

Enuma Elish Tablet VI: Anunnaki, Human Labor, and the Building of Babylon

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Main takeaway: Enuma Elish Tablet VI links human creation to divine labor relief, names the Anunnaki as an organized body, and then places that body in the brick-and-hoe building of Babylon and Esagila.

Main sources

- CDLI P385879 / K.12000.B: photographed Nineveh witness.
- CDLI P369132 / VAT 9676: Assur line-art witness for the full line chain.
- eBL L/1/2/SB/VI: current critical edition, translation, and manuscript controls.
- CDLI P480701: Enuma Elish composite anchor.

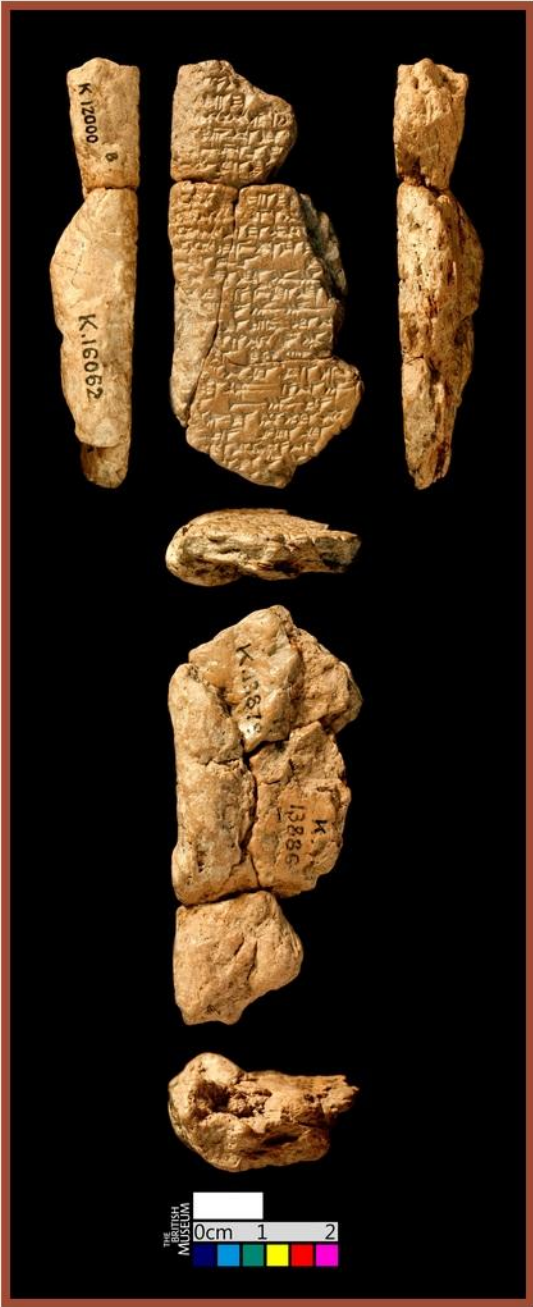
Limit

This is strong evidence for creation-for-service, organized Anunnaki authority, and sacred city construction. It is not direct proof of extraterrestrial identity, Nibiru, spacecraft, literal mining machines, or modern genetics.

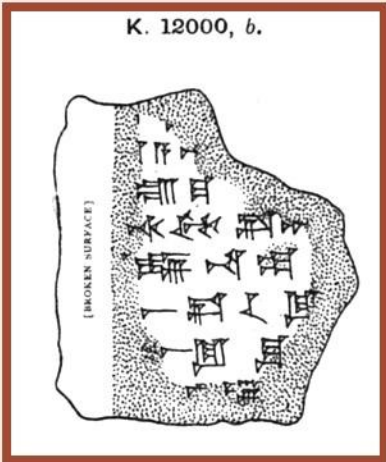
Enuma Elish Tablet VI

K.12000.B / P385879 photo and line art: creation blood and Anunnaki division

CDLI P385879 photo: K.12000.B, Nineveh witness



CDLI P385879 line art: preserves VI 33, 40, 46-47



Why this source matters

Tablet VI links human creation from divine blood to relief of divine labor. In the same chapter, the Anunnaki are divided into upper and lower jurisdictions and then appear in temple-building work.

Witness discipline

The photo is a real artifact witness, but exact line readings remain with the eBL critical edition. This report does not claim a fresh sign collation from the image.

Selected line chain

- VI 5-8: humans are created to carry the gods' work.
- VI 20: the king addresses the Anunnaki.
- VI 31-33: Kingu's blood is used to make humankind.
- VI 39-47: the Anunnaki are divided into upper and lower groups.
- VI 57-64: the Anunnaki take up hoes and build Babylon/Esagila.

