

THE RUMPELSTILTSKIN FACTOR : EXPLORATIONS IN THE ARITHMETIC OF PANTHEONS

N. WYATT
(University of Edinburgh)
SOTS Durham
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"Never, ever, think outside the box."

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Collins
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COLLECTION

1 Bṛhadāraṇyaka Upaniṣad 3.9.1

Then Vidagdha Sākalya asked him, “How many gods are there, Yājñavalkya?” He answered in accordance with the following *nivid* (invocation of the gods): “As many as are mentioned in the *nivid* of the hymn of praise to the Viśve-devas, namely, **three hundred and three, and three thousand and three.**”

“Yes,” he said, “but how many gods are there really, Yājñavalkya?”

“**Thirty three**”.

“Yes,” he said, “but how many gods are there, Yājñavalkya?”

“**Six**”.

“Yes,” said he, “but how many gods are there, Yājñavalkya?”

“**Three**”.

“Yes,” he said, “but how many gods are there, Yājñavalkya?”

“**Two**”.

“Yes,” said he, “but how many gods are there, Yājñavalkya?”

“**One and a half**”.

“Yes,” said he, “but how many gods are there, Yājñavalkya?”

“**One**”.

S. Radhakrishnan, *The Principal Upaniṣads* (1953, 234-35)

(3,306 [3,003 + 303] > 33 > 6 > 3 > 2 > 1½ > 1)

2 Ugaritic Pantheon Lists

(lines added: not in originals)

KTU 1.47 UGARITIC		KTU 1.118 UGARITIC		RS 10.24 AKKADIAN	ENGLISH The gods of Saphon	
1	<i>il spn</i>					
	<i>ilib</i> <i>il</i> <i>dgn</i>	1	<i>ilib</i> <i>il</i> <i>dgn</i>	1	<i>dingir abi</i> <i>ilum^{um}</i> <i>^ddagan</i>	The god of the ancestor El Dagan
5	<i>b'l spn</i> <i>b'lm</i> <i>b'lm</i> <i>b'lm</i> <i>b'lm</i>		<i>b'l spn</i> <i>b'lm</i> <i>b'lm</i> <i>b'lm</i> <i>b'lm</i>		<i>^dadad bel huršan hazi</i> <i>^dadad ii</i> <i>^dadad iii</i> <i>^dadad iv</i> <i>^dadad v</i>	Baal of Saphon Baal ² Baal ³ Baal ⁴ Baal ⁵
10	<i>[b']lm</i> <i>[b'l]m</i>	10	<i>b'lm</i> <i>b'lm</i>	10	<i>^dadad vi</i> <i>^dadad vii</i>	Baal ⁶ Baal ⁷
15	<i>[ars] wšmm</i> <i>[ktr]t</i> <i>[yrh]</i> <i>[spn]</i> <i>[ktr]</i> <i>[pdry]</i> <i>[ttr]</i>	15	<i>ars wšmm</i> <i>ktrt</i> <i>yrh</i> <i>spn</i> <i>ktr</i> <i>pdry</i> <i>ttr</i>	15	<i>^didim ù idim</i> <i>^dsasuratum</i> <i>^dsîn</i> <i>^dhuršan hazi</i> <i>^dea</i> <i>^dhebat</i> <i>^daštabi</i>	Underworld and Heaven Kotharat Yarih Saphon Kothar Pidray Athtar
20	<i>[ğrm w 'mqt]</i> <i>[atrt]</i> <i>['nt]</i> <i>[šp]š</i> <i>[a]rsy</i> <i>[u]šhry</i> <i>['ttrt]</i>	20	<i>ğrm w ['mqt]</i> <i>[a]trt</i> <i>'nt</i> <i>špš</i> <i>arsy</i> <i>ušhry</i> <i>ttrt</i>	20	<i>^dhuršanum u amutu[m]</i> <i>^dašratum</i> <i>^danatum</i> <i>^dšamaš</i> <i>^dallatum</i> <i>^dišhara</i> <i>^dištar</i>	Mountains and Valleys Athirat Anat Shapsh Aršiy Ishhara Athtart
25	<i>il t^cdr b'l</i> <i>ršp</i> <i>ddmš</i>	25	<i>il t^cdr b'l</i> <i>r[š]p</i> <i>ddmš</i>	25	<i>ilānu^m tillat^dadad</i> <i>^dnergal</i> <i>^ddadmiš</i>	the gods who help Baal Reshef Dadmish
30	<i>phr ilm</i> <i>ym</i> <i>ut ht</i> <i>knr</i>	30	<i>phr ilm</i> <i>ym</i> <i>ut ht</i> <i>knr</i>	30	<i>^dpuhur ilāni^m</i> <i>^dtāmtum</i> <i>^ddug bur.zi. ni g.na</i> <i>^dis kinarum</i>	The assembly of the gods Yam Censer Kinnar (lyre)
	<i>mlkm</i>		<i>mlkm</i>		<i>^dma.lik.meš</i>	Kings

