

Chapter V

What about Abraham and Sarah?

Leave your country, your family and your father's house, for the land I will show you. Genesis 12:1

One myth that is held firmly in the hearts of Phelicia and Jake is the story of Abraham and Sarah in Genesis Chapters 12-23. This legend hints at very early cultural and religious beliefs. The biblical authors acquired the background for this account of Abraham's beliefs from oral traditions, and they give us insights on the growth of faith in what could be a prototypical example rather than a specific ancestor. This prototype given the name of Abraham acquired beliefs from much earlier groups. We can tell something about the origins of this legend by investigating the meanings of the names used by the writer.

Names and what they mean are a very important part of a myth. The storyteller will often tell us something about the hero or heroine's name to make the story more clear. Both the hero and the heroine in this legend undergo name changes, so we have many derivations to discuss. In Genesis 17:5 Abram becomes Abraham, which the writer says means *the father of many nations*. Likewise, in Genesis 17:15 Sarai becomes Sarah, *the mother of nations*. The author is stating that these ancestors represent noble progenitors. Names and pieces of the Abraham story can have come out of any country or tribe, any time before its composition date by the Davidic author about 1000 BCE. There were many pieces that made up the totality, and there must have been theological reasons why the ancient story tellers put the pieces together in the manner they did.

Some threads of this Abraham and Sarah story came out of India. The names *Abraham* and *Sarah* can be interpreted as names with Indian roots. In the religious tradition of India there is a godlike pair who represent truth, justice, and the nobility of one's ancestors. The god/hero *Brahma* has as his main consort, *Saraswati*. Brahma is the most important god in the Hindu trinity. *Ab* in the Near East means *father*. If we called our ancestral hero *Father Brahma* (or *Ab-Brahma*), we would get a name very similar to the name Abraham. The name of the Hindu god Rama can also be tied to the name of Abraham, or Abram, which was his name before it was changed. The name *Ab-Ram* means *my father is Ram*, or *my God is Ram*. Both of the biblical names, *Abram* and *Abraham* are associated with Hindu gods. If the Hebrews' legendary ancestor was the hero Rama, and if Rama worship went out of style, while the more universalist hero Brahma became popular, there would be good reason to have a change of ancestral names. The biblical author could be telling us about his tribe's religious beginnings. The first ancestors believed in the Hindu God Rama; then there was a broadening of beliefs. Rama was more of a feared model to be worshiped; whereas Brahma represented the godlike capabilities of every man.

The same story is told about Abraham as was told about Jesus and Moses. Abraham's mother was pregnant so she hid in a cave because a wicked king was killing all the male children, not the girls, just the boys, because he thought the boys would grow up to dethrone him. When Abraham's mother delivered a boy-child, she continued to hide out in the cave until he got to be fairly old. Then she went to live with her brother Ahaz.

At some point she died and Abraham went with his father and other relatives to Terah, the city in Iran that still has Abraham's father's name. If Abraham's mother was an Amorite, then Abraham was also considered to be an Amorite. His uncle made idols, and Abraham's job was to carry these statues to the market place to be sold. Seeing the helplessness of idols, Abraham decided the statues were not worth his worship. It is said that he broke the idols and left town.

Checking out the name of *Sarah*, we find that *Saraswati* is one of the names of the Hindu divine Mother Goddess, who was the union of power and intelligence from which organized creation arose. She revealed writing to man and was the mother of poetry. She was the goddess of speech, learning, wisdom, creative arts, and song. Saraswati was represented with a swan for her vehicle and held a lute and a manuscript. She was considered to be the personification of the River Sarsuti, which presently flows in the northern part of Uttar Pradesh, and dries up in the desert of Rajputana. This river is mentioned in the *RigVeda* as "She who goes pure from the mountains as far as the sea." According to a Hindu writing, *The Mahabharata*, the flow of the river to the sea was ruined by the curse of the sage Utathya.

The heroine or goddess, Saraswati, is recognized by many as the feminine side of God. The masculine side could

not create the human race without the help of wisdom and motherhood to soften his macho characteristics. God, as totality, is both male and female. Saraswati was also recognized as the universal mother and protector of all children, and in Persian folklore, as the mother of the divine child Skanda-Kumara, the first human. Saraswati as mother of Kumara, may be comparable mythologically to the heroine Sara who produced Isaac (or Ishaac). *Kumara* in Persian and Hindu theology, was the first man or founder of the human race, and in an early language, the participle *ish* also stands for *man*.

