

Ancient India and Ireland: Storehouses of Wisdom



DEVOTIONAL READING

HYMN XCI Soma.

~ A Fragment from *Rig Veda* ~

Thou, Soma, art preeminent for wisdom; along the straightest path thou art our leader.

Our wise forefathers by thy guidance, Indu, dealt out among the Gods their share of treasure.

*Thou by thine insight art most wise, O Soma, strong by thine energies and all possessing,
Mighty art thou by all thy powers and greatness, by glories art thou glorious, guide of mortals.*

Thine are King Varuna's eternal statutes, lofty and deep, O Soma, is thy glory.

All-pure art thou like Mitra the beloved, adorable, like Aryaman, O Soma.

With all thy glories on the earth, in heaven, on mountains, in the plants, and in the waters, –

With all of these, well-pleased and not in anger, accept, O royal Soma, our oblations.

From “The Theosophical Glossary”:

SOMA The moon, and also the juice of the plant of that name used in the temples for trance purposes; a sacred beverage. Soma, the moon, is the symbol of the Secret Wisdom. The true followers of the primitive Vedic religion are very few; these are the alleged descendants of the Rishis, the real Agnihôtris, the initiates of the great Mysteries. The Soma drink is also commemorated in the Hindu Pantheon, for it is called King-Soma. He who drinks thereof is made to participate in the heavenly king; he becomes filled with his essence, as the Christian apostles and their converts were filled with the Holy Ghost, and purified of their sins. The Soma makes a new man of the initiate; he is reborn and transformed, and his spiritual nature overcomes the physical; it bestows the divine power of inspiration, and develops the clairvoyant faculty to the utmost. According to the exoteric explanation the soma is a plant, but at the same time it is an angel. It

forcibly connects the inner, highest “spirit” of man, which spirit is an angel like the mystical Soma, with his “irrational soul”, or astral body, and thus united by the power of the magic drink, they soar together above physical nature and participate during life in the beatitude and ineffable glories of Heaven.

VARUNA The god of water, or marine god, the oldest of the Vedic deities, Water means the “Waters of Space”, or the all-investing sky, Akâsa, in one sense. Varuna or Ooaroona (phonetically), is certainly the prototype of the Ouranos of the Greeks. As Muir says: “The grandest cosmical functions are ascribed to Varuna. Possessed of illimitable knowledge . . . he upholds heaven and earth; he dwells in all worlds as sovereign ruler. . . He made the golden . . . sun to shine in the firmament. The wind which resounds through the atmosphere is his breath. . . Through the operation of his laws the moon walks in brightness and the stars . . . mysteriously vanish in daylight. He knows the flight of birds in the sky, the paths of ships on the ocean, the course of the far travelling wind, and beholds all the things that have been or shall be done. . . He witnesses men’s truth and false hood. He instructs the Rishi Vasishta in mysteries; but his secrets and those of Mitra are not to be revealed to the foolish.” . . . “The attributes and functions ascribed to Varuna impart to his character a moral elevation and sanctity far surpassing that attributed to any other Vedic deity.”

MITRA or **MITHRA** An ancient Iranian deity, a sun-god, as evidenced by his being lion-headed. The name exists also in India and means a form of the sun.

INDIA

Introduction

Not articles but volumes will have to be written to reveal in their pristine grandeur the Landmarks of Ancient India. Here are indicated but a very few signposts, each of which takes the active seeker on a different road of the Great Journey. For immemorial ages, yuga after yuga, on the mountain ridges and in the forests on the plains, India’s sons have struggled with the fogs of ignorance and the upas trees of superstition, gaining the vision splendid of which one here has sung, another there has spoken for the guidance of the weary-footed pilgrim of this Age of Darkness. If we humbly bow in devotion to the Ancient Seers and Sages we too may succeed in fully understanding the Mission of the Mighty Ones who have never ceased speaking the Word, the latest from whose ranks was our own teacher — H. P. Blavatsky.

THEOSOPHY, Vol. 20, No. 1, November, 1931, Pages 19-25

Read “INDIA A STOREHOUSE FOR US” by W.Q. Judge

Video: Who Were The Aryans? | India's Ancestors | Ancient History (1:03 – 3:49)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q_GF7rs8n80

Commentary

Time was when the ancient continent of Asia, from Fo-Kien to Baku, lived by the same religious truths which united tribes and races and nations into a harmonious whole. The universal Wisdom-Religion was the root of that mighty Tree on which in later times grew the branches of the Zoroastrian, the Chaldean, the Egyptian religions; this takes us back ages before Moses, Jesus, and Muhammad tried to teach the eternal truths. Before the Vedas existed, that Wisdom-Religion, the Bodhi-Dharma, the Source of Brahmanical lore, was.