3 Structure of the “canonical” lists from Ugarit

Set 1 (1-3):

ilib, il, dgn;

(3 gods, 1 + 2)

Set 2 (4-10) :

b^cl špn, consisting of *b^clm, b^clm, b^clm, b^clm, b^clm* and *b^clm*

(7 gods including *b^cl špn*: 1 + 6)

Set 3 (11-17) :

arš w šmm, a merismic pair, containing *k_{tr}rt, yrḥ, špn, k_{tr}, pdry, ^cttr*

(7 chthonian-astral deities including *arš w šmm*; 1 + 6)

Set 4 (18-24):

ḡrm w ^cmqt, a further merismic pair, containing *a_{tr}t, ^cnt, špš, aršy, ušḥry, ^cttrt*

(7 goddesses including *ḡrm w ^cmqt*: 1 + 6)

Set 5 (25-27):

il t^cdr b^cl

(lit. “the gods who assist Baal”), containing *ršp, ddmš* (a pair:

1 + 2)

Set 6 (28-31):

pḥr ilm

containing *ym, ut ḥt, knr* (a triad: 1 +

3)

Set 7 (32-33):

4 KTU 1.47 = 1.118 (both Ugaritic) = RS 20.40
(Akkadian)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7					
<i>ilib</i>	<i>b^cl</i>	<i>ṣpn</i>	<i>arṣ</i>	<i>wšmm</i>	<i>ḡrm</i>	<i>w^cmqt</i>	<i>il</i>	<i>t^cdr</i>	<i>b^cl</i>	<i>pḥr</i>	<i>ilm</i>
<i>mlkm</i>											
<i>il</i>	<i>b^clm</i>	<i>k_{tr}</i>		<i>a_{tr}</i>		<i>ršp</i>		<i>ym</i>		<i>šlm</i>	
<i>dgn</i>		<i>b^clm</i>	<i>yrḥ</i>		<i>^cnt</i>		<i>ddmš</i>		<i>u_ḥt</i>		
	<i>b^clm</i>	<i>ṣpn</i>		<i>špš</i>				<i>knr</i>			
	<i>b^clm</i>	<i>k_{tr}</i>		<i>arṣy</i>							
	<i>b^clm</i>	<i>pdry</i>		<i>ušḥry</i>							
	<i>b^clm</i>	<i>^ct_{tr}</i>		<i>^ct_{tr}</i>							
3	6/7	6/7	6/7	2/3	3/4	2					

5 Cuneiform Alphabets Long and Short

Ugarit augmented 27 > 30, Phoenicia/Palestine reduced 27 > 22

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27
28 29 30



a b g h d h w z ḥ ṭ y k š l m d n z s ^c p ṣ q r t g t
i u s

HEBREW EQUIVALENT: ^s

ס (ס) (ס) (ס) ת - - ר ק צ פ ע ס - נ - מ ל (ש) כ י ט ח ז ו ה ד - ג ב א

KEY:

Black---- 22-letter alphabet (> 23 in Hebrew with differentiation ש, ש)

Red----- 5 additional members of original 27-letter cuneiform alphabet

Blue----- 3 additional letters in Ugaritic, giving original 30-letter alphabet

All eight additional letters in Ugaritic system were used primarily to write alphabetic Hurrian

6 The Seventy Sons of Athirat

44 *ṣḥ aḥh bbhth*

aryh 45 *bqrb hklh*

ṣḥ 46 *šb^cm bn aṯrt*

He invited his brothers into his house,
his kinsfolk into the midst of his palace;
he invited the **seventy** sons* of Athirat.

