



ANCIENT SKIES

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COSMIC TRADITION IN THE CULTURES OF ASIA

BY ANDREW TOMAS*

In Ancient Skies 17:6, I discussed the Cosmic Tradition of the Ancient Mystery Schools that existed in the Western World in antiquity. This article continues the topic as it relates to the cultures of Asia.

Ancient scriptures of India, its epics and folklore are replete with precise records concerning the visitations to Earth by other-world beings. In 1953 Prof. H.L. Hariyappa of Mysore University thus summed up this time-honored tradition of India: "In the beginning gods came to Earth often times, and it was the privilege of some men to visit the immortals in heaven."

The accent on universality in ancient Indian writings is evident from this passage of the Vedas: "There is life on other celestial bodies far from the Earth."

In the course of ages the science given to mankind by the cosmic culture-bearers was preserved by Brahmins, the priests of India. This store of knowledge included astronomy, medicine and other branches of science. This wisdom was so precious that the old Surya Siddhanta, an astronomical text, has this notation: "This mystery of the gods is not to be imparted indiscriminately."

In the third century before our era the Indian emperor Asoka formed a secret society for keeping alive the science of divine instructors. Its name was the Brotherhood of the Nine. The French writer Louis Jacolliot, who spent many years in India as a judge a century ago, mentioned in his books that he had evidence that this fraternity still existed in India in his time.

About the same time, in 1881 to be exact, the British journalist in India, Alfred Sinnett, actually received a letter from a member of this esoteric brotherhood which read: "For countless generations has the Adept built a giant's Tower of Infinite Thought, where the Titan dwelt and will yet, if need be, dwell alone."

The same Adept of this fraternity sent other letters to Sinnett in 1882 which were eventually published in 1923 under the title of Mahatma Letters, that advanced the concepts of great scientific foresight: "There are other and innumerable chains

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of globes bearing intelligent beings - some physically and intellectually lower, others immeasurably higher than the man of our Earth." Another stated this: "Every completely matured sun-star has, like in our own system, several companion planets." (Letters XVIII & XXII, 1882)

What does the science of ancient India contain to support the belief that most of it had been inspired by those legendary "gods from the stars" about which the sacred books of India say so much?

The Surya Siddhanta, an astronomical work of great age, included the diameter of the Earth, the distance to the Moon and a number of other "pre-mature" astronomical facts. The physicians of India in the fifth century before our era could diagnose 1120 diseases and had at their disposal 121 surgical instruments. According to the Sactya Grantham, the Brahmins performed smallpox vaccinations 3,500 years ago but then the usage was forgotten.

An old manuscript named Agastya Samhita, kept at Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh, contains instructions for making dry-cell batteries. The sage, Agastya, was also famous as an aeronautical engineer as he had constructed a Pushpaka-vimana, or skyship.

Another wise man of India, Uluka-Kanada, proposed an atomic theory 2,500 years ago. The Srimad Bhagavatam, written by Vyasadeva 5,000 years ago, contains this paragraph: "The primeval Lord is the cause of the creation of unlimited numbers of planets with varieties of climates and specific conditions of life." (Canto II, I, ch. 5:11)

One of the most puzzling statements in Sanskrit writings, such as the Srimad Bhagavatam and Puranas, is connected with the panorama of the starry sky: "The stars in the spiritual sky are at least three times the number of the visible stars." The "spiritual sky" might refer to bodies in space vibrating on short wavelengths, such as the X and gamma rays, invisible to human eyesight.

The Puranas mention Sanakadikas, the Ancients of Space Dimensions, and Kumaras and Tarakas, who were linked with the stars. As their names imply, these beings must have come from space. Puranic literature describes their terrestrial sanctuary on an island in a vanished sea in Central Asia that is now the Gobi Desert. Its Sanskrit name is Northern Shambhala, the abode of tranquility. (See Shambhala: Oasis of Light by the author, published in paperback by Sphere Books, London 1977)

The lore of India connects the arrival of these heavenly beings with the Vaivasvata Manvatara epoch, when the first man was given the mind. The chronological table of the Brahmins fixed an uncannily precise date for this evolutionary event as 18,616,841 BC.