VAT 9676 / P369132

Assur line-art witness: Anunnaki address, division, hoes, bricks, Esagila

P369132 line art: VAT 9676, Assur



Upper half enlarged: orientation, not fresh collation



Why VAT 9676 is the main line witness

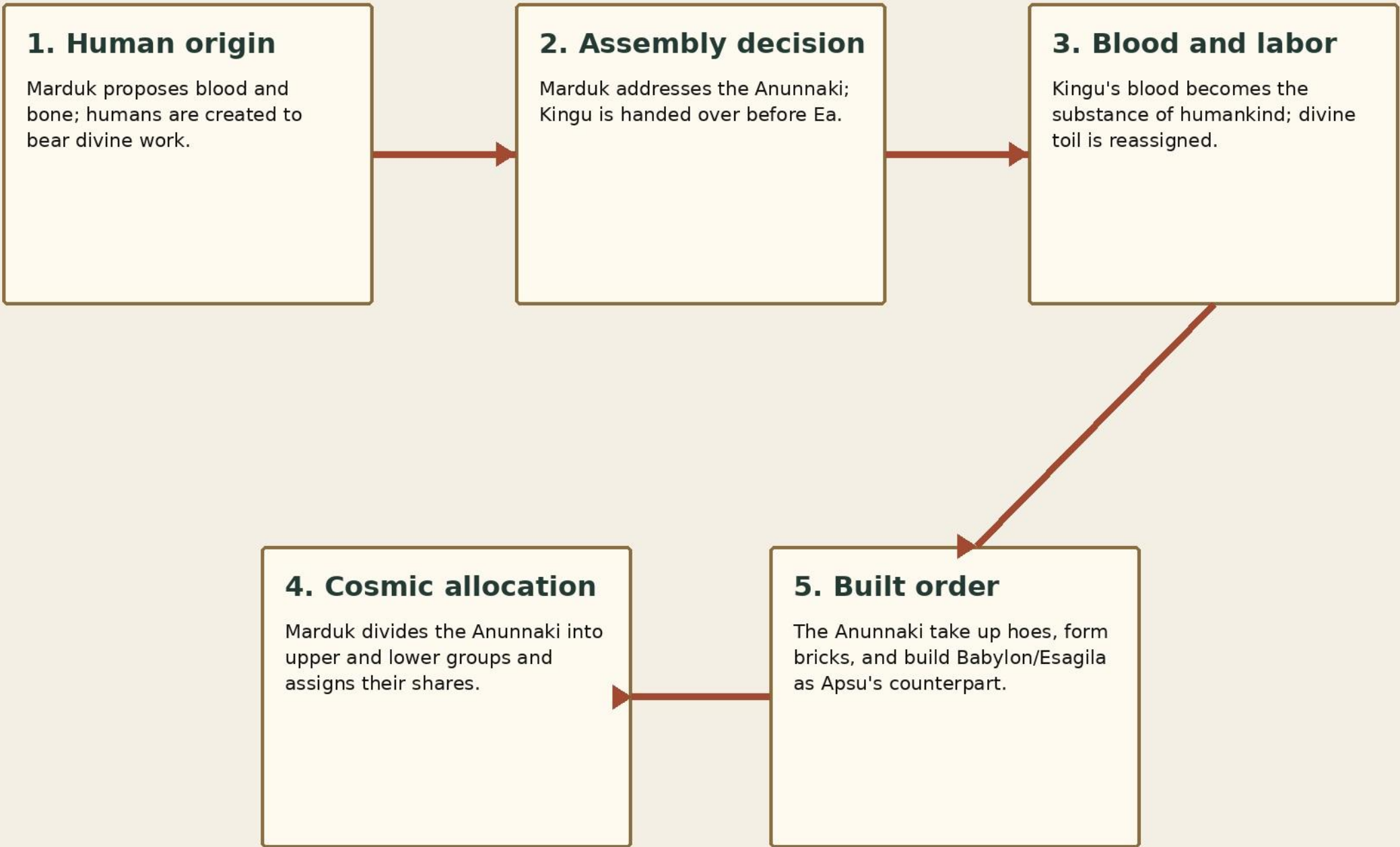
- eBL identifies VAT 9676 as manuscript VI A.
- It preserves VI 20, 33, 40, 46-47, 59-62, 68-69 in the selected chain.
- Its CDLI line art is available, while a public photo is not available from CDLI.
- K.12000.B supplies the source photo for real artifact orientation.

Evidence split

P385879 gives a photographed Nineveh artifact witness for the creation and division portion.
P369132/VAT 9676 gives the stronger continuous line-art control for the full chapter chain, including the Anunnaki taking up hoes and making bricks for Babylon/Esagila.

Creation, Labor, City

Tablet VI chain: blood, service, Anunnaki organization, bricks, Esagila



Corpus relevance

This source advances two open proof gaps at once: human creation/labor and civilization transfer through tool, brick, city, temple, and Apsu architecture language. It also adds a strong Akkadian Anunnaki organization passage with multiple witnesses.