* or: “children”

KTU 1.6 vi 46

7 Mot the Uninvited

22 kl ṣḥn b^cl ^cm 23 aḥy For Baal did not invite me with my brothers,
qran hd ^cm ary (nor) did Hadd summon me with my kinsfolk;
24 lḥmm ^cm aḥy lḥm but he ate food with my brothers,
25 wšrp ^cm a[ryy] yn and drank wine with my kinsfolk!

KTU 1.5 i 23-25

8 Election in Deuteronomy

běhanḥēl ^c*elyôn* *gôyim*
nations,

běhaprîdô *běné* ' *ādām*
yaṣṣēb *gěbulōt* *cammîm*
lēmispār *běné* **šōr* ' *ēl*

kî *ḥēleq* *yhwḥ* ^c*ammô*

ya^c*ăqōb* *ḥebel* *naḥălātô*

When The Most High dispersed the

when he scattered the sons of Adam,
he set up the boundaries of the nations
**in accordance with the number of the
sons of *Bull El.**

But the allotment of Yahweh was his
kinsman,

Jacob the portion of his inheritance.

* Following Jan Joosten *VT* 2007 and cf. Tur-Sinai *EBB*
on Hosea 8:6 (**kî mî šōr 'ēl* for MT *kî miyyisrā 'ēl*)

Deuteronomy 32:8-9

9 Baal's Boars

*6 wat qh 7 crptk
rhk mdlk 8 mtrk
cmk šbct 9 glmk
tmn hnzrk*

As for you, take your clouds,
your winds, your bolts, your rains,
(take) with you your **seven** divine assistants,
your **eight** boars...

