

Chapter II

What Do the Myths Say about The Creation of People?

*Here is the story of the beginning, when there was not one bird, not one fish, not one mountain.
Here is the sky, all alone. Here is the sea, all alone. There is nothing more— no sound, no movement.
Only the sky and the sea. Only Heart-of-Sky, alone.
And these are his names: Maker and Modeler, Kukulkan, and Hurricane.
But there is no one to speak his names. There is no one to praise his glory.
There is no one to nurture his greatness.
And so Heart-of-Sky thinks, “Who is there to speak my name?
Who is there to praise me? How shall I make it dawn?”
Heart-of-Sky only says the word, “Earth,” and the earth rises, like a mist from the sea.
He only thinks of it, and there it is.
He thinks of mountains, and great mountains come.
He thinks of trees, and trees grow on the land.
And so Heart-of-Sky says, “Our work is going well.”
Now Heart-of-Sky plans the creatures of the forest-- birds, deer, jaguars and snakes.
And each is given its home. “You the deer, sleep here along the rivers.
You the birds, your nests are in the trees. Multiply and scatter,” he tells them.
Then Heart-of-Sky says to the animals, “Speak, pray to us.”
But the creatures can only squawk. ...*

The Beginning of the Creation Story of the *Popol Vul*
Translated by Dennis Tedlock, <san-diego-freemason.com/lag/popol-vuh/>

Heart-of-Sky or *First Cause*, urged the *Nothingness* to become *Something*. We tell each other, “Nature abhors a vacuum,” and the first thought of God was to expand and fill the *Nothingness*. We came from God’s thought, and we now fill the earth.

My friend Jake believes that God created a good human being on the Sixth Day of Creation. On the other hand, Phelicia likes big numbers. She likes to think back to 130,000BP when the world might have been a bit snowier. If a humanlike creature such as Peking Man could exist at the Zhoukoudien site in China at 500,000BP, why couldn’t there have been a Fuegian type human at Fell’s Cave in southern South America at a corresponding early date? It is thought that Fell’s Rock Shelter was a hunting base of the Patagonian Aonikenk/Tehuelche people at the southern tip of South America. This shelter overlooks the Strait of Magellan and has a deep excavation level radio-carbon-dated at 11,000BP. Still deeper levels with more ancient tools could be available. The Aonikenk became culturally extinct in the 19th century. The shelter is roughly 11 meters wide, 8.5 meters deep and 3.3 meters high.

The southernmost cave in South America, Paiki Cave, may have been inhabited by ancestors coming from Africa, Antarctica, or Australia. Man was in Australia 80,000BP. Could an Antarctica without snow have had a human population at 80,000BP? When recently examined by scientists it was found that the mountains on Antarctica have jagged peaks like rugged, young mountains. Perhaps the recent snow cover protects their peaks and keeps them from wearing down. South America and Indonesia also had early people. Pan pipes found in the Solomons and in Peru, were also found in Indonesia dated at 80,000BP. Artifacts found in another southern South American cave at Tres Arroyas are dated much later at 12,400BP. Have the scientists dug deep enough? Any dates before the 11,000BP Clovis Point Era in South America are doubted by the scientific establishment. Very early dates from uranium-thorium decay methods at Toca da Esperanca Cave in Brazil, have been obtained from pebble tool flakes, a hammerstone, and human dental impressions which have given preposterous dates at 295,000 and 204,000BP by Henri de Lumley and Maria Beltrao. (“Earliest Hunters and Gatherers of South America,” *Journal of World Prehistory* 6, 1992: pp.145-204.) More scientifically established dates come from the deepest level at Monte Verde I in Chile where there were burned charcoal and elementary tools in well separated layers dated to 33,000BP. Archaeologists also tend to dismiss the dates of 20,200BP at Pikimachay Cave near Ayacucho, Peru, and the central highlands of Peru dates of 13,460BP at Lauricocha Cave. At the Alice Boer and Pedra Furado sites in Sao Raimundo Nonato region of north-eastern Brazil, Nieda Guidon found cave paintings dating about 50,000 to 30,000BP. At Lapa Vermelha in Minas

