

name sounds a little like Adam, but is hardly identical. Adapa was not the first man. There were other people living at the time. He was a fisherman sailing on the Persian Gulf. The South Wind attacked him and upset his boat. In anger Adapa broke the wings of the South Wind. For seven days there was no cooling breeze on the land. Anu, the God of Heaven, said that something must be done to remedy this. On being told that Adapa had caused it, he ordered that Adapa be brought before him. Ea, another of the gods, advised Adapa when he appeared before Anu to put on whatever clothing was given him, but not to eat or drink anything. He also told him how to gain the favor of the two Gods who would be at the entrance way. Adapa carried out the trick and won the favor of these two gods. They spoke to Anu in his favor, and Anu ordered that clothing be brought to him. Adapa put it on. Then Anu ordered that food and water of life be brought to him. Adapa refused to eat or drink. Anu marveled at him and ordered that he be sent back to earth.

I don't think that any unprejudiced person, simply hearing this story for the first time, would think of it as having any relation to the Biblical story of the Fall, but it is strange how many people, even today, claim that it is the actual origin of that story. They point out that in both stories we have clothing put on, in both stories we have food eaten which should give life. In the Biblical story, Adam did not eat of the tree of life and was put out of the Garden. In the Babylonian story Adapa did not eat the food and drink of life and was sent back to earth. In the Biblical story, they say, Adam lost immortality through disobeying God. In the Babylonian story, they say,