If we used a shortened version of Saraswati, we would find ourselves saying Sara. The name *Sara* in Hindu, appears related to *sati*, which means real or true woman (*suttee*), from which comes the act of *suttee*, where a woman kills herself by being burned with her husband's corpse on his funeral pyre. Virgo Constellation was also known as Sara Mama or Maize Mother. There is also another Hindu goddess Sita who is the model for a virtuous wife. She is the consort of Rama, whom we have associated with the name of Abram. There is a myth among the Hindus about the god Rama rescuing his beloved Sita from the clutches of a demon king. This may be some of the background myth material for the problems that Abraham has with Abimelech of Gerar in the Negeb (Genesis 20:1-18). Abraham tells Sarah to state she is his sister, rather than his wife, and the unsuspecting ruler takes Sarah into his harem. When the king learns of the deception, he gives Abraham gifts and sends him on his way. This deal between the males makes whatever went on in the harem acceptable. Could it be suggested that Sarah's pregnancy was the result of being farmed out to a tribal leader? No wonder Abraham was willing to sacrifice his son because of what might have been his questionable fatherhood. There is a corresponding story concerned with Sarah and a legendary pharaoh of Egypt in Genesis 12:10-20.

Women were considered as property, and it did not bother Abraham to farm his wife out to the king. It may have bothered Abraham a little, to take his son up on a mountain and offer him up to God by slaughtering him. Fortunately, God (or Abraham) had a change of heart. The Muslims believe that Abraham was ready to sacrifice Ishmael, while the Jewish people believe that Isaac was the intended victim. Then there was the time Abraham took Hagar and her son Ishmael and left them in the desert. Let's hope that Abraham knew there was a spring of water near by. With a father like that, ready to sacrifice a son and leave a slave woman in the wilderness, one could lose faith in one's ancestors.

Early peoples traveling from India might mythologize their distant ancestors Abraham and Sarah in their contemporaneous religious beliefs. If their prototypal ancestor or theology were associated with Ab-brahma, they would be called the children of Ab-brahma. The Bible refers to the Hebrews as *sons of Abraham*. There is a river in India called the River Brahmaputra which means *sons of Brahma*, which implies that some sons of Brahma lived along this river. Perhaps some of these sons of Brahma evolved into Hebrew tribes.

Yahweh said to Abram, "Leave your country, your family and your father's house, for the land I will show you" (Genesis 12:1). A notable ancestor and pillar of the community or a whole group would leave the home town for other parts, if farming land went sour, or if trade made it necessary to travel. Both these reasons may have applied to the possible Abraham group in India. The Harappan civilization of India made good use of irrigation, but archaeologists have noted that its land wore out from over-use. If the group's trade were sheep herding, one would have to walk the herding trails from one end to the other, fattening the sheep on the way, and selling one's produce at either end of the long trek. If the tribal group started out from India, they may have gone to Egypt, but it is more likely that they would travel to a nearer city such as Tehran or Susa. With an ancestor named Terah (Genesis 11:27), there may have been a possibility that Tehran was a major end point of the herding enterprise. The patriarch Abraham is described in the Bible as having vast herds and making a journey to Egypt, but we must remember that if the character Abraham is being used as a prototype, such a journey may have taken place in many segments over a very long time period. Also, the biblical author was using locations that would be familiar to his audience of 1000 BCE Palestine.

After several centuries such a group might find a better living traveling a different route with more fertile pasturage, rather than returning to its Indian homeland. They would remember their priestly forebears and their tribal ties in tales and song, but they would grow new heroes based on their everyday experiences and their conflicts with other people who contested their grazing rights.

Special groups would also keep health and purity regulations that preserved their religious upbringing, accepting the custom of sacrificing children, and would use health regulations that protected them from contamination by the peoples of the land through which they walked. They might follow patriarchal systems which contained strict master-servant relationships and condoned the inferior position of women, regulations which would give Abraham the freedom to leave his slave wife Hagar and her son in the wilderness. They might be convinced of the necessity for

male circumcision and for female mutilation, customs which must have had good reasons for being performed in ancient times. The Incas spoke Quecha (north Andean language). People by Lake Titicaca spoke Aymara. The Incas had the custom of circumcision. Sexual customs combined with rights to inheritance often led to authoritarian abuse. Regulations similar to these are still followed today by those who quote the Bible as an authority, in spite of the fact that Jesus announced a message of love and equality.