Gerai State, Brazil, there was possible human occupation between 25,000 and 15,300BP; also a human skeleton dated 11,000BP. (*The Settlement of the Americas*, Thomas Dillehay, pp.167,170,190-211). Limestone caves in Borneo were occupied 40,000 years ago. Did they mine the limestone to make cement? Caves were decorated 35,000 to 20,000BP. The South American Pedro Furado rock paintings of 32,000BP show horses and camels. Horses and camels may have been exterminated around 11,500BP by some disaster. (Zapp & Erikson, p.15). A recently discovered site at Cactus Hill, Richmond, Virginia, may be 17,000 years old. Archaeology done at Boulder, Colorado confirms that people using tools to butcher horses and camels were in North America at 13,000BP or earlier. The Santa Rosa Island woman, lived at Arlington Springs, California, in 13,000BCE. People were in the Americas, but from the end of the Holocene at 11,000 to 9,000BCE there appear to be many extinctions. Something occurred to radically change the world.

Humans were evidently present in southwest Asia in the lower Paleolithic period at 600,000BP. A cave at Darra-i-Kur has a 120,000 year old skull fragment. Then there are archaeological objects that testify to the intelligence of early humans: an engraved bone dated to 100,000BP at Pech de l'Aze, France; symbols were used in the Mousterian Period (60,000-25,000BP) such as fragments of ocher in a cave at Qafzeh, Israel; flowers in a grave at Shanidar Cave, Iraq (60,000BP); five deeply incised gazelle scapulae in an Aurignacian layer at Hayonim, Israel (28,000BP); Europe in the Upper Paleolithic with notched bones 29,000-11,000BP; a notched bone at Ksar Akil and Jata, from the Kebarian period (15,000-12,000BP); and incised bones at Natufian sites of Hayonum 10,000BCE and Ain Mallaha, Palestine. (*Before Writing*, Besserat, p.158).

With such early dating you might expect to find sites along the continental coastlines that are 30,000BP. However, there was a change in water level around 11,500BP of thirty meters in some places. If there were sites along the South American coast lines, they are now submerged thirty meters down. When a disaster hit, those who could, went back in the hills, if there were hills left to climb. Along the Amazon, sites would be washed away. Tsunamis can reach towering heights, and Venezuela might have been inundated. Thus we find where there are accessible hills, away from the flooded areas, there are sites dating to earlier than 10,000BP. There is much argument about the dating of early sites. In many cases archaeologists are satisfied when they reach an early layer, and then dig no further. It is too expensive, although some sites are built on earlier pre-flood foundations.

Other places may have had their own flood events triggered by previous ice melts. For instance, the Black Sea level rose about 7500BP from an in-rush of water from an overfull Mediterranean. The level of the Mediterranean Sea had risen many years before, but finally broke through to the Black Sea at a later date. The myth of the Red Sea may have been a retold version of the flooding of the Black Sea. Moses may have been leading a group of oppressed people out of Turkey rather than fleeing from the Pharaoh of Egypt. He may have been a priest known as a Levite who were of the Hittite people.

Thomas Dillehay starts his book, *The Settlement of the Americas*, with a question from Charles Darwin on the people of Tierra del Fuego—"Whence have they come? Have they remained in the same state since the creation of the world? What could have tempted, or what change compelled, a tribe of men to leave the fine regions of the north ... to enter on one of the most inhospitable countries within the limits of the globe?" Such thoughts come readily to our minds when we talk about ancient South America.

Persons sent in exile from New Zealand or lost in a storm from Australia would welcome the shoreline of Patagonia. When you have been tossed on inhospitable seas, any shoreline looks good. Seventy thousand years back, Patagonia may have been warm and fertile. If conditions were bad and there was no possibility of easy return, residents of Patagonia might gradually make their way to the more hospitable regions to the north. Could this be as early as 70,000BP? The caves in Patagonia have hand decorations similar to caves in Australia. Looking at this from the opposite viewpoint, could the natives of Patagonia have taken their hand-decorations from the caves in Patagonia to the caves in Australia?

