

# An Arctic Origin of Civilization?

by **Victoria LePage**  
2008-2009  
from [VLPAGE](#) Website  
[Spanish version](#)

## Part 1

November 3, 2008

Vast shadowy forces are moving in Central Asia - or rather in the greater region we call [Eurasia](#) - which may change the face of our global society and civilization forever.

Even as the balance of geopolitical forces is shifting inexorably in favor of the Eurasian superpowers - principally Russia, China, the Central Asian states and India - a new spiritual wind is blowing out of Inner Asia and its many hidden mystical schools, promising to sweep the new Entente into unprecedented heights of international power, politically and culturally.

The immensity of the coming turbulence occasioned by this shift from West to East is incalculable, the outer symptom of a global revolution of consciousness.

Already the transformation of consciousness accompanying this hemispheric shift is creating both exaltation and unease in all people sensitive to evolutionary change. As the West moves through increasing economic and geopolitical tumult towards what many regard as a birthing into a new World Age, pressing questions are being asked.

What are we mutating into and what kind of social realities will replace those we know? The mystery and the terror is not so much the speed of change as its unknown destination. Where are we heading? To what precipice sheer and awful, or to what blessed landfall?

Striving to answer such questions, many leading esotericists today have turned to certain very ancient traditions to throw light on the crisis of our times.

Increasingly heeding the overwhelming evidence for their thesis, they suggest that the key to humanity's future lies in its distant past, in the heritage of an unknown antediluvian race that lived in a time so remote that its existence has been erased from racial memory. i

## A Forgotten Race

Perhaps 100,000 years ago or more, so the hypothesis runs, a great star-gazing Ice Age people lived in the Arctic region, at that time a temperate zone, before migrating south to Inner Asia as conditions changed and the great ice sheets melted.

There, in a fertile, paradisaical land, these unknown sages became the core of a Ural-Altaic race that continued to evolve over the millennia, improving the stock of primitive humanity by intermarriage, developing cosmological sciences and political structures that sowed the seeds of our present civilized state, migrating across the earth

and then disappearing, leaving immortal legends about itself behind.

The British author **John Michell** cites the massive evidence for such a civilization, which he regards as essentially magical, and still faintly visible across the earth for those who care to look:

The entire surface of the earth is marked with the traces of a gigantic work of prehistoric engineering, the remains of a once universal system of natural magic, involving the use of polar magnetism together with another positive force related to solar energy.

Of the various human and superhuman races that have occupied the earth in the past, we have only the dreamlike accounts of the earliest myths.

All we can suppose is that some overwhelming disaster...destroyed a system whose maintenance depended upon its control of certain natural forces across the entire earth. ii

Michell is one voice among many claiming that in the archives of prehistoric peoples a forgotten race has left traces of an advanced body of knowledge, seemingly both spiritual and technological, which can guide us, if we will, into a viable future.

Despite being ignored by mainstream historians and anthropologists, this theory is being ever more insistently put forward by highly accredited researchers as evidence for the enormous age of our species continues to be found not only in the legends of races in every part of the planet but also in the thousands of technological anomalies being unearthed in unlikely geological strata.

The ancient Greek historians had much to say on this subject, especially concerning the legends of Asia Minor which told of the descent thereto, in the depths of the Ice Ages, of the Hyperboreans, a mysterious race of superior beings from polar regions whose Pillar works on earth sought to mirror the starry heavens above.

Yet it is Central and Inner Asia further to the east, a vast land of steppes, mountains and sandy deserts, whose people preserve the most significant memories of a time beyond telling when cities populated the deserts and an Elder race walked tall on the earth.

And it is these Ural-Altaic regions that are now taking centre stage as the search continues for the roots of homo sapiens and the path into a viable future.

## Arkaim - A Bronze Age Town in the Southern Urals

In 1987, in the middle of the Russian steppe, a team of Russian archaeologists unearthed the ruins of a fortified town called [Arkaim](#), causing great excitement in scientific ranks and a surge of neo-pagan and nationalist enthusiasm among Russian intellectuals.

The region was known to have preserved landmarks of the most diverse cultures, ranging from every epoch and every direction of the compass, but Arkaim was the first clear evidence of an ancient advanced culture flourishing on Russian soil.

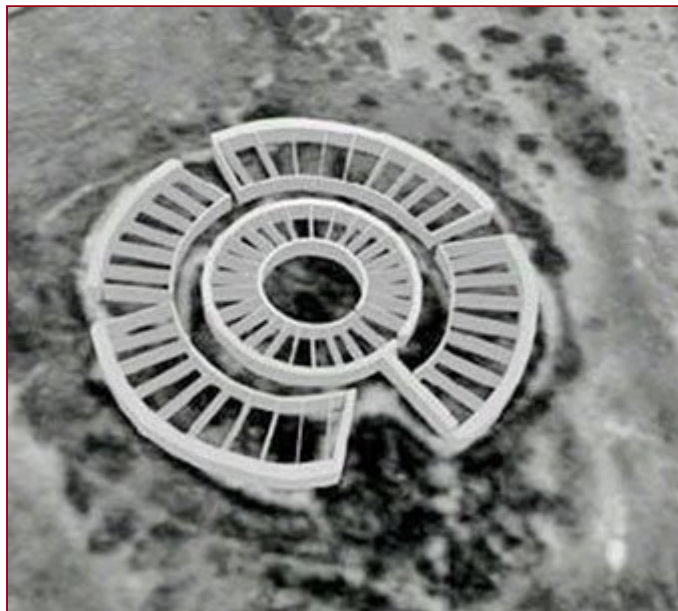
Constructed on a circular principle around a central square, with about sixty semi-dugout houses built within its ramparts, the settlement was situated in the southern Urals, near the Russian city of Chelyabinsk. It was defended by two concentric ramparts of clay and adobe blocks on a wooden frame, and could only be entered via four intricately constructed passageways that would have made the entrance of enemies extremely difficult.

The inhabitants and the common central square were thus well protected by Arkaim's defensive, inward-turned ground plan.

The town was found to be closely aligned to several celestial referent points, and is therefore believed to have been an observatory as well as a fortress, an administrative and a religious centre.

Dubbed "the Russian Stonehenge", this Bronze age settlement was about 3600 years old and was contemporaneous with the Cretan-Mycenaean civilization, with the Egyptian Middle Kingdom and with the Mesopotamian and Indus valley civilizations, and older by several centuries than **Homer's** fabled Troy, whose circular layout it so closely resembled.

Arkaim was inhabited for 200 years and was then mysteriously burned down and deserted.



The Russian team's explorations showed that Arkaim enjoyed an advanced technology for its time.

It was equipped with a drainage gutter and storm sewage system and had actually been protected from fire: the

timbered flooring of the houses and the houses themselves were imbued with a fireproof substance - a strong compound the remnants of which can still be found in the ruins.

Each house gave onto an inner ring road paved with wooden blocks; and in each house there was a hearth, a well, cellars, an oven and provision for a cooled food storage system. The oven was such that it may have been possible to smelt bronze in it, as well as to fire pottery.

Subsequent to this exciting excavation, more than another twenty fortified settlements and necropolises were unearthed in the Arkaim Valley, some stone-built, larger and more impressive than Arkaim.

With Arkaim possibly its capital, the complex came to be called the Land of Cities and presented scientists with many mysteries. It was the first concrete evidence of a lost Neolithic civilization in southern Russia, confirming what had long been believed, that the southern Urals and northern Kazakhstan, situated at the junction of Asia and Europe, was an important region in the formation of a complex Aryan society.



A possible light was thrown for the first time on the development, nature and wide migratory pattern of early Indo-European culture, and stimulated all sorts of theories in Russian circles about the Aryan roots of the Slavic people. iii

This, however, has been only the beginning of the quest for a new ethnic, cultural and religious identity in a small but influential Russian minority since the demise of the Soviet Union. Increasingly rejecting the American and Western European vision of a global hegemony rooted in Christianity, Russians, besides their interest in their Indo-European roots, are turning eastwards to find a connection with the Turkic/Mongol ethnic strain.

Many, especially among the young, are already embracing the mystique of a united Eurasian people and community cemented by spiritual bonds far older than those of Christianity or Islam.

Arkaim has become a ready focus for these ideals, a symbol of the future basis for world peace.

*Ar-ka* means sky, and *Im* means earth, says **Alex Sparkey**, a Russian writer. He explains that this means that Arkaim is a place where the Sky touches the Earth.

Here the material and the spiritual are inseparable.

