

Chapter VII

What Language Did the Storytellers Use?

Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. As men moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there. They said to each other, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth." But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower that the men were building. The Lord said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other." So the Lord scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. That is why it was called Babel- because there the Lord confused the language of the whole world. From there the Lord scattered them over the face of the whole earth. Genesis 11:1-9 The Tower of Babel.

Language is a wonderful gift. What would we humans do without it? Language helps us to express our emotions; it allows us to communicate heart-to-heart. What language does the mother deer use to encourage and protect her young? Do we need language to communicate with the God who made us? Did the early human in the Garden communicate with God in silence in the manner of present-day worshippers who meditate using the technique of Centering Prayer? Language sometimes gets us into trouble, such as enabling us to tell lies. Then there is the problem of not being able to understand the language of other people. We of today would surely not be able to understand the language spoken on the mythical continent of Mu.

Sanskrit is considered to be a candidate for a very early language, but not the earliest. We might ask ourselves what language was spoken in the Garden of Eden when God shouted out, "Adam, where are you?" What words were used when God told Noah to build a boat? Philologists can trace the development of Greek, Latin, and Hindi from earlier language forms. Many of those who try to reconstruct tribal travels believe that Indo-European was first spoken on the kurgan dotted steppes of Russia. Other languages such as Armenian intervene between the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea; and Albanian interjects itself in the Balkans. Were Albanians a group of white people who retreated to the mountains and refused to mix in? What about the Basques on the mountains in Spain with their red hair? Their language is different from Spanish. Jacob's father-in-law Laban had two daughters who he gave to Jacob in marriage, because Jacob had served him faithfully caring for Laban's sheep. Laban and Albany both have similar letters and mean "white."

Where did language start? One theory is that the nations came out of Africa, but another theory is that different branches of *homo* were evolving in different parts of the earth. Those in the northern regions may have been taller and bearded and spoken in yodels and musical tones. Those closer to the equator may have begun speaking with clicks to call animals or each other, as the Khoi-San. Those in the north would have words to describe cold and snow and polar bears. Those in the south would have words for palm trees and jungle birds. Different speech patterns would come about in such widely separated places.

Phelicia wants to begin with the supposition that there was a continent of Mu in a warm area, and that Mu had traders who used boats to transport their trade goods. This early trading language had no need for receipts. The traders could sell anything with hand signals and with their mouths, and they didn't have to leave any bills of sale. After awhile, a "paper trail" became more necessary. They began to use lines or fingers to indicate amounts or periods of time, or triangular symbols such as cuneiform, or hieroglyphics with pictures of the sun or moon to let their customers know when they planned to return. Sanskrit or other early languages from mythical places like Mu went by sea to Ecuador and India. Sanskrit plus other early languages developed into Aryan. Indo-Aryans inherited data and ideas from the Vedic religion, which also had background material from the region of the Mu disaster. How many times did volcanic eruptions stop civilizations in their tracks? How many survivors lived in caves keeping records of days and months, trying to renew the dreams of past prosperous times?

Before the speculated Mu disaster, traders had boats and trade routes that connected them with many of the sea ports of the world. Perhaps all the earth had basic words or sign language in common. One of the ports that the traders might have visited was Atlantis, which was somewhere in the Atlantic Ocean, either straddling the Atlantic Ridge or

prospering in the Caribbean. If it were outside the Gates of Hercules, the traders would also make trading calls inside the Gates of Hercules. They would know about the archipelagos of Italy and Greece. Atlantis was on the sea route between the trading sites in Africa and Central America. At some point in time, Atlantis went down.

Going further back, if there were a continent of Mu that had a volcanic accident, surely at each end of this disappeared continent, there would be vestiges of spoken language that would relate to the main language of Mu. Languages used in Madagascar and Borneo are descended from such a language. Then we have the Island of Taiwan that has managed to keep its own particular version of Chinese. Chinese picture writing is the same all over China, but the different territories of China have their own language to go with the pictures. The large Austronesian family of languages spread from Taiwan across the South Seas throughout the seafaring community of Polynesia. At the same time, visitors were coming from the Americas, adding their bit to the melting pot of language. As Chinese picture writing ties together the Chinese provinces, so does Arabic writing unite the countries in the Mideast, but the different areas reflect their own language and culture. For instance, Iran speaks an Indo-European language, but writes those words down in Arabic.