Unlike anthropology which estimates the age of man at a few short million years, Sanskrit books of India indicate that the primordial ancestor of man of giant stature appeared some three hundred million years ago. (Continued on next page)

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The pundits say that it is only when the subhuman creatures were endowed with reason by the entities from stellar worlds that earthly man began his upward rise eighteen million years ago.

All this does not quite fall in with the scientific views of today, yet we must not overlook the fact that the cosmological figures of Brahmanic scriptures for the duration of the solar system and of the Milky Way Galaxy are expressed in billions of years as in modern astronomy. Because of that, the origin of homo sapiens as viewed by Indian pundits may also be confirmed by science one day.

Tibet has borrowed Sanskrit books from India and taken good care of them in their lamaseries. When one hundred years ago, Helena Blavatsky declared that she had seen in Tibet the books of Lam-rin and Chan (Dzan or Zen) the philologists of Europe retorted that the books in question were figments of her imagination. Yet shortly after her death in 1891 the Lam-rin was brought to Europe and translated.

However, the Book of Chan has never been located by Western philologists. It belongs to a number of books, like the Kiu-te, which the learned lamas want to keep for themselves. Nevertheless, Blavatsky, who studied Buddhism in Tibet for three years, got hold of the archaic Book of Chan and translated parts of this Senzar manuscript, as she could read Senzar, an ancient form of Sanskrit. Remarkable information from the book was made public by Blavatsky in 1888: "Then the builders descended on radiant Earth and reigned over man." (Series I, Stanza VII) and "Divine kings descended and taught man sciences and arts." (Series II, 6)

The cosmic outlook of Tibetan Buddhism is clearly seen from the work Buddhism by E. Conze, an Oxford scholar, who wrote this in 1951: "Buddhists assume, as a matter of course, that life is not confined to Earth, that living beings dwell in many of the stars." (p.50)

Esoteric knowledge is upheld by small sects within the body of Tibetan Buddhism due to the high qualifications that are necessary for its study. The French missionary and explorer, Evariste Huc, whose book on Tibet was published in Paris in 1845, was privileged to visit Shigatse and meet the Panchen, or Tashi, Lama who was next in rank to the Dalai Lama. Father Huc wrote that the Panchen Lama had established a secret fraternity called the Ke-lans, whose object of research was the mystery of time.

The Kargyutpa-Karmapa sect of Tibet bears the name of Whispered Transmission School. Dr. Evans-Wentz, an Oxford scholar, investigated Esoteric Buddhism in the 1930s and concluded that secret knowledge in these schools was transmitted by symbols and ciphers as well as orally, and on certain occasions, even telepathically.

Tibetan folklore and writings mention not only space trips but even artifacts from other worlds. One record states that "the king mounted Lung-ta, the flying horse, and covered a vast distance in one second on its celestial voyage."

Another tale speaks of a golden rod called Dorje that fell from the sky near Sera Monastery in the vicinity of Lhasa about five hundred years ago. It had globes at the two ends which occasionally radiated brilliant light. Nowadays replicas of this object are found in most temples in Tibet, Nepal, Sikkim and Bhutan. (See the author's article in Ancient Skies 3:5)

The sacred books of Tibet, the Kanjour and Tanjour, speak of a legendary abode of star-men in the north called Shambhala. In fact, the lore of the Far East is not devoid of accounts about respected travelers who claimed to have visited this fantastic place.

Buddhist monasteries in Mongolia taught heliocentric astronomy at a time when Europeans considered the Earth to be flat. Dr. Ferdinand Ossendowski of the Academie Francaise wrote his Beasts, Men and Gods in 1922 after a strenuous journey through Cen-

tral Asia. His diary contains a strange story of young lamas in cataleptic state sent on space exploration by their teachers.

