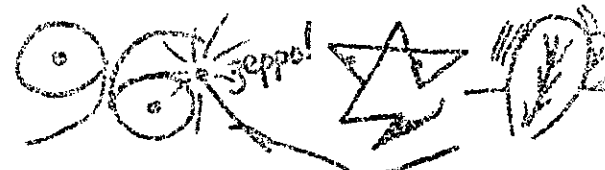
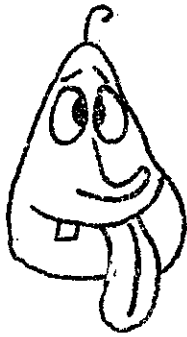


"Frank," said the Good Fairy of Postal Diplomacy to the bartender, "I've sent that charming lad down there three drinks already, and he hasn't even noticed me. Do you think I'd attract his attention if I sent a copy of

ERHWON \* 96 \* seppo! 

10 Apr 76



Uhhhh...duhhh...my name is Mortimer Sn...duhhh...nope, that ain't it. Uhhh, my name is Goopy Antsy pants...uhhh, Gorgon Andersnood...uhhh...Gorpy Andybrain...Andybrain?? duhhh, I know that ain't right...Uhhh, anyways I want youse should vote fer me fer...duhhh...Oh, anythin', on accounta I got beat up and robbed by Alin Calwhatzisname last Toozder or whenever an' I am lots better quantified than any of them other punks whats runnin' I bet an'.....

THISHEREISALINEARSEPARATORANDI'LLBE TYOUNEVEREXPECTEDTO FINDONEONTHEFRONTPAGE

GAME  
1975CY  
NEEDS  
STANDBY  
PLAYERS  
- see  
page 4

ERHWON'S  
Dance Hall Girls!

- Joan Beshara. . . . . a Real Hooker!
- Edi Birsan. . . . . watch your back.
- Richa Nixon. . . . . watch your wallet.
- Rodwena Walker. . . . . grope her, she's yours.
- Linda Lakofka. . . . . rough trade!
- Bobbie Sacks. . . . . talk your ear off!
- Lois Pulsipher. . . . . ditto.
- Erica Verheiden. . . . . ask Joan first.
- Roberta Lipton, Dickwena Miller,  
Joan Boardman, Richwena Kovalcik,  
& Chrissy Schleicher . . . . . five easy pieces.
- Carlotta Reinsel. . . . . can't dance.

WELLENOUGHOFTHATWEMUSTTOSERIOUSMATTERSLIKETELLINGYOUWHATTOAVOIDINTHISISSUE

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Boycott  
"CITEX  
76"

BOYCOTTCITEX76PASSITONBOYCOTTCITEX76PASSITONBOYCOTTCITEX76PASSITONBOYCOTT

"Only in the armed forces can you be highly decorated for killing thousands of your fellow men and be drummed out of the corps if you dare to love one." ...Harry J. Mooney, Jr., of Denver, in TIME.

Note: My new House-Rules, dated 1 May 1976, are now out. My players will get copies, of course. If anyone else would like a copy of my HRs (they are 8 pages long), a set is 25¢...in U.S. cash or stamps.

\*\*\*\*\*  
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CONVENTIONS

**GREATER LOS ANGELES SIMULATION CONVENTION.** This is at CalStateU at Northridge, 4-6 June 1976. Diplomacy, among other games, will be played during Saturday & Sunday, 5-6 June. For further info contact Jim Blancher, c/o La Maisson de Guerre, 17323 Saticoy St., Northridge CA 91324.

**DINKICON III.** The sell-out success of the past two DinkIcons has led to yet a third, at the traditional site, Holmby Park in L.A., on 5 September 1976. I imagine the Fangmaster will be there, as usual, and of course I will be there, and of course Bruce Schlickbernd and Dave Lagerson will be there, which means the Masters' Game is already sewed up. Diplomacy will be the only game played (yay-yay). Plan to attend...this is always a tremendous event, a lot of fun. Watch here for further details.

**DIPCON IX.** Is in Baltimore this year. Why are you reading this? The details are in DIPLOMACY WORLD and all the hell over the place. I wish I could go....

