Edgar Cayce’s Atlantis: Selections from His Readings

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Edgar Cayce (March 18, 1877 – January 3, 1945) was perhaps the best known clairvoyant seer in the United States during the twentieth century. The “Sleeping Prophet” gave thousands of readings on health and many other topics, and among the most fascinating are those regarding Atlantis.

The following are selections of psychic readings dictated by Edgar Cayce while in deep attunement to the Universal Consciousness and the Akashic Record on the topic of Atlantis. They were initially recorded in shorthand by his longtime stenographer Gladys Davis, then typed and copied for the original questioners and the files of the Association for Research and Enlightenment, A.R.E., in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Notes in the readings with the initials “GD” are Gladys’s notes about names, terms, or spellings that she was not sure about, and wanted posterity to know that she wrote them down as best she could. The initials “GC” indicate Gertrude Cayce, Edgar’s wife. In the whole of the Edgar Cayce archives, a series of 364 readings are known as the Atlantis Readings. Selections from these are reprinted here exactly as they were dictated by Edgar Cayce and written down by Gladys Davis. “EC” indicates the dictation from Cayce himself.

February 3, 1932

1. EC: Yes, we have the body, the enquiring mind, and that as may be given on such a subject. In many ways this would be better were it divided into two lectures. This, however, as we find, may be presented somewhat in this manner:

2. Atlantis as a continent is a legendary tale. Whether or not that which has been received through psychic sources has for its basis those few lines given by Plato, or the references made in Holy writ that the earth was divided, depends upon the trend of individual minds. Recently, however, the subject has taken on greater import, since some scientists have declared that such a

Map of the Sargasso Sea, Caribbean and Atlantic.
From William Babcock’s Legendary Islands of the Atlantic (1922).
From the Rosicrucian Library Collection
continent was not only a reasonable and plausible matter, but from evidences being gradually gathered was a very probable condition.

3. As we recognize, there has been considerable given respecting such a lost continent by those channels such as the writer of Two Planets, or Atlantis — or Poseida and Lemuria — that has been published through some of the Theosophical literature. As to whether this information is true or not, depends upon the credence individuals give to this class of information.

4. Then, it has seemed well to many of this group, that those channels through which information may be obtained interest themselves in such an undertaking, as to gain through those channels such information that might be applicable in the lives or experiences of individuals interested in such.

5. From time to time, in and through the information obtained for some individuals in their life readings, has come that they, as an entity or individual, occupied some particular place, or performed some activity in some portion of that continent; or emigrated from the continent to some other portion of the earth’s surface at the time, and began some particular development. These must have been a busy folk, for with their advent into other climes (as the information runs) they began to make many changes from the activities in that particular sphere in which they entered.

6. Then, if we are to accept such as being a fact or fiction, may truly depend upon what value to the human family knowledge concerning such a peoples would be in the affairs of individuals today. What contribution would information be to the minds of individuals, as to knowing or understanding the better or closer relations to the Creative Forces? Or, to put it another manner, what would information of that nature mean to my SOUL today?

7. Be it true that there IS the fact of reincarnation, and that souls that once occupied such an environ are entering the earth’s sphere and inhabiting individuals in the present, is it any wonder that — if they made such alterations in the affairs of the earth in their day, as to bring destruction upon themselves — if they are entering now, they might make many changes in the affairs of peoples and individuals in the present? Are they, then, BEING born into the world? If so, what WERE their environs — and will those environs mean in a material world today?

February 16, 1932²
(Suggestion to continue information on Atlantis)

1. EC: Yes, we have the subject and those conditions. As has been said, much data has been received from time to time through psychic forces as respecting conditions in or through the period, or ages, of this continent’s existence. That the continent existed is being proven as a fact.

2. Then, what took place during the period, or periods, when it was being broken up? What became of the inhabitants? What was the character of their civilization? Are there any evidences of those, or any portion of, the inhabitants’ escape? The POSITION of the continent, and the like, MUST be of interest to peoples in the present, if either by inference that individuals are being born into the earth plane to develop in the present, or are people being guided in their spiritual interpretation of individuals’ lives or developments BY the spirits of those who inhabited such a continent. In either case, if these be true, they ARE WIELDING — and are to wield — an influence upon the happenings of the present day world.

3. The position as the continent Atlantis occupied, is that as between the Gulf of Mexico on the one hand — and the Mediterranean upon the other. Evidences of this lost civilization are to be found in the
Pyrenees and Morocco on the one hand, British Honduras, Yucatan and America upon the other. There are some protruding portions within this that must have at one time or another been a portion of this great continent. The British West Indies or the Bahamas, and a portion of same that may be seen in the present – if the geological survey would be made in some of these especially, or notably, in Bimini and in the Gulf Stream through this vicinity, these may be even yet determined.

