

THE RISE AND FALL OF ATLANTIS

Preface

This compilation is primarily from the second volume of *The Secret Doctrine* (1888) by HP Blavatsky. It sketches out the occult features of the Fourth Race of Humanity and Atlantis, its homonymous continent. It has been researched and composed for the “White Lotus Day” organised by the United Lodge of Theosophists in Greece, and presented 14th May 2006 in a special gathering in Athens. “White Lotus” is an annual commemoration of the life and works of HP Blavatsky (1831–1891), founder of the modern Theosophical Movement.

Side captions double as subtitles for excerpts and impart salient points. When read sequentially, they also act as section summaries. A glossary has been provided at the end. Those who may not be familiar with the key terms of this prehistoric period may wish to consult it first.

The clarity, power, and majesty of Blavatsky’s writings are self-evident. Rather than paraphrasing her, a common but presumptuous trend these days, I have reproduced them *verbatim*—save the side captions and few explanatory notes. She being dead yet speaketh.¹ Towards the end of her introduction to *The Secret Doctrine*, Blavatsky reiterates what she has stated all along, clothed in the words of Montaigne:

Gentlemen, I have here made only a nosegay of culled flowers, and have brought nothing of my own but the sting that ties them.²

There now follows a synopsis and a passage introductory to the tone and spirit of this compilation, also from the pen of Blavatsky.

Christos A Bartzokas
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Synopsis

Atlantis was a global configuration of islands covering of what is now the mid-Atlantic Ocean, as well as portions of the Pacific, and had islands even in the Indian Ocean. Europe and America were connected by a land passage, of which Iceland, Madeira, and the other Atlantic islands are remnants.

Atlantis and its illustrious “Fourth Race” inhabitants sunk 856,000 years ago, coinciding with the elevation of the Alps.

Titans and Cyclopes of old belonged to the Atlantean Race. Progressively, the human frame consolidated and symmetrised. Two front eyes developed but the “seers” sinned and lost the third. After the separation of the sexes, Karma forced the creative gods to incarnate in mindless men. Then, sight and speech developed, for, language is coeval with reason. Humanity had passed the middle point in the Great Cycle. The door for further monads entering the human kingdom closed and the balance struck. Many of us are now working off the effects of the evil karmic causes produced by us in Atlantean bodies.

Prometheus is the pre-eminent Atlantean hero and philanthropist. He bestowed to animal man divine mind. But the gift was abused and became a curse. The mystery of the Fourth Race “falling” into matter explained: Angels fell but not Man. Eminent Atlanteans are still kindling the Promethean fire. Zoroaster, Ulysses, Noah, Kabiri, Telchines, and other heroic figures are none other than mankind’s divine instructors and true benefactors.

Atlantis was a land of beautiful and strong giants. Their initiates commemorated images of the five Races in stone for the instruction of future generations. Though perfected in materiality, they degenerated in spirituality. Black magic, bestiality, selfishness, and self-adoration spelled the demise of that proud race.

About the Secret Doctrine

It is humanity's common property.

In dealing with the secret annals and traditions of so many nations, whose very origins have never been ascertained on more secure grounds than inferential suppositions, in giving out the beliefs and philosophy of more than *prehistoric* races, it is not quite as easy to deal with the subject matter as it would be if only the philosophy of one special race, and its evolution, were concerned. The Secret Doctrine is the common property of the countless millions of men born under various climates, in times with which history refuses to deal, and to which esoteric teachings assign dates incompatible with the theories of Geology and Anthropology. The birth and evolution of the Sacred Science of the Past are lost in the very night of Time, and that even which is historic—*i.e.*, that which is found scattered hither and thither throughout ancient classical literature—is, in almost every case, attributed by modern criticism to lack of observation in the ancient writers, or to superstition born out of the ignorance of antiquity. It is, therefore, impossible to treat this subject as one would the ordinary evolution of an art or science in some well-known historical nation. It is only by bringing before the reader an abundance of proofs, all tending to show that in every age, under every condition of civilization and knowledge, the educated classes of every nation made themselves the more or less faithful echoes of one identical system and its fundamental traditions—that he can be made to see that so many streams of the same water must have had a common source from which they started. What was this source? If coming events are said to cast their shadows before, past events cannot fail to leave their impress behind them. It is, then, by those shadows of the hoary Past and their fantastic silhouettes on the external screen of every religion and philosophy, that we can, by checking them as we go along, and comparing them, trace out finally the body that produced them. There must be truth and fact in that which every people of antiquity accepted and made the foundation of its religions and its faith. (SD II, 794)

1. Prehistoric topology

Atlantis was a global configuration of islands covering of what is now the mid-Atlantic Ocean, as well as portions of the Pacific, and had islands even in the Indian Ocean. Europe and America were connected by a land passage, of which Iceland, Madeira, and the other Atlantic islands are remnants.

Adepts “believe the story of the Atlantis to be no fable” . . . but maintain that at different epochs of the past huge islands, and even continents, existed where now there is but a wild waste of waters. In those submerged temples and libraries the archæologist would find, could he but explore them, the materials for filling all the gaps that now exist in what we imagine is *history*. They say that at a remote epoch a traveller could traverse what is now the Atlantic Ocean, almost the entire distance by land and, crossing in boats from one island to another, where narrow straits then existed. (IU I, 558)

“Our races . . . have sprung from divine races” . . . Whether we deal with the Indian Rishis or Pitris; . . . Every nation has either the *seven* and *ten* Rishis-Manus and Prajâpatis; . . . One and all have been derived from the primitive Dhyani-Chohans of the Esoteric doctrine, or the “Builders” of the Stanzas (SD I). From Manu, Thoth-Hermes, Oannes-Dagon, and Edris-Enoch, down to Plato and Panodorus, all tell us of seven *divine* Dynasties, of seven Lemurian, and seven Atlantean divisions of the Earth; of the seven primitive and dual gods who descend from their celestial abode and reign on Earth, teaching mankind Astronomy, Architecture, and all the other sciences that have come down to us. These Beings appear first as “gods” and Creators; then they merge in nascent man, to finally emerge as “divine-Kings and Rulers.” But this fact has been gradually forgotten. (SD II, 365-66)

“Plato is the first sage among the classics who speaks at length of the divine Dynasties” . . . and locates them on a vast continent which he calls Atlantis. (SD II, 370-71)

. . . Theopompus, in his *Meropis*, made the priests of Phrygia and Asia Minor speak exactly as the priests of Sais did when they revealed to Solon the history and fate of Atlantis. According to Theopompus, it was a unique continent of an indefinite size and containing two countries inhabited by *two races*—a fighting, warrior race, and a pious, meditative race, which Theopompus symbolizes by two cities. The pious “city” was *continually visited by the gods*; the belligerent “city” was inhabited by various beings *invulnerable* to iron, liable to be *mortally wounded* only by stone and wood.”³ (SD II, 371)

“The Fourth Race Atlanteans were developed from a nucleus of Northern Lemurian Third Race men, . . . toward . . . what is now the mid-Atlantic Ocean.”

Atlantis was a continent of seven islands sacred to Proserpine; three to Pluto, Jupiter and Neptune.

“The inhabitants of the last island (Poseidonis⁶) preserved the memory of the prodigious magnitude of the Atlantic island[s].”

“It covered the whole of the . . . Atlantic . . . as well as portions of the . . . Pacific, and had islands even in the Indian Ocean.”
Like a massive horseshoe, its elevated ridge links Atlantis with old Lemuria in the Indian ocean.

. . . Their continent was formed by the coalescence of many islands and peninsulas which were upheaved⁴ in the ordinary course of time *and became ultimately the true home of the great Race known as the Atlanteans*. After this consummation was once attained it follows, as stated on the highest “occult” authority, that “Lemuria should no more be confounded with the Atlantis Continent than Europe with America.”⁵ (SD II, 333-34)

Do the Greeks, accused of borrowing a Hindu fiction (Atala), and inventing from it another (Atlantis), stand also accused of getting their geographical notions and the number seven from them? Says Proclus:

The famous Atlantis exists no longer, but we can hardly doubt that it did once, for Marcellus, who wrote a history of Ethiopian affairs, says that such, and so great an island once existed, and this is evidenced by those who composed histories relative to the external sea. For *they relate that in this time there were seven islands* in the Atlantic sea sacred to Proserpine; and besides these, three of immense magnitude, sacred to Pluto . . . Jupiter . . . and Neptune. And, besides this, the inhabitants of the last island (Poseidonis) *preserved the memory of the prodigious magnitude* of the Atlantic island as related by their ancestors, and of its governing for many periods all the islands in the Atlantic sea. From this *isle* one may pass to other large islands beyond, which are not far from the firm land, near which is the true sea.⁷ (SD II, 408-9)

That not only the last island of Atlantis,⁸ spoken of by Plato, but a large continent, first divided, and then broken later on into seven peninsulas and islands (called *dvipas*), preceded Europe, is sure. (SD II, 405)

. . . the ELEVATED RIDGE in the Atlantic basin, 9,000 feet in height, which runs for some two or three thousand miles southwards from a point near the British Islands, first slopes towards South America, then *shifts almost at right angle* to proceed in a SOUTH-EASTERLY *line toward the African coast*, whence it runs on southward to Tristan da Cunha. This ridge is a remnant of an Atlantic continent, and, could it be traced further, would establish the reality of a submarine horseshoe junction with a former continent in the Indian Ocean.⁹ (SD II, 333)

“Europe and America were connected by a land passage, of which Iceland, Madeira, and the other Atlantic islands are remnants.”

“The singular correspondence of the present flora of the Southern United States with that of the lignite flora of Europe induces [botanists] to believe that, *in the Miocene period, Europe and America were connected by a land passage, of which Iceland, Madeira, and the other Atlantic islands are remnants; that, in fact, the story of Atlantis, which an Egyptian priest told to Solon, is not purely fictitious, but rests on a solid historical basis. . . .* Europe of the Eocene period received the plants which spread over mountains and plains, valleys and river-banks [from Asia generally], neither exclusively from the south nor from the east.”¹⁰ (SD II, 781)

Atlanteans were the Fourth Race of Humanity on this manvantara. “After their physical FALL . . . men decreased considerably in stature.”

After the Great Flood of the Third Race (the Lemurians)—
“*Men decreased considerably in stature, and the duration of their lives was diminished. Having fallen down in godliness they mixed with animal races, and intermarried among giants and Pygmies [the dwarfed races of the Poles]. . . Many acquired DIVINE, more—UNLAWFUL knowledge, and followed willingly the LEFT PATH.*” (Commentary, xxxiii.)

Thus were the Atlanteans approaching destruction in their turn. How many geological periods it took to accomplish this *fourth* destruction? Who can tell. . . . But we are told that—

Stanza 44. THEY (*the Atlanteans*) BUILT GREAT IMAGES, NINE YATIS HIGH (27 feet)—THE SIZE OF THEIR BODIES. INNER FIRES HAD DESTROYED THE LAND OF THEIR FATHERS (*the Lemurians*). WATER THREATENED THE FOURTH (*Race*). (SD II, 331)

And the giants were dwarfed.

. . . it is after the destruction of “Lemuria” by subterranean fires that men went on steadily decreasing in stature—a process already commenced after their *physical* FALL—and that finally, some millions of years after, they reached between six and seven feet, and are now dwindling down (as the older Asiatic races) to nearer five than six feet. (SD II, 331-32)

“The earliest Palæolithic men in Europe . . . were of pure Atlantean and ‘Africo’ - Atlantean stocks.”

. . . (It must be borne in mind that by this time the Atlantis continent itself was a dream of the past.) Europe in the Quaternary epoch was . . . united to Northern Africa—or rather what is now Northern Africa—by a neck of land running across the present Straits of Gibraltar—Northern Africa thus constituting a species of extension of Spain, while a broad sea washed the great basin of the Sahara. . . . As to the African tribes . . . they crossed into Europe over the peninsula which made the Mediterranean an inland sea. . . . *The cyclic impulse downwards* weighs heavily on the stocks thus transplanted—the incubus of the *Atlantean Karma* is upon them. (SD II, 740-41)

2. Esoteric chronology

Atlantis and its illustrious “Fourth Race” inhabitants sunk 856,000 years ago, coinciding with the elevation of the Alps.