In some places, Ama means *mother*, and zone means *territory*. There is a myth about a race of warrior women who held sway in a distant region. These *Amazonians* have a name similar to the main river in South America. When the flood overtook South America, it may have destroyed a unique Amazonian society. There is not too great a distance between Africa and the Amazon, and women could sail boats and fish as well as men. People from Africa could have added their genes to the South American mix quite easily. Taking off from the equator in Africa, riding a current to the west with a good breeze, could get you across the Atlantic in jig time. To get back you would have to circle down the coast and find another current which would return you to Cape Town. This peopling of various areas could be followed through the centuries by checking on genetic and language developments.

When Europeans came to the Americas in 1492 there were a thousand different languages in the New World. This shows that the people in the Americas had been developing their various languages for a long time. Some accept the classification of these languages into three families: (1) Amerind who were first to be there, very long ago; (2) the Na-Dene from Canada; and (3) the Eskimo-Aleut. Johanna Nichols at Berkeley believes it takes about 60,000 years for 143 languages to emerge from a single founding group. (*The Settlement of the Americas*, Thomas Dillehay, p.245,246). Amerind speakers have much more variation in their language than the Na-Dene and Eskimo, which encourages the belief that many people came from many places and interacted with the original settlers of the Americas. Who was first? From skeletal finds, long-headed people were definitely here at 10,000BP. Perhaps Fuegians were in South America earlier. Early *homo sapiens* were here at 70,000BP or earlier, if we draw our conclusions from the number of years needed to diversify the language mixture.

Hokamish people spoke Hokan-Coahuiltecan language; there was Hohokum culture and Hokan language in both California and the Yucatan. In Utah they spoke Uto-Aztecan language which is a form of Nahuatl; in Mexico Aztecs also speak a version of Nahuatl, but Spanish is the main language there today. The Aztecs call themselves *Mexica* (*Mohica*?) The Athapaskan-speaking of North America and the Tibeto-Chinese of east Asia have long faces and narrow heads, while classic Mongoloids have short faces and round heads. The early female remains of Lucia from Brazil and Kennewick Man from the Columbia River area are long-headed non-Mongolian type. (*The Settlement of the Americas*, Dillehay, p.237.)

In Meso America the transition from wild foods to cultivated food took place around 5000-3000BCE; the lowlands in Chiapas and the Guatemala coast had fish and gardens; there were also gardens in highland basins around 1500BCE. (Betty Meggers reprint from *American Anthropologist*, March 1975, p.6.) Bananas and coconuts have been taken by humans from one location to another. Trade provided rulers with rare items that enhanced their prestige. (*Lost Cities of North and Central America*, David Childress, p.108).

The Olmec civilization appeared full-blown on the Mexican scene 1200BCE. The Vera Cruz coast (Atlantic side) is where colossal basalt stone heads and monolithic altars are found which are very hard to move. Other Olmec features are more dispersed such as jade carvings, writing, concept of zero, calendar, St. Andrew's cross, paw-wing and jaguar design, which are found on the Pacific coast at Guerrero, Mexico and in Guatemala. Besides Vera Cruz on the Atlantic coast, there were Olmec centers at LaVenta, Tres Zapotes, and San Lorenzo. (Betty Meggers, *American Anthropologist* March 1975 in *NEARA Journal Volume 31*, #1, 1997, p.4,7,8). Some American civilizations appear to have been built from 3000BCE to 1000AD on what may have been bases for earlier civilizations. What languages came to the Americas and when, is even more confusing than sorting out when the tribes arrived in the Mideast. The Mideast tribes used basic Aramaic to try to understand each other.