Not without good reasons the Hindus call theirs the Eternal Religion, Sanatana Dharma. Properly speaking, that title by right can belong only to the Mother Source of all religions, viz., Theosophia or the Wisdom-Religion; but of all exoteric faiths the Brahmanical is the one which approximates most

nearly to the original; the first-born of the Aryan family of religions, it bears a very close resemblance to the Mother.

First, of all Asiatic cultures only that of old India survives as a living reality. Readers must bear in mind that archaic India was a far-flung country, modern India has shrunk to its present proportions — wide and large as they are — from the geographical marvel that it was!

“There was an Upper, a Lower, and a Western India, the latter of which is now Persia-Iran. The countries now named Thibet, Mongolia, and Great Tartary, were also considered by the ancient writers as India.”

Isis Unveiled, 1:589

The process continues: in some few hundred years more the sixth sub-race will become the pioneer; it will flower in America from the seeds which have been, and are being, sown. Another 25,000 years and the seventh sub-race will come into being, when alone the Aryan Fifth Root-Race will have completed the great drama of its evolution.

Based on *The Secret Doctrine, 2:445*

It is obvious that the cyclic rise of India is contemporaneous with the rise of each of its daughter sub-races. Every time India rises to the crest of the wave in grand creative activity, she radiates the energy of wisdom, which fructifies a new civilization; then follows the period of preservation, during which India guards her hoard of knowledge, waiting and watching for another hour of cyclic rising, while within her borders the struggle of existence goes on. Thus, there are dynamic and static periods in Indian history.

“This is one real reason why that title belongs to the religious lore of old India: in the Occult History of Aryavarta is to be found the history of the entire Aryan Root-Race with its seven sub-races.”

The Ocean of Theosophy, 9

H.P.B. calls India “that old initiatrix” and bearing in mind the kinship between old Egypt and modern America, to which Mr. Judge makes more than one pointed reference, the student is called upon to ponder over this statement:

*“...we affirm that, if Egypt furnished Greece with her civilization, and the latter bequeathed hers to Rome, Egypt herself had, in those unknown ages when Menes reigned, received her laws, her social institutions, her arts and her sciences, from **pre-Vedic India**; and that therefore, it is in that old initiatrix of the priests — adepts of all the other countries — we must seek for the key to the great mysteries of humanity.”*

Isis Unveiled, 1:589

*“Throughout the countries of the Orient, wherever magic and the wisdom-religion are studied, its practitioners and students are known among their craft as **Builders** — for they build the temple of knowledge, of secret science.”*

Isis Unveiled, 2:392

The Sruti is composed of the Four Vedas. Occultism teaches that these were delivered by Primeval Sages on Lake Manasa-Sarovar beyond the Himalayas, tens of thousands of years ago.



Lake Manasa-Sarovar and the holy Mount Kailash, Tibet, China

It is, comparatively speaking, not important to argue out the exact era in which the Vedas were first transcribed, or subsequently arranged. The stages seem to be, first, the age when they were heard and remembered; second, the age when they were fully transcribed; and third, the age when they were rearranged till their present form was reached. H.P.B. says, *“They are the most ancient as well as the most sacred of the Sanskrit works.”* Corruption of Hinduism is not so much due to what has been withdrawn as to what has been inserted and added.

To see more, you can go to <https://universaltheosophy.com/legacy/movements/ancient-east/vedic-india/> or <https://blavatskytheosophy.com/our-mother-india/> where you can read all the articles in the series “India – The Alma Mater” from “Theosophy” magazine.

IRELAND

Read “IRELAND” by W.Q. Judge

Video: Exploring Celtic Mythology: The Tuatha Dé Danann (1:00 – 6:34)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FCc_R2XTjFM

“A couple of thousands years ago there lived in Ireland a people who were gods and the children of gods. They were of radiant beauty and godlike bearing, and they loved above all things poetry, music and beauty of form in man and woman. These beautiful people were descended from the goddess Dana, and so were called the Dan Danaans, or the people of Dana.”

The Book of Invasions

The Principal Irish Gods of the Tuatha de Danann

THE DAGHDHA Chief of the gods; divine guarantor of fertility and prosperity

LUGH God of war, light and craft skills

MACHA A horse and battle goddess

THE MORRIGAN Goddess of war and death

GOIBHNIU A smith-god

DIAN CECHT God of healing and crafts

DANU or **ANU** Foundation goddess

ERIU Eponymous goddess of Ireland

OENGHUS God of lovers

NUADU The name means *cloud-maker* so he may be the weather god

BOANN Goddess of the river Boyne

MANANNAN God of the sea

“The Tuatha De Danann did not have Ireland handed to them on a plate when they invaded. They had to fight two separate groups of monstrous beings before they could establish themselves. The first were the Fir Bholg, who had taken over the land before the Tuatha De Danann arrived. It was at the First Battle of Magh Tuiredh in Co.Sligo that Nuadu lost his arm. Despite that setback, the race of gods was eventually victorious. Now they had to fight another enemy, the Fomorians.