KTU 1.5 v 6-9

10 Babylonian World
Map
(British Museum)

BM ME 92687



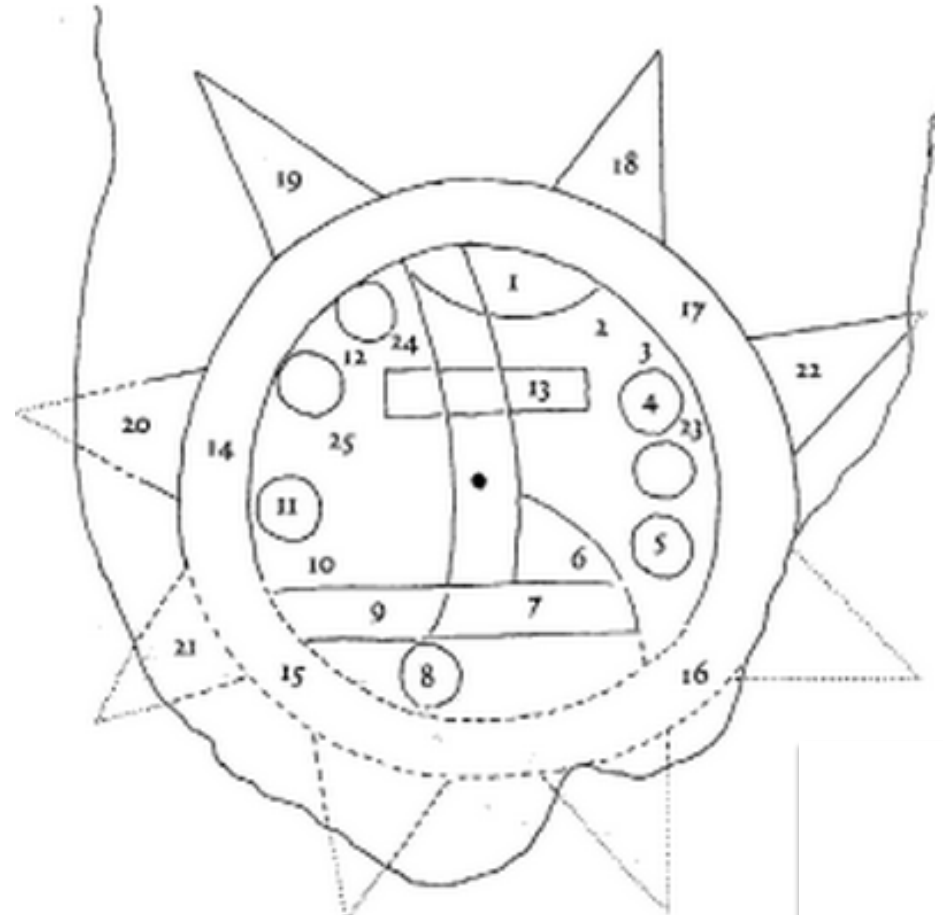
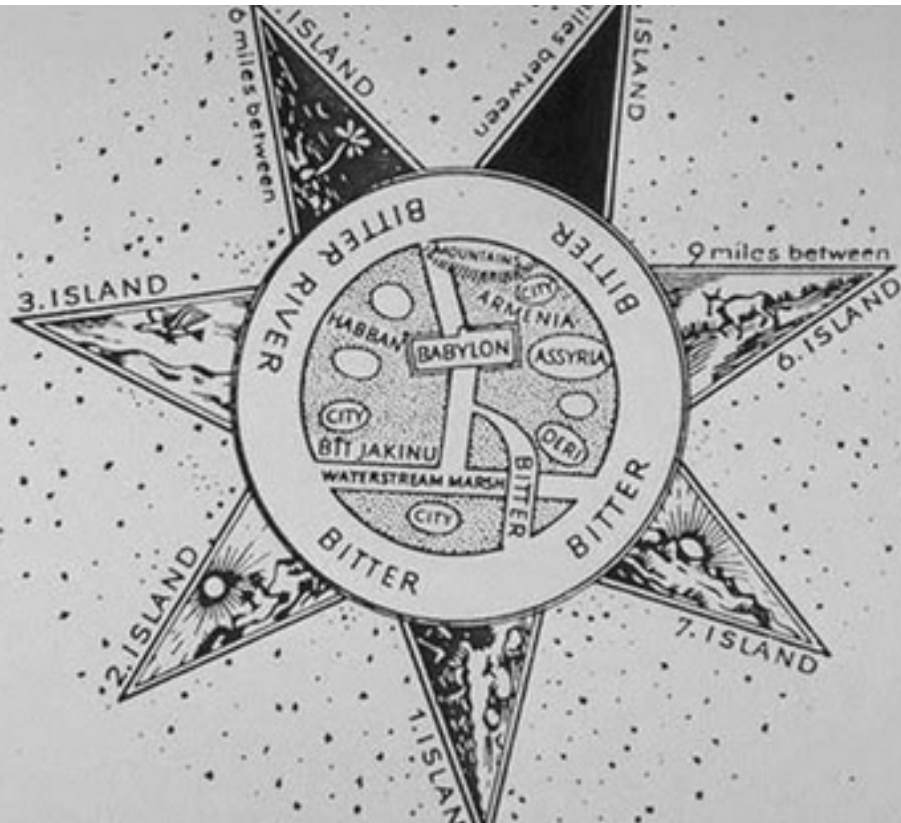
11 Ways to read the Babylonian world map

Wrong: Seven points

Right: Eight points

https://www.google.co.uk/search?q=babylonian+map+of+the+world+british+museum&espv=2&biw=1446&bih=791&tbm=isch&tbo=u&source=univ&sa=X&ei=fhj4VPa5NsfbaLaegSg&ved=0CC4QsAQ&dpr=0.9#imgdii=&imgrc=-2udVCnaDYpDbM%253A%3BQM8RO_NKblTPOm%3Bhttp%253A%252F%252Fwww.ancient-origins.net%252Fsites%252Fdefault%252Ffiles%252FArtistic-depiction-of-the-Babylonian-Map-of-the-World.jpg%3Bhttp%253A%252F%252Fwww.ancient-origins.net%252Fancient-places-asia%252Fbabylonian-map-world-sheds-light-ancient-perspectives-002135%3B387%3B378

W. Horowitz, *Mesopotamian Cosmic Geography* (1998), 21;
N. Wyatt, *Space and Time in the Religious life of the Ancient Near East* (2001), 81



12 The Spirit(s) of Yahweh

wěṅāḥāh °ālāyw rūaḥ yhwḥ And the spirit of Yahweh will rest on him,
rūaḥ ḥokmāh ûbînāh the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
rūaḥ °ēṣāh ûgěbûrāh the spirit of counsel and strength,
rūaḥ da^cat wěyir'at yhwḥ the spirit of knowledge and fear of Yhwḥ.