It appears that science of the ancients is still alive in Tibet. Peter Kolosimo, in Timeless Earth (p.72) wrote an engrossing (even though inadequately documented) report about a visit of several Soviet scientists to Lhasa in 1959. At Ganden Lama-sery they met a learned lama who believed in life in other worlds. After selecting two scientists from Russia for a special experiment he instructed them in concentration and put them on a special diet. After a few days the lama invited the two Russians to his austere cell, bringing in a curious instrument which gave out a muffled tone. Then a cloud appeared in the air in the room which soon crystallized into a rotating model of the solar system with an extra planet beyond Pluto. Needless to say, the men of science were at a loss to explain the nature of the phenomenon.

The Kun-lun Mountain Range in Central Asia is considered in Chinese mythology to be the dwelling place of the Immortals who are ruled by the Queen Mother of the West, or Xi Wang-mu. According to this legend, the Immortals are able to travel from one star to another and even live in distant worlds. The founder of Taoism, Lao Tzu, who was born in 604 BC, is believed to have left China at the close of his long life and reached the Land of the Immortals.

Ko-yuan, a Taoist scholar of the third century, wrote that secret knowledge should never be revealed to curiosity seekers. Taoism, which has harmoniously co-existed with Buddhism and Confucianism in China, is a complex system of ancient science that has produced expert alchemists, astrologers and parapsychologists.

Emperor Mu (1001-946 BC) took a journey across the Gobi Desert to the abode of the Immortals about four hundred years before Lao Tzu. The Han Dynasty Emperor, Wu Ti, was honored by a visit of the Queen Mother of the West to his palace in the second century before our era. Xi Wang-mu is recorded to have instructed the Taoist, Chang Tao-ling, in the art of "walking about among the stars" in the first century of our era, which makes astronautics an old science.

In fact, Hou Yih, Emperor Yao's engineer, made a trip to the Moon on a "celestial bird" in 2309 BC. The bird-like spaceship had an instrument which showed him the fixed position of the Sun once he was in outer space. Hou Yih's lunar exploration report stated that "on the Moon I saw the frozen-looking horizon."

To show how strong the cosmic tradition of China has been in the course of long centuries, let us recollect that until 1912 the national flag of China was a red dragon on a yellow pennant, which commemorated the landing of fiery-red, dragon-like spaceships amidst the yellowish dust of the Gobi Desert.

The Chinese calendrical system begins with the year of the coming of the Sons of Heaven, which is 2698 BC. The history books of the Celestial Empire, named so in honor of these Sons of Heaven, speak of Huang Ti and his dragon-ship "with a metallic sheen" which brought seventy superior beings from the star Regulus in Leo that, according to a recent estimation, is 85 light years from our Sun, a very long distance indeed. However, the chronicles mention that Fen Tse, one of the Regulus astronauts, "died temporarily" in flight amidst the stars. Was he in suspended animation?

Huang Ti and his team of civilizers quickly established the civilization of China that has lasted for four and a half thousand years. The mission of the dragon-ship astronauts took only a century and upon its completion the space visitors returned to their home star.

Even before the arrival of the dragon beings 4689 years ago, the first monarch of China, Fu Xi (2953-2838 BC) had been in communication with the star-men of Regulus and prepared the ground for their task of civilizing China. (Continued on next page)

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The Russian sinological expert, Dr. Igor Lisevich, has prepared a list of ancient sources which draw a picture of the landing in the Gobi Desert of the dragon-ships with their crews, thereby giving scientific credibility to the antique Chinese books.

The heritage of the Sons of Heaven was surprisingly rich in scientific programs - medical, astronomical and agricultural. Huan Ti's book of prescriptions included over eight thousand remedies.

This folk memory of ancient astronauts in China was instrumental in introducing a number of holidays with a cosmic tone, such as the Star Festival, the Festival of the Dragon, the Dragon Boat Festival and the Day of the Milky Way.

No doubt certain coincidences have been noted in the lore of India, Tibet and China, for instance they all believed in the reality of a Cosmic Base in Central Asia.

The old custom of restricting secret knowledge to worthy scholars was universal in Asia. The Hindu Brahmins maintained this right. In Tibet the "Whispered Transmission" schools disseminated this doctrine. In China, Taoist sages and Chan (Zen) monks were the custodians of this ageless wisdom.

