

The Ekimmu: An Ancient Vampire

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One of the oldest myths known to man about vampires is the *Ekimmu* in plural form – a vampire spirit or a vampire ghost. The Ekimmu was first written about in Ancient Assyria in 4000 BC in a spell a mother wrote in hopes of keeping the evil Ekimmu away from her children.

Letters dating around 1500 BC from Dusratta the Assyrian monarch, the king of Mitain, and Amenophis III, the king of Egypt, also mentioned the ancient vampire. These letters were in regards to witches and evil spirits that haunted man. There is also a chant to exorcise a demon, anyone of 10 different types of devils, including *Labasn*, *Lilith*, and *Ekimmu*.

The spell talks about torches to “set fire to the images,” “their smoke,” and “their spark.” This may be the beginning of the belief that fire is able to scare and or kill a vampire. The God Ea is also called upon to break the ten demons’ spell. Ea is an ancient Babylonian God, one of the three most powerful, and a patron of exorcist priests. He was the source of knowledge, and his name alone could expel evil. He was also believed to be the protector of humanity.

Ekimmu are bitter and angry, because they’ve been condemned to walk the earth, desperately wanting to live again. They can’t find peace and take pleasure in haunting their victims. They were also capable of sucking the life out of sleeping children; because of this, they were also known as “Evil Wind Gusts.”

Its victims are attacked repeatedly until death, when the Ekimmu possesses the body and uses it for its own gain. Having a body was also required in order to attack or bother humans. Being stalked by the Ekimmu is stressful; there are times the Ekimmu may leave its victim for years only to return. Ekimmu enjoy taunting



their victims telekinetically.

The creation of an Ekimmu are strange and various. As with the creation of most vampires, if burial procedures aren't followed properly it will create Ekimmu. If the deceased's family doesn't make proper funeral offerings,

or if these offerings aren't plentiful, an Ekimmu will be created. If the deceased aren't buried, he will rise again. Anyone dying in the desert alone is destined to roam the earth without rest.

Ekimmu can also be created if a woman dies while pregnant or while giving birth, if a person dies without ever knowing love, or when one dies without surviving family (this may be a part of the lack of burial offerings). When a person dies of starvation or heat exhaustion becoming an Ekimmu is common.

The lore of Ekimmu's legend spread to the Ancient Babylonians, Egyptians, and Inuit, each culture having a profound fear of the demon around the same time in history. This is not proof of the existence of the Ekimmu, only of the fear man felt toward the belief in it. However, it is strange that different cultures in various places in the world believed in a similar evil being without a way of communicating their beliefs to one another. ♦