Isaiah 11:2

13 The Ameša Spəntas

[Vohu] Manah,

“[Good] Purpose”

Aša [Vahišta],

“[Best] Truth/Righteousness”

Xšaθra,

“[Desirable] Dominion”

Spənta Armaiti,

“[Holy] Devotion”

Haurvatāt,

“Wholeness”

Amərətāt,

“Immortality”

14 The Ogdoad of Hermopolis i in Hermopolis

I am One who became Two.

I am Two who became Four.

I am Four who became Eight.

I am One who protects himself.

on a coffin-lid of dyn. 21 (Pa-di-Amun), from Hermopolis
(Maspero 1916, 165; Piankoff 1957, 12)

15 The Ogdoad of Hermopolis ii as adopted in Theban theology

The **Eight gods** were thy first form,
until thou didst complete them, being One.
Mysterious is thy body among the Great Ones,
concealing thyself as **Amun** at the head of the gods.

From a hymn to Amun
(Gardiner 1905, 30; Piankoff 1957, 12)

(Thoth appears to be implicitly absent from this Ogdoad)

16 Ogdoad or Ennead?

The Ogdoad of Hermopolis

The Ennead of Hermopolis

Thoth

Nun Naunet

Nun Naunet

Huh Hauhet

Huh Hauhet

Kuk Kauket

Kuk Kauket

Amun Amaunet

Amun Amaunet

17 The Ogdoadic Principles (Hypostases of Thoth)

Nun (Nu)	=	Primordial Waters, Abyss	Naunet = female aspect
Huh	=	Infinitude	Hauhet = female aspect
Kuk	=	Darkness	Kauket = female aspect
Amun	=	Invisibility	Amaunet = female aspect

18 The Ennead at Heliopolis

Atum

Shu

Tefnut

Geb

Nut

Osiris

Isis

Seth (later Horus)

Nephthys

19 The Shabaka Stone
(the “Memphite Theology”)



20 The putative Ennead at Memphis

Ptah

Ptah-Nun

Ptah-Naunet

Atum

Shu

Tefnut

Geb

Nut (?)

Osiris

Isis

Seth/Horus

Nephthys

21 A Triad from Ugarit
(KTU 1.3 iii 6-8 and parallels)

6 yd pdry bt ar

7 ahbt ṭly bt rb

dd arṣy 8 bt y^cbdr

the desire of Pidrayu, daughter of Mist,
the affection of Ṭaliyu, daughter of Gentle Rain,
the love of Arṣiyu, daughter of Inundation.

(cf. 2 Samuel 1:21)

22 Examples of Egyptian Triads

Abydos :

Osiris,

Isis,

Horus (Harsiese: *ḥr-s3-3st*—Horus son of Isis, or Harpocrates: *ḥr-p3-ḥrd*—Horus the child)

Heliopolis :

Ra,

Hathor,

Horus (Horus the Elder or Great: *ḥr-wr*)

Memphis :

Ptah,

Sekhmet,

Nefertem

Thebes :