The East and the West are fused here. Today, in Russia, we feel that Mankind is faced by the necessity to choose Oneness. Western culture must come into unity with Eastern wisdom. If this can happen, the harmony that once reigned supreme in the Land of Cities will be restored. iv

In fact, it is doubtful whether peace and harmony existed in the period of Arkaim, since it and the surrounding fortified settlements were obviously geared to warfare or at least to heavy defensive measures in a hostile environment.

It is noteworthy that the cult of Tengri, the Mongol/Turkic Sky God who plays a prominent part in Central Asian religion, fosters a fierce competitive nationalism rather than peaceful relations with neighbors.

However, Sparkey is right to emphasize the principle of harmonious accord implicit in the Arkaim ideology, pointing as it does to the settlement's inheritance of a once more peaceful culture.

The head of the archaeological team observed:

A flight above Arkaim on board a helicopter gives you an incredible impression.

The huge concentric circles on the valley are clearly visible. The town and its outskirts are all enclosed in the circles. We still do not know what point the gigantic circles have, whether they were made for defensive, scientific, educational or ritual purposes.

Some researchers say that the circles were actually used as the runway for an ancient spaceport.  
v

The truth is that Arkaim was a troy town, so-called after the city in Asia Minor that the Greek king Agamemnon destroyed during the Trojan Wars.

Built on the same circular principle as Troy, as described,

- in Homer's Iliad, but at least six hundred years older, Arkaim finds its prototype in Plato's Atlantis with its three concentric circles of canals
- in legendary *Electris*, the Hyperborean city some said was built under the Pole Star by the sea-god Poseidon
- in Asgard, the sacred city dedicated to the Norse god Odin that is described in the Icelandic saga, the Edda

All these legendary troy towns have the same circular ground plan.

They have gone down in history as Neolithic Wisdom centers and the seats of ancient god-kings, and this undoubtedly throws light on the cultic function of Arkaim in its day, as we shall see.

In Russia's more mystical quarters there is intense interest in the ancient town, seeing it as the city temple built by the legendary King Yuma, ruler of the Aryans in the "Golden Age, which will once again becoming the centre of the world. vi

However, the discovery of the settlement has opened an historical aperture onto far more than the battles and conquests of an aggressive Indo-European people waged across Eurasia and south into the Mediterranean lands, where their war chariots shattered the peace of Old Europe. What the Land of Cities has revealed in its very structure and history is above all the still earlier past of the Ural-Altaic peoples - a past of such enormous antiquity that it presents more mysteries than it solves.

Built in the unique architectural mould of Nordic Asgard, the most sacred shrine of the Aesir of which the Prose Edda relates that "men call it Troy," Arkaim may have been a shrine dedicated to the Aryan Sun religion, yet the roots of its dedication would have lain ultimately in the far older cult of the Pole star.

Essentially, this was *the religion of the shaman, the wizard, the medicine-man* and other wonder-workers in touch with the spirits of nature.

Thus the swastika, thought to be the exclusively Aryan symbol of sun-worship misappropriated by the Nazis, vii and found depicted on many of the clay pots unearthed in Arkaim, is an older religious and metaphysical symbol than that attached to the Aryan Sun God, its roots lying in totemic shamanism.

**René Guénon**, the eminent French esotericist, points out that the swastika, symbolizing eternal motion around a motionless centre, is a polar rather than a solar symbol, and as such was a symbol central to the Pole star cult, originally dedicated to a planetary deity connected to Ursa Major, the Great Bear.

This center, Guénon stresses,

"constitutes the fixed point known symbolically to all traditions as the 'pole' or axis around which the world rotates..."

[The swastika](#) is therefore known world-wide as the 'sign of the pole.' viii

In short, it would be a mistake for Russian ethnic pride to train too narrow a focus on Arkaim's Aryan background, for the town was heir to a great civilizing force that existed in the Eurasian corridor long before there were Indo-Europeans. One universal feature of troy towns is missing in Arkaim - presumably because it has been destroyed over the centuries - and that is the altar pillar in the central square.

Undoubtedly, in Arkaim we see a late expression of a megalithic Pillar religion that once reigned universally in every corner of the globe, among nearly all peoples, whatever their ethnic type, and which became associated with troy towns. It is the oldest religion known to us and goes back to the most remote antiquity when men saw the heavens as revolving around the axis of the Pole Star.

Only later did the Sun, as the centre of the revolving stellar system, replace the Pole Star as the supreme deity of the Pillar cult and lead to the elevation of the Sun God of the Indo-European peoples. It led to their greater intellectual development, to complex civilizations, to advanced arts and sciences and the transcendence of nature.

Troy towns like [Electris](#) - and like Arkaim - were built as stellar observatories.

Their function was to unite earth to the starry cosmos above according to the principle of "as above so below" by means of a central axis symbolized by a stone pillar.

Thus **Diodorus Siculus** of the first century BCE, quoting the historian **Hecataeus**, described the sanctuary of Electris as a troy town after the pattern of the spheres,

"by which he meant, an astronomical design similar to that of Stonehenge and other ancient sun temples, in which the scheme of the heavenly spheres or astral shells surrounding the earth was represented diagrammatically by a series of concentric circles marked by walls, ditches or moats around a central pillar-stone." ix

These enclosed and heavily guarded sanctuaries sacred to the gods of the greater cosmos were inhabited only by initiated priests and their families, and were forbidden to the wandering nomads beyond the ramparts.

The mystery to archaeologists is how such an advanced astronomical science can have been pursued at a time when hunter-gatherers still roamed the land.

**Colin Wilson**, a highly accredited investigator, in answer takes us back to the Sumerians of ancient Mesopotamia, a people who almost certainly had their origin in Central Asia, as the Bible states:

"As men migrated from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar [Sumer] and settled there."

Sumer is regarded as the site of one of the first true civilizations in human history.

Wilson points out that the Sumerians were accomplished astronomers who had compiled tables of the motions of all the planets, including Uranus and Neptune, as early as five thousand years ago, long before the existence of Arkaim.

He adds that according to the library of clay tablets compiled by the Assyrian King **Assurbanipal** (669 - 626 BCE) and unearthed during the nineteenth century, the Sumerians had also understood the precession of the equinoxes, and therefore knew about the zodiac. x

Further revelations of the Sumerians' sophisticated astronomical science convinced Wilson that the Chaldean astronomers understood our solar system as well as Isaac Newton did. xi

Indeed Wilson came to believe that a scientific knowledge of the universe existed on earth as far back as 64,000 years ago, if not far longer.

Evidently Arkaim was a Wisdom Center in a network of such Centers that once related all the prehistoric peoples of the earth to each other under the spiritual aegis of the Pillar religion and its priestly elites. The remains of countless similar stone circles, *menhirs* and troy towns are scattered throughout Europe, the Americas, Eurasia and the Pacific lands, memorials to great crisscrossing migrations of peoples, all loyal to the same axial principle that relates earth to the heavens.

As to the cradle of this great Diaspora, the mystical Russian painter and explorer, [Nicholas Roerich](#), saw



thousands of such megalithic pillar-works in the highlands of Tibet and believed them to be older than any found elsewhere.

He suggested they had strong links to the works of the Celts and the Scythian tribes, as also to the megaliths of Carnac in Brittany, and that they represented a Pillar cult that had its beginnings long ago in the Trans-Himalayas of Inner Asia. xii

This proposed Eurasian cradle of the troy town phenomenon is reinforced by the researches of one **Jacob Bryant** in 1776.

Bryant, a noted expert in Homeric Troy, published an encyclopaedia of ancient mythology in which he claimed the Trojans were descended from a very old "Atlantean" race that had long ago settled across the whole of Eurasia. xiii

If the first troy towns were built in Central Asia, could the universal Pillar religion also have had its beginning there?

As I have said, various versions of the cult of the World Pillar as it spread around the world were once known from the Americas to northern Africa, where the blond Tamahu worshipped the Magna Mater and her spouse the Heaven-Bearer, as did their cousins in Brittany and Spain.

"In Hindu India the World Axis, Mt. Meru, ascended into the revolving heavens above through the centre of the three worlds, and in the Canary Islands the Cro-Magnon [Guanches](#), now extinct, worshipped with sacrifices the god of the World Pillar whom they called 'the God who Holds the Heavens,' and who thus prevented the collapse of the foundations of the world." xiv

A remnant of this belief-system survives in the legend of Jacob's Ladder in the Hebrew Book of Exodus, in which we learn that on this Ladder angels ascend and descend between heaven and earth.

Each race has considered a certain tree as symbolic of the World Pillar and therefore sacred. In the Voluspa, the song of the Old Norse prophetess, the tree on which the god Odin hung in order to receive the sacred runes was called Yggdrasil, the heaven-pole or world axis.

