For women in the ancient Near East, the first biblical commandment to “be fruitful and multiply” immediately put them in mortal danger. Warding off these dangers was accomplished by apotropaic rituals, incantations, and amulets invoking magical protection. Female demons, such as the child snatching Lamastu and Lilith, were often blamed for infertility, miscarriages, and infant deaths. From menarche to childbirth, female sexuality was a powerful force to be feared, purified, and controlled. This paper explores gender-specific ritual and magical texts, proposing that these rituals functioned as women’s rites of passage in ancient Near Eastern society.