LINEARSEPARATORSHAVEAVEERYINTERESTINGHISTORYWHICHIWONTRLLATEHEREBECAUSEITS

THE LATEST ON AVALON-HILL

I am indebted to Fred Davis for an advance copy of some paragraphs from his April 1976 issue of BUSHWACKER (which has since been distributed to its subbers). In it he relates the results of meetings between himself and Edi Birsan, on one hand, and the Avalon-Hill people on the other. I will merely quote his encouraging comments:

"1. Avalon Hill will continue to support DIPLOMACY WORLD. They will either subsidize Walt Buchanan's production costs at the same rate as was done by GRI, or they will print the magazine for the hobby. In either case, Walt will continue to have a free hand in the contents, and there will be no diminution in size or frequency of publication. A DW flyer will continue to be placed in the Diplomacy sets." [A letter from Walt confirms that A-H will probably print and mail DW but the 'zine will remain otherwise the independent voice of the hobby mainstream.]

"2. All of the GRI-produced sets are now in a warehouse in Baltimore, and will be sold at current prices. By the time this supply is exhausted, A-H will have produced their own sets. These sets will have a simple map which will not require paying a royalty to Rand-McNally, but there will be no change in the size or shape of the provinces. The map will have a double-fold, enabling A-H to use a smaller box. The pieces will continue to be made of WOOD<sup>5</sup> (Hooray!)" [Fred later adds that this may be a wood-like plastic.]

"3. With A-H's distribution system, we should expect at least a doubling of sales of Diplomacy sets in 1976. At no time in the past have more than 10,000 sets been sold in a single year. Obviously, if 20,000 sets are sold this year, a great number of new people are going to enter the Postal hobby. We had better get geared up for this.

"4. A-H looks with favor on the variant scene. Variant creation and sales will be encouraged, so long as no one attempts to 'go commercial' and sell a boxed Diplomacy variant in large volume. Remember, A-H now holds the copyright to all Diplomacy games, but they understand the importance of variants.

\*5. The flyer in the game box will refer the new players to a Post Office Box which will be maintained and paid for by the IDA. The IDA will send a list of current Postal Diplomacy publishers to inquirers. NOTE: All currently existing North American "zines being produced on a regular basis will be listed. It is irrelevant whether the publisher is a member of IDA, [the] DA, TIDA, or the Little Man's Marching & Chowder Society. If the "zine comes out regularly and trades with the Boardman No. Custodian, he will be listed. (All but 2 of the 115 current N.A. "zines trade with the BNC.) This list will be updated by IDA, with a new mimeographed list being produced quarterly, or as needed....

\*6. As previously agreed to by a majority of the hobbyists attending DipCon VIII, the official Convention will continue to be rotated around the country. It seems very likely that the 1977 DipCon will be held at Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. Groups wishing to sponsor the 1978 DipCon are urged to get cracking RIGHT AWAY. We are very fortunate that the 1976 Con will be in Baltimore, so all the wheels can get to meet the A-H people, but A-H has no intention of trying to monopolize the Tournaments, nor will A-H make any attempt to copyright the term "DipCon". (That's a side remark aimed at a certain gentleman in Chicago.) [Who never filed for the "copyright" in the first place. It was his usual insane bluff.]

SOBORINGWELLWHATDOYOUKNOWIFORGOTHECOLOPHONFORTHISTHINGSOIGUESSWEWILLDOWHAT

#### COLOPHON

This is ERHWON, a monthly (but just not every month) journal of postal Diplomacy and other spawn of the rhythm method. Subscriptions are 5/\$1; however, you may sub at 8/\$1 if you are a postal Diplomacy publisher, and I have refused to trade for your "zine, and you are not a member of "TDA". Game fee is \$8.50 (\$4.00 if we trade).

Back issues available: 40, 45, 50-95. They are 20¢ each; sent 3rd class they are: 10¢ each in batches of 2-11; 12 issues are \$1, with 8¢ for each additional copy.

All prices quoted are in United States currency or stamps.

