

# THE FIRST OF THE FOUR MAYAN CATASTROPHES: CAUSE AND CONSEQUENCES ON THE OLD WORLD

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## ABSTRACT

We show that the first of the four catastrophes considered by the Mayas and Aztec can be explained by the recent discovery of an impact of a large object over the ices of the Great Lakes region around 10.900 BC. Then we consider some effects of the impact in the old World, especially near the Atlantic. We are led to a new interpretation of Biblical passages, without resorting to theological statements.

## 1. THE FOUR MAYAN CATASTROPHES VERSUS THE THREE PLATONIC ONES

In the books *Critias* and *Timaeus*, Plato, claiming to use information brought to Greece by Solon after a visit to Egypt, states that within human memory several catastrophic events affected mankind, characterized either by fire or by water. In particular he claims that there were three most dramatic events:

- the Deucalion Flood, considered by the Egyptians to be the most recent one, but being the oldest one remembered by Solon. Deucalion Flood can be associated to Exodus, to Dionysus invading India, to climatic changes and large migrations, according to a quite forgotten statement by Orosius [1], who gives as the cause of the event, according to pagans, the explosion of Phaethon. We have developed Orosius statement, confirming its validity, see Spedicato [2,3,4,5]. It was a catastrophe mainly by water, but with fires affecting the region around the point where Phaethon exploded, over the river Eridanus according to classic sources, by us identified with river Eider in Schleswig Holstein
- The Atlantis catastrophe, the oldest one remembered by Egyptians, set at 9000 years before Solon's time, i.e. about 9500 BC. Again we have validated Plato's statement, see Spedicato [5,6,7,8], providing a scenario where Atlantis appears as the main center of a world civilization. We locate Atlantis capital in the island of Hispaniola, previously called by the local people, the Tainos, as *Quisqueya*, i.e. *mother of all lands*. The end of Atlantis in our scenario is due to the fast melting of the ices, at about 9450 BC. Such a melting might have been the consequence of a big object impacting the ocean, but we prefer to see it as the consequence of a close passage of a planet size body. Such a passage led also to the capture of our Moon, before a satellite of the other body, and to the loss of Mars, before Earth's satellite.
- The second catastrophe, the intermediate one, should be the Biblical Flood, which is also the great flood in say Sumerian and Akkadian sources. We date it at 3161 BC on arguments to be given elsewhere. The cause was very complex, involving most probably a close passage by Mars, which lost all its remaining oceanic water.

## 2. THE MAYAN CATASTROPHE BY FIRE AND WIND

It is remarkable that also Mayas and Aztec had a memory of catastrophic events. However they numbered four, not three, see Gilbert and Cotterell [9]. The information on catastrophes remembered in Mesoamerica comes from sources as the surviving codices or books written in Spanish by people who were relatives of the local nobility, e.g. Ixtichihuatl. Also we should notice that five "suns", corresponding to four separating events expected to be of catastrophic nature, appear in the Aztec Sun Stone, discovered in 1790 AD but made in 1469 AD, some fifty years before Aztec collapsed under the attack of Cortez. Also remarkably four catastrophes appear in the Indian record, e.g. in *Bhagavat Purana*, *Matsya Purana*, *Satopatha Brahmana*, see Cheock [10]. The last three of the four Mesoamerican catastrophes can be correlated quite reasonably with the three Platonic events. For a long time it was a great puzzle for me to make sense of the first catastrophe, that was characterized by *wind and fire*.

I am indebted for the solution to this problem, which seems to have escaped the geologists who worked on the considered event, to the scholar Leroy Ellenberger. Ellenberger was many years ago a collaborator of Immanuel Velikovsky, but soon started criticizing his theories and those of many who had been inspired by him (e.g. Dwardu Cardona, David Talbott...). He is a widely read scholar and often sends emails CC to persons who might be interested. So in 2007 I received from him an information I was not aware of, namely that a large asteroid had most probably impacted or exploded over the ices of the Great Lakes region about 10.900 BC. This discovery was communicated at a meeting in May 2007 of the American Geophysical Union. The evidence for the impact came from analysis of sites from California to Belgium rich of material typical of asteroids: metallic microspherules, carbon spherules, nanodiamonds, fullerenes, charcoal and soot. It is unclear if the object exploded in the atmosphere or made a temporary crater in the ice layer, there at least three km deep. The event had the following consequences:

- it ended the Clovis Era, when climate was improving over North America and the so called Clovis hunters had developed very effective techniques for catching the large mammals that roamed in the regions not covered by ice
- it started a period of more severe cold, called Younger Dryas, *dryas* being the name of a tundra flower; this period was characterized also by frequent strong winds, that could flatten forests, as it has been documented in Europe
- the hot air expanding from the explosion point reached the areas in America rich with vegetation, with temperature still so high to start immense fires. There are about 3 million square km of a blackish layer of partially burnt vegetation (large fires reduce the available oxygen, so combustion is not complete). It is called *black mat*. I have seen such a layer, about ten cm wide, in quarries in the Escalante desert in southern Utah, near Beryl. I was guest of a remarkable researcher, Evan Hansen, who died some time later when his gun exploded near his face.... a gun that he had given me to try... I have many letters by him full of scientific material, that should be published sometimes...
- the fires affected the southern part of present United States, and certainly large parts of Mexico, possibly of Guatemala (but the strong equatorial rains might have quenched them). They were associated of course with the hot fast wind produced by the expansion of the extremely hot air from the explosion point. Thus the surviving people, most probably in mountains of the Mexican cordillera or of southern Mexico and Guatemala, remembered both the fire and the wind

- it is interesting that the Aztec remembered the wind but not the fire. An explanation may be that they probably lived in islands inside one of the lagoons of the western coast of Mesoamerica, their native Aztlan. Possibly the lagoons south of Mazatlan or in front of the Gulf of Tehuantepec, or... It is known that the Aztec reached the high Mexico area near volcano Popocatepetl around 200 AD, This possibly happened after their lagoon was dramatically affected by the multiple impacts that happened on the Pacific Oceans in 1178 AD. The impacts led to tsunamis, climatic changes and other effects. These impacts may relate to a large impact over the hidden face of the Moon, that formed the Giordano Bruno crater; parts of the impacting object (that was possibly a stream of objects) reached the Pacific Ocean. See Spedicato [10].

The considered impact over the Great Lakes region led to colder weather possibly as the consequence of the millions square km of vegetated area that were burned. It is also to consider that impacts can activate volcanic eruptions, whose emissions add to the smoke from the fires. So sunlight would be reduced for at least several months, leading to lower temperature and to the increase in albedo, that was considered by Hoyle [11] as the reason for maintaining lower temperatures, and which he explained in terms of the so called *diamond powder*, very small particles of ice forming in the stratosphere.

Not far from the Great Lakes there is the eastern coast of United States, where, extending from the Carolinas to at least New Jersey, over 100.000 shallow lakes, generally very small, are found. They are called the *Carolina Bays*, and there has been much discussion about their origin and date. It appears now that their dating can be set at the time of the proposed impact over the Great Lakes. The bays could have been formed if the impactor was not a single object, but a stream of objects, impacting over a wide area. Streams are often associated with a cometary core that has broken due to internal stresses or to tidal forces.

If our identification of the first of the four catastrophes in Mesoamerican memory is correct, than further interesting subjects of investigation would be:

- the relation between the people surviving in Mesoamerica, most probably on mountains, and the starting of the Atlantis civilization, that was located not only in the Caribbean islands, but in the American continent, and possibly in other places. Plato states that Atlantis was in control of the *islands beyond* (Hispaniola is the first of the large Caribbean islands for those coming from the other side of the Atlantic) and of the *continent that surrounded the true ocean*, i.e., in our scenario, of *America that, being at that time united with Asia, since the Bering's straights were not submerged, and Asia being almost united with Australia, surrounded the true ocean, that is the Pacific ocean*
- when did Mesoamerica develop a relation with Asia, especially with India? We consider India the original place of the neolithic man, engineered in the Garden of Eden, see Spedicato [12,13], and the source of the astronomical knowledge of the Mayas. This knowledge was brought from India in about 3114 BC (the starting year of the Mayan great year), about half century after the Noachian Flood, by a king expelled for immoral conduct, see the so called *Fish Purana*. The king probably arrived with a fleet of Maya navigators (the Maya controlled navigation from eastern India, while the Tiranians controlled navigation from the western part), and set in an island in front of present Nayarit province of Mexico, where he built a palace of seashells. Buildings made only from seashells still existed there when the Spaniards arrived. Notice that the Mesoamerican Mayas have a name that is identical with that of a group of Indian navigators, which is also the name of an Indian goddess.

In Spedicato (2011), we have shown that certain very large chronologies in Asia are most probably the result of multiplying the real numbers by the encrypting factor 180. This is true for cases in Mesopotamia, Japan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, India... It is remarkable that in two cases we are led to dates between year 10.900 BC estimated for the Great Lakes catastrophes and year 9450 BC estimated for the end of Atlantis. These two cases are:

- the election of a certain king in Sri Lanka 1.300.000 years, i.e. after our criterion 7200 years, before a certain king Maha Sammata. If this king relates to the Noachian Flood, then the election would have taken place about 10.800 BC, just after the Great Lakes event

- the Dvapara yuga, that after our decrypting, would start at 10.300 BC.

The above numbers suggest that civilization in India developed much earlier than in other countries, possibly then spreading from India to elsewhere.

### 3. CONSEQUENCES IN THE OLD WORLD OF THE GREAT LAKES IMPACT

In this section we consider, in a tentative way, the effects of the impact in the Great Lakes region over the Old World, in particular over the area closer to that part of America, i.d. western Europe.