Employing carbon dating techniques, powerful tribes or dynasties of Mesopotamian Babylonia are approximately dated as follows: the Sumerians (3500-2300BCE); Akkadian (2300-1800BCE); Babylonian (1800-1100BCE); Hittites (1600-1200BCE); Kassites (1500-1100BCE); Mitanni (1500-1300BCE); Assyrian (1000-600BCE); neo-Babylonian (600BCE); neo-Chaldean (500BCE). Later dates for the Chaldean Dynasty or Babylonian Dynasty XI: Nabu-apla-usur (626-605BCE); Nabu-kudurri-usur (Nebuchadrezzar II) (605-562BCE); Amel-Marduk (562-560BCE); Nergal-sar-usur (560-556BCE); Labasi-Marduk (556BCE); Nabu-na'id (556-539BCE). (Info from <wsu.edu/~dee/meso/ amorites>) These dates give us a nice approximation of time which supports Jake's theory of a fairly recent version of earthly occupation.

Ashur-Awan II decreed that cities be built in barbarous waste lands and that conquered tribes live in them. Jake thinks this could be a workable idea for displaced persons of today. If we can understand the problems of the past that affect our present, then a society can act to overcome community drawbacks. Early ideas of God contained elements of fear which led to blood sacrifice of animals and humans. Forward thinking prophets urged unbloody sacrifice with the use of symbols. Others looking to the future saw service as pleasing to God, and also encouraged the building of loving community, but we still have problems giving respect to our fellow humans. The world has made little progress in answering the questions that have been plaguing humanity for ages, such as: What a good government should be; what a justice court should look like; or how the community could share resources.

The Chinese may have been a group of people who evolved slowly in the river valleys of China. Phelicia says there was farming in China about 7000BCE. Millet was their crop. The pig and the dog were domesticated. There was a matriarchal culture in China until about 1000BCE. There were also matriarchal Native American tribes and some Korean people were matriarchal. Tribes tended to be more matriarchal until the invention of iron weapons. A modern human from Liujiang (Guangxi) had similar features to the Minatakawa tribe of Okinawa. The Yangtze River area cultivated rice (from the Upper Mississippi?) rather than millet at 3000BCE. Around 1100BCE wheat started replacing millet and rice. Soy beans became common for feeding the starving and for animal food. The Yang-shao (millet and pigs culture) lived along the Huang Ho River (or the Yellow River, called that because of its load of yellow mud). Tribes were earliest near the mouth (the Shandong Province 5000BCE). Later they lived in Gansu Province about 3500BCE. The Qin made many innovations besides the Great Wall. Perhaps sections of the wall were already in place before the Qin. They used the ox-drawn plow, irrigation systems, water driven wheels, pedal operated chains of buckets, canals, and coinage.

For later dates in the Far East, the Hsia, Shang, and Chou Dynasties existed from 2100-770BCE. The Shang civilization was founded 1766BCE and overthrown by Chou in 1100BCE; Cheng-Chou was the first Shang capital, a walled city, perhaps the historical Po, founded by the leader, T'ang. An-Yang was the Bronze Age capital of China from 1400-1100BCE. In China there was an eclipse on October 16, 1876BCE during the reign of Zhong Kong, 4th King of the Xia Dynasty. The An-Yang area contained tombs of the Shang Dynasty from 1554BCE. China added to the mix of possible sea travels. One could boat from Ecuador to Polynesia, Polynesia to China/Korea; China/Korea to Cape of Good Hope; Africa to the Olmec Vera Cruz. (Betty Meggers, *American Anthropologist*, March 1975, pp.10,11). Travel by air was demonstrated in China in the 4th century BCE or perhaps earlier, by the use of manned kites. An-Yang cross shaped tombs contain human and animal bones, chariots, jade, and turquoise. There were drainage systems in the ancient cities of An-Yang and Cheng-Chou. In the Shang religion, the tiger represented the earth god (frequently the lower jaw is omitted); in Olmec, the jaguar was the earth or rain god (with a similar absence of the lower jaw). The Shang Dynasty (1750-1100BCE) and the Olmec people (1200-600BCE) both feature a cleft in the head, as a possible mark of rank. The Isthmus of Tehuantepec and China both had bark cloth. (Betty Meggers, *American Anthropologist* March 1975, pp.13-17.)

