## 10. World-Building

## Major Themes:

Gilgamesh epic themes resonate with our world.

The first phase of the epic is about universal themes of Courage, Friendship, Sexual Love between King Gilgamesh and Goddess Ishtar, Spiritual love (without sex) between King Gilgamesh and the Part-Animal Enkidu, and the unbearable Grief of Loss.

The second phase is about Gilgamesh's adventurous journey to find the meaning of Life and Death and a relentless search for Immortality. Gilgamesh epic is humanity's first known odyssey, more than 2500 years before Homer's Odysseus.

## **Relationship to Humanity's Other Epic Stories**

From Odysseus of Greece to Aeneas of Rome, from Hercules to Spartacus, from Cyrus The Great to Alexander the Great, from Aphrodite to Cleopatra, from Sultan Saladin to King Arthur, from Shéhérazade to Jeanne D'Arc...Our heroes, divas, and iconic protagonists owe much of their origin and appeal to the legend of King Gilgamesh and Goddess Ishtar.