“ . . . the Atlanteans were postdiluvian to the Lemurians,” . . . and Lemuria was not submerged as Atlantis was, but was *sunk* under the waves, owing to earthquakes and subterranean fires, as Great Britain and Europe¹¹ will be one day. It is the ignorance of our men of science, who will accept neither the tradition that several continents have already sunk, nor the periodical law which acts throughout the Manvantaric cycle¹²—it is this ignorance that is the chief cause of all the confusion. (SD II, 266)

Some 700,000 years lapsed between the submersions of Lemuria and Atlantis. “. . . Lemuria and Atlantis] sank and were drowned, with all their ‘gods,’ yet, between the two catastrophes a short period of about some 700,000 years elapsed, Lemuria flourishing and ending her career just about that trifling lapse of time before the early *Eocene* age . . . Behold *the relics of that once great race in some of the flat-headed aborigines of your AUSTRALIA.*”¹³ (SD II, 779)

The Giant Atlanteans perished some 850,000¹⁴ years ago; their last remnant, 11,000 years. . . . the last three family races of the fourth Sub-race of the Fifth Root-race, each of which must have lived approximately from 25 to 30,000 years. The first of these (the “Aryan-Asiatics”) witnessed the doom of the last of the populations of the “giant Atlanteans” who perished some 850,000 years ago (the *Ruta and Daitya*¹⁵ Island-Continents) toward the close of the *Miocene* Age.¹⁶ The fourth sub-race witnessed the destruction of the last remnant of the Atlanteans—the *Aryo-Atlanteans* in the last island of Atlantis, namely, some 11,000 years ago. (SD II, 433)

Geologists cannot place the *Miocene* only so short a way back as 850,000 years; whatever they do, it is several million years ago that the main Atlantis perished. (SD II, 314 fn)

“The sinking of the Atlantis . . . began during the *Miocene* period . . .” . . . and it culminated first in the *final disappearance of the large continent, an event coincident with the elevation of the Alps*, and second, in the sinking of the last of the fair islands mentioned by Plato.”¹⁷ (SD II, 778)

Atlantis and the Phlegyan isle are not the only record that is left of the deluge. China has also her tradition and the story of an island or continent . . . (SD II, 365)

Hence the destruction, besides Atlantis, of the Phlegya. See Pausanias and Nonnus, who both tell how:

From its deep-rooted base the Phlegyan isle
Stern Neptune shook, and plunged beneath the waves

Its impious inhabitants”¹⁸ (SD II, 144)

Coinciding with the elevation of the Alps.

“Was there, as some have believed, an Atlantis?—a continent or an Archipelago of large islands, occupying the area of the North Atlantic? There is, perhaps, nothing unphilosophical in the hypothesis; for since, as geologists state, ‘*The Alps have acquired 4,000, and even in some places more than 10,000 feet of their present altitude since the commencement of the Eocene period*’¹⁹—*a post-Miocene depression might have carried the hypothetical Atlantis into almost abysmal depths.*”²⁰ (SD II, 778)

How old is Mother Earth? February 2006 was its 1,972,949,107th anniversary!

In Hindu philosophy, one lifetime of the earth is called a day of Brahmâ. It is said to last 4,320,000,000 years, and to be followed by a night of Brahmâ of equal length. A day of Brahmâ, or kalpa, consists of 14 manvantaras of 306,720,000 years each, framed by 15 sandhis (a “dawn” or “twilight”) of 1,728,000 years each. Each manvantara of 306,720,000 years consists of 71 mahâ-yugas of 4,320,000 years. Each mahâ-yuga consists of a krita- (or satya-) yuga of 1,728,000 years, a tretâ-yuga of 1,296,000 years, a dvâpara-yuga of 864,000 years, and a kali-yuga of 432,000 years. (SD II, 69-70)

We are currently in the kali-yuga of the twenty-eighth age (mahâ-yuga) of the seventh manvantara (IU I, 32). The kali-yuga began in February 3102 BC.²¹ On the basis of this information, the time that has elapsed since the beginning of the present day of Brahmâ up to [February 2006] can be calculated as follows:

6 manvantaras (1,840,320,000) +
7 sandhis (12,096,000) +
27 mahâ-yugas (116,640,000) +
1 krita-yuga (1,728,000) +
1 tretâ-yuga (1,296,000) +
1 dvâpara-yuga (864,000) +
Beginning of kali-yuga (3102 + 2006 - 1) +²²
= 1,972,949,107 years.²³

“Humanity has existed upon it for the last 18,000,000 years. This period was preceded by 300,000,000 years of the mineral and vegetable development.”
(SD II, 149)

Hindu Occultism teaches that the Vaivasvata Manu Humanity is eighteen million and odd years old. We say, yes; but only so far as *physical*, or approximately physical, man is concerned, who dates from the close of the Third Root-Race. Beyond that period MAN, or his filmy image, may have existed for 300 million years, for all we know; *since we are not taught figures* which are and will remain secret with the Masters of Occult Science, as justly stated in *Esoteric Buddhism*. Moreover, whereas the Hindu Purânas speak of one Vaivasvata Manu,²⁴ we affirm that there were several, the name being a generic one. (SD II, 251)

Out of four prehistoric continents, three disappeared.

Three submerged, or otherwise destroyed, continents—the first “continent” of the First Race prevailing to the last and existing to this day—are described in the occult Doctrine, the *Hyperborean*, the *Lemurian* (adopting the name now known in Science), and the *Atlantean*. Most of Asia issued from under the waters after the destruction of Atlantis, Africa came still later, while Europe is the fifth and the latest—portions of the two Americas being far older. But of these, more anon. The Initiates who recorded the *Vedas*—or the Rishis of our Fifth Race—wrote at a time when Atlantis had already gone down. Atlantis is the fourth continent that *appeared*, but *the third that disappeared*. (SD II, 606 fn)

“It is asked by some Theosophists: ‘What will Atlantis be like when raised?’ ”

. . . Were the *same* identical lands of Atlantis that were submerged to be raised again, then they would, indeed, be *barren for ages*. Because the Atlantic sea-bottom is covered with some 5,000 feet of chalk at present, and more is forming—a new “cretaceous formation” of strata, in fact—is no reason why, when the time for a new continent to appear arrives, a geological convulsion and upraising of the sea bottom should not dispose of these 5,000 feet of chalk for the formation of some mountains and 5,000 more come to the surface. The racial cataclysms are not a Noah’s deluge of forty days—a kind of Bombay monsoon. (SD II, 325)

3. Titans and Cyclopes of old belonged to the Atlantean Race

Progressively, the human frame consolidated and symmetrised. Two front eyes developed but the “seers” sinned and lost the third.

“It has been often remarked by observant writers, that the ‘origin of nearly every popular myth and legend could be traced invariably to a fact in Nature.’ ”²⁵

. . . the Titans and Cyclopes of old really belonged to the Fourth (Atlantean) Race, and . . . all the subsequent legends and allegories found in the Hindu *Purânas* and the Greek Hesiod and Homer, were based on the hazy reminiscences of real Titans—men of a superhuman tremendous physical power, which enabled them to defend themselves, and hold at bay the gigantic monsters of the Mesozoic and early Cenozoic times—and of actual Cyclopes—three-eyed mortals.

In these fantastic creations of an exuberant subjectivism, there is always an element of the objective and real. The imagination of the masses, disorderly and ill-regulated as it may be, could never have conceived and fabricated *ex nihilo* so many monstrous figures, such a wealth of extraordinary tales, had it not had, to serve it as a central nucleus, those floating reminiscences, obscure and vague, which unite the broken links of the chain of time to form with them the mysterious, dream foundation of our collective consciousness. (SD II, 293)

“The possession of a physical third eye . . . was enjoyed by the men of the Third Root-Race down to nearly the middle period of Third Sub-race of the Fourth Root-Race,”

. . . when the consolidation and perfection of the human frame made it disappear from the outward anatomy of man.

Psychically and spiritually, however, its mental and visual perceptions lasted till nearly the end of the Fourth Race, when its functions, owing to the materiality and depraved condition of mankind, died out altogether before the submersion of the bulk of the Atlantean continent. (SD II, 306)

“. . . the early Fourth Race may have been three-eyed, without having necessarily a third eye in the middle of the brow, like the legendary Cyclops . . . ”

. . . spiritual and psychic *involution* proceeds on parallel lines with physical *evolution*; . . . the *inner* senses—innate in the first human races—atrophied during racial growth and the material development of the outer senses; . . . [Occultists] understand the meaning of this passage in the *Commentaries* which says:

“There were four-armed human creatures in those early days of the male-females [hermaphrodites]; with one head, yet three eyes. They could see before them and behind them.”²⁶ A KALPA later [after the separation of the sexes] men having fallen into matter, their spiritual vision became dim; and co-ordinately the third eye commenced to lose its power. . . . When the Fourth [Race] arrived at its middle age, the inner vision had to be awakened, and acquired by artificial stimuli, the process of which was known to the old sages.²⁷ . . . The third eye likewise,

getting gradually PETRIFIED,²⁸ soon disappeared. The double-faced became the one-faced and the eye was drawn deep into the head and is now buried under the hair. During the activity of the inner man [during trances and spiritual visions] the eye swells and expands. The Arhat sees and feels it and regulates his action accordingly
The undefiled Lanoo [disciple, chela] need fear no danger; he who keeps himself not in purity [who is not chaste] will receive no help from the 'deva eye.' ”

Unfortunately not. The “deva-eye” exists no more for the majority of mankind. The *third eye is dead*, and acts no longer; but it has left behind a witness to its existence. This witness is now the PINEAL GLAND. As for the “four-armed” men, it is they who become the prototypes of the four-armed Hindu gods . . . (SD II, 294-95)

But they lost “their all-penetrating *spiritual eye*. . . . The two front eyes were fully developed as physical organs only in the beginning of the Fourth Race.”

Greece had her *Hyperborean* as well as her *Southern Apollo*. Thus nearly all the gods of Egypt, Greece, and Phœnicia, as well as those of other Pantheons, are of a northern origin and originated in Lemuria, towards the close of the Third Race, after its full physical and physiological evolution had been completed. All the “fables” of Greece were built on historical facts, if that history had only passed unadulterated by myths to posterity. The “one-eyed” Cyclopes, the giants fabled as the sons of *Cœlus* and *Terra*—three in number, according to Hesiod—were the last three sub-races of the Lemurians, the “one-eye” referring to the Wisdom-eye;²⁹ for the two front eyes were fully developed as physical organs only in the beginning of the Fourth Race. The allegory of Ulysses, whose companions were devoured while the king of Ithaca was saved by putting out with a firebrand the eye of Polyphemus, is based upon the psycho-physiological atrophy of the “third” eye. (SD II, 769)

“THE ‘THIRD EYE’ IS INDISSOLUBLY CONNECTED WITH KARMA.” It was lost when man sinned.

. . . The tenet is so mysterious that very few have heard of it. The “eye of Siva” did not become entirely atrophied before the close of the Fourth Race. When spirituality and all the divine powers and attributes of the deva-man of the Third had been made the hand-maidens of the newly-awakened physiological and psychic passions of the physical man, instead of the reverse, the eye lost its powers. But such was³⁰ the law of Evolution, and it was, in strict accuracy, no FALL. The sin was not in using those newly-developed powers, but in *misusing* them; in making of the tabernacle, designed to contain a god, the fane of every *spiritual* iniquity. And if we say “sin” it is merely that everyone should understand our meaning; as the term *Karma* would be the right one to use in this case; . . . there can be no physical iniquity. The body is simply the

irresponsible organ, the tool of the *psychic*, if not of the “Spiritual man.” While in the case of the Atlanteans, it was precisely the Spiritual being which sinned . . . Thus it is in those days that the heaviest Karma of the Fifth Race was generated by our Monads. (SD II, 302)

4. After the separation of the sexes, Karma forced the creative gods to incarnate in mindless men.

Then, sight and speech developed, for, language is coeval with reason.

Speech and sight developed simultaneously. *Human* speech, as known to us, came into being in the Root-race that preceded ours—the *Fourth* or the “Atlantean”—at the very beginning of it, in sub-race No. 1; and simultaneously with it were developed *sight*—as a physical sense—while the four other senses (with the two additional—the 6th and 7th—of which science knows nothing as yet)—remained in their latent, undeveloped state as physical senses, although fully developed as spiritual faculties. Our sense of *hearing* developed only in the 3rd sub-race. Thus, if human “speech”—owing to that absence of the sense of hearing—was in the beginning even less than what we would call a whispered speech, for it was a mental articulation of sounds rather than anything else, something like the systems we now see worked out for the Deaf and Dumb, still it is easy to understand how, even from those early days, “speech” became associated with “sight,” or, in other words, people could understand each other and *talk* with the help of only *sight* and *touch*. “Sound is *seen* before it is heard”—says the *Book of Kiu-ti*. The flash of lightning precedes the clap of thunder. As ages went by mankind fell with every new generation lower and lower *into matter*, the physical smothering the spiritual, until the whole set of senses—that had formed during the first three Root-races but one SENSE, namely, *spiritual perception*—finally fell asunder to form henceforth five distinct senses. (BCW VII, 68)

Speech developed³¹ in the following order:

I. Monosyllabic speech; that of the first approximately fully developed human beings at the close of the Third Root-race, the “golden-colored,” yellow-complexioned men, after their separation into sexes, and the full awakening of their minds. Before that, they communicated through what would now be called “thought-transference,” though, with the exception of the Race called the “Sons of Will and Yoga”—the first in whom the “Sons of Wisdom” had incarnated—thought was but very little developed in nascent physical man, and never soared above a low terrestrial level. Their physical bodies belonging

to the Earth, their Monads remained on a higher plane altogether. Language could not be well developed before the full acquisition and development of their reasoning faculties. This monosyllabic speech was the vowel parent, so to speak, of the monosyllabic languages mixed with hard consonants, still in use amongst the yellow races which are known to the anthropologist.³²

II. These linguistic characteristics developed into the agglutinative languages. The latter were spoken by some Atlantean races, while other parent stocks of the Fourth Race preserved the mother-language. And as languages have their cyclic evolution, their childhood, purity, growth, *fall into matter*, admixture with other languages, maturity, decay and finally death,³³ so the primitive speech of the most civilized Atlantean races—that language, which is referred to as “Rākshasi Bhasha,” in old Sanskrit works—decayed and almost died out. While the “cream” of the Fourth Race gravitated more and more toward the apex of physical and intellectual evolution, thus leaving as an heirloom to the nascent Fifth (the Aryan) Race the inflectional, highly developed languages, the agglutinative decayed and remained as a fragmentary fossil idiom, scattered now, and nearly limited to the aboriginal tribes of America.

