

גַּד

**Gad:** "fortune," a Bab. god.

**Original Word:** גַּד

**Part of Speech:** Proper Name Masculine

**Transliteration:** Gad

**Phonetic Spelling:** (gad)

**Short Definition:** Fortune

قَدَر

fortune (n.) [pl. fortunes] قَدَر

<http://www.arabdict.com/en/english-arabic/fortune>

# Gad (deity)

**Gad** was the name of the pan-Semitic god of fortune, and is attested in ancient records of **Aram** and **Arabia**. Gad is also mentioned by the **Book of Isaiah** (Isaiah 65:11 - some translations simply call him (the god of) Fortune), as having been worshipped by a number of Hebrews during the **babylonian captivity**. Gad apparently differed from the god of **destiny**, who was known as **Meni**. The root verb in *Gad* means *cut* or *divide*, and from this comes the idea of fate being *meted out*.

It is possible that the son of **Jacob** named *Gad* is named after Gad, although the text presents a different reason, the (*ketub*) quotation of **Zilpa** (Gad's mother) giving the reason of Gad's name could be understood that way.

How widespread the cult of Gad, the deity, was in Canaanite times may be inferred from the names *Baal-gad*, a city at the foot of Mount **Hermon**, and *Migdal-gad*, in the territory of **Judah**. Compare also the proper names *Gaddi* and *Gaddiel* in the tribes of **Manasseh** and **Zebulun** (Numbers 13:10, 11). At the same time it must not be supposed that Gad was always regarded as an independent deity. The name was doubtless originally an appellative, meaning *the power that allots*. Hence any of the greater gods supposed to favour men might be thought of as the giver of good fortune and be worshiped under that title; it is possible that **Jupiter**, the planet, may have been the *Gad* thus honoured - among the Arabs the planet Jupiter was called *the greater Fortune* (Venus was styled *the lesser Fortune*).

Gad is the patron of a locality, a mountain (Hul. 40a), of an idol (Gen. R. lxiv), a house, or the world (Gen. R. lxxi.). Hence "luck" may also be bad (Eccl. R. vii. 26). A couch or bed for this god of fortune is referred to in Ned. 56a.

## 1 References

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