



The Phlegrean fields, Naples, Herculaneum, Pompeii,  
Sorrento, Amalfi and Paestum.

Greek-Roman and Judeo-Christian is our culture.

A special light shines over southern Italy:  
thoughts, remarks and the considerations of a free thinker.

## **IN QUEST FOR THE SEED IDEA**

100 books in one

Notebook by Claudio Mollo



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## **Preface by the Author**

In my 40 years in the tourism industry, I had the opportunity to entertain myself among most of the archaeological sites and museums within the Campania region (Italy South) and I had the pleasure to discuss of art, myths, religions and other sciences with hundreds of educated people coming from different countries of mother earth.

The questions I have been asked throughout my activity triggered my curiosity in careful research and exciting cultural discoveries.

These notes are meant to be a tribute to anyone who has ever been interested in reading about our origins, function and end of things. In particular, to those scholars whose works I have read. They all share an irrepressible and sometimes obsessive curiosity in our past, present and future: J. Campbell, with his universal way of conceiving the human needs of the soul, with no distinction of colour or race, A. Morelli, as a field expert with a clear vision of Egyptian and Greek-Roman Mythology, L. De Crescenzo, with his simple comparisons between the software of our ancestors and contemporary man's, S. Hawking, as a man of science searching for the invisible and visible Universe – a Universe where man has been conceived and is now living in spite of its mysteries and yet, achieving some scientific certitudes; G. Ravasi, whose works should be read in total silence, just as when listening to your favourite music, for his wonderful descriptions of the ancient world, his consideration of ancient transcriptions and translations, and the related interpretations of the sacred writings.

Mythology is the story of our identity, an organization of symbolic narratives and images, which are often metaphorical, but still providing a complete picture of the cultural repertoire of a given society at any given time. When Religions are studied and become a set of theological works in which everything is reduced to a code, Mythology turns into Theology. The question of creation involves a constant reflection on our natural or/and divine origin. At the same time, we analyse the never-ending circle of life transformation, from birth to death to rebirth.

In this notebook I discuss several instances of symbols dealing with mysteries and philosophical questions that have been fascinating humankind since the very beginning.

A book of meditations and notes like this, couldn't avoid to dwell for some pages on one of the most difficult words in any human language : freedom.

We start our overview of Mediterranean written culture from the Trojan conflict. Its violence is the natural consequence of an explosive combination of love and hatred. Later, In the *Æneid*, Virgil narrates how these events apparently led to the foundation of Roman civilization.

..at a certain point along the Tiber river, the basket was stranded and the crying of the children in it caught the attention of a she-wolf or..

In a proper chapter on Greater Greece, I look at the relationships between classical culture and ours. In here, I have the opportunity to describe some wonderful sites in Southern Italy which represent the living proof of our close relationship with classical Greek culture.

Great credit to the Ancient Greeks, the brightest civilization that ever flourished on earth.

All civilisations have developed inventions and experiences which have naturally spread in the world, thus achieving the first purpose of culture, i.e. progress.

The last chapter deals with the mysterious and fascinating nature of woman. It deals with topics such as love, pleasure and family relations. Here you can read the story of many mythological female figures involved in the eternal adventure of love.

All in all the reader will encounter some physical principles giving answers to what our ancestors could not explain at that stage of their cultural development.

These notes address a reader who has not spent much time on the topics treated.

They are written in a very simple English, every now and then with a bit of humour and satire.

In here you will find hints to some conclusions and meditate on, at some point in our life. At any point in these notes, I refer to our an-

cestors' lives, to their awareness and knowledge of their world and to the mysteries and expectations involved in the human vision of the future.

I believe everyone can recognize some of his/her thoughts at some point of this note book.

The most important myth/stories related to the oldest colonizers and heroes/deities were mainly connected to the search of immortality or metals, in particular gold, for its hypnotic power.

In the translation of the Sumerian clay tablets dating back to 6,000 years ago, we read the word DIN.GIR, meaning: “the pure ones of the blazing rockets”. The Akkadians later named those creatures ILU: “those who are in the heights”. From this word came the biblical EL.

Phoenicians called them BA’AL.

In Sanskrit the word DIVO-GA means “born in the sky”.

Zeus in Greek is Djeus, the genitive is Diòs, meaning “shining sky”.

Dium in Latin means Day or Sky, while Dyàus means light.

Thus, Deity is a pagan concept, whose development dates back to post-Sumerian civilizations.

The Hebrew word YHW was conceived not to be pronounced.

**Y** = light – fire

**H** = water – union vehicle

**W** = life – air

**H** = earth – womb

(From *Hera* 55/2004, Alfredo di Pinzio).

How could one call something considered invisible but divine?

Only through the explanation of what one thinks is the influence of the *Almighty*?

Or through the explanation of what one thinks he-she is and what it will cause?

We have to use different terms then from one event to another.

At the same time we have to consider that any linguistic attempt to describe the concept of “the whole” may not be adequate.

Below are some of the words I use to mention the unmentionable:

Supreme Being  
Singularity  
The Whole  
Creator  
Conceiver  
Almighty  
Divine will  
Omnipotent  
Ubiquitous  
Creative thought  
Divine Spirit  
Creative breeze

Of course, more and more terms were and will be used throughout the different civilizations, scientific trends and cultural evolution.

A civilization is a territory where a considerable number of people develops various forms of art, literature, science, politics, trade and communications.

It is beyond the purposes of these notes to classify chronologically ancient records in order to distinguish between civilizations, tribal societies and farming villages. Ethnic minorities have been marginalized as their historical territories became part of a state.

**Puma Punku** and **Tiwanaku** in Bolivia are said to be city states of about 12 millennia ago.

The **Natufian** culture in Eastern Mediterranean dates back to 11,000 years ago.

**Jerico** on the West Jordan River is today Palestinian territory. This settlement is 9,000 years old.

**Katak Huyuk** in Turkey is 8,000 years old.

**Mehrgar** is a farming village in Pakistan dating back to 8,000 years ago.

**Sumer** civilization in Southern Mesopotamia dates back to 6,000 years ago.

**Egyptians** in North Africa is a civilization of 5,500 years ago.

**Harappa** civilization in Punjab developed around 5,500 years ago on the Indu river.

The **Caral-Supe** settlement in Peru dates back to 5,500 years ago.

**Akkadian** civilization in Mesopotamia flourished 5 thousand years ago.

**Minoians** from Crete island lived 4,500 years ago.

**Assyria** was a Semitic Akkadian kingdom, 4,500 year ago.

**Yezidis** Kurdish in Iraq was an Indo-Arian ethnic group of 4,000 ago.

**Hebrew** civilization dates back to 4,000 years ago.

**Hittites** from Turkey flourished 3,800 year ago.

**Maya** civilization in Onduras Guatemala and Mexico flourished 4,000 years ago. Palenque used to be one of the capitals.

**Henan** Xia Dynasty in China dates back to 3,700 year ago.

**Phoenicians**, an ancient Semitic population from the early Canaanite flourished 3,500 year ago.

**Etruscan** civilization was based in the Central Northern Italy 2,900 year ago.

## Chapter one

### Introduction

How do we position ourselves, from the spiritual and material point of view with the macro and micro universes?

The earliest theoretical attempts to describe and explain the universe involved the idea that spirits inhabited natural objects, such as rivers and mountains, including celestial bodies, like the sun and moon and they acted in a very humanlike and unpredictable manner.

These spirits had to be placated and their favors sought in order to ensure fertility of the soil and rotation of the seasons. Gradually, however, someone must have been noticed that there were certain regularities: the sun always rose East and set West, whether or not a sacrifice had been made to the sun deity. At first, these regularities and laws were obviously found only in astronomy and a few other fields.

In ancient Egypt, for instance, the Sun was considered the primary energy creating life and was associated with the male. The second energy was the female creating duality, when this energy was fecundated by the first energy, the third energy was given birth, the child, the triangle, that is, the sum of the primary and secondary energy. The fourth energy, the square, is the family, the solid base of the pyramid of future.