III. The inflectional speech—the root of the Sanskrit, very erroneously called “the elder sister” of the Greek, instead of its mother—was the first language (now the mystery tongue of the Initiates, of the Fifth Race). (SD II, 198-200)

**Arabs and Jews
are Semites.**

At any rate, the “Semitic” languages are the bastard descendants of the first phonetic corruptions of the eldest children of the early Sanskrit. . . . The Semites, especially the Arabs, are later Aryans—degenerate in spirituality and perfected in materiality. To these belong all the Jews and the Arabs. The former are a tribe descended from the Chandalas of India, the outcasts, many of them ex-Brahmans, who sought refuge in Chaldea, in Sind, and Asia (Iran), and were truly born from their father A-bram (no-Brahman) some 8,000 years B.C. The latter, the Arabs, are the descendants of those Aryans who would not go into India at the time of the dispersion of nations, some of whom remained on the borderlands thereof, in Afghanistan and Kabul, and along the Oxus, while others penetrated into and invaded Arabia. (SD II, 200)

5. Humanity had passed the middle point in the Great Cycle

The door for further monads entering the human kingdom closed and the balance struck. Many of us are now working off the effects of the evil karmic causes produced by us in Atlantean bodies.

No vacancies in the Human Kingdom. Unlike the others, the Fourth has no “sister” Globe on the same plane as itself, and it thus forms the fulcrum of the “balance” represented by the whole chain. It is the sphere of final evolutionary adjustments, the world of Karmic scales, the Hall of Justice, where the balance is struck which determines the future course of the Monad during the remainder of its incarnations in the cycle. And therefore it is, that, after this central turning-point has been passed in the Great Cycle,—*i.e.*, after the middle point of the Fourth Race in the Fourth Round on our Globe—no more Monads can enter the human kingdom. The door is closed for this Cycle and the balance struck. (SD I, 182)

“No fresh Monads have incarnated since the middle-point of the Atlanteans.” It was stated that Karma-Nemesis, whose bond-maid is Nature, adjusted everything in the most harmonious manner; and that, therefore, the fresh pouring-in, or arrival of new Monads, had ceased as soon as Humanity had reached its full physical development. No fresh Monads have incarnated since the middle-point of the Atlanteans. Hence, remembering that, save in the case of young children, and of individuals whose lives were violently cut off by some accident, no Spiritual Entity can re-incarnate before a period of many centuries has elapsed, such gaps alone must show that the number of Monads is necessarily finite and limited. Moreover, a reasonable time must be given to other animals for their evolutionary progress.

Hence the assertion that many of us are now working off the effects of the evil Karmic causes produced by us in Atlantean bodies. The Law of KARMA is inextricably interwoven with that of Re-incarnation. (SD II, 303)

“The only exceptions to the rule” . . . [that after the middle point of the Fourth Race in the Fourth Round on our Globe—no more Monads can enter the human kingdom] are the “dumb races,” whose Monads are already within the human stage, in virtue of the fact that these “animals” are later than, and even half descended from man, their last descendants being the anthropoid and other apes. These “human presentments” are in truth only the distorted copies of the early humanity. (SD I, 183)

6. Prometheus is the pre-eminent Atlantean hero and philanthropist

He bestowed to animal man divine mind. But the gift was abused and became a curse.

Thy Godlike crime was to be kind,
To render with thy precepts less
The sum of human wretchedness,
And strengthen Man with his own mind;

—Lord Byron, Prometheus (1816)

“Creative powers in man were the gift of divine wisdom, not the result of sin.”

. . . This is clearly instanced in the paradoxical behaviour of Jehovah, who first *curse*s Adam and Eve (or Humanity) for the supposed committed crime, and then *blesses* his “chosen people” by saying “Be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth.”³⁴ The curse was not brought on mankind by the Fourth Race, for the comparatively sinless Third Race, the still more gigantic Antediluvians, had perished in the same way; hence the Deluge was no punishment, but simply a result of a periodical and geological law. Nor was the curse of KARMA called down upon them for seeking *natural* union, as all the mindless animal-world does in its proper seasons; but, for abusing the creative power, for desecrating the divine gift, and wasting the life-essence for no purpose except bestial personal gratification. When understood, the third chapter of *Genesis* will be found to refer to the Adam and Eve of the closing Third and the commencing Fourth Races. In the beginning, conception was as easy for woman as it was for all animal creation. Nature had never intended that woman should bring forth her young ones “in sorrow.” (SD II, 410)

“There never was an original sin, but only an abuse of physical intelligence”

. . . —the psychic being guided by the animal, and both putting out the light of the spiritual. [The true theosophist] will say, “All ye who can read between the lines, study ancient wisdom in the old dramas—the Indian and the Greek; read carefully the one just mentioned, one enacted on the theatres of Athens 2,400 years ago, namely *Prometheus Bound*.” The myth belongs to neither Hesiod nor Æschylus;³⁵ but, as Bunsen says, it “is older than the Hellenes themselves,” for it belongs, in truth, to the dawn of human consciousness. The *Crucified* Titan is the personified symbol of the collective Logos, the “Host,” and of the “Lords of Wisdom” or the HEAVENLY MAN, who incarnated in Humanity. Moreover, as his name *Pro-metheus*, meaning “he who sees before him” or futurity, shows³⁶—in the arts he devised and taught to humanity, psychological insight was not the least. For as he complains to the daughters of Oceanus:

Of prophecies the various modes I fixed,
 And among dreams did first discriminate
 The truthful vision . . . and mortals guided
 To a mysterious art.
 All arts to mortals from Prometheus came (vs. 484-506—
 SD II, 413)

**“Karma ‘bruised the heel’ ”
 of the Atlanteans when
 they turned “the holy
 mystery of procreation
 into animal gratification.”**

Since that period, however, during the evolution of the Fourth Race, there came enmity between its seed, and the “Serpent’s” seed, the seed or product of *Karma* and divine wisdom. For the seed of woman or lust, *bruised the head* of the seed of *the fruit of wisdom and knowledge*, by turning the holy mystery of procreation into animal gratification; hence the law of Karma “bruised the *heel*” of the Atlantean race, by gradually changing physiologically, morally, physically, and mentally, the whole nature of the Fourth Race of mankind,³⁷ until, from the healthy King of animal creation of the Third Race, man became in the Fifth, our race, a helpless, scrofulous being, and has now become the wealthiest heir on the globe to constitutional and hereditary diseases, the most consciously and intelligently bestial of all animals! (SD II, 410-11)

**The fire of self-
 consciousness “has
 changed periodical instinct
 into chronic animalism
 and sensuality.”**

But, with the arts, the fire received has turned into the greatest curse: the animal element, and *consciousness* of its possession, has changed periodical instinct into chronic animalism and sensuality.³⁸ It is this which hangs over humanity like a heavy funereal pall. Thus arises the responsibility of free-will; the Titanic passions which represent humanity in its darkest aspect; “the restless insatiability of the lower passions and desires when, with self-asserting insolence, they bid defiance to the restraints of law.”³⁹ (SD II, 412)

**“The gift of Prometheus
 thus became a CURSE.”**

. . . —though *foreknown* and *foreseen* by the HOST personified in that personage, as his name well shows.⁴⁰ It is in this that rests, at one and the same time, its sin and its redemption. For the Host that incarnated in a portion of humanity, though led to it by Karma or *Nemesis*, preferred free-will to passive slavery, intellectual self-conscious pain and even torture—“while myriad time shall flow”—to inane, imbecile, instinctual beatitude. Knowing such an incarnation was premature and not in the program of nature, the heavenly host, “Prometheus,” still sacrificed itself to benefit thereby, at least, one portion of mankind.⁴¹ But while saving man from mental darkness, they inflicted upon him the tortures of the self-consciousness of his responsibility—the result of his free will—besides every ill to which mortal man and flesh are heir to. This torture Prometheus accepted for himself, . . . which was still unachieved at that period of formation. (SD II, 420-21)

**And “the Promethean myth
is a prophecy indeed.”**

. . . It points to the last of the mysteries of cyclic transformations, in the series of which mankind, having passed from the ethereal to the solid physical state, from spiritual to physiological procreation, is now carried onward on the opposite arc of the cycle, toward that second phase of its primitive state, when *woman knew no man*, and human progeny *was created, not begotten*. (SD II, 415)

**But Prometheus has
suffered in vain and, to
this day, remains
unrecognised and
unthanked by those
He saved “from
mental darkness.”**

This is the real CURSE from the physiological standpoint . . . The intellectual evolution, in its progress hand-in-hand with the physical, has certainly been a curse instead of a blessing—a gift quickened by the “Lords of Wisdom,” who have poured on the human *manas* the fresh dew of their own spirit and essence. The divine Titan has then suffered in vain; and one feels inclined to regret his benefaction to mankind, and sigh for those days so graphically depicted by Æschylus, in his *Prometheus Bound*, when, at the close of the first Titanic age (the age that followed that of ethereal man, of the pious Kandu and Pramlochâ), nascent, physical mankind, still mindless and (physiologically) senseless, is described as—

..... Seeing, [they] saw in vain;
Hearing, they heard not; but like shapes in dreams,
Through the long time all things at random mixed. (vs.
447-50)

Our *Saviors*, the Agnishvatta and other divine “Sons of the Flame of Wisdom” (personified by the Greeks in Prometheus⁴²), may well, in the injustice of the human heart, be left unrecognized and unthanked. They may, in our ignorance of the truth, be indirectly cursed for Pandora’s gift; but to find themselves proclaimed and declared by the mouth of the clergy, the EVIL ONES, is too heavy a Karma for “Him” who dared alone”—when Zeus “ardently desired” to quench the entire human race—to save “that mortal race” from perdition, or, as the suffering Titan is made to say:

From sinking blasted down to Hades’ gloom
For this by these dire tortures I am bent,
Grievous to suffer, piteous to behold,
I who did mortals pity ! . . .” (vs. 237-40).

The chorus remarking very pertinently:

Vast boon was this thou gavest unto mortals (vs. 253).

Prometheus answers:

Yea, and besides ’twas I that gave them fire,
CHOR.: Have now these short-lived creatures flame-eyed fire?
PROM.: Ay, and by it full many arts will learn. (vs. 254-56)
SD II, 411-12)

7. Angels fell but not Man

The mystery of the Fourth Race “falling” into matter explained.

Angels fell but not Man. . . . in order that [a student] may correctly comprehend the full meaning of the Fall, so mystic and transcendental is it in its real significance, [he] must be told at once the details which preceded this event; of which event modern theology has formed a pivot on which its most pernicious and absurd dogmas and beliefs are made to turn.

The archaic commentaries explain . . . that, of the Host of Dhyanis, whose turn it was to incarnate as the *Egos* of the immortal, but, *on this plane, senseless* monads—that some “obeyed” (the law of evolution) immediately when the men of the Third Race became physiologically and physically ready, *i.e.*, when they had separated into sexes. These were those early conscious Beings who, now adding conscious knowledge and will to their inherent Divine purity, *created* by *Kriyasakti* the semi-Divine man, who became the seed on earth for future adepts. Those, on the other hand, who, jealous of their intellectual freedom (unfettered as it then was by the bonds of matter), said:—“We can choose . . . we have wisdom,”⁴³ and incarnated far later—these had their first Karmic punishment prepared for them. They got bodies (physiologically) inferior to their astral models, because their *chhayas* had belonged to progenitors of an inferior degree in the seven classes. As to those “Sons of Wisdom” who had “deferred” their incarnation till the Fourth Race, which was already tainted (physiologically) with sin and impurity, they produced a terrible cause, the Karmic result of which weighs on them to this day. It was produced in themselves, and they became the carriers of that seed of iniquity for æons to come, because the bodies they had to inform had become defiled through their own procrastination.⁴⁴

This was the “Fall of the angels,” because of their rebellion against Karmic Law. The “fall of *man*” was no fall, *for he was irresponsible*. But “Creation” having been invented [by theologians] on the dualistic system as the “prerogative of God alone,” the legitimate *attribute* patented by theology in the name of an *infinite* deity of their own making, this power had to be regarded as “Satanic,” and as an usurpation of divine rights.⁴⁵ (SD II, 227-28)

8. Eminent Atlanteans are still kindling the Promethean fire

Zoroaster, Ulysses, Noah, Kabiri, Telchines, and other heroic figures are none other than mankind's divine instructors and true benefactors.