This is Alcalá Publication #653, edited and published by Rod Walker, "Alcalá", 1273 Crest Dr., Encinitas CA 92024; telephone, (714) 753-7657.

DIPLOMACY is a game invented by Allan B. Calhauer and copyright by the Avalon Hill Company, 4517 Harford Rd., Baltimore MD 21214, and sold postpaid for \$10.95.

WELLNOWTHATTHATISOVERWECANRESUMEOURREGULARTRANSMISSIONJUSTWHATYOUALWAYSWANTED

#### ANOTHER FAKE!

I guess the biggest joke in the hobby today is Gordon Anderson, his bogus "legal" threats and maneuvers, and everything he writes. It's hard to top that act, but it has been done. THE VIKING'S PRATTLE-PAGE, by Goopy W. Antseypants has hit the stands. It's hysterical...or at least it would be if it were not so close to the original.

Anyway, if you haven't got a copy, you're out of luck because we don't know who's responsible for this gem, right? Wrong. You see, the author is so obvious everybody should know it right away.

For additional copies of THE VIKING'S PRATTLE-PAGE, write to Edi Brisan, 35-35 75th St., #302, Jackson Heights NY 11372.

Meanwhile, Edi, Goopy Antseypants asks me to send you the following message: "Youse wil riseeve a Nasty Note from my loiyer. I am goin to soo you for upgrading my caraker."

THISLINEARSEPARATORISTOTELLYOU THATWITHOUTADUBTWEHAYEREACHEDTHEBOTTOMOF THE PAGE.

197504

## STAND-BY PLAYERS NEEDED?

Autumn 1902: While I am not thrilled with the idea of going on with this game, some of the players want to and I hate to drop it entirely if it might still be viable. I heard from some of the original players and there was enough interest in continuing that I will do so if the game is otherwise continuable. Randolph East has apparently disappeared from the hobby; at least, he no longer trades with me. Even so, I have a complete roster of players...some of whom are probably not actually in the game, but we will see how that goes.

Therefore, this game has until Friday, 30 April 1976, to whip itself back into shape. This means that I must have an active player in every one of the 7 slots. A player is active if he sends me a set of Winter 1902 orders (I have a set on file for Lakofka and Watson only) or a statement of intent to play if the game continues (I consider Leeder to have sent one already).

I need stand-by volunteers. Anyone who wishes to be a possible replacement player in this game should write me immediately; I will put any who do on the list, first-come, first-put.

If I hear from all 7 listed players below, the game will continue as of the 30th. If I don't, but have enough replacements to fill up the game, I will set a new W02 deadline and the game will continue. Otherwise, the game will be cancelled.

The current situation, after Fall 1902, is as follows:

AUSTRIA (Tony Watson, 201 Minnesota St., Las Vegas NV 89107): A Ser, A Bud, A Vie, A Bul, F Gre (5). Owns: Bud, Tri, Vie, Gre, Ser, Bul (6). Build 1.

ENGLAND (Len Lakofka, 644 W. Briar Pl., Chicago IL 60657): F Eng, F Ska, F Nth (3). Owns: Edi, Lpl, Lon, Mwy (4). Build 1.

FRANCE (Bruce Schlickbernd, 6194 E. 6th St., Long Beach CA 90803): F Mid, F Eng, F NAT, A Bel, A Pic, A Gas. Owns: Bre, Bar, Par, Por, Spa, Bel (6). No change. Statement of intent to play requested.

GERMANY (John Leeder, 208 SW Haysboro Cres., Calgary, Alberta, CANADA T2V 3G3): A Hun, A Ruh, A Hol, F Den (4). Owns: Kie, Hun, Den, Hol (4). No change.

ITALY (Charles Bell, Antioch College/West, 1067 N. Fairfax Ave., Los Angeles CA 90046): F Nap, A Tun, A Iri (3). Owns: Nap, Rom, Ven, Tun (4). Build 1.

RUSSIA (Nicholas Ulanov, 60 E. 8th St., New York NY 10003): A War, A Rum, A Ukr, A Ber, F Swe, F Ank (6). Owns: Mos, StP, Sev, War, Rum, Swe, Ank, Ber (8). Build 2.