(NOTA: See *Pandora*).

However, as civilization developed, and particularly in the last 300 years, more and more regularities and laws were discovered.

## TIME

How do we reckon years BC and AD?

Was Jesus born in the year 0? Month and day are also unknown.

The year 1 AD corresponds to:

3761 years after the beginning of the Jewish calendar, which supposedly started the first full moon after the creation of the world, according to the Torah, it was midnight, October 6<sup>th</sup>.

2637 years after the beginning of the Chinese calendar, which starts on the date of the traditional invention of the calendar.

776 years after the beginning of the Greek calendar, starting from the first Olympic game. The year 1 AD was the 194<sup>th</sup> Olympic game.

753 years after **a.u.c.** (**ab urbe condita**) since the foundation of the city of Rome, (according the tradition April 21<sup>st</sup>).

622 AH (Anno Hegirae) years before Hegirae, when Mohamed entered Medina, supposedly July 16<sup>th</sup>.

The concept of a year "zero" is a modern myth.

Roman numerals do not have a figure designating zero.

Our present year was established by Dionysius Exiguus. Dionysius let the year 1 AD start one week after what he believed to be Jesus' birthday.

Therefore, 1 AD follows immediately 1 BC with no intervening year zero. So a person who was born in 10 BC and died in 10 AD, would have died at the age of 19, not 20.

Furthermore, Dionysius' calculations were wrong: it is written in the Gospel of Matthew that Chrestòs was born under the reign of king Herod the Great (son of Antipatro), Herod died in 749 a.u.c. this means that Jesus was born at least 2 years before, probably 747 a.u.c., whereas Exiguus had established the year zero in 753 a.u.c.

The result is that the year 2014 is at least the year 2020.

(Monk from latin monos, one, he who lives in solitude). (NOTE: *I Vangeli*, new version from the original. Edizioni Paoline 1985).

The story is as follows:

In about 523 AD, the papal chancellor, Bonifacius, asked monk Dionysius Exiguus – in English known as Denis the Little – of the Roman Curia, to make calculations in order to establish dates for Easter. Dionysius wrongly set Jesus' birth with respect to Diocletian's reign in such a manner that it falls on 25 December 753 a.u.c., thus making the current era start with 1 AD on 1 January 754 a.u.c.

How Dionysius Exiguus reached this conclusion is unknown.

Does the lack of the year zero cause a problem?

Yes it does, to astronomers who frequently use another way of numbering the years BC. Instead of 1 BC they use 0, instead of 2 BC they use -1, instead of 3 BC they use -2, and so on.

In ancient Rome, December 25<sup>th</sup> used to be the festivity in honor of Saturn. He was the deity who revealed the secrets of agriculture so bringing healthiness, wealth, peace and love. During these festivities all social diversities were abolished.

According to tradition, some deities like Horus, Mithras and Dionysus were born in December, due to the winter solstice, considered as the date when light begins to return.

747 a.u.c. estimated birth of Chrestòs + 6 bc.. = 753

749 a.u.c. estimated death of Herod + 4 bc.. = 753

780 a.u.c. Tiberius emperor wrote a dispatch to the Roman senate, concerning the trial against a certain Chrestòs in Judea.

(NOTE: sources *Tacitus* and *Svetonio*).

## MYTHOLOGY

### **Introduction**

Mythology is the story of our identity, an organization of symbolic narratives and images that are sometime metaphorical, recounting of the possibilities of human experience in a given society at a given time.

In order to find something new, one has to leave the old and go in quest of the **seed idea, an idea that would have the potentiality of bringing forth the new.**

(J.Campbell, *The Hero's Journey*).

Myths have to do with the serious matters of living life in terms of the order of society and nature, whereas fairy-tales are told for entertainment.

Religions are stories that connect us to “the divine”.

The mystery is a versatile tool for the creation of stories, faith, dominions, philosophies and religious systems, but you need the right social position to have time enough to experience meditation, pleasures, conversations, journeys, observations and to learn how to use it at right moment in the right place.

(J. Campbell).

“”Faith and reason are the wings taking to truth.”” St. John.

The question is;

A world without suffering and solitude would it still require a religion?

In Athens in order to ensure that all the deities were represented they even built a temple dedicated to the unknown one.

## LEGENDS AND HISTORY

Fecundity, birth, fertility, thunder, lightning, cyclones, earthquakes, eruptions, fire, day, night, sun, moon, stars and others, are phenomena that had no scientific answers for thousand years.

Men could find no answers to questions such as: why crops die every winter or where the sun goes at night. These incomprehensible phenomena were often associated with idols. Once you have deities, you can influence them in different ways. They were then venerated in the attempt to appease them and catch their favours, and decrease or increase their activity.

In the mythological tradition of Polynesian culture, the moon was the delight of man, providing the tepid and natural light, useful not only for the sentimental aspect of human life, but also for planting the "Taro" (potato), the nutrition base for Polynesians, that needed full moon in order to ensure an abundant harvest.

Each civilisation has had its own ceremonies and sacrifices to the different deities. The first inhabitants of the Earth who started the tales of myth also customized the practices for venerating their idols. Those people who stood out from the others, because of either their intelligence or special gifts, became the interpreters of divine responses. These "priests" handed down from generation to generation, by word of mouth, the roots of mythology.

*Mithos* in Greek means tale, and mythology was the only thing that really unified the Greek Empire. Religion and politics are always a powerful combination: for example, the Romans proclaimed their emperors divine, as the Egyptians did, which meant that their word was law.

In order to control people, one could use the threat of punishment in after life, if they did not keep in line.

Most of the Greek deities and myths have roots in the previous civilizations.

Between the IX and VI century BC there were many kinds of poets and street singers that for a bowl of hot soup, used to entertain people

with tales of heroes and deities, inventing and exaggerating for the astonishment of their audience as much as they could.

Before maps were drawn, these tales were often used for teaching geography: for example, they taught that after crossing a particular mountain one could find a narrow pass followed by a dangerous precipice, and so on. (*Myth.* by Roni Jay).

From the Aborigines to the Greeks, from the Babylonians to the Indians, from the Polynesians to the Chinese, from the Egyptians to the American Indians, and so on, Myth has been an invisible life-code creating traditions.

Ancient myths were useful to create harmony between mind and body. These stories are alive in us and they often unconsciously influence our behaviour.

Sometimes myths change as the understanding of people increases. Suppose you believe it rains because the rain deity is happy, and you have a myth explaining that. As time goes on, you observe that it actually rains anytime the sky is full of black clouds.

So you adjust your myth accordingly, explaining why the rain deity has filled the sky with black clouds. To some extent, the function of deities is different from place to place. For instance a sea deity having the power to keep the sea-water calm and safe will be far more important to peoples living on the coast than to those living inland.

(*Myth.* by Roni Joy).

It is assumed that the earliest form of society used to get nutrition by hunting. Then, maybe, someone who was not really able to hunt started to observe carefully the reproductive system of vegetation, and noticed it was possible to get nutrition from it without taking the risk of killing animals.

This is how rural society developed. Obviously, the rules of life adjusted to the new customs, such as propitiation ceremonies for harvesting, which had similar goals, to those made for hunting, in terms of wished benefits.

Here are two similar stories from two different civilisations:

An American-Indian legend tells of a boy having visions of another young man approaching him with a wreath of plums, inviting him to fight and eventually defeating him. The fight occurred again and again with the same result. One day the young man with the wreath ordered the boy to kill him during the next fight and to bury him, and made the boy promise to take care of the land where he was going to be buried.

After some time on the grave of the young man with the wreath of plums, the first Maize (corn) started to grow.

A Polynesian legend tells of a girl who used to bathe in a small bay where an enormous sea eel was also swimming.

The eel started to swim closer and closer to the girl, until one day it turned into a handsome boy for a short time, or to better say, for just enough time to become her lover.

The time went by and this love story went on and on, as the sea eel kept turning in to a handsome young man. One day he told the girl that she had to kill him and bury his head, which she did. On the land where the head was buried, the first coconut tree sprouted.

