

# A BRIEF REVIEW OF THE SUMERIAN EPIC OF GILGAMESH

*Historical Context: The hero of The Epic of Gilgamesh was centered around a king who reigned Sumerian city-state of Uruk (ancient Mesopotamia, Iraq) around B.C. Long after his death King Arthur's Excalibur: Summary & Overview.*

He travels to the ends of the Earth in search of answers to the mysteries of life and death. Ishtar leads Gugalanna to Uruk, and it causes widespread devastation. Finally, they reach the island of Dilmun and, when Utnapishtim sees that there is someone else in the boat, he asks Gilgamesh who he is. After a short discussion, Sur-sunabu asks him to carve oars so that they may cross the waters of death without needing the "stone ones". Finally, after a lament that he could not meet a heroic death in battle, he dies. He passes under the mountains along the Road of the Sun. Humbaba, the guardian of the Cedar Forest, insults and threatens them. Before sleeping he prays for protection to the moon god Sin. It is only two-thirds complete and presents the story of Gilgamesh in a different light. A violent storm then arose which caused the terrified gods to retreat to the heavens. Gilgamesh proposes to investigate if the plant has the hypothesized rejuvenation ability by testing it on an old man once he returns to Uruk. [Click here for our comprehensive article on ancient Mesopotamia.](#) He tells the ferryman his story and asks for his help, but Urshanabi explains that he has just destroyed the sacred stones which allow the ferry boat to safely cross the Waters of Death. Hero in battle corresponds to the Bull of Heaven episode standard version tablet VI in the Akkadian version. This account matches the flood story that concludes the Epic of Atra-Hasis see also Gilgamesh flood myth. Utnapishtim recounts how a great storm and flood was brought to the world by the god Enlil, who wanted to destroy all of mankind for the noise and confusion they brought to the world. Enkidu regrets his curses and blesses Shamhat instead. Gilgamesh weeps at having failed at both opportunities to obtain immortality, and he disconsolately returns to the massive walls of his own city of Uruk. The gods respond to the people's pleas by creating an equal to Gilgamesh who will be able to stop his oppression. They conquer and kill the monster Humbaba, who the gods had set over the Forest of Cedar. Gilgamesh was the King of Uruk, a majestic Sumerian city that is located in present-day Iraq. The boat came to rest on the tip of the mountain of Nisir, where they waited for the waters to subside, releasing first a dove, then a swallow and then a raven to check for dry land. A 12th tablet was added to the Akkadian version at a later date as a sequel to the original 11 tablets. Gilgamesh tells her about the purpose of his journey. The husband tries to dissuade Gilgamesh from passing, but the wife intervenes, expresses sympathy for Gilgamesh, and according to the poem's editor Benjamin Foster allows his passage. When Gilgamesh attempts to visit the wedding chamber, Enkidu blocks his way, and they fight.