The *World Ash Yggdrasil* was declared to be the greatest of all trees and the best; its limbs spread over the world and above the heavens, its shaft the pivot of the ever-revolving sky. At the foot of that tree the laws were first brought into being by the Aesir, the Norse gods, and Yggdrasil was worshipped as the source of all higher knowledge. xv

To the inhabitants of Sumer, whose language is unknown - being neither Indo-European nor Semitic - the Pillar was a dominant religious feature: thus Nippur, one of Sumer's chief cities, as long ago as 3800 BCE had the meaning of "Bond of Heaven-Earth."

A prominent researcher on this subject says that in the text of the [Sumerian Enuma Elish](#),

"clues to the purpose of Nippur were found in references to a heavenward tall pillar reaching to the sky." xvi

In ancient Egypt, the land of the Hamitic peoples, the city of An or Anu, which was renamed Heliopolis by the Greeks, originally meant Pillar City. xvii

As a commentator has pointed out, this fact may shed light on the mysterious *djed pillar*, the "backbone of Osiris," often associated with Heliopolis. xviii

Like others of the Pillar fraternities, the totemic shaman too dedicated his life and calling to the vision of the marriage of heaven and earth achieved by means of a heaven-bearing Tree of Life.

In ancient Crete he was a familiar adjunct to the temple rituals of the Great Mother Demeter; in Siberia, Mongolia and the Americas, he was the magician and wise man of his tribe.

Beating his drum and climbing the central pole of his yurt, the symbolic pillar by which he communed with the sky spirits above, the shaman thus brought down healings, prophecies and advice from the ancestors to the people of his community.

The Mongol-Turkic shamanic tradition with its *Sky God Tengri* and its *World Tree* still survives over a vast area of the planet, although its roots are lost far back in the mists of the Paleolithic age.

The mystery of Arkaim is indeed the mystery of the Pillar religion.

- Who brought to all the primitive peoples of earth this knowledge of the Polar Axis, uniting them for many thousands of years in a common planetary culture?
- Who taught them the astronomical secrets of the solar system, the zodiac and precession of the equinoxes at a time in prehistory when human intelligence was not supposed to be evolved enough to have developed that knowledge alone?
- And what part did Arkaim play in that dissemination?

## Tracing the Arctic Origins of Civilization

The Babylonians believed in a mysterious paradise in "the far north" where a race of great sages lived; and the ancient Greeks too extolled a northern Elysium in which they believed the Hyperboreans, a wise, peaceful and long-lived race, lived in great splendor and prosperity.

Even though Delphi was regarded as the centre of the Greek world, its god Apollo and his sister, the goddess Artemis, were acknowledged to be originally deities of this secret land far to the north, where stood the cosmic axle that the Greeks called Helice, "That Which Turns."

Many Greek historians as well as later scholars located this northern paradise in Scythia or the Altai, and as having its source in the shamanism that grew up around the semi-mythical magicians and pole-lords of Altai. But research and sacred tradition both suggest its origins go further back still to north-eastern Asia within the Arctic Circle, to a society that flourished on the shores of the Siberian Sea.

How long ago, or for how long, this circumpolar culture may have existed no one knows: possibly 200,000 years or more.

In *The Interpretation of Radium*, the acclaimed physicist **Frederick Soddy** stated his belief that some of the beliefs and legends which have come down to us from antiquity may be,

"evidence of a wholly unknown and unsuspected ancient civilization of which all other relic has disappeared." xix

There may have been, he suggested, previous cycles in the unrecorded history of the world when civilized men lived,

"in a past possibly so remote that even the very atoms of civilization literally have had time to disintegrate." xx

On the basis of years of investigation, **Charles Hapgood**, a New England professor of history, in 1982 declared that possibly as long ago as 100,000 years BCE the hub of a worldwide maritime civilization with a highly developed level of scientific knowledge must have been in existence in the Arctic Circle. xxi

Until lately Hapgood's finds, presented in [Earth's Shifting Crust](#) (1958) and [Maps of the Ancient Sea Kings](#) (1966), have been largely ignored in scientific circles, even though they elicited support from the great physicist Albert Einstein; but today interest in them is mushrooming among a growing number of highly accredited investigators.

René Guénon appeals to the oldest and most authentic esoteric traditions in claiming that long before the Indo-European races arose, at a time when a hunter-gatherer humanity was still at a primitive stage of development, the tropics were differently distributed and a great Hyperborean culture flourished around the Arctic Circle,

"in the Islands of the Blest on the shores of the Ocean where the great maelstrom whirls." xxii

Only later, after a catastrophic change in geological conditions, did this senior race migrate southward, some to Central Asia, others, possibly crossing the Bering Strait, [to Atlantis](#) to the west.

The latter has been located by some researchers in the Antilles, two large islands beyond the Gulf of Mexico widely regarded the remains of what was once a great sunken landmass. xxiii

(In support of this theory, the Caribs and the tribes of Hispaniola have long had a tradition that many of the



islands of the Antilles, a well-known earthquake zone, were once connected by a single landmass, before a great cataclysm about 15000 years ago submerged the connection and left only the known island fragments). xxiv

Leaving aside Guénon's oblique reference to the two southern refuges of the Hyperboreans being in Russia and Central America, he suggests that in both cases the two groups brought with them advanced mathematical and astronomical knowledge and the seeds of arts and sciences that would eventually be passed on to our brute ancestors to become the basis, about eight thousand years ago, for our own civilizations.

Both Sumer in the Middle East and Central America have flood stories written down long before the biblical account of Noah's flood, and in all these stories the *salvific activity* of the Elder race is pivotal.

There is the Sumerian [story of Utnapishtim](#) and his wife, who, helped by the gods, survived a flood and were made immortal; and likewise early American accounts tell how [the god Viracocha](#), who "came from the east", destroyed the earth in a great flood.

Later, after a man and a woman survived by taking refuge in a floating box,

"Viracocha recreated the peoples of the earth, and gave each one his own language and songs." xxv

Wilson cites many such instances in which flood stories about the Hyperboreans and their salvation of our race are to be found in both the Old World and the New.

Guénon is emphatic, however, that of the two primary locations, both of which have at times borne the name of Tula (known to the Greeks as Thule), that of Central Asia was the elder.

The Atlantean Tula, says Guénon, must be distinguished from the Hyperborean Tula, the supreme Holy Land, "which latter represents the first and supreme centre for the entire current Manvantara, and is the archetypal "sacred isle."

All the other "sacred isles", although everywhere bearing names of equivalent meaning, are still only images of the original. This even applies to the spiritual centre of Atlantean tradition, which only governed a secondary historical cycle, subordinate to the Manvantara. xxvi

Plato himself notes this hierarchical distribution: the Atlantean empire, he said, was only one nexus established by the gods in a greater network of Centers whose capital was elsewhere "at the centre of the Universe." xxvii

Thus the Eurasian heartland, Guénon says in his brief but ground-breaking work, *The Lord of the World*, has indeed become that "centre of the Universe," the authentic "supreme country" which,

According to certain Vedic and Avestan texts, was originally situated towards the North Pole, even in the literal sense of the word.

Although it may change its localization according to the different phases of human history, it still remains polar in a symbolic sense because essentially it represents the fixed axis around which everything revolves. xxviii

However, this still does not tell us why the location in Central Asia was chosen as the Hyperboreans' primary destination?

Guénon's response to this question is cryptic in the extreme. He admits he is dealing with proscribed material he is not permitted to divulge, but goes so far as to reveal that Mt. Meru, the "polar mountain" stands in the centre of the "supreme country" - and Mt. Meru, as is now generally understood, symbolizes the mysterious World Axis or World Tree of esoteric tradition.

In other words, Central Asia was chosen because the World Axis was there; that was the real goal of the migration. The World Axis was, and is, the "centre of the Universe"; it is the World Axis that renders its geographical location a Holy Land - a fact which is only now being elucidated in para-scientific circles.

As we shall see in the second part of this article, the earth's esoteric structure is a subject that has been veiled in secrecy for thousands of years, and this applies especially to the mystic's Mt. Meru or World Axis.

**John Major Jenkins**, in his book [Galactic Alignment](#), is one of the first modern researchers to throw light on the meaning of this and much other Hyperborean lore that Guénon was unwilling or unable to discuss.

Beyond referring to the senior race as "the guardians of Earth's sacred mysteries," Guénon's initiatory vows kept him silent.

Who, then, were these mysterious Hyperboreans - or as we might perhaps better call them, these Elders, these early Masters of Wisdom who understood the importance of the World Axis?

The records of most of the Bronze age nations have a legend that an unknown race of Elders gave us kingship and civilization and that they came from the gods and understood the most powerful secrets of our planet – secrets that have since been lost.