"All the Avatars of Vishnu are said to come originally from the White Island." Neither Atlantis, nor yet Sankha-dvipa, was ever called "White Island." When tradition says that "the White Island became black on account of the sins of people" it only means the denizens of the "White Island," or Siddhapura, or Sveta dvipa, who descended to the Atlantis of the Third and Fourth races, to "inform the latter; and who, having incarnated, became black with sin"—a figure of speech. All the Avatars of Vishnu are said to come originally from the White Island. According to Tibetan tradition the White Island is the only locality which escapes the general fate of other dvipas and can be destroyed by neither fire nor water, for—it is the "eternal land." (SD II, 408 fn)

White Island was the nursery of the first Zarathustra. . . . Some ["mythical" and "fabulous" islands and lands] *are not of this earth*, but they still exist. The "White Island" and *Atala*, at all events, are no myths, since the latter was the name contemptuously applied by the earliest pioneers of the Fifth Race to the land of Sin—Atlantis, in general, not to Plato's island alone; . . . This was when it yet had its "seven holy rivers that washed away all sin," and its "seven districts, wherein there was no dereliction of virtue, no contention, no deviation from virtue," as it was then inhabited by the caste of the *Magas*—that caste which even the Brahmans acknowledged as not inferior to their own—and which was the nursery of the first Zarathushtra.

. . . the *Magas* are the Magi of Chaldea, and their class and worship were born on the earlier Atlantis, in *Sâka-dvipa*, the Sinless. [They] . . . are the forefathers of the fire-worshipping Parsis. (SD II, 322-23)

"Ulysses belongs to the cycle of the heroes of the Fourth Race" . . . and, though a "sage" in the sight of . . . [the "third eyed"], must have been a profligate in the opinion of the pastoral Cyclopes.⁴⁶ His adventure with the latter—a savage gigantic race, the antithesis of cultured civilization in the *Odyssey*—is an allegorical record of the gradual passage from the Cyclopean civilization of stone and colossal buildings to the more sensual and physical culture of the Atlanteans, which finally caused the last of the Third Race to lose their all-penetrating *spiritual* eye. (SD II, 769-70)

“Noah was a Kabir, hence he must have been a Demon.”

It matters little whether it is Isis, or Ceres—the “Kabiria”—or again the Kabiri, who have taught men agriculture; but it is very important to prevent fanatics from monopolising all the facts in history and legend, and from fathering their distortions of truth, history, and legend upon one man. Noah is either a *myth* along with the others, or one whose legend was built upon the Kabirian or Titanic tradition, as taught in Samothrace; he has, therefore, no claim to be monopolized by either Jew or Christian. (SD II, 390)

“The Telchines are simply the Kabiri and the Titans in another form.”

. . . They are the Atlanteans also. “Like Lemnos and Samothrace,” says Decharme, “Rhodes, the birth-place of the Telchines, is an island of volcanic formation.”⁴⁷ The island of Rhodes emerged suddenly out of the seas, after having been previously engulfed by the Ocean, say the traditions. Like Samothrace (of the Kabiri) it is connected in the memory of men with the Flood legends.

The history or “fables” about the mysterious Telchines . . . furnish us with a key to the origin of *Cain’s* genealogy.⁴⁸ (SD II, 391)

The Wise Men of the Third, Fourth and the Fifth Races dwelt in subterranean pyramids

. . . the Adepts or “Wise” men of the three Races (the Third, Fourth and the Fifth) dwelt in subterranean habitats, generally under some kind of pyramidal structure, if not actually under a pyramid. For such “pyramids” existed in the four corners of the world and were never the monopoly of the land of the Pharaohs, though until found scattered all over the two Americas, under and over ground, beneath and amidst virgin forests, as in plain and vale, they were supposed to be the exclusive property of Egypt. If the true geometrically correct pyramids are no longer found in European regions, many of the supposed early *neolithic* caves, of the colossal triangular, pyramidal and conical *menhirs* in the Morbihan, and Brittany generally; many of the Danish tumuli and even of the “giant tombs” of Sardinia with their inseparable companions, the *nuraghe*, are so many more or less clumsy copies of the pyramids. Most of these are the works of the first settlers on the newly-born continent and isles of Europe, the—“some yellow, some brown and black, and some red”—races that remained after the submersion of the last Atlantean continents and islands (850,000 years ago), with the exception of Plato’s Atlantean island, and before the arrival of the great Aryan races; while others were built by the earliest immigrants from the East. (SD II, 351-52)

- Linked with “a network of subterranean passages running in all directions.”** The ruins which cover both Americas, and are found on many West Indian islands, are all attributed to the submerged Atlanteans. As well as the hierophants of the old world, which in the days of Atlantis was almost connected with the new one by land, the magicians⁴⁹ of the new submerged country had a network of subterranean passages running in all directions. (IU I, 595)
- They are the custodians of the “astronomical records of Universal History.”** The Pyramids are closely connected with the ideas of both the Great Dragon (the constellation), the “Dragons of Wisdom,” or the great Initiates of the Third and Fourth Races, and the Floods of the Nile, regarded as a divine reminder of the great Atlantic Flood. The astronomical records of Universal History, however, are said to have had their beginnings with the Third Sub-race of the Fourth Root-race or the Atlanteans. When was it? Occult data show that even since the time of the regular establishment of the Zodiacal calculations in Egypt, *the poles have been thrice inverted.* (SD II, 353)

9. Atlantis was a land of beautiful and strong giants

Their initiates commemorated images of the five Races in stone for the instruction of future generations.

“It is with the advent of the divine Dynasties that the first civilizations were started”⁵⁰ . . . And while, in some regions of the Earth, a portion of mankind preferred leading a nomadic and patriarchal life, and in others savage man was hardly learning to build a fire and to protect himself against the Elements, his brothers—more favoured than he by their *Karma*, and helped by the divine intelligence which informed them—built cities, and cultivated arts and sciences.

Civilization has ever developed the physical and the intellectual at the cost of the psychic and spiritual. The command and the guidance over his own psychic nature, which foolish men now associate with the supernatural, were with early Humanity innate and congenital, and came to man as naturally as walking and thinking.

Gradually, mankind went down in stature, for, even before the real advent of the Fourth or Atlantean race, the majority of mankind had fallen into iniquity and sin, save the hierarchy of the “Elect,” the followers and disciples of the “Sons of Will and Yoga”—called later the “Sons of the Fire Mist.”

Then came the Atlanteans; the giants whose physical beauty and strength reached their climax, in accordance with evolutionary law, toward the middle period of their fourth sub-

race. (SD II, 318-19)

“Traditions about a race of giants in days of old are universal;”

. . . they exist in oral and written lore. India had her Danavas and Daityas; Ceylon had her Rākshasas; Greece, her Titans; Egypt, her colossal Heroes; Chaldea, her Izdubars (Nimrod); and the Jews their *Emims* of the land of Moab, with the famous giants, Anakim.⁵¹ Moses speaks of Og, a king who was nine cubits high (15ft. 4in.) and four wide⁵² and Goliath was “six cubits and a span in height” (or 10ft. 7in.). The only difference found between the “revealed Scripture” and the evidence furnished to us by Herodotus, Diodorus Siculus, Homer, Pliny, Plutarch, Philostratus, etc., etc., is this: While the pagans mention only *the skeletons of giants*, dead untold ages before, relics that some of *them had personally seen*, the Bible interpreters unblushingly demand that geology and archæology should believe, that several countries were inhabited by such giants in the day of Moses; giants before whom the Jews were as grasshoppers, and who still existed in the days of Joshua and David. Unfortunately their own chronology is in the way. Either the latter or the giants have to be given up. (SD II, 336)

Atlantean hands carved the colossal statues of Easter Island.

A few words of description will show the readers what are the statues of both Easter Island and Bamian. We will first examine what is known of them to orthodox Science.

Teapi, Rapa-nui, or Easter Island, is an isolated spot almost 2,000 miles from the South American coast. . . . In length it is about twelve miles, in breadth four . . . and there is an extinct crater 1,050 feet high in its centre. The island . . . abounds in craters, which have been extinct for so long that no tradition of their activity remains. . . .⁵³
(SD II, 336)

The images at Ronororaka . . . though all are long-headed, are different; and they are evidently meant for portraits, as the noses, the mouths and chins differ greatly in form, their headdress, moreover—a kind of flat cap with a back piece attached to it to cover the back portion of the head—showing that the originals were no savages of the stone period. Verily the question may be asked—“Who made them?” (SD II, 337)

Easter Island was . . . taken possession of . . . by some Atlanteans; who, having escaped from the cataclysm which befell their own land, settled on that remnant of Lemuria only to perish thereon, when destroyed in one day by its volcanic fires and lava. This may be regarded as fiction by certain geographers and geologists; to the Occultists it is *history*. (SD II, 326-27)

The Bamian Buddhas are no Buddhas. They are the “handiwork of the initiates of the Fourth Race, who sought refuge, after the submersion of their continent, in the fastnesses and on the summits of the Central Asian mountain chains.”

But who cut the Bamian, still more colossal, statues, [than those of the Easter Island] the tallest and the most gigantic in the whole world, for Bartholdi’s “Statue of Liberty” (now at New York) *is a dwarf* when compared with the largest of the five images.

. . . . What are they, and what is the place where they have stood for countless ages, defying the cataclysms around them, and even the hand of man,⁵⁴ as in the instance of the hords of Timur and the vandal-warriors of Nadir-Shah? Bamian is a small, miserable, half-ruined town in Central Asia, half-way between Cabul and Balkh, at the foot of Koh-i-Baba, a huge mountain of the Paropamisus (or Hindu-Kush) chain, some 8,500 feet⁵⁵ above the level of the sea. In days of old, Bamian was a portion of the ancient city of Gulguleth, ruined and destroyed to the last stone by Chingiz-Khan in the XIIIth century. The whole valley is hemmed in by colossal rocks, which are full of partially natural and partially artificial caves and grottoes, once the dwellings of Buddhist monks who had established in them their *viharas*. Such *viharas* are to be met with in profusion, to this day, in the rock-cut temples of India and the valleys of Jalalabad. It is at the entrance of some of these that five enormous statues, of what is regarded as Buddha, have been discovered or rather *rediscovered* in our century, as the famous Chinese traveller, Hiuen-Tsang, speaks of, and saw them, when he visited Bamian in the VIIth century.⁵⁶ (SD II, 337, 338, 339)

Thus, the largest is 173 feet high,⁵⁷ or *seventy* feet higher than the “Statue of Liberty” . . . as the latter is only 105 feet or 32 metres high. The famous Colossus of Rhodes itself, between whose limbs passed easily the largest vessels of those days, measured only 120 to 130 feet in height.⁵⁸ The second statue, cut out in the rock like the first one, is only 120 feet (15 feet taller than the said “Liberty”). The third statue is only 60 feet high—the two others still smaller, the last one being only a little larger than the average tall man of our present race. The first and largest of the Colossi represents a man draped in a kind of *toga*; . . . Notwithstanding the fact that most of the now existing figures of Buddha, represented in the posture of *Samadhi*, have large drooping ears, this is a later innovation and an afterthought. The primitive idea was due to esoteric allegory. The unnaturally large ears symbolize the omniscience of wisdom, and were meant as a reminder of the power of Him who *knows and hears all*, and whose benevolent love and attention for all creatures nothing can escape. . . . Gautama Buddha was an Aryan Hindu, and an approach to such ears is found only among the Mongolian Burmese and Siamese, who,

as in Cochin, distort them artificially. The Buddhist monks, who turned the grottos of the *Miaotse* into *viharas* and cells, came into Central Asia about or in the first century of the Christian era. Therefore Hiuen Tsang, speaking of the colossal statue, says that “the shining of the gold ornamentation that overlaid the statue” in his day “dazzled one’s eyes,” but of such gilding there remains not a vestige in modern times. The very drapery, in contrast to the figure itself, cut out in the standing rock, is made of plaster and modelled over the stone image. Talbot, who has made the most careful examination, found that this drapery belonged to a far later epoch. The statue itself has therefore to be assigned to a far earlier period than Buddhism. (SD II, 338-39)

“The Buddhist Arhats and Ascetics found the five statues . . . at the entrance of their future abode, they covered the figures with plaster . . . to represent Lord Tathagata.”

