

THE SECRET DOCTRINE: WESTERN SPECULATIONS, FOUNDED ON THE GREEK AND PURANIC TRADITIONS

Helena P. Blavatsky, 1888

Excerpts from Book II – Part II – Anthropogenesis

In this section of The Secret Doctrine, Madame Blavatsky (1831 – 1891), one of the leading figures of late nineteenth century esoteric circles, provides her insights into the mystery of Atlantis, comparing western and eastern thought. Note: the term “Aryan” refers to the Indo–Aryan Culture here.

That not only the last island of Atlantis, spoken of by Plato, but a large continent, first divided, and then broken later on into seven peninsulas and islands (called *dwipas*), preceded Europe, is sure. It covered the whole of the North and South

Atlantic regions, as well as portions of the North and South Pacific, and had islands even in the Indian Ocean (relics of Lemuria). The claim is corroborated by Indian Puranas, Greek writers, and Asiatic, Persian, and Mahommedan traditions. Wilford, who confuses sorely the Hindu and the Mussulman legends, shows this, however, clearly. (See Vol. VIII., X. and XI. of *Asiatic Researches*.) And his facts and quotations from the Puranas give direct and conclusive evidence that the Aryan Hindus and other ancient nations were earlier navigators than the Phoenicians, who are now credited with having been the first seamen that appeared in the post–diluvian times.

Conflicts Involving Atlantis

This is what is given in the *Journal of the Asiatic Society*, III., pp. 325, et seq.—

“In their distress the few nations who survived (in the war between *Devatas* and *Daityas*) raised their hands to *Bhagavan*, ‘Let him who can deliver us . . . be our king’; using

the word I’T (a *magic* term not understood by Wilford, evidently) which re–echoed through the whole country.”

Then comes a violent storm, the waters of the *Kali* are strangely agitated, “when there appeared from the waves . . . a man, afterwards

called I’T, at the head of a numerous army, saying *abhayan*, no fear” . . . and scattered the enemy. “The King I’T,” explains Wilford, “is a subordinate incarnation of M’rira” (Mrida, a form of Rudra, probably?) who “re–established peace and prosperity throughout all *Sankhadwipa*, through *Barbaradesa*, “Hissast’han and *Awasthan* or Arabia . . .” etc., etc.

Surely, if the Hindu Puranas give a description of wars on continents and islands situated beyond Western Africa in the Atlantic Ocean; if their writers speak of *Barbaras* and other people such as Arabs—they who were never known to navigate, or cross the *Kala pani* (the black waters of the Ocean) in the days of Phoenician navigation—then their



Victoria Franck Wetsch, S.R.C., *Descent from Pleiades*



Puranas must be older than those Phoenicians (placed at from 2,000 to 3,000 years B.C.). At any rate those traditions must have been older;¹ as—

“In the above accounts,” writes an adept, “the Hindus speak of this island as existing and in great power; it must, therefore, have been more than *eleven thousand years ago*.”

The Antiquity of the Records

But another calculation and proof may be adduced of the great antiquity of these Hindu Aryans who knew of (because they had once dwelt in it) and described the last surviving island of Atlantis—or rather of that remnant of the Eastern portion of that continent which had perished soon after the upheaval of the two Americas²—the two Varshas of Pushkara. This may be demonstrated, moreover, on an astronomical calculation by an adept who criticises Wilford. For recalling what the Orientalist had brought forward concerning the Mount Ashburj “at the foot of which the sun set,” where was the war between the Devatas and the Daityas³, he says:

“We will consider, then, the latitude and longitude of the lost island, and of the remaining Mount Ashburj. It was on the seventh stage of the world, i.e., in the seventh climate (which is between the latitude of 24 degrees and latitude 28 degrees north) This island, the daughter of the Ocean, is frequently described as lying in the West; and the sun is represented as setting at the foot of its mountain (Ashburj, Atlas, Teneriffe or Nila, no matter the name), and fighting the white Devil of the ‘White Island.’ ”

Vedic Interpretations of Great Age

Now, considering this statement from its astronomical aspect, and knowing that Krishna is the incarnated Sun (Vishnu), a solar God; and that he is said to have killed Dev-Sefid, the white giant—a possible personification of the ancient inhabitants at the foot of the Atlas—perchance Krishna may

be only a representation of the vertical beams of the Sun? Those inhabitants (the Atlantides) are, we have seen, accused by Diodorus of daily *cursing the Sun*, and ever fighting his influence. This is an astronomical interpretation of course. But it will now be proved that Sankhasura, and Sancha dwipa, and all their history, is also geographically and ethnologically Plato’s “Atlantis” in Hindu dress.

It was just remarked that since, in the Puranic accounts, the island is *still existing*, then those accounts must be older than the 11,000 years elapsed since Sancha dwipa, or the Poseidonis of Atlantis, disappeared. Is it not barely possible that Hindus should have known the island still earlier?

