be a loss of status for the god; and this is Ea's same reasoning in the Adapa myth. In the Genesis myth, man takes knowledge for himself by eating off the tree; in the Mesopotamian myth, the god Ea grants man knowledge in the process of creation. Knowing that Adapa is already wise, Ea (like Yahweh in the later story from Genesis) needs to keep the man in his place.>>



SOURCES:

<http://www.oocities.org/petepettingell/adapa.html> <https://www.ancient.eu/article/216/the-myth-of-adapa/>

Translation of the myth is by Robert W. Rogers from his 1912 work, Cuneiform Parallels to the Old Testament