It is not known presently with certainty if the object impacted directly over the ices, building a temporary crater possibly hundreds of meters deep and dozens of km wide, or if it exploded in the atmosphere. This was the case for the 1908 Tunkuska event (associated to a small body, possibly 50 m wide) and in our scenario also for the super Tunguska event given by the Phaethon explosion in 1447 BC over the Eider river, of a body possibly a few km wide. In both cases we can assume that a large amount of ice, possibly even thousand of cubic km, vaporized and was partly ionized. This gas and plasma was ejected to very high altitudes, how much to be estimated under certain parameter choices, a task that would require a substantial commitment in work. We cannot exclude that the column of vapor and ionized gas could arise hundred km, if not a few thousand km. Then the ions in the column would start to recombine, and the resulting water would be dispersed over the stratosphere (contributing to the formation of diamond powder!). Water ions when recombining emit light. So an extremely intense light would be produced from the column to be seen at great distances. Suppose now that this light would be visible in Europe, overcoming the about seven thousand km of Atlantic ocean from the point of impact. Then if it was night in Europe, the night would become full of light; if it was day, a light possibly stronger than sunlight would be perceived from the west. A unique and an extremely impressive event. Should we see here the origin of the Biblical *Fiat Lux*? An event therefore within human memory, not an exoteric reference to the *Big Bang*, seen as the beginning of the whole universe?

Let us consider another phenomenon related to the explosion. Hot air would expand radially as a very fast wind, possibly about 1000 km/h in proximity of the explosion. Speed would decrease with distance from the explosion point, but duration of the wind would increase, as well known from many computations. The wind would be enough hot to start fires in North and Central America, which are only a few thousand km away. The wind would reach Europe after crossing the Atlantic with still significant speed, but temperature too low to start fires. It would be a wind flowing for a significant time, from over the Atlantic, possibly extremely humid, an unusual

wind. Thus, should we see here the origin of the Biblical statement of the *spirit flowing over the waters*? Notice that the word *spirit*, that is generally given a spiritual meaning, in the Bible is *ruach*, which is literally a *strong wind, stormy wind*.

The explosion would be associated to an extremely strong sound. It is known, see Rubtsov [14], that most frequencies of the sound produced by a large explosion would become inaudible after less than 500 km. But some low frequencies would be able to go around the world, being audible at thousand of km away. Notice that birds migrating from Arctic to Antarctica are able to listen to sounds of low frequencies produced by the seawaves inside the different bays and beaches of the western coast of the three Americas! Similarly male sperm whales can listen to the sounds produced by females at over one thousand km. So we expect that after several hours from the explosion a special low frequency sound reached Europe. The sound lasted probably for some time, died out, and returned after the sound wave had circled our planet. A very special and unusual sound. Kind of repeated mysterious words. Was it attributed to God? Is it here the origin of the Biblical sentence: *in principle there was the logos – the word*?

If our proposals are correct, which would require in depth study of the impact, then we would conclude:

- the Bible is a text of invaluable historical value
- the interpreters of the text have failed in correctly understanding some passages (not to say when they modified the text at their will, as scholar Mauro Biglino has been showing in his literal translation of the Leningrad Masoretic Biblical text, the oldest one extant for the full Bible).

Two final notes. First, it is usually assumed that Moses wrote at least part of the Pentateuch, and that he was influenced by Egyptian or Babilonian traditions. But we think more likely that he got at least part of it from the people in Edom, the place where he stayed with his people for almost 40 years, before starting the conquest of Canaan. A place well protected, where his presence is remembered still now by names as *Wadi Mussa, Ain Mussa, Gebel Haroon...* The people in Edom descended from Esau, and the history of the family was given by Isaac to Esau, not to Jacob. So very likely Moses paid (possibly with the gold taken in the sanctuary of Baal Sefon) and got some information from the elders in Edom.

Secondly, the seven days of creation are stated by Talmudic scholars, and in one Psalm, to be seven periods of one thousand years each: *one day of God is one thousand years*. We could retrieve the content of the seven “days” by our scenario, without having to resort to creation of plants or animals or.... We leave this to another work, but we here state that:

- the first day begins (about) year 10.500 BC, hence it may relate exactly with the considered impact over the Great Lakes
- the second day, about 9500 BC, corresponds to the end of Ice Age and Atlantis
- the sixth day, about 5500 BC, corresponds to the “creation” of Adam and his woman (first Lilith, then Eve), and of the other six couples referred to in Sumerian texts, omitted in the Bible
- the last day, about 4500 BC, the day of rest of God, is the time of the great development of humanity in terms of agriculture, cities, metallurgy... ending then in the wars referred to in Ramayana and Mahabharata and in the Noachian-Ziududra... Flood, 3161 BC.

And the Bible is correct in stating that *there will be no other Flood*.

#### 4. REFERENCES

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