The Elders have been known as [the Nephilim, the Watchers](#), the Sons of God, [the Anunnaki](#) and many other appellations.

**G.I. Gurdjieff** spoke of them as agents of the divine Demiurge from a previous cycle of humanity. But beyond being credited with great wisdom and magical powers as well as having giant stature and extremely high craniums, little more is known about them.

Did they really exist?

All that can be said with certainty is that they remain a benign shadowy presence moving inscrutably in the background of virtually all the prehistoric traditions of our race.

These souls [from Sirius](#), say the ancient texts, descended down the World Axis and incarnated on earth long ago in order to aid our fledgling species.

When a great catastrophe towards the end of the Ice Age, around the twelfth millennium BCE, threatened us with extinction, these sons and daughters of the gods instituted the *hieros gamos*, a genetic science that mingled their genes with ours and so bred a superior human stock with a greater survival potential that spread gradually from the heart of Asia on one hand, and Atlantis on the other, to the rest of the world. xxix

The climate changed again around the ninth millennium BCE, which is widely regarded as the date of the demise of Atlantis and the enforced dispersal of its people both westward to Central America and eastwards to Europe. Bringing catastrophic earthquakes and coastal flooding to vast areas of the globe xxx and a severe threat to the survival of our species, it was a racial crisis that brought another response from the senior race.

Although the Elders had gone, their dynastic descendants, a long line of Neolithic priest-kings, began a new evolutionary program.

In their migrations from Central Asia, the Ural-Altaic race is credited with establishing in every corner of the earth its Pillar religion, which Plato's Critias vividly describes as also the religion of the Atlanteans.

Stone pillar altars have survived [in Malta](#) from c. 5000 BCE., also from [Catal Hüyük](#), in Anatolia, c. 5800 BCE. xxxi

The Pillar religion is the earliest known vehicle of a comprehensive body of wisdom originally centered on the Pole Star, in which the moon is the primary image of the mysteries of birth, generation and death. It is the fundamental root of all the religions and esoteric traditions we know today, as well as all our higher learning.

Its spread heralded the dawn of peaceful, egalitarian, Goddess-loving societies clustered in Neolithic towns and villages around the world wherein the feminine principle was dominant and strife little known. xxxii

## Arkaim and the Sun Gods

Modern historians have found that three great floods seem to have occurred in the known span of human history.

According to **Stephen Oppenheimer** in *Eden in the East*, the third of these, around the fifth millennium BCE, corresponded to Noah's Flood and was the greatest of the three, peaking during the fourth millennium. xxxiii

It caused catastrophic coastal flooding, tsunamis and severe earthquakes, and also desertification of the interior

of the land masses, and civilization disappeared. Once again the species was threatened with a reversion to savagery, and once again salvation appeared from Inner Asia.

In the third millennium BCE, so the Chinese Celestial records tell us, the Sons of the Sun - also known as the Sons of Heaven - fanned out across the world from their homeland in the Karakorum Range at the western end of the Trans-Himalayas, bearing with them the higher revelation of the Sun religion. xxxiv

It was a patriarchal and hierarchical belief-system that disclosed new depths of metaphysical and technological knowledge inductive to civilization. Everywhere the stone circles whose central axis was dedicated to the Pole Star, like Stonehenge in ancient Britain, evolved over a further thousand years into more sophisticated observatories focused instead on the Sun and its circling planets, and human culture once more blossomed.

This innovation, however, was not without inter-faith warfare, since many ethnic groups, such as the Mongol/Turkic peoples of the eastern steppes, remained loyal to the Pole Star cult.

At the same time, pyramids as well as defensive troy towns like Arkaim sprang up in dedication to the Sun Gods, whose mystique became more and more occulted as enmity grew for the powerful new faith. Indeed Arkaim may have been the seat of one of the Solar mystery religions of that period, and the fiery holocaust that destroyed the settlement after two hundred years of operation may well have been caused by that same internecine conflict between the old order and the new.

The pictorial evidence contained in [the Enuma Elish](#) shows that the Sumerians understood full well that the Elders they revered so much were "from the gods", but not gods themselves but human beings, though far more advanced in consciousness.

According to the murals they have left us, the early Egyptians too knew in some sense that their deities were really high shaman masters, each masked in the official headdress of his animal totem. But that understanding was to be occluded with the increasingly aggressive dominance of the Solar religion, when a kind of darkness of amnesia fell over the collective consciousness of our race.

The Solar priesthoods withdrew behind barricades, and a spiritual division opened up in society that had never before existed.

As the historian **Giorgio de Santillana** has pointed out in [Hamlet's Mill](#), from then on the enlightened understanding of our forbears began to descend into mythology and superstition as small pockets of secret wisdom called temples shone out in a sea of darkness, and a mystique of gods replaced the cosmological knowledge of an earlier age. xxxv

While bands of initiate culture-bearers spread out across the globe to sow the seeds of civilization once more, a nucleus of the senior race withdrew deep into the mountain ranges of High Asia that surround the [Takla Makan desert](#) and severed all direct contact with the outside world.

Ever since, the whole Eurasian heartland, from the Urals to the Gobi and including southern Siberia, has borne the stamp of a special sanctity.

High Asia in particular has been called by a succession of peoples and religions Paradesha, the Forbidden Land, the Land of the Living Gods, Thule, Djong, Uttarakuru, Olmolungring, [Shambhala](#), the Holy Land and the Land of White Waters.

Whatever its current name, almost all esoteric traditions in the Old World have related this vast, mysterious Inner Eurasian region, so rich in higher knowledge, to the legendary Elder race and revered it as the home of the Ancient Wisdom for the present World Age.

The legend of the *Sons and Daughters of God* has thus never died, though it has gone underground. Inner Asia, thought to be the immemorial cradle of shamanism as well as of all yogic and religious systems, is believed by many to be still spiritually efficacious, still a holy land which, under a single governing Hierarchy, nurtures without fear or favour arcane schools and brotherhoods persecuted elsewhere.

Sufis, Buddhists, Nestorian Christians, Taoists, Zoroastrians, Jews, Neo-Platonists and others who have been hidden from the profane world by long chains of initiatic transmission have never failed to find sanctuary in that specially blessed protectorate, where everything began.

From being hidden in shadows for thousands of years, today the region is being illuminated by an intense spotlight from every possible angle.

- The discovery of Arkaim is only one such angle

- The highly publicized row between China and Tibet is another
- The ever-worsening struggle between the U.S. and Russia for military dominance over the oil- and gas-rich provinces of Central Asia
- The increasing commitment of China, Iran and India to a Eurasian geopolitical bloc, in tacit opposition to the Western powers
- At the same time the awakening of interest in the West to the mysterious spiritual wealth that can be glimpsed in the place,

...are yet other factors bringing the heart of Asia to the very centre of world attention.

Yet the questions they pose remain unanswered.

- What is the secret of the Holy Land?
- Who really were the Elders who gave us civilization?
- Are they still guiding our evolution in discarnate form?
- What is the secret of the World Axis?
- Do we as yet understand the archetypal principles that shape our planet?
- And why are we only now beginning to ask such questions?

