



THE EPIC OF GILGAMISH

R. CAMPBELL THOMPSON

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THE EPIC OF GILGAMISH

A NEW TRANSLATION FROM A COLLATION OF THE
CUNEIFORM TABLETS IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM RENDERED
LITERALLY INTO ENGLISH HEXAMETERS

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95. Old, hath the worm made its entry: (in sooth, then) [the bride(?)]
thou didst fondle,

(Thereby) rejoicing thee—fill'd with the dust [is her body]

. . . . he hath spoken and [into the " ground (?) is he sunken,

. . . he hath spoken and [into the ground (?) is he sunken."

"[He who fell in]

100. [Didst thou see him?]." "(Aye), I saw"

(About seventeen lines missing).

118. "As a pillar beautiful

[Props?] an inner por[tico (?)] . . .

(About twenty-five lines missing).

145. "He who falleth from a pole

Didst thou see him?" "(Aye), I saw]:

Straightway for

By removal of a plug"

"He whom death"

"Didst thou see him?" "[Aye] I saw]:

He's at rest upon a couch,

Limpid water doth he drink."

"(Then, the hero) slain in fight,

Didst thou see him?" "(Aye) I saw:

150. Father, mother ¹⁶⁵ raise his head,

O'er him wife ¹⁶⁶ [in bitter woe]."

"He whose corpse in desert lieth,

Hast thou seen him?" "(Aye), I saw;

Not in earth doth rest his spirit."

"He whose ghost hath none to tend,

Didst thou see him?" "(Aye), I saw,

Lees of cup, and broken bread

Thrown into the street he eateth."

¹⁶⁵ Lit. "his father and his mother."

¹⁶⁶ Lit. "and o'er him his wife"