TURKEY (Capt. Steve Brooks, 4960-B, Ave. C, Great Falls MT 59405): F Ion, F Aeg, A Con (3). Owns: Con, Smy (2). Disband 1.

"Kill or Cure" Deadline is 30 April 1976.

If this game continues, it will no longer be a "press required" game, and will be subject...in terms of press releases...to the same limitations of space and editing as all of my other games. In other words, I prefer humor, which will get priority, but space will have to be available in any event. Since there will be 3 games in this rag, space will be limited.

AGAINWEHAVEALINEARSEPARATORFORTHEAUGUSTPURPOSEOFTELLINGYOUTHATWEHAVEREACHED  
THE END OF THE PAGE

WHEREIN THE EDITOR RUMINATES AT LENGTH ON WHAT SHOULD BE DONE AT THIS POINT, BARRING A COUPLE OF PAGES OF SOLID LINEAR SEPARATORS...

We have the old Codeword symposium, of course, and the upcoming Vote symposium. Too serious. We'll do that next time.

We owe everybody a plug. The only problem with that is that everybody else has just published a ream of plugs and while I like 'zine reviews, I find they are beginning to pall. Besides, I want to do some honest reviews ("honest" means something besides platitudinous back-patting), and I'm just not up to it.

I have a funny piece about where I work. But that's where I left it.. so maybe we work it in later.

Besides, there's enough Diplomacy shit on the first 4 pages, so we should do something else. Anything else.

I am not going to tell you that GALAXY has accepted a short-short of mine, "Act of Faith"...largely because I don't know what issue it will appear in, so it won't do any good asking me.

However, I do have a little something which is actually serious. I am working on a series of pieces, ranging from short-short to novelette length, all set in an unnamed fantasy world which is loosely based on things you may remember from Sunday School. It may turn out that the whole mess is unpublishable because it has a rather narrow appeal. Anyway, one of the key fragments of the mythos involved is the creation myth. Here is one version of it, from the pages of the Journal of Ancient Archaeology. I believe the rest is relatively self-explanatory.

\*\*\*\*\*

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T A H O M U T H  
Bes Nebby, Ph.D.

### Editor's Note

Deep in a defile leading above the foothills of Mt. Ziniyah lies the village of Gorvan. Its inhabitants are doubtless unaware that they dwell in what was once one of the holiest sites in ancient Habaristyan, the High Altar. Popular newsmagazines have long since been full of the tale...admittedly an exciting one for our profession...of the chance find of some ancient pottery which in turn led to the discovery of a cave filled with the most unbelievable collection of archaic documents.

The Scrolls of Gorvan, as this incredible find came to be called, are well preserved, but extremely fragile. Early attempts to unroll some of the scrolls--as in the case of the Tale of Holeshah--resulted in partial success and partial disaster. Later attempts to soften and unroll them have proved far more successful.

Dr. Bes Nebby has been intimately associated with the Gorvan Project since its inception. He has unfortunately been absent from these pages during that period. His first contribution to be germinated in the Project makes the wait worthwhile, showing as it does that early myths are not entirely divorced from reality.

### Translator's Note

The Book of Beginnings, like all of the Sacerdote, is an edited version of the national epic of Habaristyan. The whole epic, perhaps never collected in one place,<sup>1</sup> and perhaps not even written down in its entirety.

<sup>1</sup>It is said that the library of Sulehaim the Great "contained all the knowledge of the Children of Habar". (Thrones XXV:11 [SV])

consisted of myths, legends, records, stories, fables, laws, poetry, songs, prophecies, and other materials. From these the priestly editors of the Sacerdote selected various items, often extensively rewriting them.<sup>2</sup>

The national epic of any of the ancient peoples cast the national god in the role of protagonist. These writings made her (or, in rare instances, him<sup>3</sup>) creator and supreme judge of the World, despite her less spectacular position as tribal primus inter pares in the henotheistic pantheon of those times. The editors of the Sacerdote saw Yethovash in that way. They sought to explain his conflicting roles (creator and local godlet) by viewing him as a universal ruler who had chosen to take the Children of Habar under his special protection.<sup>4</sup>