The tip of South America is a fairly barren place today. Fell's Cave is a rock shelter in Patagonia on the Rio Chico. The extinct Aonikenk lived here until the 19th century. Up behind the cave is a hill which may be a mound where tribes people could go to worship or to survey the waters for invaders or traders. These early people came to this site by boat at a date when the world climate was warmer. They wouldn't leave warmer habitations nearer the equator for such a cold and treeless landscape as it is now. Early people in both the north and south Atlantic and Pacific survived on a fish diet procured at the meeting of the cold water and the warmer tropic waters. When their boats were unmanageable because of storms, they were happy to survive on any landfall. Thus we have a seaway interchange of populations between Great Britain and Canada in the North Atlantic, another interchange by water between the Native Americans and the Siberians in the North Pacific, an interchange between the Polynesians and

the Peruvians, (and also among Australians, New Zealanders and Patagonians) in the South Pacific, and the interchange between Africans and Amazonians in the South Atlantic. Many people want to preserve the myth that people came to America from Russia by a Siberian walkway. The water route is much more realistic. Why would a person tread up snowy mountains when they could paddle a boat and fish to fill their stomachs?

An event we call the Deluge may have been the culprit that left a thick layer of clay across sections of the world. Rock fossils often hold pieces of what was on earth earlier. Those who are fascinated by environmental history find fossil remains all over. There were dinosaurs here at 60 millionBP. There were wild cats in America at 20 millionBP. Cats feet have claws; dogs have paws with shorter nails. Were there animals here and no people? Rocks reveal the evolutionary story of the past. Jake says that it just looks like that because God snapped his fingers and made a miracle. Jake seems to believe in miracles. Do people need miracles in order to believe? Aren't we clever enough to get the positive vibes from Jesus' message of love and compassion without having unnatural events? Do we need visitors from outer space to account for flying saucers or strange occurrences or wisdom on the earth? If wise advisors came from outer space, they have not helped us to achieve a well run society. Are our present power structures just working for pay or are they guiding us out of love? Who can we trust?

If we take a literal interpretation of the original sin in the garden, we are proclaiming a static universe, (Christianity and Evolution p.80, Teilhard de Chardin), and we will go on generation after generation being 'born into sin.' But we do not want to be thrown off the earth. The world is not static, and we seem to be evolving in a forward manner. We have the problem of coping with wars and over-population and environmental disasters, but we are learning more every age. All these challenges are opportunities to learn from our mistakes and to grow.

There may have been other fisher folk landing on the American shores or early Americans leaving America to end up on Japan's Ainu Island or the Korean Peninsula. One hundred thousand years ago, *homo sapiens* was intelligent enough to craft together different kinds of boats. Consider the ocean currents. In the northern hemisphere the currents go clockwise. In the southern hemisphere, the currents go counterclockwise. At the equator, the currents take you west, because of the rotation of the earth. The exception is the compensating equatorial counter current which goes east. The fisher folk in the North Atlantic, South Atlantic, North Pacific, South Pacific, and Indian Oceans were acquainted with the currents and enjoyed the plentiful fish diet supplied them by the waters between the glaciers and their home ports. They also suspected that the earth was round because they would lose sight of their home territory as they ventured out on their boats. Those who explored far out to sea could speak of going to the other side of the earth, or the underworld. Those who landed on new territory could see themselves as rising up from under the sea.

The people on Tierra del Fuego who were there circa 1850 represented a very early people. Did the people go from South America to New Zealand, or from New Zealand to Tierra del Fuego? Why would anyone leave New Zealand and go to Tierra del Fuego? Mount Taranaki in New Zealand (renamed Mount Egmont by the English) is a terrific volcano. In the last 9000 years it has erupted seriously about every 500 years. On off years, it has erupted frequently but less violently. The last major eruption was in 1655. Another mountain in New Zealand, Mount Taupo, came up with the most powerful eruption in 5000 years in 200AD. Tarawera erupted in 1314AD and Rangitoto erupted in 1400AD. Volcanic action would be one reason for the Maoris of New Zealand to take to boats, and leave a smoke and lava filled environment. Another reason could be earth shaking problems resulting from a pole shift.