## Endnotes

- i Colin Wilson. *Atlantis and the Kingdom of the Neanderthals*, Bear & Co., Vermont, 2006.
- ii John Michell. *The View Over Atlantis*, Sphere Books, London, 1975, 117.
- iii V.A. Shnirelman. *Archaeology and Ethnic Politics: the Discovery of Arkaim*, Unesco, 1998, .
- iv Alex Sparkey. *The Ancient Land of Arkaim, from Spirit of Ma'at: Russia: Land of Living Mysticism*, Vol. 3, No. 9, 3.
- v Pravda.Ru. *An Ancient Aryan Civilization*, 16/07/2005.
- vi Shnirelman, op. cit., 38.
- vii Louis Pauwels & Jacques Bergier, *The Morning of the Magicians*, Souvenir Press, London, 1960, 188.
- viii René Guénon, *The Lord of the World*, Octagon Press, U.K., 1983, 9.
- ix Victoria LePage, *Shambhala*, Quest Books, Illinois, USA, 1996, 197, citing Diodorus Siculus, *The Library of History*, Loeb Classical Library, London, 1936 - 67.
- x Colin Wilson, op. cit., 32.
- xi Ibid., 32.
- xii Nicholas Roerich. *Shambhala: In Search of the New Era*, Inner Traditions International, 1930, 221.
- xiii Jacob Bryant. *A New System or An Analysis of Ancient Mythology*, T. Payne, P. Elmsly, B. White and J. Walter, publishers, London, 1776.
- xiv Jurgen Spanuth, *Atlantis of the North*, Sidgwick & Jackson, 1979, 123 -24.
- xv Joseph Campbell. *The Masks of God*, Vol. 1, Penguin, Harmondsworth, 1984, 121.
- xvi Alan F. Alford, *Gods of the New Millennium*, Hodder & Stoughton, London, 1996, 261.
- xvii Ibid., 261
- xviii Ibid., 261
- xix Frederick Soddy. *The Interpretation of Radium and the Structure of the Atom*, Putnam, New York, 1922, quoted by Colin Wilson, op. cit., 292.
- xx Ibid., 292..
- xxi Colin Wilson, op. cit., 2.
- xxii Hesiod [Works]. R. Lattimore, trans., University of Michigan Press, Ann Arbor, 1959, 172 -3.
- xxiii Lewis Spence, *The History of Atlantis*, Rider, London, 1926; cited by Geoffrey Ashe, *Atlantis*, Thames & Hudson, London, 1992, 21.
- xxiv Eberhard Zangger, *The Flood from Heaven*, Sidgwick & Jackson, London, 1992, 66.
- xxv Colin Wilson, op. cit., 91.
- xxvi René Guénon, op. cit., 56.
- xxvii Plato. *Timaeus and Critius*, Desmond Lee, trans., Penguin, Harmondsworth, 1983, 145.
- xxviii René Guénon. op. cit., 50.
- xxix Ibid., 56.
- xxx Stephen Oppenheimer. *Eden in the East*, Weidenfeld & Nicolson, London, 1998, 30 - 41.
- xxxi Anne Baring & Jules Cashford. *The Myth of the Goddess*, Penguin, 1993.
- xxxii Ibid., 50 -56.
- xxxiii Oppenheimer, op. cit., 35.

xxxiv Andrew Tomas, Shambhala: Oasis of Light, Sphere Books, London, 1976, 26.

xxxv G. Santillana & H. Von Deschend. Hamlet's Mill, Gambit International, Boston, 1969.

## Part 2

2009

**René Guénon's** assertion, culled from ancient esoteric sources, that in the remote past humanity's first civilization arose in an ice-free Arctic zone is not without geological support.

According to the well-known researcher **J.S. Gordon**,

"there is no scientific doubt that the polar ice caps have melted and reformed many, many times over and that this has always affected human society (plus animal and plant species) , often catastrophically."<sup>[1]</sup>

He points out that the great Ice Age that lasted about two million years, ending about twelve thousand years ago, was made up of thirty or so minor Ice Ages, with warm intervals of polar deglaciation in between them, each creating periods of thousands of years of temperate conditions at the poles.

Any one of these warm intervals would have been hospitable to a circumpolar civilization.

Charles Hapgood, who in the mid-sixties was the Professor of the History of Science at Keene University in New Hampshire, U.S.A., became convinced that humanity did indeed enjoy a sophisticated civilization a hundred thousand years or more ago, and that it must have been at least partly in a polar location.

He derived his theory from cartographic research conducted on ancient portolans or seafaring maps, one of which had been in the possession of a 16<sup>th</sup>-century Turkish admiral, [Piri Re'is](#).<sup>[2]</sup>

"This map (and others also researched)," Gordon comments, summarizing Hapgood's conclusions, "clearly showed... that the polar regions had been cartographically surveyed when no ice cap existed,"<sup>[3]</sup>

...and that in the case of the Antarctic Circle rivers and mountains had been mapped in such detail that the land must have been inhabited - and by a people who understood spherical trigonometry.

Other researchers, sifting and re-examining existing archaeological data from the past 150 years, have concluded from the evidence of human artifacts and fossil bones found under deep geological layers, that anatomically modern humans with a modern intellectual capacity have existed from the beginning of the Quaternary period, some 1.65 million years ago - and that they were taller than modern man and with a brain capacity 15 - 20 per cent larger.

In [The Secret Doctrine](#), **Helena Blavatsky** said that in primeval times the earth had still not densified fully and was therefore larger than at present.

All body forms would have been considerably lighter in weight and of a more plastic nature, the skeleton still not having hardened by then; and accordingly human beings could have been less affected by gravity and as much as twenty feet or more taller than they are today.

She believed that over vast ages there have been several violent changes in earth's climatic conditions, with corresponding diminutions of human stature, accompanied by many variations in human civilization and culture.  
<sup>[4]</sup>

Mainstream science has no real conception of how long modern homo sapiens has been in existence, or under

what physical conditions, but certainly, archaeologists are aware that homo sapiens skulls of an entirely modern type have been found that are over a hundred thousand years old.

[Swanscombe man](#) from England is a quarter of a million years old, while [Vertesszöllos man](#) from Hungary, equally modern in type, dates to an amazing four hundred thousand to seven hundred thousand years old.[5]

Such dates leave ample room in our human record for many modifications of climate and variations in physical stature, cultural development and living conditions.

The Hebrew bible tells us:

There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the Sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown.  
(Genesis 6: 4)

The information given in the Book of Genesis regarding the Sons of God, the giant-sized Elders who once lived on earth - "mighty men of old, men of renown" - was derived by Hebrew scribes from the scriptures of older surrounding races, such as the Indian Vedic texts, the Vedas and Puranas, and the Sumerian [Epic of Gilgamesh](#).

In the Sumerian illustrations of the doings of the gods it can readily be seen that the relative height of the Elders and ordinary humans was that of adult and child: in one such instance, a god is holding a human on his lap as though nursing an infant.

The Egyptians also created statues of god-kings of enormous height juxtaposed to little figures of normal human stature; and while these statements in stone may have been intended symbolically the alternative possibility exists that an entirely realistic rendition was intended, as more than one researcher has suggested.

Helena Blavatsky, for example, contended that not only were the polar regions the cradle of humanity millions of years ago, but that due to a decrease of velocity in the Earth's rotation conditions at the poles changed, and the size and weight of all the organisms living there was accordingly modified.

The axle of the Wheel tilted... People [for the first time] knew snow, ice and frost, and men, plants and animals were dwarfed in their growth. Those that did not perish remained as half-grown babes in size and intellect. [6]

The other outstanding characteristic imputed to the Elders, whom Blavatsky called [the Kumaras](#), was their huge skulls.

Although there is less evidence in the ancient texts to support this legend, it is an astonishing fact that several such enormous skulls, relative to the size of the face, have been unearthed in Peru: one is on display in the museum in Lima.[7]

According to report, others of similar immensity have been found in and around Egypt and Tibet.[8]

Furthermore, carved busts of the family members belonging to the Egyptian pharaoh Akhenaten of the eighteenth dynasty demonstrate the same anomalous feature, including equally huge ears.

Found in the underground desert ruins of Tel el Amarna in Egypt, little known statues of this strange family, which included Nefertiti, Akhenaten's wife, and their daughters, exhibit other unusual features, including great body height.

The body of a statue of Nefertiti is described below:

She's not wearing clothes because they didn't believe in that at the time. She has a huge head, large ears, a long, skinny neck and a high waist. She also has a kind of bulging tummy. And... she has skinny legs and wide thighs.[9]

This in fact is an equally good description of her husband's famously strange appearance.

The carved or painted likenesses of Nefertiti's daughters, down to the youngest, a mere toddler, show exactly the same peculiar characteristics of enormous hairless skulls, high waists, skinny calves and huge ears.

- Could this Egyptian royal family, then, have been a throwback to the ancestral offspring of



the Elders?

- And more pertinently, could its anomalous physical features support the idea of a race alien to ours, either from another stellar system or a previous racial cycle?

These [Elders, also known as the beni ha-elohim](#), the godlike *Sons of God* or *Sons of the Fire Mist* whom the Sumerians claimed had brought civilization to humanity, are a perennial mystery.

**G.I. Gurdjieff** regarded them as Paleolithic shaman adepts, men and women whose evolution due to their superior spiritual practices put them far in advance of their fellows. But occult tradition goes a great deal further, contending the Elders were a wise and powerful race that came from the stars - possibly, say some, from the giant [star Sirius](#).

In the ancient Egyptian tradition they are called the "Watchers of Pe", divine Intelligences who watch over and guide humanity, their progeny, from celestial heights.

Alternatively, could they have been, as the noted Theosophist **G. de Purucker** suggests, the left-over remnant of an earlier human race that had incarnated on Earth but had originally come from [the Pleiades](#) system, and which had ended its racial cycle perhaps millions of years ago?

If the latter were the case, would it explain the worldwide belief among traditional societies, repeated *ad nauseam* in their scriptures, that the Elders were different in physical type from our species, giants in stature and with huge hairless craniums - features that seemed to separate them entirely from our current humanity?