Amun,

Mut,

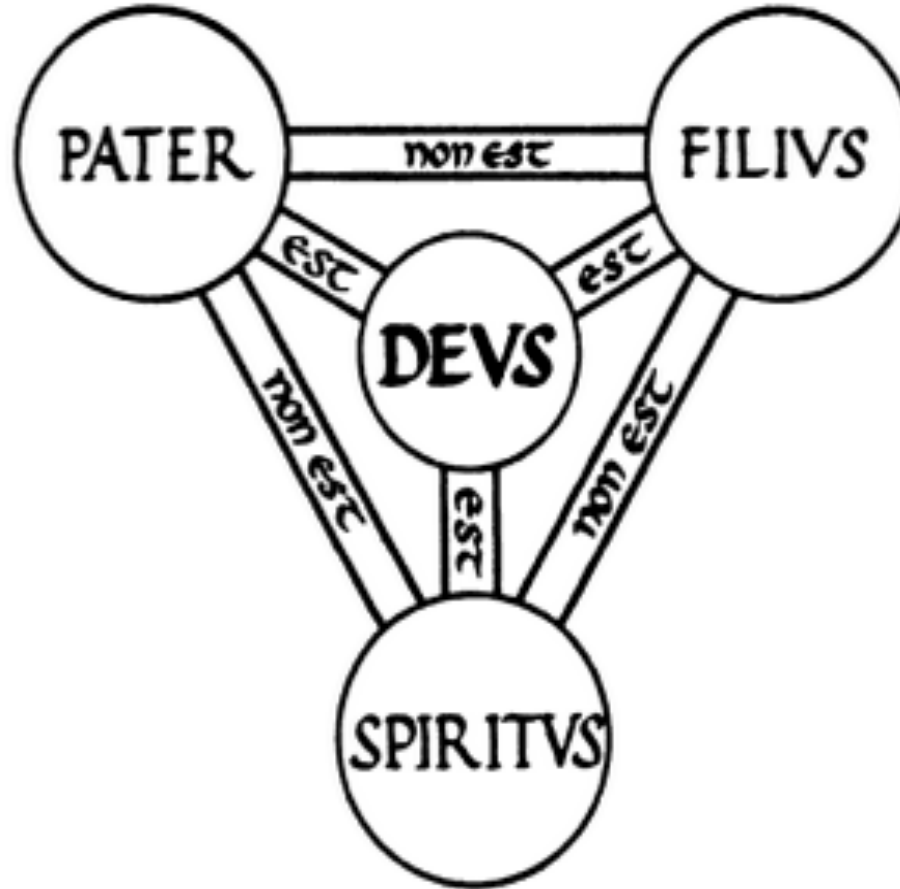
Khonsu

23 Deities in the cella of the great temple, Abu Simbel
left to right: Ptah, Amun-Ra, Rameses II, Ra-Harakhte



24 The Structure of the Trinity

with acknowledgment to A. W. Watts, *Myth and Ritual in Christianity* London 1953



25 Deuteronomy 6:4-14

Listen, Israel! Yahweh is your god, Yahweh alone!

(or: Listen, Israel! Yahweh your god, Yahweh is one!)...

Do not follow other gods, from among the peoples around you.

26 Deuteronomy 30:11-14

Surely this instruction which I am giving you today is not too difficult for you or too far beyond you. It is not in the heavens, so that you have to say “who will go up for us to the heavens and get hold of it and allow us to hear it, so that we may observe it?” Nor is it over the sea, so that you have to say, “who will go across the sea for us and get hold of it and allow us to hear it, so that we may observe it?” On the contrary, the matter is very close to you, in your mouth and in your heart, to observe.

27 Exodus 3:1, 4b, 6, 9, 10-12a, 20, 12b (“Ur E”)

₁ wēmōšeh hāyāh rō^ceh 'et-šō'n yitrô ḥōtēnô kōhēn midyān wayyinhag 'et-haššō'n 'aḥar
 hammidbār wayyābō' 'el-har *'ēl ... _{4b} wayyiqrā' 'ēlāyw *'ēl mittôk hāhār ₆ wayyōmer
 'ānōkî *'ēl 'ābîkā... wayyastēr mōšeh pānāyw kî yārē' mēhabbîṭ 'el *'ēl ₉ wē^cattāh hinnēh
 ša^cāqat bēnē yisrā'ēl bā'āh'ēlāy wēgam-rā'itî 'et-hallaḥaš 'āšer mišrayim lōḥēšîm'ōtām ₁₀
 wē^cattāh lēkāh wē'ešlāḥākā 'el-par^cōh wēhōšē' 'et-^cammî bēnē yisrā'ēl mimmišrāyim ₁₁
 wayyōmer mōšeh 'el *'ēl mî 'ānōkî kî 'ēlēk 'el-par^cōh wēkî 'ōšî' 'et-bēnē yisrā'ēl
 mimmišrāyim _{12a} wayyōmer kî-'ehyeh ^cimmāk wēzeh-lēkā hā'ōt kî 'ānōkî šēlaḥtîkā ₂₀
 wēšālaḥtîkā 'et-yādî wēhikkētî 'et-mišrayim bēkōl niplē'ōtay 'āšer 'e^cēseh bēqirbō wē'aḥārē-
 kēn yēšallēḥ 'etkem _{12b} bēhōšî'ākā 'et-hā^cām mimišrayim ta^cabdûn 'et-*'ēl ^cal hāhār hazzeh