February 16, 1932

2. EC: Yes, we have the subject here, The Lost Continent of Atlantis.

3. As the peoples were a peaceful peoples, their developments took on rather that form with the developing into the physical material bodies – of the fast development, or to the using of the elements about them to their own use; recognizing themselves to be a part OF that about them. Hence, as to the supplying of that as necessary to sustain physical life as known today, in apparel, or supplying of the bodily needs, these were supplied through the natural elements; and the DEVELOPMENTS came rather in the forms – as would be termed in the PRESENT day – of preparing for those things that would pertain to what would be termed the aerial age, or the electrical age, and supplying then the modes and manners of transposition of those materials about same that did not pertain to themselves bodily; for of themselves was transposed, rather by that ability lying within each to be transposed in thought as in body.

4. In these things, then, did Amilius [?] see the beginning of, and the abilities of, those of his own age, era, or period, not only able to build that as able to transpose or build up the elements about them but to transpose them bodily from one portion of the universe to the other, THROUGH the uses of not only those RECENTLY re–discovered gases, and those of the electrical and aeriatic formations – in the breaking up of the atomic forces to produce impelling force to those means and modes of transposition, or of travel, or of lifting large weights, or of changing the faces or forces of nature itself, but with these transpositions, with these changes that came in as personalities, we find these as the Sons of the Creative Force as manifest in their experience looking upon those changed forms, or the daughters of men, and there crept in those pollutions, of polluting themselves with those mixtures that brought contempt, hatred, bloodshed, and those that build for desires of self WITHOUT respects of OTHERS’ freedom, others’ wishes – and there began, then, in the latter portion of this period of development, that that brought about those of dissenting and divisions among the peoples in the lands.

With the attempts of those still in power, through those lineages of the pure, that had kept themselves intact as of the abilities of forces as were manifest IN their activities, these BUILDED rather those things that ATTEMPTED to draw BACK those peoples; through first the various changes or seasons that came about, and in the latter portion of the experience of Amilius [?] was the first establishing of the altars upon which the sacrifices of the field and the forest, and those that were of that that SATISFIED the desires of the physical body, were builded…

7. How, then, may this be applicable to our present day understanding? As we see the effects as builded in that about the sacred fires, as through those of Hermes, those of Arart, those of the Aztec, those of Ohum [Aymara?], each in their respective sphere CARRYING some portion of these blessings – when they are kept in accord and PURE with those through which the channels of the blessings, of the Creative Forces, may manifest.

So, we find, when we apply the lessons in the day – would ye be true, keep that EVERY WHIT thou KNOWEST to do within thine
own heart! Knowing, as ye USE that as is
KNOWN, there is given the more and more
light to know from whence ye came and
whither ye go!

8. Ready for questions.

9. (Q) Please give a description of the
earth’s surface as it existed at the time of
Atlantis’ highest civilization, using the names
of continents, oceans and sections of same as
we know them today?

(A) As to the highest point of civilization,
this would first have to be determined
according to the standard as to which it would
be judged – as to whether the highest point
was when Amilius [?] ruled with those
understandings, as the one that understood
the variations, or whether they became man
made, would depend upon whether we are
viewing from a spiritual standpoint or upon
that as a purely material or commercial
standpoint; for the variations, as we find,
extend over a period of some two hundred
thousand years (200,000) – that is, as light
years – as known in the present – and that
there were MANY changes in the surface of
what is now called the earth.

In the first, or greater portion, we find
that NOW known as the southern portions
of South America and the Arctic or North
Arctic regions, while those in what is NOW
as Siberia – or that as of Hudson Bay – was
rather in that region of the tropics, or that
position now occupied by near what would
be as the same LINE would run, of the
southern Pacific, or central Pacific regions –
and about the same way.

Then we find, with this change that came
first in that portion, when the first of those
peoples used that as prepared FOR the
changes in the earth, we stood near the same
position as the earth occupies in the present –
as to Capricorn, or the equator, or the poles.
Then, with that portion, THEN the South
Pacific, or Lemuria [?], began its disappearance –
even before Atlantis, for the changes were
brought about in the latter portion of that
period, or what would be termed ten

thousand seven hundred (10,700) light years,
or earth years, or present setting of those, as
set by Amilius [?] – or Adam.

February 17, 1932

6. (Q) In relation to the history of Atlantis
as presented, at what period did the flood as
recorded in the Bible in which Noah took
part, occur?