Until recently such questions about the Elders could not profitably be asked except in the context of a closed initiatory society. Even stranger, until recently the rest of the world was not even aware that such questions entailed proscribed temple material that had been forbidden to the outside world for thousands of years.

As already mentioned in the first Part of this article, René Guénon, one of the foremost esotericists of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, struggled as far as he dared against this occult embargo, believing that the time was fast approaching when humanity would be in need of a higher level of anthropological, cosmological and metaphysical understanding than was possible in his day.

"This study," he wrote, concerning the advanced Elder race that according to Theosophical lore had migrated from the Arctic zone to Central Asia many hundreds of thousands or perhaps millions of years ago, "has gone deeper than any preceding it, inviting reproach, perhaps, from some. We do, however, believe we have not said too much, nor anything that should not be disclosed..."[10]

Yet much knowledge regarded as too arcane or too dangerous for the profane populace would, Guénon was convinced, soon have to be released into the public domain. And it would seem he was right.

A new order is dawning in this post-millennial era in which a great deal of the once proscribed sacred knowledge is being made available to all. Among many of yesterday's underground secrets now freely emerging into the light of day are the secrets of human evolution and its tandem relationship to the evolution of earth and cosmos, and these secrets have a direct relevance to the unknown Elders, the gods of ancient mythology.

The removal of the occult embargo, allied to an explosion of new scientific discoveries and hypotheses, makes it possible to approach the subject in an entirely new way.

## The Fifth Kingdom

The medieval classification of nature into four universal kingdoms, mineral, vegetable, animal and human, has been rendered obsolete by modern science, which has inductively evolved its own hierarchical system of subatomic particles, atoms and molecules before the mineral, and combined the animal and human in one category.

Nevertheless, the old system of four kingdoms, based on an intuitive deductive vision of the truth and seen as an example of the Perennial Philosophy, is still entrenched in most of the western esoteric schools that have emerged since medieval times:

- Theosophy
- Anthroposophy

- Rosicrucianism
- modern Sufism
- various New Age channeling
- the Sri Aurobindo school,

...and others.

Four-kingdom proponents see the progression therein as a natural succession from inert mineral to the plant that is alive but not apparently conscious to the animal that has a limited reasoning power but is not self-aware and to the human being who alone has self-awareness and conscious free will; and to these four classifications a fifth is sometimes added under variously named, rather obscure and even misleading headings.

Medieval philosophers included this fifth category as that of the angelic hierarchies, and Anthroposophy (Rudolph Steiner) does likewise with somewhat greater clarity, calling the fifth a trans-human category. Rosicrucians cling to the four-kingdom format, referring vaguely to a fifth category as the "Pure Spirit" of will and imagination.

Theosophy calls the fifth a post-human stage of spiritual evolution; **Teilhard de Chardin** calls it *Omega*, the divinized transhuman stage; and the Indian sage, Sri Aurobindo, calls it the divinized supramental stage.

The fifth kingdom has other names; but whatever the designation, in esoteric circles the distinction between the transhuman and lower human stage is only vaguely delineated and rarely given the emphasis or clarity it requires.

The ancient Egyptians made the matter a great deal clearer. They illustrated the resurrectional transition from the fourth to the fifth kingdom with admirable precision on the ceilings of certain very old tombs.[11]

In their depiction of the neters, or gods, undergoing spiritual resurrection, they show a row of animal-headed human figures marching along a horizontal base line, a red oval - the "egg of metamorphosis" - above each head, until suddenly the base line turns by 90 degrees to the vertical and one figure swings into ascension along it.

Achieving "a rapid biological change into a different life form," he has transformed into the royal fifth kingdom: armed with what appears to be the staff of spiritual authority and lacking the oval over his head, which has been absorbed into his being, he has metamorphosed into a king.[12]

From being a collective being of a lower order, he has become a royal singularity.

The Egyptians clearly understood the goal of human evolution as a transition or resurrection into a higher state, a higher natural kingdom. Ancient petroglyphs of sun-headed men found in various parts of the world, but especially in Central Asia, tell the same story.

In this two-Part article I would like to suggest that, because of the occult secrecy that has enshrouded the subject of the fifth kingdom over the past 2000 years at least, we have failed to understand its crucial significance. We have not adequately understood that a fifth kingdom consummates the fourth, that it is our true evolutionary goal and our key to all those questions we have never been able to answer.

The inclusion of a fifth kingdom in the natural order turns the fourth kingdom that we humans presently inhabit into a mere corridor of becoming, a transitional episode in which we are driven forward in a process of transformation from the animal state behind us to that of the true human ahead, as indeed Gautama Buddha recognized.

Life, human life, he said, is never-ending change and the suffering of change - and indeed it is if viewed as a journey of relentless development of consciousness into the truly human kingdom, the fifth, wherein alone lies repose well earned.

The idea of a potential fifth kingdom, a state of spiritual felicity and repose we may hope to enjoy some time in the future, is not new to us.

But what the ancient mystery temples through to modern esoteric teachers like Guénon have been reluctant to disclose is that the fifth kingdom is not a future potential but a presently existing reality, a supremely enlightened human state beyond our own, which, like the other four kingdoms of nature, has and always will extend back into the illimitable past and forward into an equally illimitable future, with its own archetypal place in the cosmos.

Indeed, it is esoterically acknowledged that beyond the fifth kingdom others also exist.

Gordon speaks of the fourth, fifth, sixth and even the seventh kingdom of our planetary Nature.

"All of these kingdoms exist together (even if we are unaware of the fact), and all of them together comprise the evolving nature of Man. Hence humankind is but one partial expression of Man in general." [13]

Given such a perspective, many possibilities open up that were not previously viable in our philosophy.

According to this view, the Elders of Akkadian-Sumerian legend and the gods of the Babylonians and the Assyrians were the higher-level flowering of a previous human cycle many millions of years old, their privilege being to guide the evolution of the next cycle - our own.

Freed by their advanced development from the limiting conditions of transitional fourth-level humanity, the universe was open to them, for fifth-kingdom spacetime is said to possess [multiple dimensions](#) incomprehensible and inaccessible to the lower kingdoms.

These so-called gods could travel between the stars on supramundane energy currents unknown to us, incarnating on other stellar bodies or on planet Earth as the need arose, and withdrawing as they chose into dimensions invisible to their charges on Earth.

In the above scenario a higher order of human being, known as god, angel, demi-god or extraterrestrial intelligence, is inextricably interwoven in our own history.

But not only is our past implicated in this new perspective; our future is equally involved. As we ascend with increasing rapidity into higher states [of consciousness](#) and hence into proximity with the fifth kingdom, we find the Elders in their various otherworld guises descending to meet us.

As a part of the great human order, they are our future as well as our past.

Because time and space are functions of consciousness, their value changes progressively as we change. We shall find humanity is at home everywhere in the universe and transcends linear time. It has no beginning and no ending; it is co-eternal with the cosmos.

I am suggesting, then, that it is time we gathered together all our modern ideas of [aliens, extraterrestrials](#), Sirian cosmonauts and angelic visitors along with their supernatural repertoire of space vehicles, UFOs, crop circles, orbs etc., and categorize them all as members of our own human species who, along with their advanced technology, have arrived in the fifth kingdom before us.

In other words, as with increasing speed we approach in consciousness the threshold of the spiritual world, it is highly probable we will discover a fifth domain not of gods but our own kin already established in majesty and power - already, like the Egyptian priest-kings of old, free to traverse the cosmic pathways at will as *Lords of the Universe*.

How, then, is such a metamorphosis achieved?

The secret teachings of the very earliest sages of which we have cognizance claim that all life, all wisdom and creative power is transmitted to the earth plane via a spiritual energy flowing from the heavenly higher planes, and that it is by ascending this sacred current, symbolized as a Pillar or a World Tree connecting earth to heaven, that humanity comes to its most sublime perfection.

Another traditional occult symbol of this divine energy current is the Qabalistic Tree of Life, defined astrologically.

The well-known British author **Trevor Ravenscroft** likens the *Tree of Life* to,

"the Yggdrasil tree of Norse mythology, the world-Ash which binds together heaven, earth and hell."

The crown of the tree, he says,

"comprises the twelve constellations of the Zodiac, the spiraling branches symbolize the planets and the roots of the trunk dig deeply into the elements of the earth." [14]

The Tree is thus intended as a metaphor for the archetypal structure of the cosmos in which every element of it is part of a living functional whole, one in which humanity, by ascending the Tree and thus uniting the earth plane to the heavenly, plays a crucial evolutionary role.

The destiny of man is therefore seen as the ultimate return of his soul to the realm of the stars.