Some believe there was a pole shift which occurred gradually over a long period of time at the end of the Pleistocene and Holocene epochs. Some suspect that the changing of magnetic poles in the interior of the earth has affected different regions and early civilizations, causing continental drift, the sinking of Lemuria (the continental shelf off Asia called Mu) and the collapse of portions of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge (such as the legendary Atlantis). Reasoning behind this is that there are underwater sites revealing ancient stonework off the Japanese islands of Chotan and Kerama, and in the Strait of Taiwan (about 20 to 30 feet under water) and also between the Island of Taiwan and mainland China. There is Yonaguni Island off Japan that has gigantic block structures, perhaps a pyramidal structure. Robert Schock who is noted for dating the Sphinx from its erosion patterns, is investigating at Yonaguni. There are also rumors of a submerged city at least 9500 years old under 120 feet of water on the west coast of India in the Gulf of Cambay; it is 5 miles long and 2 miles wide, built on enormous foundations. There are rumors of giant walls off the north coast of South America, and the Pacific and Atlantic coastlines of Central America. There is Bimini in the Bahamas with the 1968 announcement of the discovery of the Bimini Road, which is a 1900-foot long J-shaped formation of stone in shallow water off shore. While some researchers accept the Bimini Road as ruins from the time of Atlantis, some geologists believe to the contrary.

At 14,000BP, the North Sea was a wide plain. Scotland, Germany, Denmark, and the Netherlands were the higher

lands where people retreated when the waters rolled in. Ice Age tools have been found in these countries. With more underwater observations, other early civilizations may be located. This change in water level may have been caused by side effects of the Deluge. Seer Edgar Cayce believes that there were several disasters, and that the Lemuria disaster by fire took place before the Deluge disaster. Other thinking may be that the pole shift was responsible for both disasters, or the Deluge may have been the result of objects from outer space coming too close to the earth. Then there is the mystery of the giant crack in the earth that we call the Mid-Atlantic Ridge. What does that have to do with cataclysmic events? We can conclude that the Atlantic coastal sites of South America of about 11,500BP are now underwater. The original Atlantic coastline is 60 to 80 kilometers to the east. (Thomas Dillehay, p.187.)

Walter Neves believes from early skull evidence that a non-Mongoloid population of long-headed people from the South Pacific such as mixed peoples from Africa, the South Pacific, Australia, and types like Zhoukoudien Cave in China, first inhabited America. The Lapa Vermelha IV cranium of the Lucia skeleton from Brazil is of this type. Non-Mongoloids were in the New World before the round-headed Mongoloids. (Dillehay, p.236.) Where did they come from? When we consider Tierra del Fuego can we imagine the possibility that there were early folk there before the 200,000BP date of people coming out of Africa? The vanished Fuegian people were *homo sapiens*, but had a few genetic differences. They didn't feel the cold as severely as the rest of us. Perhaps they were related to the *Big Foot* of the Colorado Rockies or the *Yeti* of the Himalayas? *Hairy Ones* or *Sasquatch* have been reported in the last century from Mexico to the Canadian Rockies. Environmental changes were made to the human physical form to help them to arrive at today's model. The *Popol Vuh* describes in a mythical way how the Mayan people believed this was done.

The creatures only howl. They do not speak like humans. They do not praise Heart-of-Sky, and so the animals are humbled. They will serve those who will worship Heart-of-Sky. And Heart-of-Sky tries again. Tries to make a giver of respect. Tries to make a giver of praise. Here is the new creation made of mud and earth. It doesn't look very good. It keeps crumbling and softening. It looks lopsided and twisted. It only speaks nonsense. It cannot multiply. So Heart-of-Sky lets it dissolve away. Now Heart-of-Sky plans again. Our Grandfather and Our Grandmother are summoned. They are the most wise spirits. "Determine if we should carve people from wood," commands Heart-of-Sky. They run their hands over the kernels of corn. They run their hands over the coral seeds. "What can we make that will speak and pray?" asks Our Grandfather. "What can we make that will nurture and provide?" asks Our Grandmother. They count the days, the lots of four, seeking an answer for Heart-of-Sky. Now they give the answer, "It is good to make your people with wood. They will speak your name. They will walk about and multiply." "So it is," replies Heart-of-Sky. And as the words are spoken, it is done. The doll-people are made with faces carved from wood. But they have no blood, no sweat. They have nothing in their minds. They have no respect for Heart-of-Sky. They are just walking about, but they accomplish nothing. "This is not what I had in mind," says Heart-of-Sky. And so it is decided to destroy these wooden people. Hurricane makes a great rain. It rains all day and rains all night. There is a terrible flood, and the earth is blackened. The creatures of the forest come into the homes of the doll-people. "You have chased us from our homes, so now we will take yours," they growl. And their dogs and turkeys cry out, "You have abused us, so now we shall eat you!" Even their pots and grinding stones speak, "We will burn you and pound on you just as you have done to us!" The wooden people scatter into the forest. Their faces are crushed, and they are turned into monkeys. And this is why monkeys look like humans. They are what is left of what came before.