*(Power of Myth, J. Campbell).*

Why should we defend the value of the past?

Because in the past we can find the values of our ancestors.

For example: 3200 years ago, that is, a 100 generations before us, one of our ancestors was living at the same time as the Trojan War.

Of course, they may not be Aeneas, Priamus, Ulysses and so on, but nobody is preventing us to think so.

*(Dei e Miti, A. Morelli).*

Each one of us descends necessarily from 2 parents. If we calculate only 10 generations including ours, we reach the number of 1024 persons with whom we share the same genetic. This number increases up to 1.077.336 for 20 generations.

*(Archeo, issue Novembre 2010, page 32).*

Many aspects of Western culture and history have roots in ancient Greek and Roman civilizations or in earlier Eastern civilizations.

Through the heritage of the ancient world it is possible to recover the connecting thread of a large part of our mentality. The ancient world is deeply rooted in us, and to some extent it has shaped our basic feelings towards life and nature, influenced our spiritual life and framed our traditional forms of entertainment - such as the Drama.

While studying evidence of these, we thus become conscious of our roots.

Gazing at the marvels of a starry sky regardless of the places where our ancient ancestor were living their thoughts were naturally brought to think that this was the deities home.

Civilizations that have never been in touch with each other, share many spiritual stories and myths, as a common result of their need to understand. This proves that human instinct is essentially similar all over the world.

**THE UNIVERSAL FLOOD** - One of the most troubling questions in mythology and history.

(estimated date 13000 years ago) Genesis 7;10 beginning of the Universal flood. Up to this point the Bible is writing about people living during the pre-flood era (Genesis 6;1-9) when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, the sons of Deities (DIN.GIR) saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose. There were giants (in Hebrew NEPHILIM 6;4) on earth in those days.

From an Hebrew manuscript of the Dead sea scroll one can read that Noah was conceived by the Nephilim as it is mentioned in the Bible Genesis. Noah was the son of Lamech and grandson of Methuselah. The book of Enoch says he was born white like snow and red like a rose. While his hairs were curly white like sheep's wool.

This remarkable story is contained in the tales of about 60 different cultures in various continents. These tales deals with an angry deity who decides to destroy mankind by causing a great flood, and giving instruction to build a large boat, and the way of saving only a couple

of each living creatures for each species in order to pursue their reproduction. (*Dei e Miti*, Morelli).

Almost every mythological system belonging to cultures living close to the water explains the origin of life out of water itself, and every culture holds water as the elixir of life.

The collection of over 20000 clay boards found by the archaeologist George Smith has been recognized as the so-called library of the Assyrian king Assurbanipal in Nineveh. The writing was in cuneiform characters IV millennium BC.

On the XI board, there is the following description:

The construction of the ark

...as soon as the dawn dulled, all the country had gathered around me; the carpenter carried its axe...

...the young men brought houses of brick. The children carried pitch.

The fifth day I designed the outline of the ship; its surface was large as a field, its walls were high 120 cubits... XI, vv.113-126. In this report Noah is Utnapistim.

Another important Babylonians library was in Ebla (today Mardikh in Syria) where, in 1975, 17.000 clay boards were found, written between 4500 and 4200 years ago.

#### Assyrian–Babylonese Olympus

Nanna	the creator
An	the sky
Ki	the earth
Sin	the moon
Shamash	the sun
Ishtar	deity of the love

According to the Maori people, “Rangi” was the Father Sky and his wife was “Papa” the Mother Earth. At the beginning of time, Rangi, the male sky, and Papa, the female Earth, were entwined in a steady embrace. Rangi wanted to keep this embrace in order to prevent the creation of the world.

Greek deities were similar in appearance to mortals: they could get angry or jealous, fell in love, fought and generated children by sexual intercourse either with other deity or human being.

They were using extra-terrestrial power and strange weapons, becoming invisible at will.

Distances were not a problem as these could be covered at great speed.

Some deities had an astral association;

Gaea - Earth, Hermes - Mercury, Aphrodite - Venus, Ares - Mars, Cronus - Saturn, Zeus - Jupiter.

The great deities were associated to the number twelve, in the Vedas, Hittite, Greek and Roman traditions.

According to Greek mythology, URANUS (the sky), was generated by Gaea, (the earth), and together they conceived :

12 Titans

-6 males: Oceanus, Coio, Crio, Hyperion, Giapeto and Chronos.

-6 females: Teia, Rhea, Temi, Mnemosine, Phoebe and Thetus and

-3 Cyclops (with one frontal eye): Bronte "the thunder", Sterope "the lightning" and Arge "the brightness" and

-24 more Giants, Alcioneo, Porphyrius, Ephialtes, Eurito, Clizio, Mima, Pallante, Enceladus, Polibute, Hippolytus, Grazio, Tizio, Taone, etc...

They were very tall beings (12 m according to the myth), they were evil creatures and some had long snakes as legs. When Uranus saw them, he understood that he had to do something to make them disappear.

In order to avoid further problems, Uranus chased some of them back into the Underworld. All these children terrified by their father, were forced to stay into the depths of Gaea's body.

At this point the earth, Gaea, started to have pains in her womb because of the restlessness of her children, and in order to stop Uranus from impregnating her, she convinced Chronos (Saturn) to emasculate

late his father. When the night came and Uranus, the sky, covered Gaea, the earth, in a warm embrace, the sharp sickle of Chronos, which was made of diamonds, fell on Uranus' genitals. The phallus, falling into the Ocean, generated Aphrodite, and from Uranus' blood the Nymphs were born. (see Aphrodite).

Soon after, the nasty Giants felt free to come out of the Tartarus (the Underworld). Because of the pressure that had pushed them back for a long time, they came out in such a violent way that they gave origin to earthquakes and eruptions of fire, starting to challenge the deities of Mt. Olympus in a tremendous battle. This fight was resolved mainly because of Hercules, who came to help his father Zeus and killed all the Giants with his poisoned arrows.

According to the Greek mythology, this took place in the Phlegrean Fields, near Naples, a large volcanic area with over 20 craters.

What is the Earth made of, on which we transit for a fraction of time as lightning?

The earth (GAEA), is 4,500 billion years old.

A cloud of stellar dust compressed into the planet Earth.

The nucleus of the Earth is as large as the Moon. The heart of the nucleus revolves in one direction while the outer shell revolves the opposite way.

The inner core is of about 1,300 km thick, mostly of iron and nickel, whose temperature is close to 4,000°C. In spite of such high temperature, the inner core is solid because of the gravity force of 3.5 million of atmosphere, which does not allow the metals to melt. The outer core of molten metal is around 2,200 km thick.

Surrounding the Nucleus is the inner and outer mantel, about 2,900 km thick, above which is the crusts, the earth's hard outer shell. The crust is from 6 to 15 km tick under the Oceans and from 30 to 50 thick under the emerging land arranged in continental plateau.

The heat from the earth centre and the contrasting rotation of the layers, generates the gravity, the magnetic field, heat and gas pressure,

which once on the earth surface generates several phenomena such as:

- atmosphere kept around the world by gravity, consequently allowing life.

- motion-cause of the floating plateau at a speed of more or less one centimeter per year.

In correspondence of the collision areas it allows for mountains formation, while on the breaking areas it causes the following seismic phenomena; (NOTE: the Bay of Naples (Southern Italy) is along the fault of the African and European tectonic plates. (see also *Uranus*).

- earthquakes of different natures measured mainly by the scales of Mercalli or Richter. These Scales were conceived to estimate an earthquake according to the intensity, speed, range, energy, acceleration and damage caused. Every year our earth, shakes more or less 300,000 times, although fortunately only 4,000 of these times it overcomes the first grade of the scales.

(In the Bay of Naples there are from 10 to 15 earthquakes between 0.8 to 1.0 Mercalli scale daily).

- eruptions; they are caused by the underground pressure, that leads melt metals to overflow from the craters.