TO THE EDITOR:

In Ancient Skies 17:6 you mentioned a book entitled Mysteries of the Crystal Skulls Revealed, by Bowen, Nocerino and Shapiro, published by J & S Aquarian Networking, P.O. Box 1395, Pacifica, CA 94044. I obtained a copy of the book and found a considerable number of mistakes in history and science. I sent my comments to the publisher on May 6, 1991, excerpts of which are as follows:

The Photogallery in your book showing the different crystal skulls is interesting. The technology involved on the ancient skulls is of a very high caliber. I have seen the skull displayed in the British Museum. Anatomically the antique skulls appear to be of the squarish Mongoloid type which includes the American Indian.

The crystal skulls are a product of human hands and minds. What was their purpose? That is a matter for speculation. Crystal itself has been used for scrying for thousands of years. Its piezoelectric quality was discovered earlier in the century and that made transistors and electronics possible. This is all empiric knowledge and needs no comment.

When we come to so-called "channeling" and similar mediumistic phenomena, relied upon in your book, I am dubious about this method because the information received is usually incorrect, meaningless or cannot be verified. I speak from a position of knowledge, having investigated the subject in the West. I also studied Raja Yoga and Tibetan White Tantra in India during my three sojourns to the Himalayas and South India. (I have had enough time; I am 85 years old.)

Here is my argument that channeling cannot be depended upon as a source of knowledge:

On TIBET, Sandra Bowen writes at pages 64-68 of the book: "I later learned that they (Akbar and Josephat) were stationed on Uranus but came from Andromeda and were able to...communicate with me."

Here we have a statement about two Space Beings with the earthly names of Akbar (for the great Mogul emperor of India) and Josephat (for a tribal chief of Judea). The distance to the Andromeda Galaxy is 2 million light years, yet they made it just to see Sandra, who had a feeling that "I had been given all that I needed to know." Had she?

On the POTALA, Sandra is relating her past life at page 68 of the book. The lifetime in question has a date of A.D. 435 when, as a woman, she was an astrologer as well as the Keeper of the Crystal Skulls. She says that she was connected with a monastic community - that is, she was a nun, obviously Buddhist, in the Potala in Lhasa, Tibet. The monks and

priests acted as guards at the door to the caves where the crystal skulls were kept.

This psychic report puts a question mark to the learning of the two Space Beings as well as about Sandra's ability to discriminate between fantasy and genuine psychic experience. Buddhism came to Tibet during the reign of Srong-tsen Ganpo (d.A.D. 650) and monasteries for nuns did not appear till much later. In the 7th Century, Lhasa was only a village and the Potala was not constructed till the second part of the 17th Century - 1,000 years later!

So in A.D. 435 there were no convents (Buddhist or Bon) in Tibet and no Potala in Lhasa. These are historical facts which the Encyclopaedia Britannica can confirm.

On MASTER LI, Sandra writes at page 71 of the book: "During my regressions to Tibet I first encountered him. Master Li was the teacher of the Dalai Lama in Tibet around A.D. 400."

The true facts are that the first ruler-priest of Tibet with the title of Dalai Lama (All embracing Lama, Holder of the Thunderbolt) was Sonam Gyatso (1543-1588). The title was given him by the Mongols some 11 centuries after Sandra's date! And, Master Li has a Chinese name and look. He could not have been the Dalai Lama's teacher for two reasons: (1) There was no Dalai Lama in A.D. 400 and (2) Dalai Lama's teachers have always been Tibetan, never Chinese!

On KALI YUGA, Michael Kant states on page 159 of the book: "Kali Yuga - the Hindu name given to a series of prophecies, grouped in seven-year cycles."

The correct definition of Kali Yuga is a Dark Age that began in 3102 B.C. The Yugas are not prophecies but calendrical cycles of India covering hundreds of thousands of years. Satya Yuga, the White Age, will follow Kali Yuga.

On the MILKY WAY GALAXY, Michael Kant states on page 183 of the book: "Basically, our whole solar system and planetary evolution is evolving closer to the central areas of the Galaxy...."