Stone beaters were used in the making of bark cloth in Taiwan at 2000BCE, in the Philippines at 1750BCE, and in Guatemala at 1000BCE. There were blow gun similarities between southeast Asian and South American groups; inconclusive as to whether produced by independent invention or diffusion. The Aztec game of patoli and Asiatic pachisi are similar. It seems that influences passed back and forth continuously by varying routes and methods. Ecuadorian Valdivian and Middle Joman Japan pottery have similarities. There has been no discovered Middle Joman civilization in between Ecuador and Japan, which leaves us with a cultural connection across the Pacific Ocean from Ecuador to Japan by current and wind. (Betty Meggers, *American Anthropologist*, March 1975, pp.19-21.)

Sailing rafts used currents and winds. There are two long ways for reed boats to go from China to the east coast of Central America. (1) China to India to Red Sea (Egypt) to tip of Africa to Oaxaca, Vera Cruz, and Guatemala. (2) North to the Siberian currents and down the North American Pacific coast line to Vera Cruz. If early sailors knew

their currents, there is a third way using the Equatorial counter-current. There are possibilities of travel from Egypt to the Mediterranean to Amazon, but not up-river! It is interesting to hear from the scientific community that at some point in very early time, the Amazon flowed in the opposite direction. Another piece of knowledge is that there were canals and intersecting rivers between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans in what is now Costa Rica. Today we have the Panama Canal, but from 10,000BCE to the time of the Spanish invasion, there was native access from the Atlantic to the Pacific across Middle America. Incas did not build the so-called Inca roads; the tribal people before them who spoke early Quichua language built the roads. The canals and rivers of Central America served the same purpose as does the Panama Canal today. The sailors did not have to get off their boats or transfer their loads to a foot trail in going from the Atlantic to the Pacific. European colonists did not build the American canal systems; they were surveyed and rebuilt in the United States due to the influence of George Washington. The Isthmus of Tehuantepec in Mexico shortened the distance between the Gulf of Mexico and the Pacific (between the Bay of Campeche and the Gulf of Tehuantepec). There is a boat building cultural connection between Lake Titicaca, Egypt, Sumer, and China. Early rafts and boats made of reeds were common place. Noah had a boat made of reeds and balsa logs like the one built by Thor Heyerdahl. In North America there were reed baskets. On Lake Titicaca today there are islands made of reeds with houses built on them. Considering the wild rice in the upper Mississippi Valley, the seeds of the rice were sent down river to Louisiana, and from there to China. Before the Chinese had rice, they used millet. The wild rice stalks in the Upper Mississippi were made into baskets and boats as on Lake Titicaca.

Who were the seafarers who made the interchange? Did Cain have a wife who followed him into exile? Was there a seafaring tribe who adopted the wanderer Cain? Was America used as a place of refuge for those out of favor? The people who are colored in-between brown and black, are the ones who have the most basic boats and the most basic baskets. Those who knew the natural currents and prevailing winds would take early boats (kyaks, reed boats, or boats of wood) to profitable destinations. They would know enough to avoid monsoon winds and could figure out what time of year was best for travel. Journeys might include (1) Egypt to Carthage to the Mediterranean to the Atlantic to the Mississippi; (2) Egypt to the Red Sea to India to the coast of Africa to South Africa to the Amazon or the West Indies; (3) Michigan to the Great Lakes to the St. Lawrence to England to the coast of Europe to Gibraltar to the Mediterranean to Babylonia; (4) China to India to South Africa to the Amazon to Vera Cruz to the Pacific and back to China; (5) Ecuador to Easter Island to China. These ideas arise from studying Thor Heyerdahl's expeditions. Early people observed how mats of plant materials floated down the Nile River with water birds on them enjoying the ride. There are also floating islands in Lake Titicaca with reed houses built on them to inspire builders of house-boats.

There were Negritos from the Philippines, the Andaman Islands, and Malaysia. They were little people. The ancient bones of "little people" have been found on Flores Island in Indonesia. Perhaps Indonesian little heads were not shrunken, but just "little people's" heads. There are also shorter people at the Cumbaya (Quito area) in Ecuador, living up in the hills. There are little people in the mountains of Tibet. Niah cave in Sarawak, Malaysia was inhabited by prehistoric humans at 40,000BP. This cave contains the oldest known human remains in Southeast Asia which includes a skull dated 40,000BP. The cave is 17 kilometers in from the South China sea coast. With flooding down through the centuries, some sites are underwater. Can we imagine what language was used by this 40,000BP population?

