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## The Hoerbiger Institute

### Plato and Hoerbiger

## A New Approach to the Atlantis Problem

By H. S. BELLAMY.

Atlantis has held a firm place in the minds of the learned and the lay ever since Plato first mooted it as a fit subject for serious philosophical consideration. It has been said that the story of the loss of Atlantis is nothing but a product of pure invention—but that theory must be discounted for a number of weighty reasons. The weightiest will be given in the further course of this disquisition; suffice it at this point to say: that the great philosopher was not in the habit of making up stories; that he published the Atlantis report at the peak of his fame when the telling of a mere fable would have done his reputation considerable harm; that he put forth his first Atlantis reference under peculiar aspects of urgency; and, finally, that Plato's Atlantis report, if rightly considered, contains nothing that is improbable or impossible.

Plato's great report, as contained in his last two works, the "Dialogues" Timaeus and Critias, consists of two materials. The one is unimportant: it deals with the culture and history of Atlantis. The other is of supreme importance: it deals with the sudden loss of a "continent" under peculiar cataclysmic aspects.

The chief duty of any serious "Atlantologist" must be to explain the sudden and utter disappearance of Atlantis. The entire loss of a continent or island is only possible through submergence, for which, indeed, we have the authoritative statement of Plato himself. But it is just here that scientists have failed to give a lead, or at least to afford some help. According to the official view obtaining at present submergences are only possible through land sinking into the waters, the physical constitution of the Earth's surface being what it is, terrestrial crustal movements can only result in relatively small and local, and mostly only slow, submergences of land; the sudden disappearance of what, to all intents and purposes, was a minor continent is deemed impossible. This standpoint of non-co-operation on the part of official science has caused

Atlantologists to explore all sorts of unfruitful side-lines, to avoid clashes or the accusation of being unscientific romancers.

However, if the "orthodox" sciences are unable, or unwilling to help, Atlantologists are entitled to try an approach from an "unorthodox" side. The most promising avenue available is that which is afforded by the teachings of the Austrian cosmologist, Hans Hoerbiger. The relevant sections of his "Cosmic Ice Theory" are as follows:—

Interplanetary space is not absolutely "empty" but filled with a medium which is exhaled from the sunspots. In spite of its thinness this "solifugal" medium offers a definite resistance to the planets, and causes their orbits to be finely-pitched, inward-tending spirals. As goes without saying the involution ratio of each planetary body is different and depends on its size, mass, speed, and distance from the Sun. Hence a smaller body must spiral sunward more quickly than a bigger one. If, for instance, our Moon, which is about fifty times smaller, and about eighty times lighter, than our Earth, were an independent planet wending its way some distance outside the terrestrial orbit, it would eventually trespass into the active gravitational realm of the Earth, and be "captured" as a satellite. According to Hoerbiger this is exactly what happened to the planet Luna, some twelve or thirteen thousand years ago.

The capture of the Moon, of course, brought about a series of great physical changes on our Earth. The gravitation of the new satellite distorted the terrestrial crust, which caused terrific earthquakes and violent volcanic activity. The terrestrial atmosphere was thrown into confusion, with a long-lasting general worsening of the climate as a result. But the profoundest change was caused by the new satellite drawing the waters of the terrestrial oceans more towards the tropics, and holding them there. To the north and south of a latitude of about 40 deg. the waters fell, but within that girdle they rose—by something like eight or ten thousand feet in the equatorial belt.

Here, then, is the cataclysm which would be able to swallow up even whole continents situated in critical latitudes, suddenly and tracelessly. And here there are the seismic and volcanic paroxysms, and the meteorological phenomena, which attended the catastrophe. It was, as Plato significantly states, "a declination of the bodies moving in the heavens around the earth," that is, the capture of our present Moon, which caused "in a single day and night of misfortune", the loss "of the island Atlantis in the depths of the sea." This happened "9,000 years" before the age of Solon (that is, some 11,500 years ago, a figure not so dissimilar from our estimate), and Atlantis which was situated "in the sea in front of the Pillars

of Hercules" (a near enough approximation to our critical zone), was destroyed "by the agency of fire and water", through "violent earthquakes and floods".

The great catastrophe had not been quite unforeseen. "Many great deluges had taken place" . . . "after intervals" (the so-called conjunction floods caused by close passages of the planet Luna prior to the capture), before the "great deluge of all". The Atlanteans, well aware of the ultimate danger threatening their land, sent out "an expedition against the whole of Europe and Asia" to acquire safe new seats by conquest. One of the expeditions was directed against "Athens" (not the historical city, but a prehistoric state is meant, of course). The struggle for what was considered safe life space was terrible, "some military pursuit was then common to men and women". The great battle between the Atlanteans and the "Atheneans" was not decided by victory of arms, but brought to an end by the outbreak of the great cataclysm, which engulfed both armies. The waters of the Mediterranean, which was then also formed in its present extent, swallowed up much of the fought-over homeland of the "various families of Hellenes", leaving only a "remnant of Attica", all the rest having "fallen away all round and sunk out of sight".

These few passages quoted from Jowett's translation of Plato's Dialogues, Timaeus and Critias, must suffice for this short disquisition. They are ample, however, to prove two important facts. First, no matter from which source Plato derived his knowledge of the loss of Atlantis, it will be conceded that he could not under any circumstances have "invented" all the most significant details quoted above (and many more); hence it is certain that Plato has presented us with a Report, and not with a made-up tale. Second, only if viewed from the angle of Hoerbiger's teachings regarding the capture of Luna these details, and the many others alluded to, make real sense; hence Hoerbiger's Theory though "unorthodox", and still frowned upon in many quarters, offers a valuable approach to the Atlantis Myth. Both these points become more evident still if Plato's material is subject to a still deeper-going analysis.

It need hardly be stressed that Plato's Report of the loss of Atlantis is not the only myth telling of the foundering of great land-areas. There are numerous similar myths telling of sudden submergence both in the Atlantic and in the Pacific hemispheres of the Earth, many of them stressing the cosmic causation of the cataclysm. Some of them have already been referred to in my previous mythological works. But the full discussion of all the important points of this myth-complex, and especially of Plato's Atlantis Report in the light of Hans Hoerbiger's Theory must be reserved for a special work.