. . . The interior walls of the niches are covered to this day [1888] with bright paintings of human figures, and the sacred image of Buddha is repeated in every group. These frescoes and ornaments—which remind one of the Byzantine style of painting—are all due to the piety of the monk-ascetics, like some other minor figures and rock-cut ornamentations. But the five statues belong to the handiwork of the Initiates of the Fourth Race, who sought refuge, after the submersion of their continent, in the fastnesses and on the summits of the Central Asian mountain chains. Moreover, the five statues are an imperishable record of the esoteric teaching about the gradual evolution of the races. (SD II, 339)

**Statue 1 portrays 1st Race
Statue 2 portrays 2nd Race
Statue 3 portrays 3rd Race
Statue 4 portrays 4th Race
Statue 5 portrays 5th Race**

The largest is made to represent the First Race of mankind, its ethereal body being commemorated in hard, everlasting stone, for the instruction of future generations, as its remembrance would otherwise never have survived the Atlantean Deluge. The second—120 feet high—represents the sweat-born; and the third—measuring 60 feet—immortalizes the race that fell, and thereby inaugurated the first *physical* race, born of father and mother, the last descendants of which are represented in the Statues found on Easter Isle; but they were only from 20 to 25 feet in stature at the epoch when Lemuria was submerged, after it had been nearly destroyed by volcanic fires. The Fourth Race was still smaller, though gigantic in comparison with our present Fifth Race, and the series culminated finally in the latter.

These are, then, the “Giants” of antiquity, the ante- and post-diluvian *Gibborim* of the Bible. They lived and flourished one million rather than between three and four thousand years ago.

In everything that pertains to prehistoric times the reader ought to bear the wise words of Montaigne in his mind. . . .

. . . It is a sottish presumption to disdain and condemne that for false, which unto us seemeth to bear no show of likelihood or truth: which is an ordinarie fault in those who perswade themselves to be of more sufficiency than the vulgar sort.⁵⁹

. . . But reason hath taught me, that so resolutely to condemn a thing for false and impossible, is to assume unto himself the advantage to have the bounds and limits of God's will, and the power of our common Mother Nature tied to his sleeve, and that there is no greater folly in the world than to reduce them to the measure of our capacity and bounds of our sufficiencie.⁶⁰ (SD II, 339-40)

10. Though perfected in materiality, they degenerated in spirituality

Black magic, bestiality, selfishness, and self-adoration spelled the demise of that proud race.

The Atlanteans were vegetarians, their sleep was not disturbed by dreams. [Herodotus wrote of Atlantes in West Africa] . . . who were vegetarians, and “whose sleep was never disturbed by dreams;” and who, moreover, “daily cursed the sun at his rising and at his setting because his excessive heat scorched and tormented them.”⁶¹

But they “boasted of possessing the land in which all the gods had received their birth” and “used magic incantations even against the Sun!” These statements are based upon moral and psychic facts and not on physiological disturbance. . . . If the Atlanteans never had their sleep disturbed by dreams, it is because that particular tradition is concerned with the earliest Atlanteans, whose physical frame and brain were not yet sufficiently consolidated, in the physiological sense, to permit the nervous centres to act during sleep. With regard to that other statement—namely, that they daily “cursed the Sun”—this again has nothing to do with the heat, but with the moral degeneration that grew with the race. It is explained in our Commentaries. “They [the sixth sub-race of the Atlanteans] used magic incantations even against the Sun”—failing in which, they cursed it. The sorcerers of Thessaly were credited with the power of calling down the moon, as Greek history assures us. The Atlanteans of the later period were renowned for their magic powers and wickedness, their ambition and defiance of the gods. (SD II, 761-62)

**“It is . . . [black] magic,
coupled with
anthropomorphic worship,
that . . . was the reason for
the ‘Great Flood’
of Atlantis;”**

**But none of us has
descended from apes.
We are fallen angels,
not risen apes.**

. . . for this reason also the Initiates—those who had remained true to primeval Revelation—formed themselves into separate communities, keeping their magic or religious rites in the profoundest secrecy. The caste of the Brāhmanas, the descendants of the “mind-born Rishis and Sons of Brahmā” dates from those days, as also do the “Mysteries.” (BCW XIII, 260)

It is in the suddenly arrested evolution of certain sub-races, and their forced and violent diversion into the purely animal line by artificial cross-breeding, truly analogous to the hybridization, which we have now learned to utilize in the vegetable and animal kingdoms, that we have to look for the origin of the anthropoids.

In these red-haired and hair-covered monsters, the fruit of the unnatural connection between men and animals, the “Lords of Wisdom” did not incarnate, as we see. Thus by a long series of transformations due to unnatural cross-breeding (unnatural “sexual selection”), originated in due course of time the lowest specimens of humanity; while further bestiality and the fruit of their first animal efforts of reproduction begat a species which developed into mammalian apes ages later.⁶²

As to the separation of sexes, it did not occur suddenly, as one may think. Nature proceeds slowly in whatever she does. (SD II, 200-1)

The ape we know is not the product of natural evolution but an *accident*, a crossbreed between an animal being, or form, and man. . . . Nor was it intended by Nature that man should follow the bestial example [of the apes]—as shown by the comparatively painless procreation of their species by the animals, and the terrible suffering and danger of the same in the woman. The Ape is, indeed, . . . “a transformation of species most directly connected with that of the human family—a *bastard branch engrafted on their own stock before the final perfection of the latter*”⁶³—or man. The apes are millions of years later than the speaking human being, and are the latest contemporaries of our Fifth Race. . . . The numberless traditions about Satyrs are no fables, but represent an extinct race of animal-men. . . . It is from this unnatural union that the present apes descended. The latter are truly “speechless men,” and will become speaking animals (or men of a lower order) in the Fifth Round, while the adepts of a certain school hope that some of the Egos of the apes of a higher intelligence will reappear at the close of the Sixth Root-race. (SD II, 262)

Atlantis was in Kali-yuga when finally destroyed. All races have their own cycles, which fact causes a great difference. For instance, the Fourth Sub-Race of the Atlanteans was in its Kali-Yuga when destroyed, whereas the Fifth was in its Satya or *Krita* Yuga. The Aryan Race is now in its Kali Yuga, and will continue to be in it for 427,000 years longer, while various “family Races,” called the Semitic, Hamitic, etc., are in their own special cycles. The forthcoming 6th Sub-Race—which may begin very soon—will be in its Satya (golden) age while we reap the fruit of our iniquity in our Kali-Yuga. (SD II, 147 fn)

Glossary

Greek etymology of Atlas From euphonic *a* and *τλάω* (tlaō). *Τλάω* (a) to suffer, to undergo hardship, disgrace, etc; (b) to dare, or venture to do. *Mount Atlas* in West Africa⁶⁴ was regarded as the *pillar of heaven*. According to Hesychius, Atlas (a) not enduring or daring; (b) axis of the Earth. (L&S).

In Greek mythology, a titan, a sea god who supports on his shoulders the vault of heaven. Son of Iapetus and Clymene or Asia; brother of Prometheus, Epimetheus, and Menoetius; father of the Pleiades, Hyades, Calypso and, sometimes, the Hesperides. (ETG)

“Atlas is the old continents of Lemuria and Atlantis, combined and personified in one symbol.” . . . The poets attribute to Atlas, as to Proteus, a superior wisdom and an universal knowledge, and especially a thorough acquaintance with the depths of the ocean: because both continents bore races instructed by divine masters, and because both were transferred to the bottom of the seas, where they now slumber until their next reappearance above the waters. Atlas is the son of an ocean nymph, and his daughter is Calypso—“the watery deep.” Atlantis has been submerged beneath the waters of the ocean, and its progeny is now sleeping its eternal sleep on the ocean floors. The *Odyssey* makes of him the guardian and the “sustainer” of the huge pillars that separate the heavens from the earth. He is their “supporter.” And as both Lemuria, destroyed by submarine fires, and Atlantis, submerged by the waves, perished in the ocean deeps.⁶⁵ Atlas is said to have been compelled to leave the surface of the earth, and join his brother Iapetos in the depths of Tartarus.⁶⁶ Sir Theodore Martin is right in interpreting this allegory as meaning, Atlas “standing on the solid floor of the inferior hemisphere of the universe and thus carrying at the same time the *disc* of the earth and the celestial vault⁶⁷—the solid envelope of the superior hemisphere.⁶⁸ For Atlas is Atlantis which supports the new continents and their horizons on its “shoulders.” (SD II, 762-63)

He “supports the new continents and their horizons on its ‘shoulders.’” The conception⁶⁹ was certainly due to the gigantic mountain chain running along the terrestrial border (or disk). These mountain peaks plunged their roots into the very bottom of the seas, while they raised their heads heavenward, their summits being lost in the clouds. The ancient continents had more mountains than valleys on them. Atlas, and the Teneriffe Peak, now two of the dwarfed relics of the two lost continents, were thrice as lofty during the day of Lemuria and twice as high in that of Atlantis. (SD II, 763)

“To make a difference between Lemuria and Atlantis, the ancient writers referred to the latter as the northern or Hyperborean Atlantis,”

The titan and the celestial mountain, are symbols of the Fourth Race. Atlantides, his seven daughters, symbolise its seven Sub-races.

“The words Atlas and Atlantic have no satisfactory etymology in any language known in Europe.”

. . . and to the former as the southern. Thus Apollodorus says:⁷⁰ “The golden apples carried away by Hercules are not, as some think, in Lybia; they are in the Hyperborean Atlantis.” The Greeks naturalised all the gods they borrowed and made Hellenes of them, and the moderns helped them. . . . (SD II, 770 fn)

The “Mountain of God” [Ezekiel xxviii, 2-8] means the “Mountain of *the Gods*” or Meru, whose representative in the Fourth Race was Mount Atlas, the *last form of one of the divine Titans*, so high in those days that the ancients believed that the heavens rested on its top. . . . The truth is that Atlas, “the mountain of the gods,” and also the hero of that name, are the esoteric symbols of the Fourth Race, and his seven daughters, the Atlantides, are the symbols of its seven sub-races. Mount Atlas, according to all the legends, was three times as high as it is now;⁷¹ having sunk at two different times. It is of a volcanic origin, and therefore the voice within Ezekiel says: “I will *bring forth a fire from the midst of thee*, it shall devour thee,” etc.⁷² Surely it does not mean, as seems to be the case from the translated texts, that this fire was to be brought from the midst of the Prince of Tyrus, or his people, but from Mount Atlas, symbolizing the proud race, learned in magic and high in arts and civilization, whose last remnant was destroyed almost at the foot of the range of those once gigantic mountains. (SD II, 493-94)

Atlante is *not* a Greek name, and its construction has nothing of the Grecian element in it. Brasseur de Bourbourg tried to demonstrate it years ago, and Baldwin, in his *Ancient America*, cites the former, who declares that:

“the words *Atlas* and *Atlantic* have no satisfactory etymology in any language known in Europe. They are not Greek, and cannot be referred to any known language of the Old World. But in the Nahuatl [or Toltec] language we find immediately the radical *a, atl*, which signifies water, war, and the top of the head. . . . From this comes a series of words, such as *atlan*, or the border of or amid the water; from which we have the adjective *Atlantic*. We have also *atlaça*, to combat. . . . A city named *Atlan* existed when the continent was discovered by Columbus, at the entrance of the Gulf of Urabá, in Darien, with a good harbor; it is now reduced to an unimportant *pueblo* [village] named Acla.⁷³ (IU I, 591)

- Atlantis has a Mexican ring about it.** [It is] the continent that was submerged in the Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans according to the secret teachings and Plato. (TG)
- Like [Ulûpi]⁷⁴ Atlantis, it is neither a Greek nor a Sanskrit name, but reminds one of Mexican names. (SD II, 214 & fn)
- In any event “. . . neither the name of Lemuria nor even Atlantis are the real archaic names of the lost continents,”** . . . but have been adopted by us for the sake of clearness. Atlantis was the name given to those portions of the submerged Fourth-Race continent which were “beyond the pillars of Hercules,” and which happened to keep above water after the general cataclysm. The last remnant of these—Plato’s Atlantis, or the “Poseidonis” (another *substitute* or rather a translation of the real name)—was the last of it some 11,000 years ago.⁷⁵ Most of the correct names of the countries and islands of both continents are given in the *Purânas*; but to mention them specially, as found in other more ancient works, such as the *Sûrya-Siddhanta*, would necessitate too lengthy explanations. (SD II, 323-24 fn)
- “The term ‘Atlantean’ must not mislead the reader to regard these as one race only, or even a nation.”** . . . It is as though one said “Asiatics.” Many, multityped, and various were the Atlanteans, who represented several *humanities*, and almost a countless number of races and nations, more varied indeed than would be the “Europeans” were this name to be given indiscriminately to the five existing parts of the world;⁷⁶ which, at the rate colonization is proceeding, will be the case, perhaps, in less than two or three hundred years. There were brown, red, yellow, white and black Atlanteans; giants and dwarfs (as some African tribes comparatively are, even now). (SD II, 433 fn)
- Atlantidæ⁷⁷ were “The ancestors of the Pharaohs and the forefathers of the Egyptians.”** . . . Plato heard of this highly civilized people, the last remnant of which was submerged 9,000 years before his day, from Solon, who had it from the High Priests of Egypt. Voltaire, the eternal scoffer, was right in stating that “the Atlantidæ (our fourth Root Race) made their appearance in Egypt It was in Syria and in Phrygia, as well as Egypt, that they established the worship of the Sun.” Occult philosophy teaches that the Egyptians were a remnant of the last Aryan Atlantidæ. (TG)
- What is (Root) Race?** . . . the term Root-Race applies to one of the seven great Races, sub-Race to one of its great Branches, and Family-Race to one of the sub-divisions, which include nations and large tribes. (SD II, 198 fn)

What is Round? The spiritual impulse evolves according to a 7-fold pattern along a chain of 7 globes, re-visiting each one 7 times; its passage around 7 globes is termed round (or ring), indicating a period of activity. Our own globe too, the Earth, is one of a chain of 7, however, the other 6 remain invisible to us at present. Our development is heightened on the 4th round, in the course of which 7 root races emerge, each root evolving through 7 sub-races. (ETG)

How many Rounds and Races in a manvantara?⁷⁸

1. There are seven ROUNDS in every manvantara; this one is the Fourth, and we are in the Fifth Root-Race, at present.
2. Each Root-Race has seven sub-races.
3. Each sub-race has, in its turn, seven ramifications, which may be called Branch or “Family” races.
4. The little tribes, shoots, and offshoots of the last-named are countless and depend on Karmic action. (SD II, 434; quoting from AP Sinnett’s *Esoteric Buddhism*)

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Annotations

¹ This sentence is also the title of a compilation of twelve articles by HP Blavatsky, chosen and arranged by BP Wadia. (Bombay: Theosophy Company Private Ltd, 1959)—*Comp.*

² SD I, xlvi, quoting Montaigne *Essais*, “Of Physiognomy” livre III, ch. xii.