Despite the predominance of tribal traditions, in which Creation is described in such terms as, "the word of Yethovash went forth", the Habari had older and more accurate traditions concerning the foundation of the World. There is, e.g., a reference to Tya-kut<sup>5</sup> in the Book of Praises:

You [Yethovash] have vanquished Tahom[uth]?  
 You have brought into being all that is only by the  
 mightiness of your voice,  
 And have imprisoned Bahom[uth] at the edge until  
 the Last Day!<sup>6</sup>

But Creation did not involve the defeat of Tya-kut<sup>5</sup> by Yethovash... nor any other god...and thanks to the newly-discovered Scrolls of Gorvan we now know that even the parochials of old Habaristyan gave credit where it was due. Echoes of the origin of the Universe appear in even the most carefully edited of the books, Beginnings:

In the beginning Chaos mingled with the Waters, and  
 great was the confusion thereof.<sup>7</sup>  
 But the word of Yethovash went forth, saying, Let  
 there be an end of it, and it was ended.  
 By His voice the Lord Yethovash pent up the waters  
 and cast Chaos into order,  
 Setting aside lights for day and night,  
 Thus was the first ordering of things.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>2</sup>See my "Editing of B and K Sources in Beginnings, JAA II.3.111.

<sup>3</sup>Such male gods as Yethovash of Habaristyan and Shamash of Uruk headed the local pantheons. Kazad-Lim of Iyerav, although usually referred to (if at all) as "he", may have been otherwise. Prof. Bes Nev makes a strong case for Kazad-Lim as female (JAA XII.3.12ff.).

<sup>4</sup>See Prof. Bes Nev, "The 'Covenant' Concept in Habari Religious Thought and Practice", Comparative Religion Quarterly, No. 51, 12-39.

<sup>5</sup>Hab. Tahomuth: literally, "mother [of] all", usually read as t'ahom ("chaos") by Habari priests. One of their folk-tales, intended for children, also derives from the story of Creation. See "Dahu and Yahu" in Tala Kasendi, Ed., Old-Told Tales, Alakasandor: Minduchahr & Dau., 11329.

<sup>6</sup>Praises III:12-14, Modern Reader's Version.

<sup>7</sup>See footnote 5. The Sanctified Version of Praises III:12 reads, "Thou has overcome Chaos." In like wise, the mate of Tya-kut<sup>5</sup>, Boyu-lat<sup>5</sup>, is Bahomuth in Habari, and read by the priests b'ahom, "[primal] Waters". This is actually what Boyu-lat<sup>5</sup> means, just as Tya-kut<sup>5</sup> means "primal mother". The SV gives Praises III:14 as "...and pentest back the waters until the Last Day."

<sup>8</sup>Beginnings I:1-5 (MRV).

The theme of Tya-hut's destruction as the primary act of Creation appears throughout Habari writings, hapless survivors of sloppy editing.<sup>9</sup> In Ja'atham XXIII we read:

Thou has taken the Great Serpent by surprise?  
With thy dark sword hast thou vanquished her?  
At the moment of Creation did the Sons of God shout  
for joy, Ohallaloyeth!<sup>10</sup>

Another hymn to Yethovash begins:

The trees direct mine eyes to thee, whence cometh  
all good. The heavens are full of thee.  
The universe showeth thy might, and the mountains  
proclaim thy power;  
Body of the serpent whom thou has slain, and the  
bones of her.<sup>11</sup>

These and other references had long since led scholars to hypothesize the existence of some source such as the Scroll of Tahomuth. Dr. Rasim Kamari, in particular, expressed no surprise at its contents, although she was certainly excited by its discovery at Gorvan. Perhaps the best introduction to the tale itself are some lines penned by Dr. Rasim in the Jou-  
nal of Ancient Archaeology long before the actual discoveries at Gorvan:

The references in the Sacerdote are too numerous, too precise, too accurate, to be accidents. Even to regard them as mere poetic frills cannot justify the belief that alone of the older races the Habari had no tradition going back to Creation. The truth is, it must be, that they knew, but chose not to believe, the earliest history of the Universe. We can surmise it was foreign, unpalatable, to them. There is at least one verbalization of that frame of mind in what must be the most unusual book in the Sacerdote, The Ravings of Holesha, XI:31-33 (SV):

Consider the end of Chaos; consider the end of any  
thing which thou knowest!  
There will be an end, too, to thy alters,  
Where the smoke of carrion riseth unto carrion.<sup>12</sup>

### The Scroll of Tahomuth

1. Before all things was Tahomuth. Tahomuth and the waters of Bahomuth; they were all;
2. And the Universe was not. Neither Sun nor moons nor world nor any living thing was, save Tahomuth.
3. Infinitely her length stretched upon the Deep, her body in coils, rising from the Waters, and her seven heads resting upon the bosom of it.<sup>13</sup>

<sup>9</sup>If we assume the priests did in fact intend to excise references they believed to be "fables. An interesting argument to the contrary may be read in Holesh Yrb, "Selahar's Truth", CRQ, No. 27, 97-110.

<sup>10</sup>Verses 18-20 (SV). No mention of the Dark Sword occurs elsewhere in the Sacerdote. The Habari gave Yethovash a "bright sword" (Be-  
cinnings XXXI:6; Wanderings IX:17; M. Lokkis III:4). Dr. Ruf Fa'aran at-  
tributes this to an unusually optimistic frame of mind typical of the Ha-  
bari (JAA XI.1.136).

<sup>11</sup>Praises LVII:1-3 (SV) // <sup>12</sup>JAA III.4.73f

<sup>13</sup>Waters (Hab. b'ahom) and Deep (Hab. ba'akham) are used as proper nouns, poetic synonyms for Bahomuth.

4. Now it came to pass that Tahomuth conceived a passion for the Waters, saying unto them, Love me and quicken me, that I may bring forth living things.

5. But the Deep was quiet and fulfilled not her need.

6. And again she cried unto the Waters, O Bahomuth, I must be the Mother of all, and Creation must come of me. Withhold not thyself from me that Destiny may be fulfilled.<sup>14</sup>

7. But the Deep made no response and remained unmoving.

8. Then was Tahomuth's anger kindled, and her fury raged against Bahomuth, and her voice thundered in the emptiness, If you will not give yourself to my need, I will take what I require.<sup>15</sup>

9. Into the Deep plunged the great serpent; Tahomuth breached the infinite Waters. She felt the power thereof within her, and she conceived. Then came forth the fruit of her conception; and out of her came the gods and monsters of her womb.

10. Tahomuth opened her mouth, proclaiming, Creation has begun!

11. But her progeny quickened not; neither did they live, but floated upon the swells of the Deep in stillness. Move, she called to them; and again, Do, make; you are Creation and I have brought you forth. Even as pumice stones they remained, floating dumb upon the Waters. Still they came forth, unmoving, until last of all her children was born the Dark One.

12. Neither god nor monster was the last of Tahomuth's brood, but a black figure of no certain form; and its darkness was so absolute that it shone with a light not as it were given off but as it were rejected utterly. The Dark One carried a sword, and it was as black as the One.

13. Tahomuth rejoiced at the Dark One who came forth latest of all from her womb, saying, I have brought forth Destiny and you are the One that Lives!

14. But the Dark One replied, No, mother, I do not live.

15. High lifted Tahomuth her heads, asking, Who art thou?

16. High lifted the Dark One the Sword, saying, Though I have not life, ver shall I bring life to thy children. I make nothing, yet there can be no Creation without me.

17. Then did the dark blade touch Tahomuth, so that she bled, and behold! as her blood showered upon them the gods and monsters born of the great serpent lived and moved.

18. Trembling, Tahomuth repeated, Who art thou?

<sup>14</sup>"Destiny" here is of course the Hab. qzqua'ahamuth, literally, "end of all things". "Creation" is Hab. nam'ghamuth. The phrase, "I must be the Mother of all" may also be read, "I must be Tahomuth"--and the implication of this (that she was not Tahomuth until Creation) has already been commented upon (Dr. Kasim Kamari, letter, JAA XLI.2.63ff.).

