## The Seven Cities of Sumer

Humanity's most ancient formal society was built as a reflection of the heavens and the journey towards enlightenment:

In the deep Above,

Where ye hath been residing,

"The Sovereign House Above" have I built.

Now, the counterpart of it I shall build in the Below.

The Cities of Sumer served the purpose of joining the Assembly of the Most High: When from the heavens for an assembly ye shall descend,

There shall be a rest place for the night to receive ye all.

I will name it "Babylon"-

The Gateway of the Gods

The first city established was Eridu (House Built Faraway). The second city was called Bad-Tibira, the third Larak, the fourth Sippar, and the fifth Shuruppak. Two more cities were later established completing seven cities, Larsa and Nippur (Nibiru.Ki-the Crossing of Earth).

In order to reach Eridu the Assembly of the Most High had to pass through seven stages of "Enlightenment." The initiation rituals for Sumer began on the first of Nisan and lasted for Twelve days, twelve being the celestial/heavenly number. The first of Nisan corresponds to the Spring Equinox which marked the beginning of the year in Babylon. For eleven days the hosts who had heavenly status met and on the twelfth day they dispersed to their assigned stations leaving Marduk, the leading Deity, alone in his glory. The first four days were days of preparation in which four of the seven stations were passed. At the end of the fourth day the celebration of the approaching fifth station began. The night was spent in vigil and at the dawning of the fifth day the twelvefold declaration of Marduk as "Lord" was proclaimed. The recitations named the twelve celestial members of the heavens which are the twelve constellations of the zodiac. On the fifth day Nabu, Marduk's son, appears by boat from his own abode of Borsippa, but does not enter the Temple to join the Assembly until the sixth day. The ceremonies themselves up to this point represented the creation of the heavens and the earth in six days, and on the seventh day the ceremony changed to focus to reflect the struggle of Marduk to gain supremacy over the earth. On the eighth day Marduk succeeds and he receives Supreme Powers. On the ninth day the Assembly leads Marduk in a procession from the House of Akitu to somewhere outside the city. They remained there until the eleventh day, and on the twelfth day they all returned to their respective abodes and the Festival concluded.

Akitu means "Built Life on Earth." This ceremony reveals the development and progression of the journey towards God in seven stages. The first station was called "House of Holiness" in Akkadian and "House of Bright Water" in Sumerian. Here Marduk is declared "Ruler of the Heavens." The second station was called "Where the Field Separates." His name at the second station is unknown. The third station, though partly illegible, was called "Location Facing the Planet." Here Marduk is called "Lord of Poured-Out Fire." The fourth station was called "Holy Place of Destinies" and Marduk is "Lord of the Storm Waters An + Ki" (heaven and earth). The fifth station was termed "The Roadway" and Marduk is "Where the Shepherd's Word Appears." The sixth station was called "The Traveler's Ship" and Marduk called "God of the Marked Out Gateway." The seventh station was the "Bit Akitu" or "House of Building Life on Earth" and Marduk assumed the Title "God of the House of Rest." These rituals mark the journey of the soul (termed Marduk) through the Spiritual Quest and Creation. These seven stations represented spheres that needed to be crossed in order to reach the birth of life on earth. In Akkadian these seven orbs/spheres (Kishshatu) were called "The Seven Shiny Ones," the seven who "in the Supreme Part Rest." The first sphere is called Shupa (Supervisor of the Shu-the best or most important part). Next comes Iru (Loop). The third is called Kakkab Shanamma, the Double Planet (also En.Ti.Mash.Sig- Planet of Bright Greenish Life). The fourth is Tar.Gallo (the Great Destroyer), also Kak.Si.Di (Weapon of Righteousness) and Si.Mutu (He Who Kills For Justice). The fifth is Barbaru (Bright One), also Sag.Me.Gar (Great One Where the Outfit are Fashioned) and Sib.Zi.An.Na (True Guide in the Heavens). The sixth is called Utu.Ka.Gab.A (Light Established at the Gate of the Waters), also Shelibbu (One Near the Center). Then earth which is called Shu.Gi (Resting Place of Shu/Conclusion of Shu).