(Note : there are twenty-four craters in the Bay of Naples. Vesuvius is considered an explosive volcano and the Phlegrean Fields volcanic system is considered a super-volcano).

- bradis - seismos is a slow movement or slow earthquake. It is negative when the earth crust raises due to heat increase; it is positive when the land shrinks due to temperature decrease.

For example, from 1984 to 1987, part of the city of Pozzuoli, Phlegrean Fields the earth surface raised 1.70 m.

In Greek mythology Uranus, in Roman Vulcan refers to the sky, while the natural powers, such as volcanoes, earthquakes and similar, are associates to Cyclopes and Titans.

Below some of the most well-known volcanoes are listed, starting from our Giant, “the Vesuvius”:

### Vesuvius 1,324 m – in the bay of Naples

It is a siliceous volcano, the result of the friction of the continental plates (Euro-Asia and Africa).

The explosion of this particular volcano can be caused by the gases produced in the magma chamber or by water infiltration that may improve the pressure. The most well-known eruption occurred in 79 AD, a powerful and violent explosion, whose estimated blast power was 500 megatons.

This eruption caused a jet of volcanic material shot to the height of over 20 km. It is said that the finest and light volcanic dust, was brought as far as Egypt, by the high altitude breeze.

Soon after, a white hot surge of dioxide sulphur came down from the height of 4000 feet, at the speed of over 100 km per hour (30 meters per second).

79 AD eruption buried some Roman cities located around Mt Vesuvius slopes. The most famous was Pompeii. The town was preserved under 22 feet of volcanic material for almost 17 hundred years.

Exploration started during the 17 century followed by the proper excavation started in 1860. Up to now only the 2/3 out of 66 hectares were brought to light. About 800 houses.

The Archeosite that can be visited today shows the damage done by the Bourbons explorations, the wrong restorations, exposition to the inclemency of the weather for over a century, the II world war bombing, the 1980's earthquake and the millions of visitors.

Beside all above Pompeii and the nearby Herculaneum are still the most well preserved cities of the ancient Roman world.

Today 2013 we have 18 modern cities lying around Vesuvius slopes and valleys that in case of an eruption warning, six hundred thousand people should dislodge.

### Etna 3323 m – Sicily

This good giant is an isolated volcano that originated from a huge white hot bubble which broke away from the inflamed lower mantle of the Earth.

The basaltic lava comes out directly through the upper mantle and, perforating the terrestrial crust, is erupted in spills of lava that built the Volcano itself.

The lava rises because it is lighter than the materials around it; the volatile elements, the gases, come out transforming the magma into a sort of volcanic foam of 1070/1090 °C.

### Mt St. Helen – USA. Washington State

Last eruption was on May 18<sup>th</sup> 1980; the initial explosion power was around 50 megatons. The rain of white hot volcanic material killed any form of life up to 250 km. In a few hours the volcanic cloud had covered a distance of 800 km.

### Kracatoa – in Sumatra

The explosion that took place in August, 1883, the energy released was equivalent to an explosion of 150 megatons. The rumble was heard as far as Melbourne, 4,800 km away. Number of victims: 35,000.

### Thera – a Greek island

Probably one of the most violent eruptions ever recorded was in Thera, 1628 BC (J.V.Luce “*The changing face of Thera Problem*”), in the area of today’s Santorini island. Probably this was the event that put an end to the Minoan civilization.

It is a widespread opinion that Thera was part of the Homeric Atlantis. The crater was about six times larger than Krakatoa. According to volcanologists Ninkowich and Heezen, from Columbia University, the crater is around 51 km<sup>2</sup>. A cloud of 114 km<sup>3</sup> was shot in the sky, travelling probably towards Egypt. (“*Moses*” by Graham Phillips).

## Greek Olympus

According to Greek mythology in the beginning there was "Chaos", that is, the mixture of all things in a vacuum. (*Esiodo*, DCC Rizzoli)

C H A O S generated ---> GAEA (the earth)  
who self-generated ---> URANUS (the sky)  
which generated ---> REA (genitrix)  
---> CRONOS (the time)  
--->CYCLOPS-TITANS (earth powers)  
then conception of ---> PROMETHEUS (foresight)  
and his brother ---> EPIMETHEUS (superficiality)  
later ---> VENUS (unavoidable attraction)  
finally ---> ZEUS (the events)



Deities were considered to be eternal, and of course having so much time at their disposal human beings invented Myths based on incredible never ending stories.

Chronos “the time” was warned by a deities’ oracle that one day one of his sons would kill him. He impetuously found the solution, by swallowing his children alive. But Zeus, Hades, and Poseidon were eternal, so growing in the body of their father as soon as they were strong adults they were released from their fathers’ body. After creating the Olympus, they drew lots for the leadership of the world kingdoms.

To Zeus went the skies, to Poseidon the seas and to Hades the underworlds. Poor Hades not one of his brothers and deities ever went to visit him, of course they were immortal!

Classic poems like the *Odyssey*, the *Iliad* and the *Æneid* often deal with interesting stories on Southern Italy and to the Campania region in particular, concerning events, characters and considerations of the civilizations of Greater Greece, and related to the history of the Mediterranean world, starting from the Trojan War.

HESIOD was a Greek poet who lived probably during the VII century BC.

His poem, *Theogony*, describes deities and myths in a very detailed way. The poet is one of the major sources of mythology.

HOMER is considered to be the author of the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*. He probably lived in the VIII BC and he is the first author in Greek literature. His reports were important references for scholars in ancient history, in archaeology and in Greek mythology. His descriptions of historical events reported dates, names, sites and causes. Before him in Greece, oral culture was the main way to transmit historical events, myths, political information, and so on.

(A sculpture representing Pseudo-Homer can be seen at the Archaeomuseum of Naples).

There are no certainties on Homer’s biographical information. Plato describes Homer as the most divine among all poets. Herodotus (whose marble bust is in the Archaeomuseum Naples), who lived be-

tween 484 and 425 BC, said that Hesiod and Homer preceded him by 400 years.

Several legends report anecdotes of his interesting life and one about his death. In this tell Homer's Death is caused by the pain he suffered after failing to guess the meaning of a sentence heard during a conversation between some children which were killing lice.

The sentence was "What we saw and we took we leave it, what we have not seen and not taken we bring it with us".

The image of Homer that the tradition handed down to us is that of an old blind bard (storyteller) travelling around all the cities of Greece singing the deeds of warriors who had fought under the walls of Troy.

Many historians makes the meaning of Homer deriving from the Greek "or me oron" he who does not see.

(from a very interesting article on National Geographic Magazine Storica # 35 January 2012).

The first stories of wars and heroes' journeys back home were the "nostoi" that probably inspired Homer's tales about heroes' adventures after the Trojan War. These myths are the first ones ever written down. The "copies" we have today are the result of translations of Roman and Byzantine copyists.

Of the 5 Nostoi books only 5 lines survived, the rest was transmitted by word of mouth.

From "Nostoi" we have the Italian term "nostalgia".

There are some obvious parallels, as well between the Iliad VIII cent BC and the epic of Gilgamesh 2000 years BC.

(NOTE: Vincenzo De Benedetto, *historian*, Pisa University).

The poet Virgil, of the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC, taking the Iliad and the Odyssey as models, wrote the Æneid poem.

See the parallelism in "religious origin"

### **Considerations**

Young people, who were born in modern cities, often have no notion of past myths. This may depend on the fact that their grandparents

are not there to hand down their roots, their parents are busy working and, by doing so, the myths come from TV, films and friends who share a similar condition.

The educational system aims at specialisation and so it educates to professions, but it is very poor from the humanistic point of view, and hardly has any sensitivity.

As a result, children dress as adults and use an adult language; therefore often the baby becomes an adult, with no childhood in between.

Without classic myths man is brought to a bad use of freedom. Missing the perception of the right myths, or taking example from the wrong ones, human beings can destroy their life.

Myth is the invisible code of behaviour for people that may adjust to progress without losing their roots.