One custom that is difficult to understand is the purity code to ensure the genetic priestly line. The priestly caste did not believe in the acceptability of anyone except a pure bred male Hebrew as a priest worthy to serve God in the temple. Even today the Roman Catholic Church has the strange belief that only males can serve God on the altar. Others believe that an altar represents the whole world and that all people are eligible to serve.

Many Catholics go to church on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on December 8, believing that they are celebrating the conception of Jesus in the womb of his mother Mary. The reality of the matter is that the church celebrates the creation of the Virgin Mary in the womb of her mother Anna by the seed of her father Joachim, about the time of December 8th. In this instance an *Immaculate Conception* is an act of sexual intercourse which takes place under strict religious rules. Such a Purity Code might be applied to grandsons or descendants further down a matriarchal line if intervening generations followed the code.

The Jewish Purity Laws have a part in this concept of an Immaculate Conception. The Jewish priesthood was not exactly a 'closed' society, but it did have hopes of keeping a pure genetic line to serve on the altar. The first son of a priest was undoubtedly destined to be a priest, if his parents followed the strict rules of procreation, thus insuring that the genetic line was being kept pure. Those women associated with the Jewish priesthood who conceived in December and gave birth to a baby in September were rewarded by having their child known as an Immaculate Conception. We do not know if Jesus or John the Baptist were Immaculate Conceptions. We hear that the Roman holidays are one reason for placing the birth of Jesus in December. Jesus' birthday could have been any day of the year. However, the church through its calendar is trying to communicate to us subtle meanings that are behind the myths, such as:

- (1) Jesus was considered to be born during the Roman festival of lights because Jesus is a light to the nations.
- (2) Mary is the most marvelous woman ever to exist, not because she was the product of an Immaculate Conception, but because she carried in her womb and in her heart the message of God to the nations.
- (3) John the Baptizer was a special person as a forerunner, a new beginning, a break-away from the authoritative establishment with its degenerating value-system.
- (4) An Immaculate Conception is an inspirational idea that supports the myth of priesthood.
- (5) Women can be conceived immaculately and serve the nations, and the world, as well as men.
- (6) We are all conceived immaculately, to share our gifts with each other.

The Bible leads us to believe in the acceptance of slavery, and the development of caste systems, which continue their misperceptions and evils in our societies today. Both the Indus and Tehran areas had caste systems. That of India was put in place very early. The master-slave relationship had been established long before the Aryan invasion into the Harappan region. This is indicated by the fact that the Harappan social system required dedicated laborers to build structures and remove sewage. Religious beliefs contributed to the system, requiring each person to have a certain station in life, and to perform to the best of his ability in that station. Many church groups continue to believe that of the two main genders of male and female, that men are more worthy than women. Women are blamed for abortions in spite of the fact that if all men were responsible for their behavior, there would be no need for abortions. Phelicia believes that women should be allowed to control their sex life for the good of humanity. Jake thinks responsible people will help to regulate population control.

The origin of Brahmanism is shrouded in myth. Early followers of Brahma supposedly denied themselves and left all wealth and temporal advantage to others. They were not allowed to own property, and could not engage in any pursuit the object of which was to gain wealth. They believed in personal sacrifice and prayer as ways to serve divine being. These thinkers and meditators who were the elite in their society were supported by a caste system where others "less pure" fed them and disposed of their waste products.

The four great Hindu caste divisions are Brahmans (priestly), Kshatriyas (military), Vaisyas (shopkeepers), and Sudras (the servile class). Each great caste is not a group of equal individuals, but is further divided according to marriage regulations, trades, location, or labor. For instance, the Brahmans can be divided into several hundred sub-

castes, who frequently cannot intermarry with, or eat food prepared by another Brahman the next rung down the social ladder. In different geographical areas there are Brahmans who may be fishermen, farmers, porters, potters, or shepherds as well as resident priests. These subcastes doubtless arose out of necessity, as you cannot have a community that is all priests with no one to provide the vegetables or meat for offerings. In Book I:22 Josephus traces Jewish history from a Hindu caste called the Kalani or Calani or Cal-Deans (which becomes Chaldeans).

