

Sirgulla, the seat of the delight of their heart, called they glorious;

The god Gi-lamma set bounds before the waters; he created the earth, and he raised it up along with the boundary before the waters;

And when the gods were installed at the place of their heart's delight, then formed he the human race.

The goddess Aruru, the source of humanity, created he at the same time.

The animal of the god Girra, the living creatures of the field, created he.

The River Tigris, the River Euphrates, created he, and appointed them their places, and he called them good.

Grass and herb, reed and wood, created he; the verdure of the fields created he; the lands, swamps, and clumps of reeds also, wild oxen, young asses, the ewe with her young, the lambs of the fold, gardens and hedges also. The antelope-buck took his place with him. The lord, the god Gi-lamma, built up a terrace by the sea, like to which nothing of the kind had ever before been made by him. Trees created he; he himself created tiled buildings, a city made he; a dwelling-place created he; the temple Igurra, the temple of Bel; and I-anna, the temple of Istar."

These geographical names take us back at least 6,000 years, to a time prior to Ur and Archad. The places mentioned here are evidently all holy cities.

It is not certain that this Babel is the same as Babylon, or that the Babylon of Nimrod is the same city as the later Babylon of Sargon and Nebuchadnezzar. The Septuagint uses the name Babylon in Genesis x., 10; but it does not, like our Bible, use the word Babel in Genesis ix, 9, but instead of it the word "Confusion." Some think that the first certain reference to Babylon in the Bible is in 2 Kings xx, 12, when Berodach-Baladan, King of Babylon, sent presents and a letter to Hezekiah.

From the early Sumerians, and up to Genesis, the starting point in Creation is Chaos. A waste of earth and water—as Shumir or Sumer then was, for such indeed was the physical condition of Mesopotamia when the Sumerians first arrived there. From this world of Chaos proceeded the great original and supreme god of the heavens, ANU, with a following of lower evil spirits, like the Shamas of the Altaic folks. Anu had a daughter named B'au (the Bohn of the Phenicians and Hebrews). She, B'au, was the goddess of chaos, and specially personified and represented the waters above the firmament, in other words, rain, to fertilize the earth. Then probably with the reclamation of the swamps of Mesopotamia, came the great earth god, Ea, who also was the god of the waters under the earth, called in