Breaking-up of people happens when this code is infringed.

Several tribes that have been “civilised” by people of the so-called modern world have thus lost their identity.

## OBSERVATIONS ON RELIGIONS

We search for “Almighty” through science or myth...  
(NOTE: *A brief history of time* “by Stephen Hawking).

From the Eastern to the Western world there seems to be a succession of similar facts and events dealt with in religious writings.

From the Mesopotamian culture, Abraham (circa 2400 BC) was directed to Palestine by his “Divine leader”.

Moses came from the Egyptian culture and after him Isaac, Jacob, Salomon, David, Jesus, going from Hebraism to Christianity.

...from Hebraism and Christianity to Islamism...

A Muslim theologian said that the same divinity who made the verb become a man in Bethlem, made the verb become a book in Mecca.

According to Muslims, most of literal expression in the Koran can't be translated in any of the world languages, as only in Arabic the reading sound brings the mind toward the greatness of the Divine .

Furthermore, according to the Muslim credo “the Koran” is based on Mohamed's talks as Allah's prophet.

The first part was preached by Mohamed in Mecca 610 AD. The second part, 622 AD in Medina, deals with social ethics and society rules. These tales were transmitted orally by Mohamed and transcribed by his listeners on bones and goat skins.

Mohamed ascended to Allah during the year 632, and only in 651 by order of a Caliph, the Koran started to be assembled in the Muslim Arabic world as a corrector of the Ancient and New Testament.

Interesting to read is:

Sura 2 Vers. 120-135 “talking about Abraham gens”

Sura 2 Vers.186-190“talking about killing enemies”

Sura 4 Vers. 156 “talking about Jesus”

Sura 81 Vers. 1-14 “talking about apocalypse”

(Il Corano - Ulrico Hoepli Editore 1997).

Jhawe>Abraham > Pentateuch > Hebraism	3 millennia ago
Elohim > Jesus > Gospels > Christianity	2 millennia ago
Allah > Mohamed > Koran > Islamism	14 hundreds years ago

Other religious systems are Hinduism and Buddhism:

Brahma = Creation

Brahma- Shiva -Vishnu-, the Hindu trinity

Krishna = reincarnation

Brahma>Krishna>Rig-Veda>Hinduism 3200 years ago

Brahma Krishna>Buddha>Himayama Mahayana> Buddhism  
2600 years ago

Confucius Breviary, 2500 years ago, is a life style code concerning the civic, political and religious ethics of people.

The Talmud can be considered a collection of Jewish traditions, ethics, customs and history, as the Sharia for Muslims.

The monotheistic doctrines are often enclosed in their stereotypes, they should be more open to comparisons and avoid judging other faiths.

Some negative aspects characterizes the history of the 3 monotheistic religions, from the origins to the present day.

In their history there are episodes of war, revenge, mass exterminations, betrayals, and intolerances.

How could anyone act as a moralist with such background?

The austerity in synagogues, churches, mosques and other temples the lack of gaiety, the stereotyped rites of the clerical lobbies, none of this gives the idea of joy that should derive from living with and belonging to the “Supreme being”.

I think the sadness and grayness are not the will of the “Omnipotent”, but a consequence of conditions of domination and intimidation.

The so-called holy scriptures contain too many warnings and too many threats to those who do not obey. But if the “Creator” has given us the free will why should he threaten us?

On the premise of all above, I wonder how the Almighty is evaluating the product “human being”.

The word “religion” derives from Latin *religo*, “to tie up, to unite”.

When Religions are studied and become a set of theological works in which everything is reduced to a code, Mythology turns into Theology.

Sometimes myths are self-contradictory, as you may find several versions of the same mystery. Mythology is flexible.

You do not need to believe that Buddha, Jesus, Mohammed, Abraham, Brahma and others have existed to understand the significance of those stories.

According to Albert Einstein the concept of the “Creative thought” was based on respect and astonishment in the superior conception of the Cosmos and acceptance of the harmony in nature, rather than faithfulness in the “Ubiquitous” who has control over the life of individuals.

Religions are often necessary to humans to control their fears.

All is determined by powers we cannot control and this is true for any living creatures.

Either mortal beings, or cosmic powder, we all dance on a rhythm of mysterious music played by an invisible musician.

My feeling is religious in the sense of intimate conviction that our mind cannot understand everything of the harmony in the Cosmos.

If “He” has created the Cosmos, then “He” missed to make it comprehensible to us.

(Albert Einstein, *Pensieri di un uomo curioso*, 1997).

To lose religious knowledge in some cases means to lose moral principles. Myths are as well spiritual consciousness.

For example, when you enter a church, a mosque, a synagogue or any other temples many things talk of spirituality, such as the statues, the paintings the inscriptions, the architecture and so on. They tell of mysticism. Everything is built up on a level that is superior to the external economic world, where money is frozen energy.

We can say that each religion is a different software. On its instruction man builds the vision of its spiritual and moral life.

Then there are men that take information from different religions, or create their own and consequently a new life-style. At the time of the Old Testament the world consisted of a few thousand square miles, no-one in the Jewish world knew about the Aztec or Chinese civilisations and vice versa.

Later the world changed, and religions too. But these changes carried horror, like in Lebanon, Israel, Palestine, Africa, India, China, Tibet and so on.

In Palestine, for instance, three religious systems collide: Hebraism, Christianity and Islam, although the biblical father is the same (Noah had 3 sons, Cam, Sem and Javet). They could not find an agreement with one another, and so they are locked in their prejudice. Each one considers itself to be the elected people, and this is a clear religious failure.

In Ireland, for instance, a group of Protestants migrated under Cromwell during the 17th cent. They have never opened themselves to the Catholic majority. Each one of them remained in its own social system, in its own myth.

But there are exceptions to rules and prejudice.

Examples, according to the Bible Canaanite descend from the daughters of Lot.

They became pregnant after having seduced their father. After the destruction of their home town they remained isolated in the nearby desert for long time. Was the decision of conceiving children due to the necessity of giving a continuation to their people ?

Was it due to the absence of erotic rules concerning Eros between members of the same family?

The so called Moses commandments came after.

Here too, there may have been a basic inspiration from the Egyptian Book of The Dead or the Papyrus of Ani.

In the translation by Wallis Budge about these ancient book one can read of forty negative declarations of behaviour that the dead person had to declare in front of the Supreme Judge Osiris and to other Deities invoked as the divine spirit of Truth and Justice.

Among those there are others, such as “I have not killed”, “I have not cursed”, “I have not stolen” etc.

Moses was educated among the clergy at the court of the Pharaoh and may have taken some of the negative Confessions.

(Moses means son / descendant the suffix MSS).

The name Moses is associated to the Exodus event.

This event is known to be the liberation of the Hebrews from the Egyptian slavery.

The Pharaoh let them go after several and terrible punishments Egyptian had to go through in order to understand that it was the “Divine will” who wanted the Hebrew to be free.

The archaeologist Hassan could translate some inscriptions in the tomb of Achetefi, in Southern Egypt.

They dialled with calamities occurring more than 4200 years ago, between the X and XI dynasties when the capital of Egypt was moved from Menphi to Thebe. The terrible famine that lasted for some years, it brought hunger, diseases, destructions, desperation and struggle for survival, and the writings tell that people ate their own children.

Several findings support these inscriptions:

In 1996, in Northern Egypt, other excavations brought to light approximately 6000 skeletons.

The palaeontologists established that those people had died of privations during the calamities.

In some caves located in Israel the geologist Mira Bar Matthews, studying the layers of stalactite and sedimentary samples, dated back to 4200 years ago, established that an incredible climatic change occurred at that time.

In Iceland another geologist, George Bond, studying mud samples taken from the depths of the sea established that about 4200 years

ago there was an extraordinary climatic cooling that returned every 1500 years and each time lasted 1 or 2 centuries.