³ This is Occult and refers to the property of iron which, attracted by magnetic elements, is repelled by others, which are made, by an occult process, as impervious to it as water to a blow.

⁴ Cf. “. . . the Occult teaching which shows the (now) polar regions as the earliest of the seven cradles of Humanity, and as the tomb of the bulk of the mankind of that region during the Third Race, when the gigantic continent of Lemuria began separating into smaller continents. This is due, according to the explanation in the *Commentary*, to a decrease of velocity in the earth’s rotation:

‘When the Wheel runs at the usual rate, its extremities (the poles) agree with its middle circle [equator]; when it runs slower and tilts in every direction, there is a great disturbance on the face of the Earth. The waters flow toward the two ends, and new lands arise in the middle belt [equatorial lands], while those at the ends are subject to pralayas by submersion. . . .’

And again:

. . . ‘Thus the wheel [the Earth] is subject to, and regulated by, the Spirit of the Moon, for the breath of its waters [tides]. Toward the close of the age [Kalpa] of a great [root] race, the regents of the moon [the Pitar fathers, or Pitris] begin drawing harder, and thus flatten the wheel about its belt, when it goes down in some places and swells in others, and the swelling running toward the extremities [poles] new lands will arise and old ones be sucked in.’ ” (SD II, 324-25)

⁵ Quoting A.P. Sinnett’s *Esoteric Buddhism*, pp. 64-65 (p. 106, 6th ed.)

⁶ Cf. “Ulysses was wrecked on the isle of Ææa, where Circe changed all his companions into pigs for *their voluptuousness*; and after that he was thrown into Ogygia, the island of Calypso, where for some seven years he lived with the nymph in illicit connection. Now Calypso was a daughter of *Atlas* (*Odyssey*, Bk. VII, 245), and all the traditional ancient versions, when speaking of the Isle of Ogygia, say that it was very distant from Greece, and right in the middle of the ocean: thus identifying it with Atlantis. (SD II, 769 fn) Also cf. “Ogyges (Ὠγύγιος) is an early king in the legends of Boeotia and Attica, a son of Poseidon, in whose reign a great flood overwhelmed the land. It refers to the tradition of the sinking of one of the last remnants of Atlantis and previous migrations of some of its inhabitants to Greece, where they founded new settlements. Ogygia was one of the last islands of the vast Atlantean continental system, and it may very readily be but another name for the Poseidonis referred to by Plato. As Egypt was settled originally by emigrants from Poseidonis or Ogygia, Egypt’s most ancient name was Ogygia.” (ETG)

⁷ *Commentary on Timaeus*, Book I, 55 [not verbatim]

⁸ Said to be the size of Ireland.—*Comp.*

⁹ Cf. the chart adapted from the *Challenger* and *Dolphin* soundings in I. Donnelly’s *Atlantis: the Antediluvian World*, p. 47.

¹⁰ Quoting Seemann’s article “Australia and Europe formerly One Continent,” *Popular Science Review*, Vol. V, pp. 19, 25.

¹¹ Cf. “Of course your Science is right in many of her generalities, but her premises are wrong, or at any rate—very faulty. For instance she is right in saying that while the new America was forming the ancient Atlantis was sinking, and gradually washing away; but she is neither right in her given epochs nor in the calculations of the duration of that sinking. The latter—is the future fate of your British Islands, the first on the list of victims that have to be destroyed by fire (submarine volcanos) and water; France and other lands will follow suit. When they reappear again, the last seventh Sub-race of the sixth Root race of present mankind will be flourishing on ‘Lemuria’ and ‘Atlantis’ both of which will have reappeared also (their reappearance following immediately the disappearance of the present isles and continents), and very few seas and *great waters* will be found then on our

globe, waters as well as land appearing and disappearing and shifting periodically and each in turn.” (ML 23b [93b], 152-53)

¹² Cf. “[Esoteric philosophy] . . . teaches distinctly that after the first geological disturbance in the Earth’s axis which ended in the sweeping down to the bottom of the Seas of the whole second Continent, with its primeval races—of which successive ‘Earths’ or Continents Atlantis was the fourth—there came another disturbance by the axis resuming as rapidly its previous degree of inclination; when the Earth was indeed *raised once more* out of the Waters, and—as above so it is below, and *vice versa*.” (SD I, 369)

¹³ Extract from A.P. Sinnett’s *Esoteric Buddhism*, pp. 64-65 (5th ed.)

¹⁴ More precisely, “. . . it is just 869,000 [years] since that destruction took place.” (SD II, 147)

¹⁵ Cf. “Daitya. . . was destroyed about 270,000 years ago, during the glacial period. . . .” (SD I, 651)

¹⁶ Says a teacher in *Esoteric Buddhism*, on p. 64: “In the Eocene age, even in its very first part, the great cycle of the fourth race men, the [Lemuro] Atlanteans, had already reached its highest point [of civilization], and the great continent, the father of nearly all the present continents, showed the first symptoms of sinking. . . .” And on page 70, it is shown that Atlantis as a whole perished during the Miocene period. To show how the continents, races, nations and cycles overlap each other, one has but to think of Lemuria, the last of whose lands perished about 700,000 years before the beginning of the Tertiary period (see p. 65 of the same work), and the last of “Atlantis” only 11,000 years ago; thus both overlapping—one the Atlantean period, and the other the Aryan.

¹⁷ Extract from A.P. Sinnett’s *Esoteric Buddhism*, p. 70 (5th ed.)

¹⁸ Nonnus, *Dionysiaca*, Book XVIII, 36-38.

¹⁹ Lyell, *Principles of Geology*, 11th ed. Vol. I, p. 256.

²⁰ Extract from a Lecture by W. Pengelly, F.R.S., F.G.S.

²¹ Cf. “According to the Brahmins of Tirvalour, the astronomical epoch began at sunrise on 18 February 3102 BC, and the civil era began at about 2.27 am on 16 February 3102 BC (SD I, 661-2). The kali-yuga is also said to have begun at midnight between 17 and 18 February 3102 BC (SD II, 435; BCW V, 58; R.L. Thompson, *Vedic Cosmography and Astronomy*, 1989, pp. 19-22).”—D Pratt (*vide infra*).

²² Cf. “The date of 3102 BC for the start of the kali-yuga is a chronological date rather than an astronomical date; in chronological dating there is no year zero between 1 BC and 1 AD, whereas in astronomical dating there is. In calculating the time that has elapsed since the beginning of kali-yuga and 2000, it is therefore necessary to subtract '1' in the above sum. (If we used the equivalent astronomical date of 3101 BC, there would be no need for this.) That 3102 BC is a chronological date is indicated by J.S. Bailly in a calculation quoted in the SD (I, 666-77), and is confirmed by Subba Row (*Esoteric Writings*, pp. 55-6; BCW 5:261-2). Hence the first 5000 years of the kali-yuga ended in February 1899 (= 5000 - 3102 + 1) and not in 1897/98, contrary to what is often stated (see *Theos. Forum*, Nov. 1937, p. 394).”—D Pratt (*vide infra*).

²³ Updated from D Pratt, *Geochronology: Theosophy and Science* <http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/dp5/geochron.htm>—*Comp*.

²⁴ Cf. “The present seventh Manu is called ‘Vaivasvata’ and stands in the exoteric texts for the Manu who represents in India the Babylonian Xisuthros and the Jewish Noah. But in the esoteric books we are told that Manu Vaivasvata, the progenitor of our *fifth* race who saved it from the flood that nearly exterminated the fourth (Atlantis)—is not the seventh Manu, mentioned in the nomenclature of the Root-, or primitive Manus, but one of the forty-nine ‘emanated from this Root-Manu.’ ” (BCW IV, 577)

²⁵ Cf. “The ancients never *invented* their myths. One, acquainted with the science of occult symbology, can always detect a scientific *fact* under the mask of grotesque fancy. Thus one, who would go to the trouble of studying the fable of *Electra*—one of the seven Atlantides—in the light of occult science, would soon discover the real nature of Electricity, and learn that it signifies little whether we call it Force or Matter, since it is both, and so far, in the sense given it by modern science, both terms may be regarded as misnomers. Electra, we know, is the wife and daughter of Atlas the Titan, and the son of Asia and of Pleione, the daughter of the Ocean. . . .” (BCW IV, 224)

²⁶ Viz., the third eye was at the back of the head. The statement that the latest hermaphrodite humanity was “four-armed,” unriddles probably the mystery of all the representations and idols of the exoteric gods of India. On the Acropolis of Argos, there was a *ξόαρον*, a rudely carved wooden statue (attributed to Dædalus), representing a three-eyed colossus, which was consecrated to Zeus *Triopios* (three-eyed). The head of the “god” has two eyes in its face and one above on the top of the forehead. It is considered the most archaic of all the ancient statues (*Schol. Vatic. ad Euripides Troades*, 14).

²⁷ The *Inner sight* could henceforth be acquired only through training and initiation, save in the cases of “natural and born magicians,” sensitives and mediums, as they are called now.

²⁸ This expression “petrified” instead of “ossified” is curious. The “back eye,” which is of course the *pineal gland*, now so-called, the small pea-like mass of grey nervous matter attached to the back of the third ventricle of the brain, is said to almost invariably contain *mineral concretions* and *sand*, and “nothing more.”

²⁹ The Cyclopes are not the only “one-eyed” representatives in tradition. The Arimaspes were a Scythian people, and were also credited with but one eye. (*Géographie ancienne, Vol. II, p. 321.*) It is they whom Apollo destroyed with his shafts. (*See supra.*)

³⁰ And still is.—*Comp.*

³¹ Cf. [On the development of speech in preceding Races] “The Commentaries explain that the first Race—the ethereal or astral Sons of Yoga, also called ‘Self-born’—was, in our sense, speechless, as it was devoid of mind on our plane. The Second Race had a ‘Sound-language,’ to wit, chant-like sounds composed of vowels alone. The Third Race developed in the beginning a kind of language which was only a slight improvement on the various sounds in Nature, on the cry of gigantic insects and of the first animals, which, however, were hardly nascent in the day of the ‘Sweat-born’ (the *early* Third Race). In its second half, when the ‘Sweat-born’ gave birth to the ‘Egg-born,’ (the *middle* Third Race); and when these, instead of ‘hatching out’ (may the reader pardon the rather ridiculous expression when applied to human beings in our age) as androgynous beings, began to evolve into separate males and females; and when the same law of evolution led them to reproduce their kind sexually, an act which forced the creative gods, compelled by Karmic law, to incarnate in *mindless* men; then only was speech developed. But even then it was still no better than a tentative effort. The whole human race was at that time of ‘one language and of one lip.’ This did not prevent the last two Sub-Races of the Third Race from building cities, and sowing far and wide the first seeds of civilization under the guidance of their divine instructors, and their own already awakened minds. Let the reader also bear in mind that, as each of the seven races is divided into four ages—the Golden, Silver, Bronze, and Iron Age—so is every smallest division of such races.” (SD II, 198)

³² The present yellow races are the descendants, however, of the early branches of the Fourth Race. Of the third, the only *pure and direct* descendants are, as said above, a portion of the fallen and degenerated Australians, whose far distant ancestors belonged to a division of the seventh Sub-race of the Third. The rest are of mixed Lemuro-Atlantean descent. They have since then entirely changed in stature and intellectual capacities.