This is not true. By means of parallax and other methods of astronomy it was discovered decades ago that our Sun and its family of planets are on the rim of our Milky Way Galaxy and rotating around the center, but moving towards the star Vega in the Lyra constellation.

On MELCHEZIDEK, Michael Kant states on page 179 of the book: "The Original Thirteen Temples in Atlantis were established by the Melchezidek Brotherhood."

Melchezidek was a king-priest of Salem in the pre-Mosaic era around 1350 B.C. Psalms 110:4 in modern English says - "According to the manner of Melchezidek", whereas the King James text states - "After the order of Melchezidek." The word "order" in old English did not mean "fraternity." Besides, there is an anachronism in the statement. Atlantis, according to Plato, existed before 9564 B.C. while Melchezidek was unknown before 1400 B.C. There is a gap of some 8,000 years between Atlantis and Melchezidek. It is like putting the cart before the horse.

On CHEE-ZOOS, in the Conclusion on page 240 of the book. Your attempt to link Jesus with the Cherokee name Chee-zoos is artificial and shows a lack of familiarity with philology. The correct pronunciation of Jesus' original name in Hebrew is Yeshu Pandera, which is included in the Talmud (Babylonian Gemara) and Taledoth Yeshu. Further, you discuss the book He Walked the Americas, by L. Taylor Hansen, as supporting your conclusion on the Jesus link, when in fact Ms. Hansen's book refers to the culture-bearer of Mexico whose image is displayed in the Palacio Nacional in Mexico City and whose name was Quetzalcoatl. He arrived in an airship, which the Palacio picture shows.

I will end my critical remarks now in the hope that you have not been offended by this correction of errors, which is well meant. Andrew Tomas, 845 East 20th Street, Chico, CA 95926 USA.

DR. VALTER JUVELIUS AND THE ARK OF THE COVENANT

BY KAVELI MIKKONEN*

There is no question but that the Ark of the Covenant was the most important article kept inside the Temple of Solomon in Jerusalem. The Bible tells that the location of the Ark was in the Holy of Holies. (1 Kings 8:6) In 586 B.C. the Babylonian army of Nebuchadnezzar attacked Jerusalem and destroyed both the city and Solomon's Temple. There is no mention in the Bible of what happened to the Ark at the time of the sack of the city. According to one Jewish tradition (Mishnah) the Ark of the Covenant was hidden underground and escaped destruction.

In 2 Maccabees 2:1-8 we read that Jeremiah the prophet "being warned of God, commanded the Tabernacle and the Ark to go with him as he went forth into the mountain, where Moses climbed up and saw the heritage of God. And when Jeremiah came thither, he found a hollow cave, wherein he laid the Tabernacle and the Ark and the Altar of Incense and so stopped the door." Thus, according to this text, Jeremiah removed the Ark from Jerusalem to Mount Nebo and hid it in a cave.

Another tradition (Kebra Negast) holds that the Ark was possibly transferred to Ethiopia long before the invasion of the Babylonians. Of course, it is possible that there is some truth to these various stories about the Ark, but they also could be intended to deliberately lead us astray so that the secret hiding place of the Ark could never be found. Also, it is possible that the Ark had been removed from the city, but then moved back to the Temple Mount some time after the devastation. In any event, it is clear that the priests of Solomon's Temple would not have let their most holy relic be destroyed, so it is probable that they hid the Ark in secret chambers beneath the Temple, deep inside the Temple Mount, upon which today stands the Dome of the Rock, the third holiest Mosque in all of Islam.