Terah took his son Abram, his grandson Lot the son of Haran, and his daughter-in-law the wife of Abram, and made them leave Ur of the Khaldeans (Genesis 11:31). The Abraham and Sara story could be describing a typical noble shepherd of the Brahman caste. Semitic groups with possibilities of such Brahmanic origins ranged with their flocks between India and other points and Egypt, possibly between 8000 BCE and to the present. The Bible describes one of the places of Abraham's origin as Ur of the Chaldeans. The name Ur means *city* according to one language translation, *daylight* according to another, and *fire mound* in still another. As the Chaldeans were fire worshippers, this might be a logical progression, as the center of cult worship would very likely be the center of the civilization or the city of importance. The Bible in describing Ur of the Chaldeans, is describing still another aspect of the origins of Abraham's religious faith. We are given a description of the rites of the Chaldean faith in the sacrifice description of Genesis 15. Sacrificial animals are laid out in a precise pattern and then burned. This was one of the formal rites which the prototypal ancestor Abraham used to properly worship his God. It was a rite that was long established in the area of the city of Ur. This rite of animal sacrifice was incorporated into the worship of the Hebrews and was used when they built their temple. It was set down by the biblical author to give a stamp of approval to those priests who performed such rites. What better way for a group of wandering shepherds to show their devotion than to sacrifice animals! A presentday barbecue comes close to offering a sacrificial animal to God.

Looking around, Lot saw all the Jordan plain, irrigated everywhere--this was before Yahweh destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah--like the garden of Yahweh or the land of Egypt, as far as Zoar (Genesis 13:10). Genesis 13 describes Abraham returning from Egypt with Sara and his relative Lot. We do not know when the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah took place. The land of Egypt at this time must have been more lush than now. Those who research the Bible give various dates for Abraham's visit to Egypt: 1920 BCE according to years specified in the Hebrew text of the Bible, 2551 BCE according to some interpretations of the Hebrew *Septuagint*, and 2876 BCE according to more liberal interpretations. Because the Abraham legend evolved back in the mists of prehistory, another possibility might be that Abraham traveled to a city nearer to India such as Tehran. As climatic changes occurred, a group 2000 years later connected with the name Isaac, might have traveled from Tehran to Haran in northern Mesopotamia, *Haran* being another ancestor name associated with Abraham (Genesis 11:31). A third route in a later time slot might have been from Haran to Palestine, and this route might have been associated with the name *Israel*. When the sheep herding groups were based in Palestine, their particular ancestor was called Jacob, and their tribal name became the name of the land, *Israel*. *Ish-ra-el* can mean *man of the Sun God*. *Ish-ma-el* has a middle syllable of *ma*, instead of *ra*. The ancestor Jacob (or Israel) was considered the head of this tribe, along with Abraham and Isaac as distant tribal progenitors.

Yahweh rained on Sodom and Gomorrah brimstone and fire (Genesis 19:23). We can give a practical date to that part of the Abraham story which concludes with the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah at the southern end of the Dead Sea, if the Dead Sea is the true locale. Archaeologists believe that these communities met a violent end about 2350 BCE. We might be tempted to use this date to give reality to the story of Abraham. But this is principally a legend about someone called Lot, rather than about Abraham. Does the name Lot come from the God Lud who had something to do with a location as far away as London? Lud and Put and mixed people are described in Ezekiel 30:5 and 27:10. Put was a son of Ham related to the country of Libya; Lydia spelled with a 'd' instead of a 'b' may be the same place or it may refer to Luwd or Lud or Lot or the Hittite Louvians. The addition of the name of Abraham in this story may be a tenuous connection of one proverbial ancestor with another. The violence of 2350 BCE may date the Abraham story, or an earlier calamity may have given rise to the story of Lot. The association of Lot with the Dead Sea area may be due to the time and location of the biblical writer in the Palestine of King David. The author knew that the Dead Sea was a devastated salt marsh area where nothing would grow, and that there were salt formations there. The audience of David's time would be able to understand the Dead Sea setting for the Lot story. We have always assumed that Sodom and Gomorrah were the original locale for the natural disaster described in Genesis. However, with myths being a collection of several pieces of history, the original story may have been another disaster elsewhere. Another area associated with the name of Lot is in a country far to the east of Palestine. There is a tremendous desert area in Iran called the *Dasht-i-Lut*, or *Desert of Lot*. It contains saline swamps and a salt area. This