³³ *Language* is certainly coeval with reason, and could never have been developed before men became one with the informing principles in them—those who fructified and awoke to life the manasic element dormant in primitive man. For, as Professor Max Müller tells us in his *Science of Language* (1874, p. 383), “Thought and language are identical.” Yet to add to this the reflection that *thoughts which are too deep for words do not really exist at all*, is rather risky, as thought impressed upon the astral tablets exists in eternity whether expressed or not. Logos is both reason and speech. But language, proceeding in cycles, is not always adequate to express *spiritual* thoughts. Moreover, in one sense, the Greek Logos is the equivalent of the Sanskrit Vâch, “the immortal (intellectual) ray of spirit.” . . .

³⁴ *Genesis*, ix, 1.

³⁵ Cf. “[Æschylus] is not the ‘father of the Greek tragedy’ who invented the prophecy of Prometheus; for he only repeated in dramatic form that which was revealed by the priests during the MYSTERIA of the Sabasia. The latter, however, is one of the oldest sacred festivals, whose origin is to this day unknown to history. Mythologists connect it through Mithras (the Sun, called Sabazius on some old monuments) with Jupiter and Bacchus. But it was never the property of the Greeks, but dates from days immemorial.” (SD II, 419) Also cf. “. . . Æschylus, like Shakespeare, was and will ever remain the intellectual ‘Sphinx’ of the ages.” (*Ibid.*)

³⁶ From *πρό μήτις*, “forethought.” “Professor Kuhn,” we are told in the above named volumes of *The Dramas of Aeschylus* [p. 158], “considers the name of the Titan to be derived from the Sanskrit word Pramantha, the instrument used for kindling fire. The root *mand* or *manth*, implies rotatory motion, and the word *manthami*, used to denote the process of fire kindling, acquired the secondary sense of snatching away; hence we find another word of the same stock, *pramatha*, signifying theft.” This is very ingenious, but perhaps not altogether correct; besides, there is a very prosaic element in it. No doubt in physical nature, the higher forms may develop from the lower ones, but it is hardly so in the world of thought. And as we are told that the word *manthami* passed into the Greek language and became the word *manthano*, to learn; that is to say, to appropriate knowledge; whence *prometheia*, foreknowledge, forethought; we may find, in searching, a more poetical origin for the “fire bringer” than that displayed in its Sanskrit origin. The *Svastica*, the sacred sign and the instrument for kindling *sacred* fire, may explain it better. “Prometheus, the fire-bringer, is the *Pramantha* personified,” goes on the author; he “finds his prototype in the Aryan Matarisvan, a divine. . . . personage, closely associated with Agni, the fire god of the Vedas.” *Mati*, in Sanskrit, is “understanding,” and a synonym of MAHAT and *manas*, and must be of some account in the origin of the name: *Pramati* is the son of Fohat, and has his story also. (SD II 413 fn)

³⁷ How wise and grand, how far-seeing and morally beneficent are the *Laws of Manu* on connubial life, when compared with the licence tacitly allowed to man in civilized countries. That those laws have been neglected for the last two millenniums does not prevent us from admiring their forethought. The Brahmin was a *grihastha*, a family man, till a certain period of his life, when, after begetting a son, he broke with married life and became a chaste Yogi. His very connubial life was regulated by his Brahmin astrologer in accordance with his nature. Therefore, in such countries as the Punjâb, for instance, where the lethal influence of Mussulman, and later on of European, licentiousness, has hardly touched the orthodox Aryan castes, one still finds the finest men—so far as stature and physical strength go—on the whole globe; whereas the mighty men of old have found themselves replaced in the Dekkan, and especially in Bengal, by men whose generation becomes with every century (and almost with every year) dwarfed and weakened.

³⁸ The animal world, having simple instinct to guide it, has its *seasons of procreation*, and the sexes become neutralized during the rest of the year. Therefore, the free animal knows sickness but once in its life—before it dies.

³⁹ Introduction to “*Prometheus Bound*,” p. 152.

⁴⁰ *Vide supra*, [p. 413] a footnote concerning the etymology of *πρό μήτις* or *forethought*. Prometheus confesses it in the drama when saying:—

Oh! holy Ether, swiftly-winged gales . . .
Behold what I, a god, from gods endure
.....
And yet what say I? *Clearly I foreknew*
All that must happen
.....The Destined it behoves,
As best I may, to bear, for well I wot
How incontestable the strength of Fate (vs. 88-104).

“Fate” stands here for KARMA, or Nemesis.

⁴¹ Mankind is obviously divided into god-informed men and lower human creatures. The intellectual difference between the Aryan and other civilized nations and such savages as the South Sea Islanders, is inexplicable on any other grounds. No amount of culture, nor generations of training amid civilization, could raise such human specimens as the Bushmen, the Veddhas of Ceylon, and some African tribes, to the same intellectual level as the Aryans, the Semites, and the Turanians so called. The “sacred spark” is missing in them and it is they who are the only *inferior* races on the globe, now happily—owing to the wise adjustment of nature which ever works in that direction—fast dying out. Verily mankind is “of one blood,” *but not of the same essence*. We are the hothouse, artificially quickened plants in nature, having in us a spark, which in them is latent.

⁴² In Mrs. Anna Swanwick’s volumes, *The Dramas of Aeschylus*, it is said of *Prometheus Bound* (Vol. II., pp. 146-47), that Prometheus truly appears in it “as the champion and benefactor of mankind, whose condition . . . is depicted as weak and miserable in the extreme. . . . Zeus, it is said, proposed to annihilate these puny ephemerals, and to plant upon the earth a new race in their stead.” We see the Lords of Being doing likewise,

and exterminating the first product of nature and the sea, in the Stanzas (V, *et seq.*). Prometheus *represents* himself as having frustrated this design, and as being consequently subjected, for the sake of mortals, to the most agonizing pain, inflicted by the remorseless cruelty of Zeus. We have thus the Titan, the symbol of finite reason and free will [of intellectual humanity, or the higher aspect of *Manas*], depicted *as the sublime philanthropist*, while Zeus, the supreme deity of Hellas, is portrayed as the cruel and obdurate despot, a character peculiarly revolting to Athenian sentiment.” The reason for it is explained further on. The “Supreme Deity” bears, in every ancient Pantheon—including that of the Jews—a *dual* character, composed of light and shadow.

⁴³ See Sloka 24.

⁴⁴ See Slokas 32, 34.

⁴⁵ Commentary on Stanza X 38, on History of the Fourth Race—*Comp.*

⁴⁶ Ulysses was wrecked on the isle of *Ææa*, where Circe changed all his companions into pigs for *their voluptuousness*; and after that he was thrown into Ogygia, the island of Calypso, where for some seven years he lived with the nymph in illicit connection (*Odyssey and elsewhere*). Now Calypso was a daughter of *Atlas* (*Odys. Book XII.*), and all the traditional ancient versions, when speaking of the Isle of Ogygia, say that it was very distant from Greece, and right in the middle of the ocean: thus identifying it with Atlantis.

⁴⁷ *Mythologie de la Grèce antique: Génie du Feu—Les Telchines*, p. 271.

⁴⁸ *Genesis*, iv and v.

⁴⁹ Cf. “. . . ‘natural magicians’ who, through lack of the restraining power of proper spiritual enlightenment, and because of weakness of physical and mental organizations, unintentionally perverted their gifts to evil purposes.” (IU, I 593)

⁵⁰ Cf. Stanza 43. “THEY (*the Lemurians*) BUILT HUGE CITIES. OF RARE EARTHS AND METALS THEY BUILT. OUT OF THE FIRES (*lava*) VOMITED. OUT OF THE WHITE STONE OF THE MOUNTAINS (*marble*) AND THE BLACK STONE (*of the subterranean fires*) THEY CUT THEIR OWN IMAGES, IN THEIR SIZE AND LIKENESS, AND WORSHIPPED THEM.” (SD II, 316)

⁵¹ *Numbers* xiii, 33.

⁵² *Deuteronomy*, iii, 11.

⁵³ Robert Brown, M.A., Ph.D., *The Countries of the World*, Vol. IV, p. 43.

⁵⁴ In March 2001, the two giant Buddhas have been destroyed by the use of mortars, dynamite, tanks, anti-aircraft weapons and rockets by the retreating Taleban. Mullah Mohammed Omar issued an edict declaring all statues, including the ancient Buddhas, as insulting to Islam. Now they are nothing but piles of sandstone rubble and clay plaster. (<http://www.photogrammetry.ethz.ch/research/bamiyan/buddha/destruction.html#reasons>)—*Comp.*

⁵⁵ Or 2,591 meters. The highest peak of Olympus is 2,917 meters.—*Comp.*

⁵⁶ [*Si-yu-ki*, Book I, “Fan-yen-na” (*Bāmiyān*).]

⁵⁷ Or 52.7 meters, about the height of 17-storey building—*Comp.*

⁵⁸ Or 36-39 meters – *Comp.*

⁵⁹ Cf. Nārada’s apophthegm: “Never utter these words: ‘I do not know this—therefore it is false.’ One must study to know, know to understand, understand to judge.” (IU I, 628)

⁶⁰ *Essays*, ch. xxvi.

⁶¹ *History*, IV, § 184.

⁶² The Commentary explains that the apes are the only species, among the animals, which has gradually and with every generation and variety tended more and more to return to the original type of its male forefather—the dark gigantic Lemurian and Atlantean.

⁶³ IU II, 278

⁶⁴ Cf. “Herodotus speaks of the Atlantes—a people of Western Africa which gave its name to Mount Atlas;” (SD II, 761)

⁶⁵ Christians ought not to object to this doctrine of the periodical destruction of continents by fire and water; for 2 Peter speaks of the earth “standing out of the water, and in the water, which earth, being overflowed, perished, but is now reserved unto fire.” (See also the anonymous *Lives of Alchemystical Philosophers*, London, 1815, p. 4.)

⁶⁶ Hesiod, *Theogony*, 507-509; Homer, *Odyssey* I, 52-53.

⁶⁷ “. . . an allusion to the gigantic peaks of the Lemurian and Atlantean continents. . .” (SD II, 763—*Comp.*)

⁶⁸ *Mémoires de l'Académie des Inscriptions*, Tome 28, pt. 2 (1824), p. 176.

⁶⁹ Cf. “Decharme, in his *Mythologie de la Grèce Antique*, expresses a doubt as to the correctness of Pierron’s translation of the Homeric word *ἔχει* by *sustinet*, [Latin for ‘sustains’—*Comp.*] as it is not possible to see ‘how Atlas can support or bear at once several pillars situated in various localities.’ [*Mythologie de la Grèce Antique*, p. 314 fn.] If Atlas were an individual it would be an awkward translation. But, as he personifies a continent in the west said to support heaven and earth at once [Æschylus, *Prometheus Vincetus*, 351-53 (or 367), 431-33 (or 447-49)], *i.e.*, the feet of the giant tread the earth while his shoulders support the celestial vault, an allusion to the gigantic peaks of the Lemurian and Atlantean continents—the epithet ‘supporter’ becomes very correct. The term ‘conservator’ for the Greek word *ἔχει* which Decharme, following Sir Theodore Martin, understands as meaning *φυλάσσει* and *ἐπιμελείται*, does not render the same sense.” (SD II, 763)

⁷⁰ (*Bibliotheca*, Bk. II, v. 11)

⁷¹ Maximum elevation at Mount Toubkal rises to 13,665 feet or 4,165 m. (Britannica 2002).

⁷² *Ezekiel*, xxviii, 18.

⁷³ J.D. Baldwin, *Ancient America*, ch. vii, p. 179; ed. 1872. Cf. “Is it not, to say the least, very extraordinary to find in America a city called by a name which contains a purely local element, foreign moreover to every other country, in the alleged *fiction* of a philosopher of 400 years B.C.? The same may be said of the name of *America*, which may one day be found more closely related to Meru, the sacred mount in the centre of the *seven* continents, according to the Hindu tradition, than to Amerigo Vespucci.” (*Ibid.*)

⁷⁴ [HPB referring to] “. . . Arjuna, Krishna’s companion and *chela*, [who] is said to have descended into *Pâtâla*, the ‘antipodes,’ an therein married *Ulûpi*, a *Nâga* (or *Nâgini* rather), the daughter of the king of the *Nâgas*. . . *Ulûpi* has an entire Atlantean ring about it.” *Ibid.*

⁷⁵ Cf. “Poseidonis, or the (last) island of Atlantis ‘the third step of Idaspati’ (or Vishnu) in the mystic language of the secret books—lasted till about 12,000 years ago. The Atlantes of Diodorus were right in claiming that it was their country, the region surrounding Mount Atlas, where ‘the gods were born’—*i.e.*, ‘incarnated.’” (SD II, 765) Also cf. “Poseidonis [was Atlantis] . . . last surviving link 12,000 [years] ago.” (BCW, V 216)

⁷⁶ *I.e.*, Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Antarctica, Europe, and Australia, listed in order of size. (Europe and Asia are sometimes considered a single continent, Eurasia.). Britannica 2002.

