

## **Gilgamesh, Tablet XI excerpt:**

---

When a **seventh day** arrived  
I sent forth a **dove** and released it.  
The dove went off, but came back to me;  
no perch was visible so it circled back to me.  
I sent forth a swallow and released it.  
The swallow went off, but came back to me;  
no perch was visible so it circled back to me.  
I sent forth a **raven** and released it.  
The raven went off, and saw the waters slither back.  
It eats, it scratches, it bobs, but does not circle back to me.

### **Then I sent out everything in all directions and sacrificed (a sheep).**

I offered incense in front of the mountain-ziggurat.  
Seven and seven cult vessels I put in place,  
and (into the fire) underneath (or: into their bowls) I poured  
reeds, cedar, and myrtle.

**The gods smelled the savor,  
the gods smelled the sweet savor,  
and collected like flies over a (sheep) sacrifice.**