(A) In the second of the eruptions, or – as
is seen – two THOUSAND – two–two
thousand and six [22,006?] – before the
Prince of Peace, as time is counted now, or
light years – day and night years. Not light
years as the akashic records, or as the esoteric
records, or as counted by astrology or
astronomy, in the speed or the reflection of a
ray of light; for, as records are made, the
akashic records are as these: Activity of ANY
nature, as of the voice, as of a light made,
produced in the natural forces those of a
motion – which pass on, or are upon, the
record of that as time.

As may be illustrated in the atomic
vibration as set in motion for those in that
called the audition, or the radio in its activity.
IT passes even faster than time itself. Hence
LIGHT forces pass much faster, but the
records are upon the esoteric, or etheric, or
akashic forces, as they go along upon the
wheels of time, the wings of time, or in
WHATEVER dimension we may signify as a
matter of its momentum or movement.

Hence as the forces that are attuned to
those various incidents, periods, times,
places, may be accorded to the record, the
CONTACT as of the needle upon the
record, as to how clear a rendition or
audition is received, or how clear or how
perfect an attunement of the instrument
used as the reproducer of same is attuned to
those KEEPERS – as may be termed – OF
those records.

What would be indicated by the keepers?
That as just given, that they are the records
upon the wings or the wheel of time itself. Time, as that as of space – as inter–between. That inter–between, that which is, that of which, that from one object to another when in matter is of the same nature, or what that is is what the other is, only changed in its vibration to produce that element, or that force, as is termed in man’s terminology as DIMENSIONS of space, or DIMENSIONS that give it, whatever may be the solid, liquid, gas, or what ITS FORM or dimension!

7. (Q) How large was Atlantis during the time of Amilius?

(A) Comparison, that of Europe including Asia in Europe – not Asia, but Asia in Europe – see? This composed, as seen, in or after the first of the destructions, that which would be termed now – with the present position – the southernmost portion of same – islands as created by those of the first (as man would call) volcanic or eruptive forces brought into play in the destruction of same.

8. (Q) Was Atlantis one large continent, or a group of large islands?

(A) Would it not be well to read just that given? Why confuse in the questionings? As has been given, what would be considered one large continent, until the first eruptions brought those changes – from what would now, with the present position of the earth in its rotation, or movements about its sun, through space, about Arcturus, about the Pleiades, that of a whole or one continent. Then with the breaking up, producing more of the nature of large islands, with the intervening canals or ravines, gulfs, bays or streams, as came from the various ELEMENTAL forces that were set in motion by this CHARGING – as it were – OF the forces that were collected as the basis for those elements that would produce destructive forces, as might be placed in various quarters or gathering places of those beasts, or the periods when the larger animals roved the earth – WITH that period of man’s indwelling. Let it be remembered, or not confused, that the EARTH was peopled by ANIMALS before peopled by man!

First that of a mass, which there arose the mist, and then the rising of same with light breaking OVER that as it SETTLED itself, as a companion of those in the universe, as it began its NATURAL (or now natural) rotations, with the varied effects UPON the various portions of same, as it slowly – and is slowly – receding or gathering closer to the sun, from which it receives its impetus for the awakening of the elements that give life itself, by radiation of like elements from that which it receives from the sun. Hence that of one type, that has been through the ages, of mind – that gives the SUN as the father OF light in the earth.

Elements have their attraction and detraction, or those of ANIMOSITY and those of gathering together. This we see throughout all of the kingdoms, as may be termed, whether we speak of the heavenly hosts or of those of the stars, or of the planets, or of the various forces within any or all of same, they have their attraction or detraction. The attraction increases that as gives an impulse, that that becomes the aid, the stimuli, or an impulse to create.

Hence, as may be seen – or may be brought to man’s own – that of attraction one for another gives that STIMULI, that IMPULSE, to be the criterion of, or the gratification of, those influences in the experience of individuals or entities. To smother same oft becomes deteriorations for each other, as may come about in any form, way or manner. Accidents happen in creation, as well as in individuals’ lives! Peculiar statement here, but – true!

9. (Q) What were the principal islands called at the time of the final destruction?

(A) Poseidia and Aryan [?], and Og [?].

April 29, 1932

6. (Q) Describe in more detail the causes and effects of the destruction of the part of Atlantis now the Sargasso sea.
(A) As there were those individuals that attempted to bring again to the mind of man more of those forces that are manifest by the closer association of the mental and spiritual, or the soul forces that were more and more as individual and personal forms in the world, the use of these elements—as for the building up, or the passage of individuals through space—brought the uses of the gases then (in the existent forces), and the individuals being able to become the elements, and elementals themselves, added to that used in the form of what is at present known as the raising of the powers from the sun itself, to the ray that makes for disintegration of the atom, in the gaseous forces formed, and brought about the destruction in that portion of the land now presented, or represented, or called, Sargasso sea.