<sup>15</sup>The Bupalanian Creation Epic, Elishkha'na Ebrum, contains a far more spirited version of this event. Tya-mut<sup>o</sup> (in rather earthy language, typical of that more worldly society) calls upon Boyu-mut<sup>o</sup> to be her mate thrice. Then:

Tya-mut<sup>o</sup> raged. Her tail lashed Boyu-mut<sup>o</sup>.  
Hot was her anger. Her heads waved in fury.  
She cried out, "You do not give, Boyu-mut<sup>o</sup>.  
You are indeed wicked to withhold my requirement.  
You are unmoved, Boyu-mut<sup>o</sup>, lazy one!  
You do not answer my call, my need."  
Tya-mut<sup>o</sup> resolved to take [the seed].  
And by force be quickened of Boyu-mut<sup>o</sup>.  
Into him she dived.

(Prof. Bes Nef, trans., Tablets of Bubala, Antokhu: Pzaret Co., 11356.)



19. The Dark One made answer, "Dost thou not know me, truly, mother? Verily I am the beginning of life, the sustenance of life, and the end of life. At the last I shall rule all things."

20. Tahomuth bowed her heads, whispering, "Yes, my daughter, I know thee; thou art Death."

21. One by one were her heads shorn off by the sharp sword of darkness,<sup>16</sup> and the children of Tahomuth gave a great shout of joy at the beheading of Creation. With her skin they pent up the Waters above and below; with the shards of her body they made the World.

22. Thus was the first ordering of things. When they will end, Death alone knows.

<sup>16</sup>This verse implies that Tahomuth met Death without resistance. The reader is referred to translations of the Creation Tablets of Nanav (JAA XIII.3.27-39) for a vivid reading of the fight between the Serpent and the Dark One. It is hard to say, however, whether it is true that Tya-lut<sup>6</sup> fought Death or accepted her Destiny quietly. As the subala fresco of the serpent swallowing her tail (or emerging from her own mouth) remind us, things must end before they can begin; surely the Mother of All may have known that.

THIS LINE AR SEPARATOR IS A JUDIT ONLY FUNCTION IS TO KLEP THE UPPER SECTION AWAY FROM THE LOWER

#### REVIEWS

1. **SHARDIK**, by Richard Adams, has got to be one of the masterpieces of 20th-Century literature (not to mention the fantasy genre). I have now finished it. Twice. It is one of those books you should read again, immediately, after you finish it the first time. Although the climax of the book follows with absolute logic and consistency from all of its beginnings it is such an unexpected turn, such a tremendous lesson to learn, that you need to follow the thread again through all its weavings. The lesson of **Shardik** has an overpowering impact, a slap on our psyche's face. As you read the final chapters, you might reflect on an analogous event in our own history: the crucifixion of Jesus the Nazarene. This is one of the great, sublime, enriching reading experiences of our generation. I cannot recommend it too highly.

2. **THE CYBERIAD** by Stanislaw Lem. This is a set of narratives so pixieish, so charming, so endearing that I could not put them down. The translation from the Polish is incredible! The rich mixture of puns, farce, and shrewd observation on the human condition make this a truly marvelous reading experience. The illustrations somehow do not come up to the book, however.

3. Two new Moog records are out.

"Firebird" is Tomita's latest. It features the traditional suite from Stravinsky's "Firebird", Debussy's "Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun", and Lussorsky's "Night on Bald Mountain". There are some good moments, but no inspired ones. The musical material should have generated fireworks, but didn't. But it is an interesting disc.

Walter Carlos' new album is "By Request". The music ranges from the Bach Brandenburg #2 to a Beatles piece...the latter most impressively done. Four Carlos originals are on the disc. Two are absolute garbage. The "Geodesic Dance" is quite good. Even better is his "Pompous Circumstances", a set of variations on Elgar's all-too-famous march. I can recommend this one. The two bits of trash (the "Dialogues for Piano and Two Loudspeakers" and "Episodes for Piano and Electronic Sound") take up only about 6 minutes. The rest of the record is virtually pure gold.

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