₁ Moses was tending the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, priest of Midian. He led his flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to... the mountain of El. _{4b} And El called to him from the midst of the mountain. ₆ “I am El your father”, he said... At this Moses hid his face, afraid to look at El... ₉ “So now the cry of the Sons of Israel has come to me, and I have also seen the way in which the Egyptians oppress them. ₁₀ So come, I send you to Pharaoh to bring the sons of Israel... out of Egypt.” ₁₁ Moses said to El, “Who am I, to go to Pharaoh and bring the sons of Israel out of Egypt?” _{12a} Then he said “I shall be with you, and this is the sign by which you shall know that it is I who have sent you: ₂₀ I shall stretch out my hand and strike Egypt with all the wonders I am going to perform there. After this he will let you go. _{12b} After you have led the people out of Egypt you are to offer worship to El on this mountain.”

28 Exodus 3:13-15

¹³ wayyōmer mōšeh 'el-hā'ēlōhîm hinneh 'ānōkî bā' 'el-bēnē yiśrā'ēl wē'āmartî lāhem 'ēlōhē 'ābôtēkem šēlāḥanî 'ālêkem wē'āmērû-lî mah-šēmô māh 'ōmar 'ālêhem:

¹⁴ wayyōmer 'ēlōhîm 'el-mōšeh 'ehyeh 'āšer 'ehyeh wayyōmer kōh tō'mar libēnē yiśrā'ēl 'ehyeh šēlāḥanî 'ālêkem:

¹⁵ wayyōmer 'ōd 'ēlōhîm 'el-mōšeh kōh tō'mar 'el-bēnē yiśrā'ēl yhw̄h 'ēlōhē 'ābôtēkem 'ēlōhē 'abrāhām 'ēlōhē yiṣḥāq we'ēlōhē ya'āqōb šēlāḥanî 'ālêkem zeh šēmî lē'ōlām wēzeh zikrî lēdōr dōr:

¹³ Then Moses said to God, “So I am to go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘the god of your fathers has sent me to you’. They will say to me, ‘What is his name?’”

¹⁴ Then God said to Moses, “I am who I am”. Then he said, “This is what you are to say to the Israelites, ‘I am has sent me to you’”.

¹⁵ Then God also said to Moses, “This is what you are to say to the Israelites, ‘Yahweh, the god of your fathers, the god of Abraham, the god of Isaac and the god of Jacob has sent me to you. This shall be my name forever, and this will be my memorial down the generations’”.

29 Exodus 3:14-15 : A Reluctant Self-Revelation

14a I am who I am

14b I am (has sent me to you)

15a **YHWH**

15b the god of your fathers (< El your father*)

15c the god of Abraham, the god of Isaac and the god of Jacob**

* so Wyatt, *ZAW* 1978 90:101-104

** a triad?!

30 Ernst Fuchs : Moses and the Burning Bush (1957)



ס ו ר

6 Seven Adads in Assur

- ^d*Adad* (IŠKUR) *ša Karkar*^{ki} *ša zunni* (ŠÈG) *u [mīli* (ILLU)],
“Adad of Karkar: he of rain and flood”;
- ^d*Adad* (IŠKUR) *ša Esagil gugal nārāti* (GÚ.GAL.I₇.[MEŠ]),
“Adad of Esagil, inspector of canals”;
- ^d*Adad* (IŠKUR) *ša Enamḥē ša nu[hši]*,
“Adad of Enamḥē, he of abundance”;
- ^d*Adad* (IŠKUR) *ša* ^{uru}*Zabban* *ša ar[urti]*,
“Adad of Zabban, he of the famine”;
- ^d*Adad* (IŠKUR) *ša Pada*^{ki} *ša ru[ṭubti]*,
“Adad of Pada, he of the dampness”;
- ^d*Adad* (IŠKUR) *ša Ḥalab ša be[r]qi*,
“Adad of Aleppo, he of the lightning”;
- ^d*Adad* (IŠKUR) *ša Akus*^{ki} *ša ḥurb[āši]*,
“Adad of Akus, he of the frost”.

(KAR 142 Rs III 11-18)