The archaeologist Hassan studied layered mud drillings carried out in a lake, formed by a branch of the Nile. The sediments dated back to 4200 years ago. It proved that the level of the Nile was so low that the lake had dried up. This climatic event interested the whole world known of those days and caused dramatic atmospheric changes (lower temperatures, sand tempests, drought) that eventually caused destruction of Upper Egypt.

These facts were never revealed, were they inconvenient for the Holy Scriptures?

(It may be interesting to note that the first Jew with the name Moshe was a Masoreta, a Bible copyist : his name was Ben Asher Moses and he was the author of “the prophets code” during the ninth century AD).

The “Absolute” of the Old Testament dictates a lot of rules and has no mercy... and if He catches you picking up sticks on Saturday you are finished.

In fact, if He really meant to dictate the laws he could write them in the sky or dictate them straight to men.

In N. Donald Walsch’s, “Conversation with Almighty”, there is reference to a misunderstanding: what “He” taught to Moses were 10 suggestions, not commandments, as dictatorship was not in the nature of the “Creator thought”.

Moses’s advices could be used to calm down those herds of people who were living with no moral restrictions, but then “Ubiquitous” left free will to men.

As a matter of fact, today the so-called commandments are the moral base for two thirds of mankind.

I would suggest to have curiosity for knowledge and be willing to be the center of one’s own religious and philosophical choices of life, to

listen carefully and with criticism to religious teachers but if they are not convincing, other versions may be considered.

Many religious teachers are either not prepared enough or mentally deviated and therefore they give their own versions, which may lead away from the original divine sources - assuming there is some.

Abandoning these teachings often means to save one's soul and dignity.

We have to be able to recognize the dangerous "word" that can kill the soul.

Obviously all this is for believers.

If, instead, one feels really lost and confused, the only instinct left is following one's own bliss and euphoria.

During this journey one can also accept a push from a Spiritual leader, but the last step has to be taken on one's own.

Going back to the mythology, for example, Ariadne gave the thread to Theseus showing him the way to reach the Minotaur. Sometimes we only need somebody showing us the way. Some religions do not show the truth but only the way to achieve it.

As Confucius says:

Broaden your knowledge, and have an iron will. Search for useful and not useless things, focus on what is close to you and not on things far from you. If you succeed in following these rules, then you will achieve the perfect virtue (Lunyu XIX 6).

The "Omnipotent" created man without man consent, but He won't save man without man's consent.

(St. Augustine).

Another common aspect to several religious inspiration is that "Divine will" is the ideal solution to solitude, you can have His company through religious practice.

Buddha went in solitude to the forest (around 500 BC) and he also rejected three temptations. He sat beneath the Bo tree, the tree of immortal knowledge, where he received an illumination that still shines on Asia.

Just a little anecdote of Buddha's life;

Buddha was attacked by a bandit, who before killing him with his sword gave him his last wish.

Buddha asked him to cut a branch from a tree, the bandit immediately did so being an easy task but then quickly Buddha asked him to reattach the branch to the tree.

The bandit replied it's ridiculous you cannot put back a branch to the tree and Buddha answered it's easy and childish to destroy, to construct is difficult and only adults can do it.

Moses went to the top of a mountain and came down with the tables of the law, the rules of a new society.

Chrestòs went into the desert for 40 days, and after rejecting three temptations he returned with his new message.

The temptations were:

- an economic one (he was asked to turn a stone into bread);
- a political one (he was shown that he could rule over the entire world);
- a spiritual one (he was asked to throw himself from the mountain and show that he would remain alive).

If he did not reject the temptations he would have easily proved that he was under his father's protection but at the same time he would have shown to be doubtful. There was no reason to accept the challenge.

If the "Pre-conceiver" that created matter, became a man, the large documentation about the so-called "miracles", proves his total control inside and outside of The Universal Matter.

This is the only possible answer, unless someone can prove that "Almighty" was a magician.

"He" can modify, reassemble, disrupt matter immanently, because "He" is the whole essence of matter and can be recognized in any visible and invisible aspects of the matter itself.

But many would trust only if they see and touch. This explains our present condition.

What would the life of the humans be if the mysteries of the “Ubiquitous” were all clear?

The message is that the “divine will” became a man in order to experience the life of a mortal being. In fact he accepted to undergo any offence and be killed.

The evidence of this is Judas. “the Omnipotent” had to get rid of his human matter, he needed someone that could betray him, in order to start the predicted trial.

All this led the way to resurrection, hence the creation of a mystery, a creed and a religious system.

Judas was actually a hero, and not a betrayer.

The fact that Jews did not accept the divine nature of Chrestòs can be another interesting point in favour of the theory that all was predestined.

And again, when the governor of Judea, Pontius Pilates, said “I have supreme power on your life”, Chrestòs replied, “the only power you have is subdued to my father’s will.” (John 19,10-11).

The great prophet Mohammed was an illiterate camel-caravan master, but he left his home in Mecca and go out to the mountain cave for practicing meditation. One day “the voice” called him and he listened to it.... and this is the origin of the Koran.

It is an old, old story - they all returned with the wonder of “the Divine”.

(*Power of Myth*, by J. Campbell).

I am convinced that all main religious systems, can produce a common message, which can be the basis to build an understanding.

(From Dalai Lama, “*Incontro con Gesù*” pag. 16).

If a common message won’t be found, religious systems will overwhelm one another. And most of the time, this will hide behind a political cartel-lobby strategy.

Of course the political cartel-lobby is a camouflage of economic lobbies (petrol, weapons, and information) which control the masses of

people, often divided, and misinformed, and so doomed to succumb. There will be no way out nor mercy.

Will a universal religious system be the solution ?

**When things by natural evolution or just by chance or scheduled reasons, meet or crash or melt together creating new events or new forms of life or a new thing or simply another aspect of the same entity, their destiny is toward the “Ultimate”.**

The “Ultimate” caused the birth of things from Chaos, and then returned to the state of Ultimate. From Singularity to Singularity, the beginning is the end as well.

COSMOS = Order of Things

CHAOS = Ultimate of things, each one originates from the other.

ARKE' = Primordial element – Beginning of all things.

LOGOS = The interaction of dialogue, absolute truth thinking, being, will, verb, desires and destiny.  
The word the message. (Panta Rei LCD).

The “Ubiquitous” is the center, the ultimate. The Archetype structure of human psyche.

The ultimate elementary idea of man and we are all made similar to “His-Her” image.

Before Big Bang, there was what men of science call "singularity".  
Time was still Space did not exist

Chaos.....	.....? unknown start
Singularity...	..scientific term to describe   the compact Universe before   Big Bang at an immesurable   temperature
Big Bang.....	..About 13.7 billion years ago   beginning of time
Birth of our Solar system..	..4,550,000,000 years ago
Formation of the earth...	..4.500,000,000 years ago
Foot-print of a Hominid.....	..3,700,000 years ago
	<b>...today</b>
The sun will absorb the earth .....	.. in 4 billion years
Eternal expansion of the Universe or Big crunch..	..in 10 billion years?
Singularity...	.....?
Chaos.....	.....?

Is “Almighty” Chaos?  
If so, is He the beginning and the end?  
How we can define “Him”-“It” “She”?

What or whom caused Chaos?  
How can things be generated from nothingness?  
Is there a transcendental meaning of the words “generated” and “nothingness”?  
Man started to name things as soon as he felt the necessity of communicating and in keeping records.  
We can only guess what brought our ancestor to choose certain sounds and terms, and this has probably marked the beginning of love for knowledge.

The number of languages spoken to day are estimate to be about 6.000. (*ARCHEO* page 30 issue November 2010).

The translation of ancient writes throughout Millennium started the story of interpretation of words and thoughts that have often changed, voluntarily or involuntarily, the meaning of what people meant to say.

The destiny of Planets can be translated to the modern “Orbit”

What caused the Big Bang?  
From time to time men of science reach temporary conclusions bringing along new theories.

The one clear point is that either we are still too far from giving an answer to these questions, or we are not intellectually structured to understand them. We are a sub-product of all of the above happenings. We are simply the result of our past.  
But how did our past start?

