

Once upon a time, there was a village in the forested hills of Mesopotamia. Shamas was the sun god and watched over the people of the village. It was about 600 BC at that time. Everyone in the village prayed every day to Shamas the sun god. He had a yellow body with white eyes. They would pray to him by going to a shrine under the biggest tree in the village. If the people of the village did not pray to Shamas, they believed he would punish them. The sun god brings the village sunlight to help the plants grow because

One day two brothers named Enlil and Ishtar went to the market to get a meal for their family. When they got back everyone in their family came out to greet them. Then suddenly everything was fading away until no one could see anything, the sky went completely black. It was like falling into nothingness. It lasted for only a few minutes but it was the longest and scariest moment of their lives because they did not know what had happened, so they just started screaming. Then everything went back to normal until the next day little 3-year-old Tiamat got sick, he was Enlil and Ishtar's little brother. Everyone thought that the demon named Set had cursed him because he was misbehaving. Tiamat looked as if he was

about to explode. The people of the village thought the minutes of darkness could have been caused by the demon fighting with the sun god. Maybe the demon beat Shamas and that is what caused the sky to black out. Perhaps Shamas had beaten the demon back. After a few minutes the sun started to flicker like a candle. It seemed as though the demon was winning again. Then it all stopped and Shamas beat the demon until it died and dissolved into to nothing. Everyone in the village came out to watch the grand battle. It was sad that the demons cursed Tiamat before Shamas got power again. Luckily, he got better the next day, and the villagers believed it was because Shamas won over Set the demon.

When everything went back to normal everyone in the village felt excited and happy that they were safe. They had a huge sun festival in honor of Tiamat and Shamas to celebrate. The sun was like a campfire in and the sky was blue all around. Everyone danced into the night.