may well be the original location for the story of Lot's wife. This also may be the land where Lot settled, as in early times this section of Iran was a beautiful garden where the world's first peaches and melons were cultivated. This may be the location of the nation of Lud mentioned in Genesis 10:22. One further association with the name Lot is the town of London. It may be *Lot's Town* or *Lot's Den* or *Lot's Dungeon*. The lands of Lud and Put may have a connection to the Hudson River and trading settlements where ships from England left their goods and picked up trade items. A section of the Hudson has West Point (formerly Camp Putnam) on the west bank and Putnam County on the east bank. Putnam County contains the village of Ludingtonville which may be a connection with the biblical Lud and Put.

The tales of ancestral doings in the Bible are woven together to give ethical instructions to the people of David's time. They also serve to inspire and teach all people who have come afterward. From a theological viewpoint it doesn't matter where the legend of Lot's wife arose. We of a later day can still get the message: In times of stress, don't look back with longing, or you will become unable to move forward to greater accomplishments. If you discover a new idea or new ways, do not look back to the supposed security of a former system, or you may lose your stride and are liable to become encrusted with salt. In this time of economic disaster, we must look forward to new ways of sharing the goods of the earth. It would be foolish to keep trying to use a failed system, and then expect a different result. On the other hand, it is sometimes true that "looking backward, helps you to go forward in the right way."

Abraham and Sarah can be the names of known human ancestors of the Hebrews, or they can represent typical high-caste herders from the Indus region which was deteriorating from climatic changes and from improper irrigation techniques. Such wanderers would naturally long for a secure homeland with fertile soil for their descendants. For wandering shepherders there has been this yearning for a homeland, as they shepherded their sheep across the territory of others. The Indo-Aryan of Vedic culture would wander between the Indus and the Nile, selling his sheep at each end of the run. His original homeland may have been neither of these end points. His starting base may have been Asia Minor, Bactria, Mongolia, or far northward in Scandinavia. A Brahman shepherd must have passed over many desirable territories in his wanderings. Is there really a Holy Land, a favorite people, and an ancestor whose descendants have a right to a special inheritance, or do all people deserve to have a share in the bounty of the earth?

When Jake consults the book *Bible Time Line*, he confidently tells us that the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah was 2350BCE, and that Abraham's visit to Egypt was 2876BCE. At 2700BCE there is the legend of the priest-king of Sumer, Enmerkar, and his search for gold from the land of the Aratta. Sargon of Akkad is 23rd century BCE. Naram-Sin fought the Amorites in 2240BCE. The fall of Ur took place when it was sacked in 2004BCE by Elamites. The collapse of the Sumerian Ur III at hands of the Elamites was circa 1940BCE. Then Amorites took over power such as the Akkadian leader Hammurabi (1792-1750BCE). Kassites ruled for 576 years to 1155BCE, and Hyksos ruled in Egypt. Babylon conquered the Phoenicians (or Phut of the Ionians) in 585BCE. Amorites were a tribe in Canaan before its conquest by Israelites (II Samuel 12:26-31). The Babylonians, like their predecessors, engaged in regular trade with city-states to the west, and Amorite merchants operated throughout Mesopotamia. Amoritic was the Semetic language of the Amorites. This language may have had roots in Atlantis or the Americas. Did Noah or one of his descendants such as Abraham bring Semitic language to Israel? In Akkadian, *amurru* means western (country to the west of Sumer, west of the Euphrates). The Babylonian monarchy's western connections remained strong for quite some time. An Amorite named Abi-ramu or Abram was named as the father of a witness to a cuneiform deed dated to the reign of Hammurabi's grandfather; Ammi-Ditana, the great-grandson of Hammurabi, who still titled himself "King of the Land of the Amorites" reigning from 1683 to 1640BCE. Ammi-Ditana's father and son also bore Canaanite names.

Isaac and Jacob were Amorites. Amorites were called *Amuru*, which can be further changed to *Abiru* or *Hebrew*. Jacob visited his Amorite kinsfolk in Paddan-Aram (see Ezekiel 16:3 and Genesis 28:1-9). The Aryan race were speakers of Indo-European language and seem to have been all 'white' people.