Cro-magnons were also known as Ibero-marusians. People should think about a red-haired population coming from America as well as believing that America was populated by people coming from Siberia. The Basques in the Spanish Pyrenees also have a red-haired gene. So did King David and the Gudah tribe. *Homo sapiens* and the *Neanderthals* had opportunity to mix genes. David could have had *Neanderthal* ancestors, as he was described as *ruddy*, and *Neanderthals* have been found to carry a red haired gene. The Basque language is Euskara, which is not an Indo-European tongue. Basque is agglutinative and polysynthetic. There may be a common origin for the Basque, the Sumerian, the Urartian, the Hurrian, the Etruscan, and the North Caucasian. Amerindians may have fled rising seas and gone to the Mediterranean Etruscan site. From there to Turkey; from there to Turkmenistan; from there to India; from there back west towards Palestine. They may have covered the Mediterranean after the disappearance of the *Neanderthals* (about 40,000BP). The present Basques may be descendents of those people who did the cave paintings at Lascaux in southwest France and at Altamira in Spain. Those people could be related to the *Neanderthals* or could have inhabited the same territory at the same time.

The Khoisans were two tribes, the Khoi and the San, combined. Perhaps they inhabited East Africa, or Arabia, or the Middle East in archaic times (Cavilli Sforza pp.193-4). They are small in size. They may have lived in the Arabian

Desert when it was moist and green. The Khoisan speak with an occasional click in their speech. Asian Mongoloids have brown eyes with epicanthic eye folds and fat padded lids, a characteristic also found in African Khoisan.

The Mongolian spot, a flat congenital birthmark (on the lower back near where the tail might be), is regularly present in East Asians and Turks as well as Mongolians and Hungarians. It is also prevalent among East Africans, Polynesians, and Native Americans. It usually disappears 3 to 5 years after birth. It can be blue, blue-gray, deep brown, or blue-black.

There are different varieties of language throughout the world. Modern day folk living on the Canary Islands still use whistle language, of which they have a vocabulary of 4000 words. Dogs bark at the full moon. Baboons sing to the full moon. Humans also sang to the moon and sang praises to the sun. A song composed in Early Sanskrit times sounds like birds chirping. There were also Swiss yodelers and native religious chants. Many of us humans sing, and sway to rhythm! The sounds hit our ears, we make sense of them, and interpret them with our bodies. Language transmits the wisdom of the earth. The guitar and the drum stir our souls. There are rhythms throughout the whole universe. Pythagoras, the fifth century BCE, recognized this: "There is geometry in the humming of the strings. There is music in the spacings of the spheres."

Many of the countries in South America, such as Guatemala, speak the Kitchua (Quiche) language. There is a connection between Quechuan and Arabic. Quechuan language has only three vowel sounds, a, i, and u. Likewise the Arabic language has three vowel sounds, a, i, and u. Did Arabic originate with the journey of Noah? These same vowels in Arabic and a South American tribe, help to prove the ancestry of Enoch through Noah to Abraham. Where did the Native Americans come from? Some of them will tell you that they were always here. Some will have stories of coming from the south, or coming out of caves, or coming from the underworld (which might mean the other side of the earth). The ancestors of Navajos and Apaches are Athapaskan speakers. They call themselves Dineh which means "the people." Dineh might call to mind the tribe of Dan. Another connection with the tribe of Dan is the very early Book of Dzyan (or Chan or Dan). There is also the Talitha du Danaan in Ireland (or tribe of Dan). The Tribe of Dan is described in the Bible as a sea power (Judges 5:17).

The Aramaic language was from Arameans and others and came into common use with many groups of people. Even Parthians used Aramaic script to write their Iranian language. Aramaic takes its name from Aram, the 5th son of Shem (or Sam, or Cham). Greek gradually displaced Aramaic after Alexander's conquest in 330BCE, but in 0-30 AD, Jesus spoke Aramaic. After Greek, came Arabic. Egyptians are not Semites but today they speak Arabic which is a Semitic tongue.