From *Popol Vuh: The Mayan Book of the Dawn of Life*, Dennis Tedlock, Translator, Criscenzo, 1996.

We have been setting down possibilities of early human beings. The Creation stories also tell about early trees. There are many myths about a tree that has something to do with religious beliefs. In the Chumayel *Lahun Chaan* is a story similar to "the tree of the knowledge of good and evil" in the Garden of Eden story of Genesis 2:8-10. The column or tree of the *Lahun Chaan* is called *Yax cheel cab*, which means in their language, *the first tree in the world*. They give honor to this tree symbol because "it was the tree of whose fruit our first father Adam ate, who in their language is called *Ixanom*" (Means 1917, p.135). In Egypt the *tet* or *djed* pillar represents the god Osiris and stability. The pillar is sometimes seen as the backbone of Osiris. The Hindus and Muslims have a pillar in New Delhi to commemorate the tree of their first father. A Third century Gupta period pillar, the Sopara Stupa near Mumbai, is made of unrusting iron which was supposedly an unknown human capability of iron-making until recently. Other religions have stories about sacred trees, and give honor to sacred pillars. All peoples need places to keep sacred relics and bones of their ancestors.

As people died and customs evolved and developed, it became necessary to do something to show respect to the physical shells of beloved persons. The Bible mentions the Oak of Mamre as a sacred place, or possibly a holy burial site. The *stupa* is called *pagoda* or *gorinta* in Japan. It is called *chos rtan* in Tibet and *chedi* in Thai from the Pali *chaitya*. *Stupas* evolved into places of veneration of holy bones. Some of them developed into large hemispherical mounds. One at Phra Pathom, Thailand, is 127 meters high. Borubador in Java, Indonesia, is the most spectacular.

If the *stupa* can have so many variations in name and form, we should not be surprised that gods, culture heroes and other mythical characters have a wide variation in their names, in their areas of expertise, and in their followers. Varying cultures were forming in various separated and secluded places all over the earth. The mythical tales from these cultures may have their similarities; the same symbols may be derived from seemingly different traditions; those who lead religious groups may feel superior to those they lead; but one thing we can be sure of, is that we don't really know if our worship or attitudes are pleasing to the Most High.

Stupas and temples are very important for religious beliefs, and generate worship sites at holy spots, but ethical values are even more important. The Hindu *Veda* sees truth as the supreme virtue. "Forgiveness is Truth itself, it is Righteousness, it is the *Veda*. Hence, all people should develop the quality of forgiveness." "Mother Veda is compassionate; she longs to liberate her children from doubt and discontent. She has no desire to inflame or confuse; wise folk know this well." (Quotes from Sri Sathya Sai Baba Indian Spiritual leader, born 1926). Many religious ideas were carried by word of mouth. People trusted others to lead them closer to the divine. They trusted the wisdom of others, rather than deciding for themselves what was true for themselves. Humanity seems to have an inner urge to follow charismatic leaders, and to believe in "pie in the sky". If someone like Helena Blavatsky reminds them that "No religion is higher than the truth," they would rather believe in an afterlife of physical comfort, than work on a spiritual renewal.