Research reveals that cuneiform tablets have been found relating to Chodorlahomor in deeds of sale dated to 15th and 14th century BCE. Tablets were found in Nuzu, just east of ancient Ashur. Amorite names recorded are Abi-ramu (or Abram); Jacob-el (Ya'qub-il), Joseph-el (Yasub-II). (Information from *Catholic Encyclopedia* article by Charles Herbermann.) The title of God was given to some of the Semetic kings that ruled in Babylon. When the next dynasty came in, the title of God went out. Thus Abraham's standard land title might have read, "God gives you this land," or "The King acting in the name of God gives you this land." The deed would contain the standard sovereign's blessing, "May your descendants be as numerous as the sands of the sea."

Phelicia notes that one of the codes that present day peoples have accepted hook, line, and sinker is the property ethic. Even before Abraham's time, wandering shepherds and settled farmers were at loggerheads with each other. The herder would shepherd his sheep across the settlers' land and the sheep and goats would demolish the farmer's plantings. A wise Babylonian king had a solution for this problem. He divided up the land so that the farmer had his piece and the shepherds had theirs. This worked pretty well, but who gave the king the right to divide up the land? This became one source of the theory of the divine right of kings. Those in the Mid-east became convinced that the ruler had all the rights needed to say who could use the land. On the other hand, the Native Americans believed that all tribes had the right to the land, and Europeans came on the scene loaded with documents that said their kings and queens had given the land and its resources to their favorite explorers. Nowadays the U.S. corporations take land from the indigenous people in the U.S. (such as SOA in Georgia using a Native American burial mound for a military base, and burying uranium waste disposal in Utah). In other countries there are mineral takeovers, such as gold mines in the Congo, and no one objects. We have become so brainwashed that we accept that wealthy moguls have rights to trample on the poor. In colonial times, the Underhills on Croton Point made bricks and wine. General Underhill killed Indians. Governor Benedict Arnold sold guns and rum to the Indians, (*Ancient American Inscriptions*, McGlone, Leonard, Guthrie, Gillespie, Whittall, etc.). Political opportunists today sell weapons and drugs to Central Americans and to dictators in Africa, disregarding any moral implications. Can Americans make good out of past indignities to the Native Americans? Can the European corporations give back the mining profits that they have drawn out of the Congo, or restore the silver that Francis Drake stole from Bolivia for his Queen Elizabeth?

The property ethic usually benefits those in power, and causes problems for those who live in poverty. Think about our economic problems today, and how many government leaders are solving these problems by giving further benefits to the rich. We must agree that the ancient king who decided to parcel out the land in the name of God, was very wise in thus asserting his dominion and authority. We can see that King George of England of Revolutionary fame, followed along, using the same idea in America. Popes and prelates use questionable notions of infallibility to keep their religious followers in order. Some of the present day children of Abraham believe that this land grab 4000 years ago is good for all time. Corporations believe in their rights to go into foreign lands and appropriate gold, oil, and water resources, and all because royalty 4000 years ago had a bright idea of how to stop the herders and the farmers from murdering each other. We must be very careful as to how we create new social systems. Perhaps our goodness and our salvation are to be found, not in our physical wealth, but in our inherent creation spirituality, coupled with wise stages of moral development.

In Genesis 14, it is reported that Abraham defeated Kedorlaomer (Chodorlohomar). In this notation Kedorlaomer is the enemy of the Amorites. The Amorites were a Hamitic race, the sons of Canaan (Genesis 10:6,15) who used the mother tongue of Abraham. Whoever they were, the Amorites were subdued and eventually absorbed by the Israelites. David accomplished this by uniting the twelve tribes who were claiming various portions of the land of Canaan. Sihon (or Zion) was a king of the Amorites. The Amorite Hammurabi (circa 1728-1686BCE) created an empire out of Sumer and Akkad.