East and southeast Asia language groups are Sino-Tibetan (Chinese, Tibetan, and Burmese); Tai-Kadai (Thai and Laotian); and Austroasiatic (Vietnamese and Khmer). Cantonese and Mandarin are entirely different from each other, but they are written with the same script, so people think they are similar. McWhorter (in *The Story of Human Language*, pages 41-43) states there are about 1000 Austronesian languages; 500, Bantu; Native American, over 1000. Sanskrit, Latin, and Greek were Indo-European languages coming through the Kurgan area of Turkey and Russia about 4000BCE. Stones found in the Catskills with proto-Hebrew are really sounds written in Phoenician (carried by sea-farers on the ships of Tarshish). This language is primarily Semitic. In the Catskill Mountains in New York State there are the reservoirs, Shokan and Ashokan, which remind us of the Indian Prince Ashoka who promoted the Buddhist evangelization of the world. There is also a town in the Catskills called Phoenicia which makes us wonder if the Phoenician seafarers traded in that area. Place names sometimes stick when other signs of early residence fade away. Tocharian was a lost branch of Indo-European spoken by white people called the Tokharoi. Tocharian consisted of two languages; Tocharian A (Turfanian, Arsi, or East Tocharian). Arsi has to do with the ark and Noah. Tocharian B (Kuchean or West Tocharian) may be related to Ketchua (Quechua) speakers. Amharic (Ethiopian), Arabic, Hebrew, and Aramaic are Semitic languages. Extinct Semitic examples are Akkadian (written in cuneiform) and Phoenician. These could be forms of writing that developed into Hebrew.

Somewhere there was a first spoken word. Was it spoken in Malaysia, or in Mexico, or in Sumer? Early Sumerian words to be noted are: universe = *anki*; primeval sea = *alza*; heaven = *an*; earth = *ki*; realm = *kur*; paradise = *Dilman*. There is a list of Sumerian gods at <<http://home.comcast.net/~chris.s/sumer-faq.html#A1.6>> There are several Dilmuns in the Middle East. One is Dilmun in Agsu, Azerbaijan. Mesopotamian records named Dilmun as a trade partner. Could it be Bahrain in the Persian Gulf or Dili, Guizhou in China? Dilmun, Bahrain is an archipelago on the Persian Gulf off Saudi Arabia, an important trade center by 3rd millennium BCE. Could Dilmun, Bahrain be a port city leading to Dili on the Silk Road? Dili in China is inland. Dili sometimes means an elevation. Dili (Chiapa II) on the Gulf Coast of Vera Cruz is famous for San Andres figurines, which may have been at one time Quetzalcoatl figurines celebrating an

earlier culture of the Formative Period 1300 to 900BCE. Dilman is a worldwide term. Paradise is a long time human concept.

Jake concludes that we are not just talking about myth, but we are trying to say something about God. He maintains that his belief that God can do anything is a very necessary belief. Phelicia believes that a very early language with basic words requires an extra thinking process in the mind, in order to be spiritually understood. Out of this thinking process comes new words and more elaborate ideas. A little child can understand God's loving care with just a few words or a hug from a parent. A grown-up is ready to hear about a Good Spirit that penetrates all the earth, both spiritual and material. This Spirit can be further described and appreciated when enhanced language is available.

extra symbols.

Guttural: क ख ग घ ङ
ka kha ga gha ña

Palatal: च छ ज झ ञ
ca cha ja jha ña

Cerebral: ट ठ ड ढ ण
ṭa ṭha ḍa ḍha ṇa

Dental: त थ द ध न
ta tha da dha na

Labial: प फ ब भ म
pa pha ba bha ma

Semi-Vowel: य र ल व
ya ra la va

Silibant: श ष स
śa ṣa sa

Aspirate: ह
ha

Sample of Devanagari or Nagari script which is often used to interpret ancient Sanskrit writings.

It is an alphabet used in India and Nepal, written from left to right (like English), with a line across the tops of the letters.

<http://www.omniglot.com/writing/devanagari.htm>