But it is also important to believe in the good-spiritedness of the earth which may be represented mythically by angels or the power of loving ancestors to protect us. We can believe in a spirit world which goes back to the time of creation with celestial messengers who speak the truth. The Iranian *Vohu Manah* means *Good Mind*. We can picture a helpful Archangel Gabriel dictating the *Koran* to Mohammed. We can think of a kindly person, Kumaris, sharing the life-giving sweet potato with strangers. Kumaris would later be named as a notable prince of the Iranians. Then we have human beings who carry the message of wisdom to others. We respect them as avatars, but we all have something of God's Spirit upholding us. We all have been created by the Most High, and we all return to the Most High.

We also can think about early animals. Snakes in particular, have an important part to play in the history of religion. Moses raised up a staff with serpents to heal the sick in the wilderness. In Native American and Chinese myths there were animals such as coyotes who thought, planned, and acted in a godly or humorous or crafty manner. These animals advanced into other folklore as human beings. *Coyote* of the Native Americans became the *Don Quixote* of the Spaniards. *Coyote* and *Quixote* are spelled differently, but pronounced similarly. The characters portrayed are of mythical interest, even though one is an animal and the other is a man. In the Polynesian area, people acted the part of tigers or hid behind tiger masks. The people of India admired the strength of the elephant. People have become quite comfortable with the earth and her animals.

However, we are not bound by the earth with its trees and its animals. Our beliefs about creation have traveled to the heavens and beyond. An expanding universe implies a future without end, which like our Infinite God can go on forever. "Perhaps the best possible universe is a universe of constant challenges, a universe in which survival is possible, but not too easy." (Freeman Dyson, p.112).

The Oneidas and the Iroquois have a creation story that has two gods, one of whom makes things easier for people, and the other that believes in throwing people challenges. The story features a woman falling from the sky. How did she get into such a fix? She lived in a beautiful place quite like the Garden of Eden, and she gave a drink of water to a thirsty athlete. Her jealous husband pushed her through a hole in the ground, and down she fell onto a turtle's back. The turtle expanded to become the earth. As the woman was pregnant when she fell, she eventually gave birth to a daughter, who later on produced two sons, Skyholder and Flint. Skyholder was the good guy, and Flint was an obstructionist. Skyholder made human beings, but Flint made monkeys and apes. Skyholder's philosophy was to be nice to people. Flint thought that if you made it too easy for people, they would become lazy.

We hold 98% of our DNA in common with chimpanzees, but we feel ourselves quite superior to them although the beasts may have more spiritual connections than we do. We feel our ability to invent machines such as guns and bombs is more useful than our spiritual capacity to be kind and not use guns on each other. We find it easy to

recognize the material aspects of living on earth, but we often fail to recognize the nonmaterial thoughts and feelings, which in the long run, are more important for our well being and our evolution towards divinity. Evolution has encouraged both warlike competition and supportive family cooperation. The natural selection of the evolutionary process has favored the human being's self reliance and self interest, as well as his empathy for others. Spirit (or mind) and matter are enclosed in every person. We do not see or hear spirit, but it is part of us. Often we do not recognize what is outside of our range of material viewing. (*Life Evolving*, Christian de Duve, pp.208-306.)

We do not even see some of the physical aspects of our world, but we soon may hear all about them. Inventors are creating robots who will be able to investigate ship wrecks, and replace soldiers in danger spots. Just picture robot soldiers shooting each other down! We have machines capable of revealing constructions under the ground and under water. We can use Google Earth to locate ancient temples in the jungles, and can set up direction lines on our computers so as to recognize ley lines stretching across the land. We may find out what is under the T-shaped mound at Poverty Point near Monroe, Louisiana, without lifting a shovel. With Google Earth, they have been able to find ship wrecks and underwater temples. On the Island of Malta in the Mediterranean there are stones that were put together over 7000 years ago. Some people believe this Malta temple is the oldest building in the world, with a wall 16 meters high. They believe it was covered by flood waters; then uncovered, but never rebuilt because after the flooding, the people had forgotten how to handle and move the giant megaliths. This construction is called Gigantica. It is believed that there are more buildings underwater nearby. Underwater vehicles can take photos of objects way down in the deep. For sites on land there is ground-penetrating-radar which saves a lot of unnecessary archaeological digging.

Phelicia believes the earth and its civilizations are very ancient. Jake states firmly that all the construction marvels are easily contained in dates after 5950BP.