In the early 1900's, Dr. Valter H. Juvelius, a Finnish biblical scholar, became familiar with the various Jewish traditions concerning the Ark while studying in several countries. When he learned that the Ark could possibly still be in existence and hidden in the region of the Temple Mount, and that some ciphers in certain original biblical passages could reveal the secret hiding place, he obtained a Hebrew Old Testament and concentrated on the problem. According to Dr. Juvelius, the Book of Ezekiel contains a secret code, or cipher, which describes the exact location of the Ark and the route to the hiding place. The secret had been known only to the high priests and to Ezekiel himself, but they all died before the captivity in Babylon ended and the secret was eventually forgotten. Dr. Juvelius believed that he had broken Ezekiel's code and he drew maps in Finland based upon his conclusions. He decided to travel to Jerusalem to view the site first-hand. He sent postcards back to his father from the various places he visited, all of which are still intact, so it is rather easy to locate the places he explored. Naturally the purpose of his visit to the holy city had to be kept secret, because the ultimate target for his excavations, the Temple Mount itself, was sacred both to the Muslims and the Jews.

In order to carry out archaeological excavations in Jerusalem, it was necessary to obtain prior permission from the Turkish government, so to deal with this problem, Dr. Juvelius formed a company in London in 1908 with the name of J.M.P.F.W. Ltd., which included the first initials of the names of the original members of the expedition: Juvelius, Millen, Parker, Forth and Waughan. All except the Finnish Juvelius and the Swedish engineer Millen were English noblemen.

The expedition arrived in Jerusalem in August,

1909. They were not allowed to dig in the Temple area itself, so the excavations began about 600 metres to the south of it, outside the city wall near the Virgins Well. Engineer Millen described the course of the excavations in a book published in 1922. He said that they worked during three years following the maps and descriptions prepared by Dr. Juvelius based upon the Ezekiel cipher. He thus assured that the Juvelius decipherment was correct. He stated that without it they could not have started nor continued the work. He also stated that without its guidance and warnings they would have taken many unnecessary risks and perhaps lost many lives when they tried to break through closed labyrinths and tunnels. He reported that inside the Temple Mount there is a threefold system of tunnels, labyrinths and water canals, each with its own purpose. The openings to the tunnels are so carefully sealed that without the cipher they would have been impossible to find. There was also the danger that an incautious worker would be drowned in the tunnels. According to Millen they found poisonous gas in the tunnels, which caused burns and dizziness.

When Dr. Juvelius was studying the Ezekiel cipher in the early 1900's, he concluded that the hiding place of the Ark contained dangerous radiation, and according to a Swedish researcher, Henry Kjellson, he saw letters between Juvelius and Millen which confirmed the presence of radiation, the cause of which was a device which resembled a sandglass. It is likely that Juvelius and Millen did not actually see the device, but learned of it from the decipherment of the biblical code. In the late 1950's, Henry Kjellson used a Geiger counter at the Virgins Well, but he detected no radiation at that location; however, if there are closed vaults and tunnels inside the Temple Mount, it is possible that the radiation, now weak, is not coming through the rock.

In April 1911 the excavation crew lowered themselves into a cavern and began to break the stones that closed off the entrance to an ancient aqueduct system. Dr. Juvelius had returned to Finland, but was prepared to return to Jerusalem to attend what they hoped would be the final breakthrough into the hiding place of the Ark of the Covenant. However, there had been a tumult in Jerusalem when the world press disclosed that the Dome of the Rock (then called the Mosque of Omar) had been desecrated by adventurous Englishmen, and it became impossible to continue the work. Then in 1914 World War I broke out and the matter was dropped.

According to a Finnish researcher, Rev. Voitto Viro, Dr. Juvelius made new maps during 1919-1922 at his home in Finland, because the original maps had disappeared. These new maps, or at least a major part of them, are in the possession of relatives of Dr. Juvelius, who died in 1922. Rev. Viro has seen dozens of the documents, but they are not easy for him to decipher. Dr. Juvelius had a valuable library of his own which was donated to the Academy of Turku, but unfortunately the most important book, his Hebrew Bible, was buried with him!

Could we still find the Ark of the Covenant? If it was a small-sized nuclear reactor, as postulated by George Sassoon and Rodney Dale in The Manna Machine, it could still be emitting radiation and with today's sensitive detection instruments, it is possible to find it. If so it would be a world sensation. *Mr. Mikkonen is a philosophy major. His address is Tervaskatu 4 B 11, 96190 Rovaniemi, FINLAND.

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