Why not going forward until we reach the unimaginable, the unthinkable? Someone will have do to it, one day.

If we find out why we exist then we will know the thoughts of “the divine will”.

The passage of time has an unknown beginning and an unknown end. A term to describe time before the Big Bang has not been conceived, yet. “He“ is the unthinkable.

Bing Bang is a scientific and not a theological fact.

(Note: The Catholic Church only in 1951 officially accepted that the theory of the Big Bang is in accordance with the Holy Bible.

(“*A brief history of time*” by Stephen Hawking).

..If we reduce 14 billion years in a year of 365 days divided by 12 months, the mono-cell was born only in May, and only during the last week of the year reptiles, fishes and vertebrates are born.

The Mammals just come to life in the last 20 seconds and the last second is the present day.

..There is no end nor beginning.....

Up to few years ago most astronomers claimed the universe was slowing down its expansion speed, but then, new observations gave different results. Universe, while expanding, is increasing its speed.

Either the Universe will forever expand, and tear up itself to dust or in about 10 billion years it will stop expanding and will crunch until implosion, in a Big-Crunch:

Back to Greek Myth

the religious concept of DIONYSUS (son of Zeus and Semele)

DIONYS(y)OS gr. = DIOS gr. (Zeus) - YOS (son of)

Dionysus and Demeter were added to the first 10 deities during the IV century BC

Zeus (called Dion as well) fell in love (as usual) this time with Semele, the beautiful daughter of King Cadmus and in order to make love with her, he took the aspect of a mortal being (“He” became a mortal being).

His wife Hera, discovering this further unfaithfulness of her husband, revealed the divine nature of the young man to the innocent Semele,

who was required to make love with him as deity; so she did and hoping to touch the divine heights of excitement, she was incinerated instead by Zeus's lightning love, but before Semele's body burned out, Zeus saved the embryo of Dionysus.

At this point what could he do with the embryo?

Here is the interesting solution:

Zeus called his brother, Hephaestus (Vulcan, who was the specialist for difficult deliveries) who sewed Dionysus' embryo in Zeus's upper leg.

From the father's womb Dionysus was delivered.

Several scientific medical surveys report cases of what is called "twin foetus in fetu". This interesting phenomenon one out of 500.000 births and consists in atrophied foetus found in the body of its alive twin.

On a Greek vase of the IV century BC in the museum of Paestum in Southern Italy, there is a decoration representing a Silenus juggling with white pellets (presumably embryos). Next to the Silenus is a young woman, mentioned to be the initiate, watching. He wanted to make her understand that the woman herself contains the mystery of life. In Paestum, among the many votive offerings of the IV century BC, uteruses of terracotta were found near the Greek Temples. It interesting to point out that in the cavity of these uteri there were pellets as well.

Did the Greeks know about the embryo function? Yes, Aristotle is considered to be the first embryologist.

Anyhow, Dionysus was born from the body of his father; did the author of this myth mean that the father and the son were the same person?

Of course the baby could not be brought to his wife. So Zeus decided to bring him into the woods, here he choose the Silenus, a fat, sexually violent and perpetually drunk old man, but very wise, as the tutor for the child, and then he chose his nurses, the Nymphs.

The Nymphs were also responsible for organizing orgiastic parties patronized by Silenus with Satyrs and Fawns.

The nymphs were often represented breast feeding with motherly tenderness puppies of fawns or other animals. The same nymphs, under orgiastic fury, bit and tore the tender flesh of those puppies, using their blood, as a vehicle to regenerate themselves. To this creature, whom did Silenus and Satyrs protect the child, Dionysus was given. When adult, Dionysus used these followers to persecute his enemies and anyone who did not accept his divine nature and cult.

(See *Pentheus*).

Maenads or Bacchantes, during their Dionysian ecstasies tore to pieces such animals as rams, roc-bucks and bulls, to devour their flesh.

Omofagia is a primordial magic rite with which man used to store the vital energy of the killed subject, animal, human being or the natural cycles of vegetation.

We have to conclude therefore that death has its sources in life, and that life rule is due to death of plant life, animals and human beings. What dies then becomes food. To increase life it is necessary to increase death through sacrifice. Life and death are two different aspects of the same nature; they are to be and to become.

In a different sense today, some people are able to survive due to transplant of organs from deceased beings.

We live by killing. Life just lives on life. It is a fantastic mystery. That is what is symbolised by the snake biting its own tail. The snake of life is consuming itself.

The question is: will we be able to face issues arising from immortality?

Hera not satisfied with Semele's death, and being jealous of Dionysus due to the attention and protection given to him by his father Zeus, projected one of the most tremendous revenges and crimes of the mythology.

Knowing that the Titans wanted to revenge themselves against Zeus, (Titans had been punished and banished down to the Tartarus by Zeus because of their unbearable arrogance against the Deities) Hera performed sorcery in order to liberate the Titans. The compromise was that they had to kill Dionysus. Hera made the Titans cover their faces with chalk powder and gave them toys to better deceive Dionysus, the child.

It is interesting that Dionysus was captured while playing with a mirror according to the legend, the child Dionysus was enchanted by his divine and incorporeal image, the image of the soul. In the Dionysian rite the mirror becomes symbol of the "myste".

When captured, it was torn into seven pieces and devoured by the Titans. As soon as Zeus knew about this misdeed, he threw his mortal lightning over the Titans, while Rea (the mother of Zeus, Poseidon, Hades and Hera or Cybele) reassembled the remains of the Dionysus child and brought him back to life operating a so-called "resurrection". (Similar to the story of Osiris. See *Isis*). It is told that Dionysus's phallus was taken by Athena and placed in a wicker basket. The same phallus was shown to the followers during the initiation rites.

From this moment Dionysus remained under the special protection of the mother of Deities, Rea.

(From a red figured vase painting from Beozia V cent. BC. In the National Museum of Berlin, there is Demeter handing grain to Triptolemus, Persephone stands with two torches as queen ship of the Underworld, and Triptolemus, who is holding his "crooked plough" in a way that suggested a basic plough-phallus analogy).

(In a house of the IV cent AD in Neopaphos, Cyprus a mosaic was found representing the statue of Zeus holding Dionysus on his lap. Dionysus is represented with an aureole (halo). The entire scene reminds us incredibly of Jesus on his mother's lap).

(Marion Gabel, *Culti mistici mondo antico*).

When Zeus reduced the Titans to ashes with his lightning, the soot that covered the earth generated humankind. Therefore, humanity re-

tains inside itself the divine substance that shows up during the initiation to the Dionysian mysteries.

(Everything is made of dust and all will return to dust).

(The Bible - *Libri poetici e sapienziali* - Qoelet 3,20).

The sacred offering of wine to the Deity causes the state of ecstasy.

To join the Deity it is therefore necessary to go through the various stages of purification (catharsis), mystical practice of deep devotion and a particularly severe life style.

This was the only way to abolish the titanic forces, the dissoluteness, and profligacy.

(*Planet Tras. TV Delo* 6 August 2000).

Mythology says that from the earth, wet with Dionysus' blood, a pomegranate bloomed, the fruit that ripened shows its blood coloured seeds through its wound on the shell.

(Robert Graves - *I Miti Greci*).

(According to divine law who ever eats the seeds of a pomegranate is forever bound to the underworld. The pomegranate was found painted in many tombs as a symbol of death and resurrection).

4000 years ago, the Egyptians already knew the vermicide properties from the pomegranate's roots.

According the ancient bible the bronze capitols in the palace of Salomon were decorated with pomegranates sculptures.

"For Christianity pomegranate is the tree of Life, on which was crucified the new Adam symbol of life and resurrection.

When artists are depicting or sculpting Jesus child with a pomegranate in his hand they often meant symbol of the unity of the multitude under a single faith.

Angelo De Gubernatis, in the popular symbology, writes that through a pomegranate wound a large number of grains can be seen, it is like to see the inner womb fertility.

In the Jewish symbol of the Mitzvot the pomegranate fruit recalls metaphorically the Tree of Life, symbolizing the 613 Talmud rules.