We can entertain ourselves by discussing possibilities. Did the wandering shepherd, Abraham, have Amorite ancestry on his mother's side of the family? Could the promise made to Abraham not refer to the land of Palestine, but have referred to grazing land for a wandering shepherd? The mythological Noah coming from the Lake Titicaca area of reed boats, may have told certain of his descendants about the land far to the west across the Atlantic [or could it also be considered far to the east of Babylonia across the Pacific?] Some of these descendants may have kept this knowledge in their hearts. What can we say about the other people who may have had boat transportation that saved them from the deluge? Was Thoth in Egypt a refugee from the downpour? Did he carry the reed boat idea to Egypt? Did he tell the Egyptians how to build pyramids and keep records? Or was Thoth a refugee from northern Europe having his name reflected in the name *Thor* which reveals itself in the name of the Egyptian *Goddess Hathor*? Would those fleeing the sinking continent of Atlantis end up in Turkey near Mount Ararat? There are similar gene markers in Turkmenistan to the gene markers of some Native Americans. Who were the Amorites? Were they Aryans from near Mount Ararat, the landing place of Noah's Ark? Could their ancestors have come originally from America (America)? Only geneticists or language experts will be able to figure it all out.

Why go back to the past when we have enough problems for today? Who will help us solve the problems of today?

We The People have both rights and responsibilities. We are to Evangelize each other through the practice of courtesy and through positive thoughtful planning for a positive earth. The first task is the evangelization of ourselves.

Why waste our energies complaining about one another when we have such infirmities within ourselves? Let's make ourselves into the model we perceive as optimum and let the neighbor labor on his own enhancement. The second task is to evangelize the churches. Let each one list his reasons for belief. Why should we try to make our friends believe just what we feel and think? Let's listen kindly to the opposition. Let's gather in communities of freedom where understanding and compassion are the keys to entry. The third task then is to describe a dream of what we want society to be. Do we want crass corporate power to rule the world? Do we want women to have equal rights? Do we want war and weapons throughout the earth? Do we want universal health care or drugs with horrendous side effects? The blueprint of our future world is up to us. Let's make a world with human rights for all.

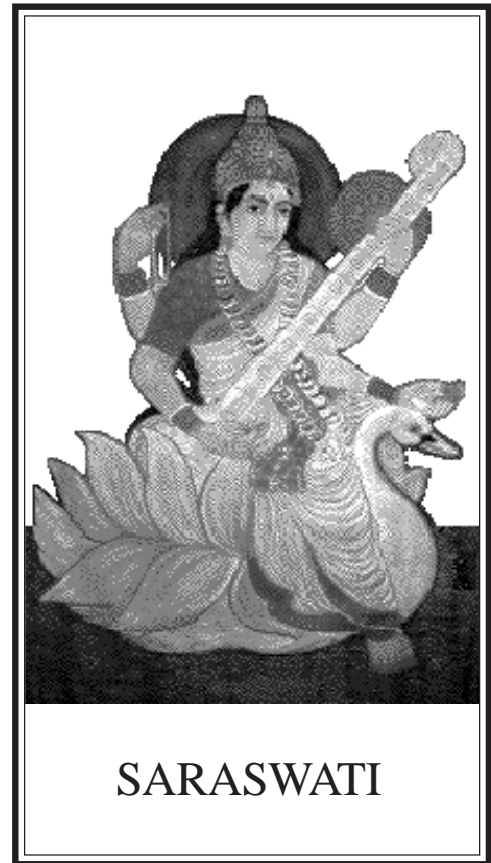
What would we like the churches of today to do? In all our actions, future generations will be affected, as we are affected by the actions of Noah and Abraham. Church leaders could announce their acceptance of women as equals by appointing them as parish administrators in places where there is need. Churches seem anxious to put down women by blaming them for abortion when another focus of blame could be on a social system that promotes the abuse of women and glorifies sexual attitudes that get women pregnant and then gives them no support. It's time to emphasize birth control, and have all persons use self control.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights dreams a great dream for all peoples. The United Nations writes up arms treaties to limit wars, and proposes accords on torture to help those who have suffered. Aid for indigenous people and rules to protect children are part of the dream of all the nations. When corporations rule the world, guns are put into the hands of children; nations are saddled with unjust debts; the earth and the peoples of earth undergo bombing and environmental degradation. There is this problem we call *war* and the shame of political aggrandizements that include the falling of the walls of Jericho, the turmoil of the Crusades, and the presentday military occupations of territories. The human being is not made for war, but to help the human race survive. Only those leaders who believe in compassion for all people will help to prosper the earth.

