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This article is about the Sumerian gods. For the fictional Anunnaki from *Demon: The Fallen*, see [Anunaki \(White Wolf\)](#). For The Annunaki as depicted in *The 12th Planet*, see [Zecharia Sitchin](#).

The **Anunnaki** (also transcribed as: **Anunna**, **Anunnaku**, **Ananaki** and other variations) are a group of [Sumerian](#), [Akkadian](#), [Assyrian](#) and [Babylonian deities](#). The name is variously written “^da-nuna”, “^da-nuna-ke₄-ne”, or “^da-nun-na”, meaning something to the effect of “those of royal blood”^[1] or ‘princely offspring’.^[2] Their relation to the group of gods known as the [Igigi](#) is unclear – at times the names are used synonymously but in the [Atra-Hasis](#) flood myth they have to work for the Anunnaki, rebelling after 40 days and replaced by the creation of humans.^[3]

[Jeremy Black](#) and [Anthony Green](#) offer a slightly different perspective on the Igigi and the Anunnaki, writing that “lgigu or Igigi is a term introduced in the Old Babylonian Period as a name for the (ten) “great gods”. While it sometimes kept that sense in later periods, from Middle Babylonian times on it is generally used to refer to the gods of heaven collectively, just as the term Anunnakku (Anuna) was later used to refer to the gods of the underworld. In the Epic of Creation, it is said that there are 300 lgigu of heaven.”^[4]

The Anunnaki appear in the Babylonian creation myth, [Enuma Elish](#).^[5] In the late version magnifying [Marduk](#), after the creation of mankind, Marduk divides the Anunnaki and assigns them to their proper stations, three hundred in heaven, three hundred on the earth. In gratitude, the Anunnaki, the “Great Gods”, built Esagila, the splendid: “They raised high the head of [Esagila](#) equaling [Apsu](#). Having built a stage-tower as high as Apsu, they set up in it an abode for Marduk, Enlil, Ea.” Then they built their own shrines.

According to later [Babylonian myth](#), the Anunnaki were the children of [Anu](#) and [Ki](#), brother and sister gods, themselves the children of [Anshar](#) and [Kishar](#) (Skypivot and Earthpivot, the [Celestial poles](#)), who in turn were the children of [Lahamu](#) and [Lahmu](#) (“the muddy ones”), names given to the gatekeepers of the [Abzu](#) temple at [Eridu](#), the site at which the [creation](#) was thought to have occurred. Finally, Lahamu and Lahmu were the children of [Tiamat](#) (Goddess of the Ocean) and [Abzu](#) (God of Fresh Water).