7. (Q) What was the date of the first destruction, estimating in our present day system of counting time in years B.C.?

(A) Seven thousand five hundred (7,500) years before the final destruction, which came as has been given.

8. (Q) Please give a few details regarding the physiognomy, habits, customs and costumes of the people of Atlantis during the period just before this first destruction.

(A) These, as we find, will require their being separated in the gradual development of the body and its physiognomy as it came into being in the various portions of that land, as well as to those that would separate themselves from those peoples where there were the indwelling of peoples, or man—as man, in the various areas of the land, or what we call world.

In the matter of form, as we find, first there were those as projections from that about the animal kingdom; for the THOUGHT bodies gradually took form, and the various COMBINATIONS (as may be called) of the various forces that called or classified themselves as gods, or rulers over—whether herds, or fowls, or fishes, etc.—in PART that kingdom and part of that as gradually evolved into a physiognomy much in the form of the present day may (were one chosen of those that were, or are, the nearest representative of the race of peoples that existed in this first period as the first destructions came about).

These took on MANY sizes as to stature, from that as may be called the midget to the giants—for there were giants in the earth in those days, men as tall as what would be termed today ten to twelve feet in stature, and in proportion—well proportioned throughout. The ones that became the most USEFUL were those as would be classified (or called in the present) as the IDEAL stature, that was of both male and female (as those separations had been begun); and the most ideal (as would be called) was Adam, who was in that period when he (Adam) appeared as five in one—See?

In this the physiognomy was that of a full head, with an extra EYE—as it were—in those portions that became what is known as the EYE. In the beginning these appeared in WHATEVER portion was desired by the body for its use! As for the dress, those in the beginning were (and the Lord made for them coats) of the skins of the animals.

These covered the parts of their person that had become, then, as those portions of their physiognomy that had brought much of the desires that made for destructive forces in their own experience; and these then were of those ABOUT them that were given as meat, or used as same—that partook of the herbs. These were those same herbs that the seed were to have been for food for the man in self, and only those that partook of same may be called even CLEAN—in the present day.

Those that supply those same materials that are the proper building for the forces within the anatomical forces, or physiological forces, of a developing body; for these carry all the elements in their natural state. Little of minerals should ever be the properties within the system, save as may be taken through the vegetable forces, save where individuals have so laxed themselves as to require or need that which will make for an even balance of same.
Text of reading 364–1: This psychic reading given by Edgar Cayce at his office, 105th St. & Ocean, Va. Beach, Va., this 3rd day of February, 1932, in accordance with request made by Norfolk Study Group #1, of the Assn. for Research & Enlightenment, Inc. present were Edgar Cayce; Gertrude Cayce, Conductor; Gladys Davis, Steno. Mildred Davis, Hugh Lynn and L. B. Cayce. reading: Time of Reading 12:15 P. M. Eastern Standard Time.

Selections from reading 364–3: This psychic reading given by Edgar Cayce at his office, 105th St. & Ocean, Virginia Beach, Va., this 16th day of February, 1932, in accordance with request made by those present. present were Edgar Cayce; Gertrude Cayce, Conductor; Gladys Davis, Steno. Mildred Davis, Gray Salter, Hugh Lynn and L. B. Cayce. reading: Time of Reading 11:40 A. M. Eastern Standard Time.

Selections from reading 364–4: This psychic reading given by Edgar Cayce at his office, 105th St. & Ocean, Va. Beach, Va., this 16th day of February, 1932, in accordance with request made by those present. present: Edgar Cayce; Gertrude Cayce, Conductor; Gladys Davis, Steno. Mildred Davis, Gray Salter, Hugh Lynn and L. B. Cayce. reading: Time of Reading 3:50 P. M. Eastern Standard Time.

Selections from reading 364–6: This psychic reading given by Edgar Cayce at his office, 105th St. & Ocean, Va. Beach, Va., this 17th day of February, 1932, in accordance with request made by those present. present: Edgar Cayce; Gertrude Cayce, Conductor; Gladys Davis, Steno. Mildred Davis and L. B. Cayce. reading: Time of Reading 4:00 P. M. Eastern Standard Time.

Selections from reading 364–11: This psychic reading given by Edgar Cayce at his home in Pinewood on Lake Drive, Virginia Beach, Va., this 29th day of April, 1932, in accordance with request made by those present. present: Edgar Cayce; Gertrude Cayce, Conductor; Gladys Davis, Steno. Mildred Davis, Gray Salter, H. L. and L. B. Cayce. reading: Time of Reading 10:40 A. M.