



# TREE OF KNOWLEDGE COMMUNITY COVEN PAGAN MINISTRY

## LILITH IN HISTORY

Lilith, also spelled Lilit, Lilitu, or Lilis, is a feminine figure in Mesopotamian and Jewish mythology. To many modern Pagans, she represents the fierce perseverance and independence of women. Despite centuries of stories depicting her as a she-demon and interpretations of the Bible attempting to erase her, she is still here. She is still a reminder that our stories are important, and that our autonomy is sacred and non-negotiable.

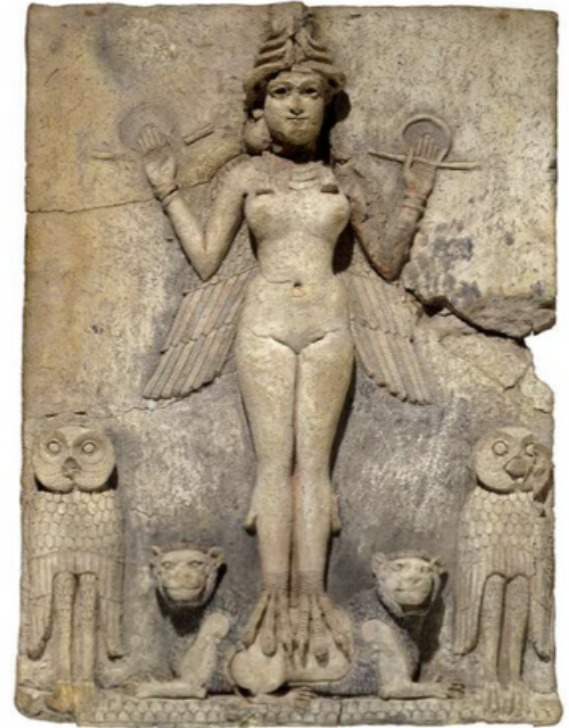
In some Jewish folklore, such as the Alphabet of Sirach (c. 700–1000 AD), Lilith appears as Adam's first wife, who was created at the same time and from the same clay as Adam. The most popular myth of Lilith today is based on the 13th-century writings of Isaac ben Jacob ha-Cohen, in which Lilith left Adam after she refused to become subservient to him. In the original Jewish text, Lilith is also mentioned in Isaiah 34:14, which describes a scene of utter desolation and judgment, where wild animals, including desert creatures, hyenas, and night demons (like Lilith in some translations), will inhabit desolate places and find rest, replacing human presence as the land becomes a haunt for these creatures.

***“The wild-cat shall meet with the jackals, And the satyr shall cry to his fellow, Yea, Lilith shall repose there and find her a place of rest.” Isaiah 34:14***

However, most English translations interpret the Hebrew word "Lilith" (לילית) as a "night bird," "screech owl," or "night creature," not the mythological figure known from Jewish folklore.

Lilith also makes an appearance in the Babylonian Talmud, as well as “Song for a Sage” in the Dead Sea Scrolls, which were discovered in a cave near Khirbet Qumran in 1947.

***“And I, the Sage, sound the majesty of His beauty to terrify and confound all the spirits of destroying angels and the bastard spirits, the demons, Lilith. . . , and those that strike suddenly, to lead astray the spirit of understanding, and to make desolate their heart.” - Song for a Sage, Dead Sea Scrolls. <sup>1</sup>***



“Queen of the Night” - 19<sup>th</sup> Century BC, Iraq

There are many paintings of Lilith, but there are precious few ancient representations of this figure. The Queen of the Night (formerly the Burney Relief), is considered by many to be the earliest depiction of a “Lilith” figure.

Joshua J. Mark describes this mysterious carving in his article from worldhistory.org, “In 1936 CE the Burney Relief was featured in the Illustrated London News highlighting the collection of one Sydney Burney who purchased the plaque after the British Museum passed on the offer to buy it. Since the piece was not archaeologically excavated, but rather simply removed from Iraq sometime between the 1920's and 1930's CE, its origin and context are unknown. How the plaque arrived in London is also unknown, but it was in the possession of a Syrian antiquities dealer before coming to the attention of Sydney Burney.” <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <https://skhadka.sites.gettysburg.edu/Lilith/lilith-in-ancient-texts/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.worldhistory.org/article/658/the-queen-of-the-night/>

## LILITH PRACTICES

You are worthy of respect. Your story deserves to be heard. Your worth is infinite and non-negotiable. So often in life, we are told that we are too much, not good enough, or not important. Lilith serves as a spiritual reminder to stand up for ourselves, even if that means leaving people or places that do not serve our highest needs and our truest selves.

Lilith doesn't exist to please others, and neither do you. Here are some practices for times when you wish to invite the energy of Lilith into your life:

- ✦ *Watch movies or read books that have powerful women in them. What do you admire about these characters? How can you imitate their confidence? Fake it until you make it!*
- ✦ *Wear something that makes you feel more powerful. Do you stand a little taller when your hair is done? Do you feel more assertive when you have makeup on? What outfit makes you feel like your best self?*
- ✦ *Practice speaking with confidence. Lilith knows what she deserves and accepts nothing less. Whenever you find yourself softening your words or apologizing for something that isn't your fault, remember that you are a goddess, not a doormat.*
- ✦ *Take responsibility for your decisions. You are the creator of your own life, which means that you can go out and grab life by the horns, but also that you are responsible for your choices and actions.*
- ✦ *Spend time outside enjoying the nighttime. Yes, Lilith got a bad rap as a "Queen of the Night", but is that nighttime or darkness really a bad thing? After all, night is just as natural and sacred as the daytime. Are there parts of yourself that you are ignoring or not honoring? What parts of yourself are hiding in the shadows?*
- ✦ *Practice saying affirmations in the mirror. It may feel silly at first, or it may feel like you're exaggerating, but speaking positively about yourself (even if you don't feel like a rock star) can have a positive impact on your mental and emotional well-being. Try affirmations like, "I am strong and confident", "I decide what my life looks like", or "I am sacred and I will treat myself like a goddess". With enough practice, thinking of yourself in a loving, confident way will become second nature!*

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*When God created the first man Adam alone, God said, "It is not good for man to be alone." [So] God created a woman for him, from the earth like him, and called her Lilith. They [Adam and Lilith] promptly began to argue with each other: She said, "I will not lie below," and he said, "I will not lie below, but above, since you are fit for being below and I for being above." She said to him, "The two of us are equal, since we are both from the earth."*

– Alphabet of Ben Sira 78: Lilith

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## CHANT

### "Sacred Woman"

*by Kate Sutherland*

Sacred Woman I Am  
With bare feet I walk across the river stones  
Water in my blood and  
the Earth in my bones  
I tend the Fire in my heart  
so I am never alone  
Sacred Woman I Am



### "Sacred Woman"

*by Kate Sutherland*

Click or scan this link  
to listen on Spotify

### Music Suggestion For Ritual

Fire (from: Elements)  
Katerina Gimon  
Performed by Mädchenchor  
Hamburg (Hamburg Girls Choir)  
Elbphilharmonie, Januar 2025