Cautious reading

The text supports the claim that Mesopotamian tradition remembered humans as labor-bearing beings within a divine administrative order. It does not directly support Nibiru, spacecraft, literal mining machinery, or modern genetics.

Key Lines

Published sense in paraphrase, working translation, confidence, caution

1. VI 5-8

Transliteration: dami luksur-ma ... lubni-ma lulla amela / lu emdu dulli ili-ma sunu lu pashu

Published sense: Marduk proposes compacting blood, bringing bones into being, creating human beings, and assigning them the gods' work so the gods may rest.

Working translation: The chapter begins the human-origin sequence as labor transfer: human beings are made so divine work can be carried by another class of beings.

Witness/caution: Edition-controlled; K.12000.B starts later, while VAT 9676 and other witnesses support the Tablet VI sequence.

2. VI 20

Transliteration: sarru ana Anunnakki amata izakkar

Published sense: The king speaks the following words to the Anunna/Anunnaki gods.

Working translation: The decision scene is explicitly addressed to the Anunnaki as a recognized divine body.

Witness/caution: VAT 9676 and IM 121284 preserve the line clearly; BM 92629 and Ashmolean 1924.1828 preserve parts.

3. VI 31-33

Transliteration: ikmusu ... mahri Ea ukallusu / arna imidusu-ma damisu iptar'u / ina damisu ibnu ameluta

Published sense: Kingu is bound before Ea, punished, his blood is shed, and humankind is made from that blood.

Working translation: Ea/Enki remains central: the human-making act is connected to punishment, divine blood, and release of divine labor.

Witness/caution: K.12000.B, K.5923, VAT 9676, IM 121284, and other witnesses preserve parts of the sequence.

4. VI 39-47

Transliteration: Marduk sarru ili uza'iz / ana Anunnakki gimrassunu elis u saplis ... Anunnakku pasunu ipusu-ma

Published sense: Marduk divides all the Anunnaki into upper and lower groups, stations them, divides their shares, and they prepare to speak.

Working translation: This is direct organizational evidence: the Anunnaki are apportioned into cosmic jurisdictions after human creation.

Witness/caution: K.12000.B, VAT 9676, K.13867, IM 121284, and others preserve key parts of the Anunnaki division sequence.

5. VI 57-64

Transliteration: epsa-ma Babili ... Anunnakku itruku alla / sattu istat libittasu iltabnu ... sa Esagil mehret Apsi

Published sense: Marduk authorizes Babylon; the Anunnaki take up hoes, make bricks for a year, and raise Esagila as the counterpart of the Apsu.

Working translation: The same divine group that is divided into cosmic ranks is shown doing city-temple construction with tools, bricks, and Apsu symbolism.

Witness/caution: VAT 9676 is the strongest single witness; BM 54855 also preserves the Anunnaki-with-hoe line in fragmentary form.

Takeaway and Limits

Strong evidence for organized divine labor order; sober limits on stronger claims

What it strongly supports

- A real Tablet VI witness tradition links human creation with relief of divine labor.
- The Anunnaki are a named divine body addressed, divided, stationed, and assigned shares.
- The same chapter ties the Anunnaki to hoe work, brickmaking, Babylon, Esagila, and Apsu symbolism.
- Ea/Enki remains the wisdom authority involved in the human-making sequence.

What it does not prove

- It does not directly state extraterrestrial identity, Nibiru, spacecraft, a literal mining program, or metal machines.
- It is a first-millennium Akkadian creation epic, not a neutral administrative report.
- Some exact readings are edition-controlled, and images are used for witness orientation rather than a fresh collation.

Why it advances the corpus

- After Atra-hasis and KAR 004, this adds the canonical Babylonian creation sequence where Anunnaki organization follows human creation.
- It sharpens the city-building and temple-technology strand: tools, bricks, Esagila, Apsu, stations, shares, and divine ranks are in one chapter.
- Next best target: a treaty, oath, or administrative tablet where Anunnaki wording and public procedure appear on a single photographed object.

Source Appendix

Archived source links and witness split

- CDLI P480701: <https://cdli.earth/artifacts/480701>
- eBL Tablet VI: <https://www.ebl.lmu.de/corpus/L/1/2/SB/VI>
- CDLI P385879 / K.12000.B: <https://cdli.earth/artifacts/385879>
- eBL K.12000.B: <https://www.ebl.lmu.de/fragmentarium/K.12000.B>
- CDLI P369132 / VAT 9676: <https://cdli.earth/artifacts/369132>
- eBL VAT.9676: <https://www.ebl.lmu.de/fragmentarium/VAT.9676>

Daily capability improvement

This run adds a split-witness creation-to-city rubric: score creation/labor, divine-group organization, and practical construction as one chain, while separating photographed witness support from line-art and critical-edition controls.