

# The Epic of Gilgamesh

“When he comes near you uncover yourself and lie with him; teach him, the savage man, your woman’s art, for when he murmurs love to you the wild beasts that shared his life in the hills will reject him.”

Enkidu gives into lust causing him to forget of his loyalty to the animals of the hills and become civil to please this woman. This betrayal causes the animals to reject him.

“So the gods agreed to exterminate mankind. Enlil did this, but Ea because of his oath warned me.”

These two passages give readers insight into the importance of loyalty to ancient Mesopotamians. Enkidu’s loyalty to the wild animals was not enough to resist the lust of the harlot. The harlot changed him and the animals rejected him because of this betrayal. Ea made an oath to Utnapishtim. When the gods agreed to exterminate humanity, Ea agreed, but he could not betray his loyalty to Utnapishtim and warned him.