⁷⁷ Cf. “The Greek allegories give to Atlas, or Atlantis, seven daughters (seven sub-races), whose respective names are Maia, Electra, Taygeta, Asterope, Merope, Alcyone, and Celæno. This ethnologically, as they are credited with having married gods and with having become the mothers of famous heroes, the founders of many nations and cities. Astronomically, the Atlantides have become the seven Pleiades(?). In occult science the two are connected with the destinies of nations, those destinies being shaped by the past events of their early lives according to Karmic law.” (SD II, 768)

⁷⁸ A period of 306,720,000 years according to *The Secret Doctrine*.—*Comp.*

⁷⁹ *Letters* are referenced by two numbers: the first is a reference to the “combined edition;” the second (in parentheses) corresponds to the “chronological edition.”

Geochronology (2006)

In the light of the Secret Doctrine

The table on the following page and explanatory notes are based on an article in Wikipedia (2006).¹ The figures on the right hand side column, headed “Secret Doctrine,” were extracted from D Pratt’s paper on “Geochronology: Theosophy and Science” (1999).² Time is expressed as “million years” ago.

The background notes below were edited from Wikipedia’s encyclopaedic article:

The table of geologic periods presented here is in accordance with the dates and nomenclature proposed by the International Commission on Stratigraphy, and uses the standard color codes of the United States Geologic Survey.

Current geologic evidence holds that the age of the Earth is about 4570 million years old. The geologic or *deep time* of Earth's past has been organized into various units according to events which took place in each period. Different spans of time on the time scale are usually delimited by major geologic or paleontologic events, such as mass extinctions. For example, the boundary between the Cretaceous period and the Palaeogene period is defined by the extinction event that marked the demise of the dinosaurs and of many marine species.

Geologists tend to talk in terms of Upper/Late, Lower/Early and Middle parts of periods and other units—e.g. “Upper Jurassic”, “Middle Cambrian”. Because geologic units occurring at the same time but from different parts of the world can often look different and contain different fossils, there are many examples where the same period was historically given different names in different locales. For example, in North America the Early Cambrian is referred to as the Waucoban series that is then subdivided into zones based on trilobites. The same time span is split into Tommotian, Atdabanian and Botomian stages in East Asia and Siberia.

In 1977, the Global Commission on Stratigraphy (now the International Commission) started an effort to define global references (Global Boundary Stratotype Sections and Points) for geologic periods and faunal stages. Their most recent work is described in the 2004 geologic time scale of Gradstein et al. (ISBN 0521786738), and used as the foundation of this page.

The following notes were edited from D Pratt’s theosophical article:

Modern geological nomenclature differs in some respects from that used by Blavatsky. For instance, the Eocene is now divided into Paleocene, Eocene, and Oligocene, and the Ordovician period has been inserted between the Cambrian and Silurian, and comprises part of both. The Cambrian is now taken as the beginning of the Paleozoic era. The Laurentian would fall into the Precambrian era; in Blavatsky's time 'Laurentian' denoted the 30,000 ft of rocks underlying the Cambrian strata, but the term is no longer used in this sense.

The theosophical figures are those given by Dick & Scott,³ with a few alterations and additions. The duration of the Paleocene, Eocene, and Oligocene has been determined by dividing up Dick & Scott's Eocene according to the maximum thickness of the Paleocene, Eocene, and Oligocene strata according to science.⁴ The duration of the Cambrian, Ordovician, and Silurian has been determined using the same method.

Christos A Bartzokas
Gwernymynydd
Winter 2006

¹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geologic_time_scale

² <http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/dp5/geochron.htm>

³ FJ Dick & W Scott, “The Age of the Earth” In: *The Theosophical Path*, April 1919, pp. 369-79

⁴ R Milton, *The Facts of Life*, 1992, plate 1

Eon	Era	Period	Series/Epoch (million years)		Secret Doctrine
Phanerozoic	Cenozoic	Neogene	Holocene ¹	0.011430	Start of 4 th Round 320.000
			Pleistocene ²	1.806	
			Pliocene ³	5.332	
			Miocene ⁴	23.030	
		Paleogene	Oligocene ⁵	33.900	
			Eocene ⁶	55.800	
			Paleocene ⁷	65.500	
	Mesozoic	Cretaceous ⁸	Upper/Late	99.600	Start of 3 rd Round 720.000
			Lower/Early	145.500	
		Jurassic ⁹	Upper/Late	161.200	
			Middle	175.600	
			Lower/Early	199.600	
		Triassic ¹⁰	Upper/Late	228.000	
	Middle		245.000		
	Lower/Early		251.000		
	Paleozoic	Permian ¹¹	Lopingian	260.400	74.000
			Guadalupian	270.600	
			Cisuralian	299.000	
		Carboniferous Pennsylvanian ¹²	Upper/Late	306.500	110.000
			Middle	311.700	
			Lower/Early	318.100	
		Carboniferous Mississippian ¹³	Upper/Late	326.400	
			Middle	345.300	
			Lower/Early	359.200	
		Devonian ¹⁴	Upper/Late	385.300	148.000
			Middle	397.500	
			Lower/Early	416.000	
		Silurian ¹⁵	Pridoli	418.700	179.000
			Ludlow	422.900	
			Wenlock	428.200	
	Llandovery		443.700		
	Ordovician ¹⁶	Upper/Late	460.900	214.000	
		Middle	471.800		
Lower/Early		488.300			
Cambrian ¹⁷	Furongian	501.000	250.000		
	Middle	513.000			
	Lower/Early	542.000			
		(Laurentian)			Start of 4 th Round 320.000
Proterozoic	Neo-proterozoic	Ediacaran ¹⁸	630.000	Start of 4 th Round 320.000	
		Cryogenian ¹⁹	850.000		
		Tonian ²⁰	1.000.000		
	Meso-proterozoic	Stenian ²¹	1.200.000	Start of 3 rd Round 720.000	
		Ectasian ²²	1.400.000		
		Calymmian ²³	1.600.000		
	Paleo-proterozoic	Statherian ²⁴	1.800.000	Start of 2 nd Round 1.300.000	
Orosirian ²⁵		2.050.000			
Rhyacian ²⁶		2.300.000			
Siderian ²⁷		2.500.000			
Archean	Neoproterozoic	2.800.000	Start of 2 nd Round 1.300.000		
	Mesoarchean ²⁹	3.200.000			
	Paleoarchean ³⁰	3.600.000			
	Eoarchean ³¹	3.800.000			
Hadean	Lower Imbrian	c. 3.850.000	Start of 1 st Round 1.973.000		
	Nectarian	c. 3.920.000			
	Basin groups ³²	c. 4.150.000			
	Cryptic ³³	c. 4.570.000			

Table annotations

- ¹ End of recent glaciation and a rise of modern civilization.
- ² Flourishing and then extinction of many large mammals (Pleistocene mega fauna); Evolution of fully modern humans.
- ³ Intensification of present ice age. Cool and dry climate; Australopithecines appear, many of the existing genera of mammals, and recent molluscs appear.
- ⁴ Moderate climate; Mountain building in northern hemisphere; Modern mammal and bird families became recognizable. Horses and mastodonts diverse. Grasses become ubiquitous. First hominoids appear.
- ⁵ Warm climate; Rapid evolution and diversification of fauna, especially mammals. Major evolution and dispersal of modern types of angiosperms.
- ⁶ Archaic mammals (e.g. Creodonts, Condylarths, Uintatheres, etc) flourish and continue to develop during the epoch. Appearance of several "modern" mammal families. Primitive whales diversify. First grasses. Reglaciation of Antarctica; start of current ice age.
- ⁷ Climate tropical. Modern plants; Mammals diversify into a number of primitive lineages following the extinction of the dinosaurs. First large mammals (up to bear or small hippo size).
- ⁸ Flowering plants appear, along with new types of insects. More modern teleost fish begin to appear. Ammonites, belemnites, rudists, echinoids and sponges all common. Many new types of dinosaurs (e.g. Tyrannosaurs, Titanosaurs, duck bills, and horned dinosaurs) evolve on land, as do modern crocodilians; and mosasaurs and modern sharks appear in the sea. Primitive birds gradually replace pterosaurs. Monotremes, marsupials and placental mammals appear. Break up of Gondwana.
- ⁹ Gymnosperms (especially conifers, Bennettitales and cycads) and ferns common. Many types of dinosaurs, such as sauropods, carnosaurus, and stegosaurs. Mammals common but small. First birds and lizards. Ichthyosaurs and plesiosaurs diverse. Bivalves, Ammonites and belemnites abundant. Echinoids very common, also crinoids, starfish, sponges, and terebratulid and rhynchonellid brachiopods. Break-up of Pangea into Gondwana and Laurasia.
- ¹⁰ Archosaurs dominant and diverse on land, include many large forms; cynodonts become smaller and more mammal-like. First dinosaurs, mammals, pterosaurs, and crocodilia. *Dicroidium* flora common on land. Many large aquatic temnospondyl amphibians. Ichthyosaurs and nothosaurs common in the seas. Ceratite ammonoids extremely common. Modern corals and teleost fish appear, as do many modern insect clades.
- ¹¹ Landmass unites in the supercontinent of Pangea. Synapsid reptiles become common (Pelycosaurus and Therapsids), parareptiles and temnospondyl amphibians also remain common. Carboniferous flora replaced by gymnosperms in the middle of the period. Beetles and flies evolve. Marine life flourishes in the warm shallow reefs. Productid and spiriferid brachiopods, bivalves, foraminifera, and ammonoids all abundant. End of Permo-carboniferous ice age. At the end of the period the Permian extinction event- 95% of life on Earth becomes extinct.
- ¹² Winged insects appear and are abundant, some (esp. Protodonata and Palaeodictyoptera) growing to large size. Amphibians common and diverse. First reptiles, coal forests (*Lepidodendron*, *Sigillaria*, *Calamites*, *Cordaites*, etc), very high atmospheric oxygen content. In the seas, Goniatites, brachiopods, bryozoa, bivalves, corals, etc all common.

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- ¹³ Large primitive trees, first land vertebrates, brackish water and amphibious eurypterids; rhizodonts dominant fresh-water predators. In the seas primitive sharks common and very diverse, echinoderms (especially crinoids and blastoids) abundant, Corals, bryozoa, and brachiopods (Productida, Spriferida, etc) very common; Goniatites common, trilobites and nautiloids in decline. Glaciation in East Gondwana.
- ¹⁴ First clubmosses and horsetails appear, progymnosperms (first seed bearing plants) appear, first trees (Archaeopteris). First (wingless) insects. In the sea strophomenid and atrypid brachiopods, rugose and tabulate corals, and crinoids are abundant. Goniatite ammonoids are common, and coleoids appear. Trilobites reduced in numbers. Armoured agnaths decline; Jawed fish (Placoderms, lobe-finned and ray-finned fish, and early sharks) important life in the sea. First amphibians (but still aquatic). "Old Red Continent" (Euramerica).
- ¹⁵ First vascular land plants, millipedes and arthropleurids, first jawed fish, as well as many types of armoured jawless forms. Sea scorpions reach large size. tabulate and rugose corals, brachiopods (Pentamerida, Rhynchonellida, etc), and crinoids all abundant; trilobites and molluscs diverse. Graptolites not as varied.
- ¹⁶ Invertebrates very diverse and include many new types. Early corals, Brachiopods (Orthida, Strophomenida, etc), bivalves, nautiloids, trilobites, ostracods, bryozoa, many types of echinoderms (cystoids, crinoids, starfish, etc), branched graptolites, and other taxa all common. Conodonts were planktonic primitive vertebrates that appear at the start of the Ordovician. Ice age at the end of the period. First very primitive land plants.
- ¹⁷ Major diversification of life in the Cambrian Explosion; more than half of modern animal phyla appear, along with a number of extinct and problematic forms. Archeocyatha abundant in the early Cambrian. Trilobites, Priapulida, sponges, inarticulate brachiopods, and many other forms all common. First chordates appear. Anomalocarids are top predators. Edicarian animals rare, then die out.
- ¹⁸ First multi-celled animals. Edicarian fauna (vendobionta) flourish worldwide. Simple trace fossils from worm-like animals. First sponges.
- ¹⁹ Possible snowball Earth period, Rodinia begins to break up.
- ²⁰ First acritarch radiation.
- ²¹ Narrow highly metamorphic belts due to orogeny as Rodinia formed.
- ²² Platform covers continue to expand.
- ²³ Platform covers expand.
- ²⁴ First complex single-celled life. Columbia (supercontinent).
- ²⁵ The atmosphere became oxygenic. Vredefort and Sudbury Basin asteroid impacts. Much orogeny.
- ²⁶ Bushveld Formation formed. Huronian glaciation.
- ²⁷ Banded iron formations formed.
- ²⁸ Stabilization of most modern cratons, possible mantle overturn event.
- ²⁹ First stromatolites.
- ³⁰ First known oxygen producing bacteria.
- ³¹ Simple single-celled life.
- ³² 4100 Ma - Oldest known rock.
- ³³ 4400 Ma - Oldest known mineral; 4570 Ma - Formation of Earth.