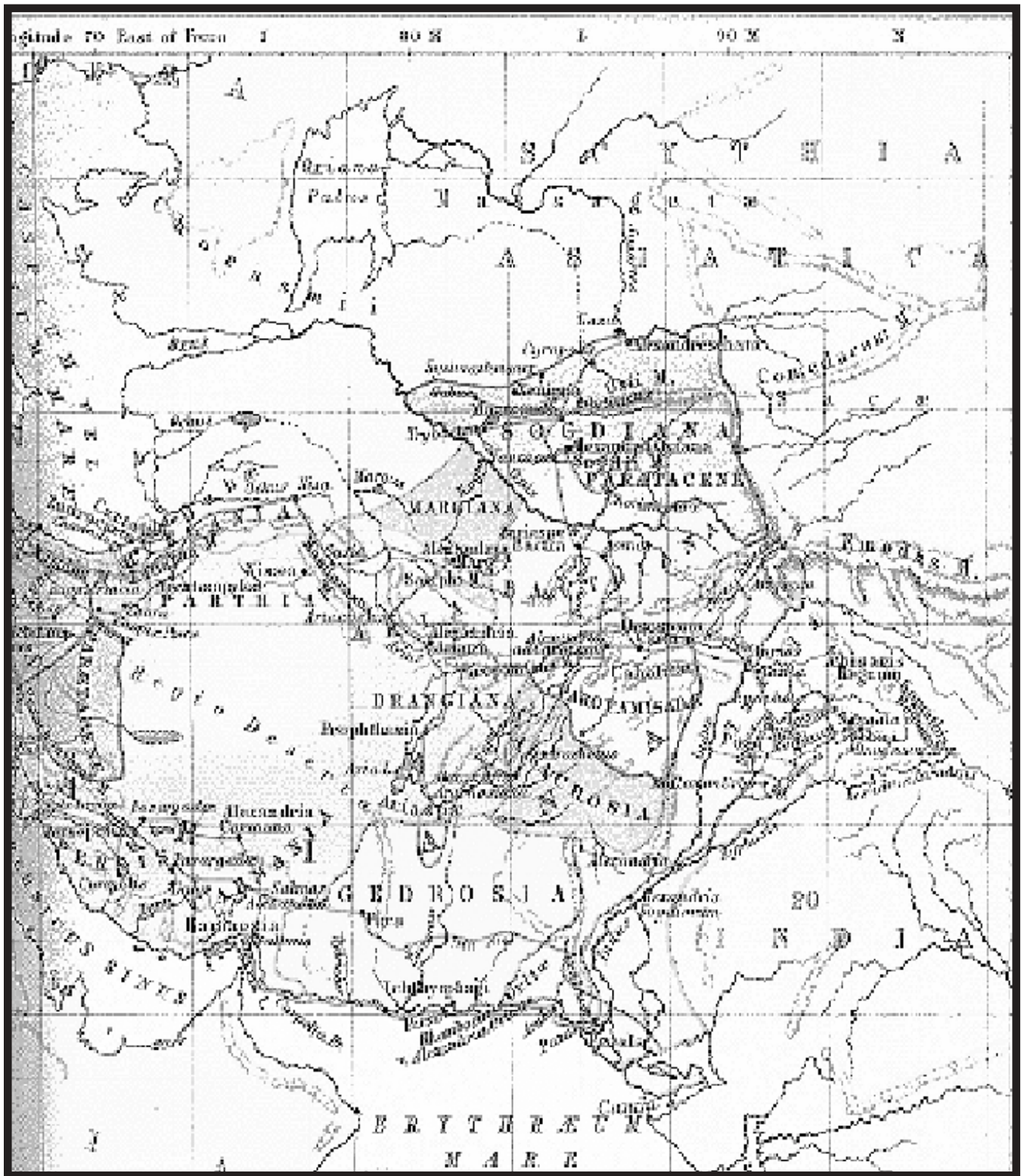


*From: Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge,
Brattleboro Vermont 1840, pp.624-625*

**Mythical
Ancestors
(forerunners
of Abraham
and Sara).**



From banner belonging to F. Delahanty



Near East and Mid East Territory Where the Shepherds and the Tribes Wandered

Classical Atlas, Ginn & Company, 1897, p. 19.