This idea of returning home to the Source above is implicit in all the tribal totem systems found in early shamanic societies around the world, but was more fully realized in its religious form when the idea of kingship - of hierarchical rule from above - seized neolithic societies at the end of the last Ice Age.

Scholars of ancient traditions around the globe speak of a previous time of worldwide peace when there was only one culture, one religion, one Supreme Deity and one language on the planet, and when all humans were equal. And indeed Guénon's rendition of prehistory, as we have seen, implies that such a universal egalitarian accord was maintained when the Hyperboreans first migrated southward, bifurcating into Central Asia on one hand and into the southern Atlantic continent on the other.

But in time the Pillar ideology of the two cultures deviated more and more from their common root and planet-wide conflict developed as a consequence. These events were eventually to be mythologized in the biblical story of the Tower of Babel.

Blavatsky's account of the great Atlantean migrations closely parallels that of the eighteenth-century historian Jacob Bryant, who concluded that the Trojans were ancient Atlanteans who, driven from their sinking homeland in the southern Atlantic, spread eastward and northward into the vast Eurasian corridor.

Bearing with them their hierarchical Sun cult with its royal dynasties, warlike bull cult and defensive, concentric city planning, they were opposed by the indigenous population. Thereafter, kingship - rule from above - became the cause of bitter ideological wars, which in a sense have still not ceased to rupture the peace of our planet.

Around the fifth millennium BCE a great climatic change in Central Asia, where the greatest concentration of settled human life, both Hyperborean and Atlantean, had gathered, forced renewed migrations to other parts of the world.

It was in that period, says Guénon, that the *Solar mystery religions* and *secret Sun societies* began to proselytize more widely and the cult of the sacrificed and resurrected god-king took hold of communities in every land.

In the limited space at our disposal it's not possible to do justice to the complexity of this subject. But briefly, it can be said that according to the Solar teachings of the Pillar religion, kingly authority and the power to rule wisely rests on the royal initiate's ability to ascend the axis mundi or World Tree to the divine centre of creation at the zenith of the heavens.

There, and only there, he will find deification; there he will be able to access the heavenly powers from which all impulses of rulership, creativity and wisdom emanate; there he will become godlike.

John Major Jenkins, a leading researcher of ancient cosmology, says:

Sacred knowledge is won or achieved by undertaking visionary journeys up the World Axis to the cosmic centre. A ruler, having thus become fused with the divine source and emanating power of life and wisdom, constellates the beings and objects of lesser degrees. [15]

Such a monarch stands as far more than an exemplary figurehead or an administrative symbol at the heart of his kingdom. He has become, by virtue of his conquest of the World Tree, a way-shower into a new order of being for the whole of his society.

In the same way, so Jenkins believes, at certain critical junctures of the Earth's history, this odyssey of transformation up the cosmic Pillar to the divine Centre at the zenith is possible for the race as a whole, which thereby advances further towards its next evolutionary goal - the supernal kingdom, the fifth.

## Revisiting the Pillar Religion

Where on the planet, then, is the cosmic Pillar or World Axis that the Hebrews called Jacob's Ladder?

Although it would be natural to assume it is synonymous with the earth's north-south axis of rotation, such is not the case. According to Guénon, there have been several successive locations of the World Axis on the surface of the globe that distinguish it from either the north-south axis of rotation or the magnetic axis.

Sacred geography, he says, is based on an open model of the world. Our present scientific world model is closed: its referent system is not open to any dimension higher than itself, and this makes its study much easier to deal with. But the esoteric reality, expressed long ago in the Pillar teachings, is that the earth incorporates a principle that connects it at all times to a greater spiritual world in the same way that a mirrored reflection is intrinsically connected to the reality.

By virtue of this fact, the earth is hyper-dimensional in structure - as indeed the physicist [David Bohm](#) has proposed in his theory of an implicate universal order lying behind the explicate physical order as its energetic template - and this radically modifies everything we can say about the planet, in the way we can measure and describe it.

Opening up the secret scientific tradition, Guénon asserts that basically nothing less than a new model of the world is needed if we are to understand the true nature of the World Axis.

The Pillar religion projected a worldview very different from our own. The planet was regarded as a living organism with its own hierarchy of elemental intelligences at work in the manifold organization and running of the whole, and which we call today the work of Nature.

The World Tree, in India known as Mt. Meru, was believed to be at the very heart of this great dynamic complex, a channel of evolutionary energy, a planetary path of psychospiritual transformation of the same order as the seven-fold spinal path of consciousness in human beings.

In fact, the name Meru is connected to the Sanskrit word *merudanda*, meaning a backbone, and hence the World Tree can be further qualified as the backbone of the planet, a chakric system analogous to that of the human spinal system, with seven or nine nodes of increasing psychospiritual awareness culminating in the Cosmic Centre at the summit.

These nodes were clairvoyantly perceived as a succession of gateways up the trunk of the Tree leading into higher planes of existence, and the final entrance to the Cosmic Centre was therefore called the North Gate.

Guénon's Neoplatonic thesis contains the concept of a universal ether, renamed "the quantum fluid" by modern science.

His theory states that behind the physical body of the earth lies its spiritual template, a permanent pre-physical or etheric web of forces delineating the planetary structure in its essential form. In this inner light body - or, as Vedic cosmology calls it, the vajra body - is located the World Axis, the etheric source and intelligent regulator of all the energies of the planet.

At the beginning of each great temporal cycle - and by that Guénon means at the very least one round of the Zodiac, one Sidereal Year of 25,920 years - the two bodies are in virtually perfect alignment, but as the cycle proceeds a separation occurs and the physical body falls increasingly out of alignment with its spiritual template - (a change that corresponds to Blavatsky's image of a tilting of the axle of the zodiacal Wheel).

This non-alignment or tilting away of the planetary body from its inner template has the effect of creating all the earthly stresses and vicissitudes of time and change that we know so well, yet is the necessary precondition for evolutionary growth. The two bodies, the spiritual archetype and its physical reflection, will not again achieve alignment until the end of the temporal cycle.[16]

From this circumstance comes all the suffering of becoming, all the so-called evil, of our earthly existence.

In such a spiritual cosmology the universe as a whole is at rest. Containing the unchanging essential templates of form - the Platonic Forms or Ideas - it is in a state of ideal harmony and order and is never disturbed. But although the spiritual world of pure Being is changeless, the natural state of its reflection, holographically projected onto a lower plane, even at its least displaced is to become off-centre in relation to it and therefore in perpetual compensatory motion.

This is the biblical "fall" of mankind without which there would be no evolutionary process. With the separating out of the physical plane, motion is created and the suffering of change begins, for the process of increasing differentiation of the physical body from its spiritual background inflicts on the planet and all its life-forms a local disturbance, the angst of movement, of disequilibrium, of continual adjustment to new conditions and new evolutionary demands - but also the possibility of attaining a greater state of being.

We can sum up this occult cosmology thus: At the beginning of the great precessional cycles, the north-south axis and the magnetic axis are in virtually perfect alignment with the World Axis and with each other.

All three stand at that time apparently united at true North, so that the supreme spiritual centre is in a literally polar location; but as the cycles proceed, the poles fall progressively out of alignment with the World Axis and terrestrial changes develop. Today the World Axis has apparently relocated southward and is situated in Middle Asia, where it has been for many thousands of years.

In [Galactic Alignment](#) John Major Jenkins presents a similar cosmological picture.

He calls the World Axis the evolutionary axis, by implication a third terrestrial axis presently unknown to science. Clairvoyantly visible, this great current of psychospiritual intelligent energy is thought to run through the planet between (roughly) latitudes 45 to 50 degrees north, emerging north of Kashmir, possibly in the Pamirs.[17]

It is in that vicinity, at the foot of the World Tree, that the peoples of Central Asia have traditionally located the hidden kingdom of the Elders known as Shambhala, an initiatory centre accessible on both a physical, an etheric and an [astral plane](#).

Jenkins' seminal research, based as it is on the cosmology of ancient mystery traditions around the world, leads to the conclusion that a large part of the apparent diversity of forms in the universe is achieved by a single structural template (such as the axis mundi) being given manifest form in a vast multiplicity of different contexts or points of view, yielding something like the illusory effect of a hall of mirrors.

Thus the *North Gate*, he contends, can be viewed as analogous at a cosmic level to the pineal gland in the human system, which is the most interior and creative centre in man and,

"the point from which spiritual gifts are given." [18]

He sees the Cosmic Centre at the head of the World Axis as fulfilling the same function in a planetary context.

However, while René Guénon has postulated a major polar-to-solar shift of the Cosmic Center in man's worship at some remote time in antiquity, Jenkins has argued that this shift would be better understood as a polar-to-galactic one.