Once Lugh had become king of the Tuatha De Danann, his principal task was to continue the battle against the second race of monsters. They were a formidable enemy. Lugh mustered all the wizardry and magical craft skills of his people in order to fashion invincible weapons and spells against their monstrous foe. Under Lugh’s magic the mountains were hurled upon them, and all Ireland’s water hidden from them. Druids were summoned to cast fire upon them and make them ill.

The war between the Tuatha De Danann and the Fomorians culminated in the Second Battle of Magh Tuiredh, a bloody fight with many casualties on both sides. But the Tuatha De Danann had one huge advantage: while the slain Fomorians stayed dead, the gods were reborn by being cast into a magical well. The craft god Dian Cecht (he who had given Nuadu his new arm) and his three children sang spells over the well and the dead warriors were restored to life to join battle with the monsters once again. Lugh himself used magic to inspire his army. He moved among the soldiers chanting incantations to make them strong.”

The Celtic Myths (Miranda Aldhouse-Green), 67

*“The Gaels or Celts (sometimes known as the Milesians in the texts) were the final colonizers of Ireland, according to the Book of Invasions. They threw out the Tuatha De Danann, who took refuge underground in their Otherworld palaces (or *sidhe*). The Tuatha De Danann’s origin goddess Danu had three rivals, all more powerful than her. These goddesses personified the land of Ireland and they met the new Gael invaders when they arrived. The trio were called Eriu, Fodla and Banbha. They were also rivals and each one demanded allegiance from the Gaels and a promise that they would name the land after her. In return, the victorious goddess pledged that the Gaels would keep Ireland forever. Eriu emerged as the winner and became the eponymous divine ancestress of Ireland. Eriu belonged to the whole Ireland, and she was the essence of the land, its fertility and its success as a prosperous nation. Erin is still used as an alternative name for the land today.”*

The Celtic Myths (Miranda Aldhouse-Green), 76

Additional commentary on ancient architecture

“Mr. Rivett-Carnac, B.C.S., of Allahabad, the distinguished Archaeologist, shows the same amazement in finding the description given by Sir J. Simpson of the cuplike markings on stones and rocks in England, Scotland, and other Western countries — "offering an extraordinary resemblance" to "the marks on the trap Boulders which encircle the Barrows near Nagpur" (the city of Snakes). The eminent scholar saw in this "another and very extraordinary addition to the mass of evidence. . . that a branch of the nomadic tribes, who swept at an early date over Europe, penetrated into India also." We say Lemuria, Atlantis and her giants, and the earliest races of the Fifth Root-Race had all a hand in these betyles, lithoi, and "magic" stones in general. The cup marks noticed by Sir J. Simpson, and the "holes scooped out on the face" of rocks and monuments found by Mr. Rivett-Carnac "of different sizes varying from six inches to an inch-and-a-half in diameter, and in depth from one to one-and-a-half inch generally arranged in perpendicular lines presenting many permutations in the number and size and arrangement of the cups" — are simply written RECORDS of the oldest races.”

Secret Doctrine, 1:346, 347

Let those who doubt this statement explain the mystery of the extraordinary knowledge possessed by the ancients—alleged to have developed from lower and animal-like savages, the cave-men of the Palaeolithic age—on any other equally reasonable grounds. Let them turn to such works as those of Vitruvius Pollio of the Augustan age, on architecture, for instance, in which all the rules of proportion are those taught anciently at initiations, if he would acquaint himself with the truly divine art, and understand the deep esoteric significance hidden in every rule and law of proportion. No man descended from a Palaeolithic cave-dweller could ever evolve such a science unaided, even in millenniums of thought and intellectual evolution. It is the pupils of those incarnated Rishis and Devas of the third Root Race, who handed their knowledge from one generation to another, to Egypt and Greece with its now lost canon of proportion; as it is the Disciples of the Initiates of the 4th, the Atlanteans, who handed it over to their Cyclopes, the "Sons of Cycles" or of the "Infinite," from whom the name passed to the still later generations of Gnostic priests. "It is owing to the divine perfection of those architectural proportions that the Ancients could build those wonders of all the subsequent ages, their Fanes, Pyramids, Cave-Temples, Cromlechs, Cairns, Altars, proving they had the powers of machinery and a knowledge of mechanics to which modern skill is like a child's play, and which that skill refers to itself as the 'works of hundred-handed giants.'" (See "Book of God," Kenealy.) (...) The Druidical circles, the Dolmen, the Temples of India, Egypt and Greece, the Towers and the 127 towns in Europe which were found "Cyclopean in origin" by the French Institute, are all the work of initiated Priest-Architects, the descendants of those primarily taught by the "Sons of God," justly called "The Builders."

Secret Doctrine, 1:208, 211

The Newgrange prehistoric monument in County Meath, Republic of Ireland