Let us turn again to astronomical demonstrations, which make this quite plain if one assumes, according to the said adept, that “at the time when the summer tropical ‘colure’ passed through the *Pleiades*, when *cor-Leonis* would

be upon the equator; and when *Leo* was vertical to Ceylon at sunset, then would *Taurus* be vertical to the island of *Atlantis at noon*.”

This explains, perhaps, why the Singhalese, the heirs of the Rakshasas and Giants of Lanka, and the direct descendants of *Singha*, or *Leo*, became connected with Sancha dwipa or Poseidonis (Plato’s Atlantis). Only, as shown by Mackey’s “*Sphinxiad*,” this must have occurred about 23,000 years ago, *astronomically*; at which time the obliquity of the ecliptic must have been rather more than 27 degrees, and consequently Taurus must have passed over “Atlantis” or “Sancha dwipa.” And that it was so is clearly demonstrated.

Legends of a Lost Island

“*The sacred bull Nandi was brought from Bharata to Sancha to meet Rishabha (Taurus) every Kalpa. But when those of the White Island (who descended originally from Sveta dwipa)*⁴, *who had mixed with the Daityas (giants) of the land of iniquity, had*

“The famous Atlantis exists no longer, but we can hardly doubt that it did once...”

become black with Sin, then Nandi remained for ever in the “White Island” (or Sveta dwipa.) “Those of the Fourth World (race) lost AUM”—say the Commentaries.

Asburj (or Azburj), whether the peak of Teneriffe or not, was a volcano, when the sinking of the “western Atala” (or hell) began, and those who were saved told the tale to their children. Plato’s Atlantis perished between water below and fire above; the great mountain vomiting flames all the while. “The ‘fire-vomiting Monster’ survived alone out of the ruins of the unfortunate island.”

Greeks Borrow Their Notions of Atlantis from India

Do the Greeks, accused of borrowing a Hindu fiction (Atala), and inventing from it another (Atlantis), stand also accused of getting their geographical notions and the number seven from them? (*Vide* in Part II. the several sections on the SEPTENATE in nature.)

“The famous Atlantis exists no longer, but we can hardly doubt that it did once,” says Proclus, “for Marcellus, who wrote a history of Ethiopian affairs, says that such, and so great an island once existed, and this is evidenced by those who composed histories relative to the external sea. For *they relate that in this time there were seven islands* in the Atlantic sea

sacred to Proserpine; and besides these, three of immense magnitude, sacred to Pluto . . . Jupiter . . . and Neptune.

And, besides this, the inhabitants of the last island (Poseidonis) *preserved the memory of the prodigious magnitude* of the Atlantic island as related by their ancestors, and of its governing for many periods all the islands in the Atlantic sea. From this isle one may pass to other large islands beyond, which are not far from the firm land, near which is the true sea.”

The Destruction of Atlantis

“These seven dwipas (inaccurately rendered islands) constitute, according to Marcellus, the body of the famous Atlantis,” writes Wilford himself . . . “This evidently shows that *Atlantis is the old continent* The Atlantis was destroyed after a violent storm (?): this is well known to the Puranics, some of whom assert that in consequence of this dreadful convulsion of nature, six of the dwipas disappeared” . . . (*xi.*, 27).

Enough proofs have now been given to satisfy the greatest sceptic. Nevertheless, direct proofs based on exact science are also added. Volumes might be written, however, to no purpose for those who will neither see nor hear, except through the eyes and ears of their respective authorities.

Endnotes:

¹ Says Wilford of the division of Atlantis and Bharata or India, confusing the two accounts and Priyavrata with Medhatithi:—“The division was made by Priyavrata. . . . He had ten sons, and it was his intention to divide the whole world. In the same manner Neptune divided Atlantis between his ten sons One of them had . . . the extremity of the Atlantis” —which “is probably the old continent This Atlantis was overwhelmed by a flood and it seems that by Atlantis we should understand the Antediluvian Earth over which ten princes were born to rule according to the mythology of the West (and of the East, also) but seven only of them sat upon the throne.” (Vol. III. p. 286.) . . . Some also are of opinion that of the seven dwipas six were destroyed by a flood (Vol. VIII. p. 367). Wilford takes it to be “Gades which included Spain,” but it was Plato’s island—rather.

² America, the “new” world—is thus, though not much, older; still it is older than Europe, the “old world.”

³ If Div or Dev—Sefid’s (the Taradaitya’s) abode was on the seventh stage, it is because he came from Pushkara, the Patala (antipodes) of India, or from America. The latter touched the walls, so to say, of Atlantis, before the latter sank finally. The word Patala, meaning both the antipodal countries and infernal regions, thus became synonymous in ideas and attributes as well as in name.

⁴ Neither Atlantis, nor yet Sancha dwipa, was ever called “White Island.” When tradition says that “the White Island,” or Siddhapura, or Sveta dwipa, who descended to the Atlantis of the Third and Fourth races, to “inform the latter; and who, having incarnated, became black with sin”—a figure of speech. All the Avatars of Vishnu are said to come originally from the White Island. According to Tibetwn tradition the White island is the only locality which escapes the general fate of other dwipas and can be destroyed by neither fire nor water, for—it is the “eternal land.”