Thousands of years ago, he says, priest-astronomers realized that approximately every 6,450 years the North Gate was aligned with the galactic centre, and that such times offered a priceless evolutionary opportunity for the whole race.

Gordon too observes that the earth is subject to celestial seasons of about 6,480 years,

"which have a dramatic effect upon both the climate...and also upon the many and varied cultures and civilizations which exist at the time." [19]

It is an astronomical fact, says Jenkins,

that alignments of the solstices and equinoxes with the plane of our Milky Way galaxy occur periodically over the 26,000-year precession cycle. Such alignments, in fact, occur every 6,450 years.

Joseph Campbell pointed out that knowledge of the precessional cycle is implied by the importance given the number 25,920 in Hindu, Nordic and Babylonian doctrines.[20]

Jenkins equates the spiritual evolution of humanity with this periodic alignment of the Earth with the galactic plane and the Galactic Centre.

The idea that it stimulates consciousness on this planet is, he says, "an intriguing and profound concept" that finds echoes in Mayan, Vedic and Egyptian cosmology.

Jenkins regards the Tree as a planetary chakric system analogous to that of the individual tantrica in the practice of kundalini yoga. Even as the yogic consciousness ascends the spinal system, so activating a sequence of seven hierarchically ordered chakras or psychospiritual energy vortices which alter in subtle ways the entire spectrum of consciousness, so the ascension of the racial soul up the World Tree at certain precessional intervals of c.6,450 (or c.6,480) years corresponds with the opening up of a succession of celestial gateways.



At each open gateway the flooding down of divine creative energies precipitates,

- certain psychological and cultural modifications in society
- the human body typology changes
- new deities, new mores appear
- the material technology advances or changes its base, a new civilization is launched founded on newly imperative truths

It is a moment of supreme evolutionary importance, a collective initiation perhaps best conveyed by the teachings of the Mithraic mystery religion.

This important Greco-Roman cult flourished until the fourth century CE, when it was extinguished by Christianity. Seven planetary spheres were opened up to the seeker through the seven grades of Mithraic initiation; allowing him ultimately to ascend to the highest, the Father (Saturn). However, beyond the seventh level was a secret teaching revealing an eighth and ninth level or "house" where the Hypercosmic Sun was located.

This hypercosmic luminary, this "Star of stars," as the first-century Jewish philosopher **Philo Judaeus of Alexandria** called it, was identified with the Galactic Centre, to which access was gained only through the eighth and the ninth celestial "doorway" above that of Saturn.[21]

This secret means of escape from Earth's gravity into the freedom of the universe has been closely guarded by occult tradition and is still not fully unveiled to our understanding.

The doctrine of the Hypercosmic Sun, according to Jenkins, is,

"fundamentally about the soul's passage through the galactic gateways that open during eras of galactic alignment,"

...when the divine light of the Milky Way Centre pours down through the opened valves of the World Axis and irradiates the earth and all its inhabitants for a certain interval of time.

It is in that critical interval that the great evolutionary mutations take place, civilizations are overthrown and reinstated in radically new forms and the potential exists for the fifth kingdom to be realized by at least some members of fourth-kingdom humanity.

Jenkins is only one of countless observers who believe such an historic time has once again come around.

Indeed, by now millions of people are watching and waiting for [the end-of-the-world Mayan date](#) of [2012](#) CE, believing it to be the beginning of a new World Age... a further stage on the journey towards the fifth kingdom.

## Realizing the Eurasian Ideal

In February of 1962 astrological pundits announced a major planetary conjunction that occurs only once in every c.6,500 (or 6,480) years - the previous one therefore having taken place in c.4,500 BC, and the one before that in c.11,000 BCE, both of which occasions were prophetic of great earth changes.[22]

I remember well the report in the media, because immediately a cry of distress and foreboding went up right across India; for it was known by most Hindu astrologers that this rare stellar event, occurring only four times in the precessional cycle of 26,000 years, does indeed foreshadow great floods and catastrophic climatic changes.

In response, the dawning [New Age movement](#) of the time predicted the return of the Elder race, the possibility of a pole shift, the birth of a new race of clairvoyants.

To esotericists generally the conjunction signified a new World Age and an impending psychospiritual initiation of collective humanity, with all the social and ideological tumult such an event implied. And confirming John Major Jenkins' later theory to the hilt, the conjunction was seen by some star-gazers as the first sign of a coming revolution in geo-political world affairs, with the rise of Asia and the decline of the Western powers' hegemony.

At the time, all these predictions were regarded as amazing and pretty farfetched.

But nearly fifty years on, the events presaged in 1962 are now crystallizing as post-millennial realities.

Ominously, the ice caps and glaciers are melting, the seas rising, earth's resources shrinking; the Anglo-American world order, built on predatory economic corporations, is unraveling, Asiatic power inexorably rising.

A [transformation in human consciousness](#) is well underway; and there is increasing evidence that the vast natural, socio-political and consciousness changes we are seeing are now irreversible, for good or ill.

Perhaps the most significant sign of the times is to be found in the growing vision of a unified Eurasia among the major Asian nations such as China, Mongolia, India, Iran (and also Brazil), as well as Kazakhstan and many other of the Central Asian Muslim states.

Included in this growing Eastern bloc is Russia which, since the collapse of the Soviet regime, is increasingly turning away from Western Europe and towards Asia in its quest for identity, and is thus rediscovering its Slavic roots and its deep Mongol/Turkic connections.

Across the steppes, where for countless centuries a melting pot of peoples, religions and empires from every quarter has traded and warred and sunk beneath desert sands, a spirit of renaissance, of ecumenical reform, is taking hold. A countervailing force that can be identified with the invisible spiritual powerhouse in the heart of High Asia is stirring throughout the region.

Muslim, Buddhist, Zoroastrian, Christian, Jew, Taoist and shaman are finding common ground in a unitive vision of the future.

Claiming to be in response to the militaristic Anglo-American colonization that has long dominated it, this new regional climate bodes well for the rebalancing of the globe's spiritual, cultural and economic forces.

The move to turn the tenuous Eurasian concept into a geo-political reality composed of numerous independent but strongly affiliated nations committed to world amity must be regarded as a force for renewal, for the healing of the Atlantean/Hyperborean rupture that long ago shattered the primal unity of the life of the planet.

It seeks instead to recapture the ancient Arctic accord and to set forth new terms for a viable future for humankind.

What is truly remarkable is that we are witnessing all this happening in Central Asia at the very time of great astrological significance, when the stars again portend extreme danger and extreme opportunity for the life of Earth.

- Are we then seeing once again a mysterious intervention from the East, a *salvific influence* arising in the heart of Asia that seeks to sow the seeds of a new global order and a new type of civilization in the face of apocalyptic geophysical change?
- Can the Elder race be coming to our aid yet again?

## Endnotes

[1] J.S. Gordon. The Rise and Fall of Atlantis, and the Mysterious Origins of Human Civilization,, Watkins Publishing, London, 2008, 131.

[2] Charles Hapgood. Maps of the Ancient Sea Kings, Turnstone Press, London, 1979.

[3] Gordon, op. cit., 131.

[4] Ibid., 159.

[5] William Fix, Lake of Memory Rising," Council Oaks Books, LLC, San Francisco, 2000, 203.

[6] H.P. Blavatsky, The Secret Doctrine, Vol. 2., Theosophical Publishing House, Los Angeles, 1947, 324.

[7] Drunvalo Melchizedek. The Ancient Secret of the Flower of Life, Light Technology Publishing, Flagstaff, AZ, 1990 - 8, 143.

[8] Ibid., 143.

[9] Ibid., 139.

[10] René Guénon. The Lord of the World, Coombe Springs Press, U.K., 1983, 66.

[11] Melchizedek, op. cit., 43.

[12] Ibid., 43.

[13] J.S. Gordon, op. cit., 85.

[14] Trevor Ravenscroft & T. Wallace-Murphy. The Mark of the Beast, Vol. 3, Sphere Books, U.K., 1990, 67.

[15] John Major Jenkins. Galactic Alignment, Bear & Co., Rochester, Vermont, 2002, 150.

- [16] René Guénon, op. cit.,
- [17] Victoria LePage, Shambhala, Quest Books, Illinois, 1996, 180.
- [18] Jenkins, op. cit., 140, citing Valentinia Straiton, The Celestial Ship of the North, 1927.
- [19] J.S. Gordon, op. cit., 130.
- [20] Ibid., 42.
- [21] Jenkins, 107.
- [22] Sky and Telescope Magazine, December 1961, 320. On February 5, 1962, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn were all within 13 degrees of the eclipsed Sun.

**Return to Humanity's History and Ancient  
Civilizations  
Return to White (Solar)  
Brotherhood**