In ancient Greece this plant was sacred to Juno (Hera) and Venus (deity of Love).

In the Asian tradition the fruit is abundance and king of fruit for its unique king stalk-shaped crown "Punica granatum".

Roman brides used to weave their hair with branches of pomegranate.

Therefore Dionysus was believed to have died a violent death, but to have been brought to life again; and his suffering, death, and resurrection were enacted in his sacred rites. The belief of the immortality of the soul was taught by tradition and revealed in mysteries of Dionysus.

Dionysus offers the ecstasy of the spiritual and wild excitement, which he himself experiences. The sexual freedom, typical of the Dionysian orgiastic cult, is sometimes conceded, sometimes denied. Later, the Dionysian festivals became moments for masquerading and getting drunk, something between a religious ceremony and an orgy. When this cult arrived in Rome at the beginning of the II cent BC it gained success and its followers increased (this does not surprise historians). Dionysus was venerated as Bacchus, the personification of wine and of the exhilaration produced by the juice of the grape. The debauchery caused by this cult forced the Roman senate to forbid it by an edict in the year 186 BC. According to ancient history, over 7000 followers of this potent cult were arrested and some of them executed on the spot.

Dionysus was also the deity of the trees in general, patron of cultivated trees. Prayers were offered to him, so that he would make the trees grow. He was honoured by farmers, chiefly fruit-growers, who set up an image of him in the shape of a natural tree-stump in their orchards.

Sacred to Dionysus were the vines, the grapes, the pinecone, ivy, and figs. In Naxos figs were called "meilicha". There was Dionysus Meilichios, the face of whose image was made of fig-wood. Besides vegetation, the deity was conceived and represented in animal shapes, as a goat, but especially in the form, or at least with the horns, of a bull.

During the performance of a tragedy the tragic mask gets its origin from the so-called "cult mask of the Dionysian rite". The actor, who wears the mask, loses his identity. The religious character of tragic theatrical representation took place during the Dionysian feast each year at the end of March. Only male actors wearing masks of sack-cloth and plaster painted dark for male characters and bright for female characters played the tragedies' characters. The same actor could play different roles just by changing masks and vocal sound.

It is absolutely necessary to keep in mind, that ancient religions were dominated by the obsession for reproduction.

The loss of control, during the orgiastic activities and wine ecstasies, was attributed to the deities' will.

Furthermore enormous wooden phalluses with the image of Dionysus were brought in triumph, during the processions.

After initiation to the mystical cult of Dionysus, the believer gains rebirth, a happy life after death and an eternal ecstasy in an eternal Symposium. (Plato, "*De Republica*").

Dionysus cult represented in the mural painting in the  
villa of mysteries

This painting dates back to the 1<sup>st</sup> cent. AD and today can be seen in the ancient city Pompeii, Southern Italy. It may be compared to a movie shot by a painter of 2000 years ago.

-(a) The whole painting is believed to represent the essential moments of a sacred ceremony introduced by a naked boy reading the ritual from a scroll. The two matrons assist the young Dionysus or Iacchus (Bacchus) while reading. One of them, the matron priestess has her head covered with a shawl (as today women during religious ceremonies), and the other, seated, holds a second scroll and a stylus. Most of the religious systems contemplate the reading of the sacred writings which explain the ritual.

-(b) A maiden servant with a myrtle wreath on her head, the sacred plant of mystery, used to alleviate wine intoxication as well carries a plate with slices of bread and meat, sacred donation to a seated priestess with her back turned to the audience.

The priestess is assisted by two maiden servants:

The one on the left holds a wicker basket covered by a drapery, the other on the right, pours a liquid over her fingers above a bowl.

Painted in this position, with her back to the audience, the priestess is represented as performing hidden activities only practiced by the clergy.

In order to preserve the mystery, as without it there is no faith and no religious system, there has to be something mystic or concealed

The priestess lifts up the drapery with her left hand controlling the basket content, which is another mystery, as no one has ever said what there should be in it, but following the story of the Titans and Dionysus this is probably the phallus taken by Athena and placed in a wicker basket. The phallus was shown to the followers during the initiation rites.

As well as scholars cannot find a certain answer to the question why she is washing the right hand fingers.

We can only observe that the rite of Dionysus is based on the initiation of a young bride in a state of virginity. Chastity is not for mortal being although some may stay chaste tries in an attempt to get closer to the Almighty.

-(c) Immediately after, a pastoral scene, an aged and bearded Silenus is playing the Lyre, and a Nymph while nursing a fawn is watched by her lover Pan playing the syrinx. All of them have pointed ears.

Of course, the painter wanted to show the “ambience” where according to the myth Dionysus was educated in his young age.

-(d) At the end of the left wall, the last painted figure is a young girl flying with her veil flowing behind her. She looks scared because she is looking at something frightening on the opposite side of the room where a winged Demon is represented while whipping the bare back of a naked girl who is trying to find shelter in the matron’s laps, due to her lack of sexual experience.

-(e) On the left of the frontal wall, the scene starts with a Silenus crowned with Ivy leaves (see flower wreath), holding a Skiphos cup in his hands.

Next to him, two Satyrs, one is holding a terrible theatre mask in a way that this is reflected in the liquid of the cup, and the second one, ignoring this, is willed to drink, but the face that he sees on the surface of the liquid frightens him.

The wine drug causes a metamorphosis and can help the initiated to forget her inhibitions and overcome the initiation crisis.

-(f) The central paradisiacal scene, shows Dionysus half nude showing his divine ecstasies, the deity is represented abandoned on Ariadne's lap, his wife, who is drying his perspiration with a black cloth. The deity is totally exhausted after having touched the height of happiness conceded to the Initiate.

Again Dionysus is not painted before or during the initiation, but after. The deity with his mouth half open and large nostrils, can hardly breathe lying half-naked on his wife's lap (this reminds of the deposition, sculpted by Michelangelo). Dionysus gave his body and his strength for the continuation of mankind.

- (g) A Bacchantes is unveiling a wicker basket in which it is said, there is the "mystica vannus", the symbol of the reproductive force of nature, the erection, symbol of fertility of the Dionysian ceremony.

-(h) A winged Demon is waiting to flagellate a bare backed young woman lying on the lap of one of the matrons. Maybe Telete "myste" of Dionysus who awakens through the fear of the divinity, as the purification of the original sin. Bacchantes hold a Thirsus herbal drink, ready for the Initiate once she has passed the trial.

Maybe the young virgin woman is tormented by her lack of sexual experience and she asks the matron for shelter.

This scene is completed by elegant naked Bacchantes playing cymbals to the rhythm of her tip-toe dance. She shows freedom and pleasure.

The Initiate, overwhelmed by the divine presence, lays down her clothes and starts to dance like the Bacchantes.

-(i) This less animated scene shows a seated woman, the Initiate getting ready for her new status of woman.

A serving maid helps combing her hair, and a cupid supports a mirror (myste) in a way that the bride can be admired by the people who are looking at the mural painting. A second cupid holds a bow in the left hand, enchanted by the beauty of the bride.

The sensation I have looking at this scene is that the mirror is showing the bride in her young age. In fact the face in the mirror is different from the face of the women looking toward the audience, she is

just mature and beautiful and her expression is the awareness of femininity.

-(1) A mantled woman, probably the mistress of the house, the "domina", who, as an initiate and minister of the mysteries, may have wished to depict scenes of the cult that took part in this nuptial chamber.

She has an expression of rapture looking toward the bride, just like a mother can look to her beloved daughter.

There are other possible interpretations of the painting, the above mentioned is the most agreed upon.

The described scenes are the best ever found among the houses of the Roman world. The artistic professionalism is indisputable. These experiences were lost throughout the medieval age. Giotto, Simone Martini and other Italian painters of the XII-XIII cent they had to start all over again. Beside the fact that many artists are reluctant to learn from others as they think to copy.

*Considerations:*

The sacramental cake made of bread essential to life.

The wine taken in the right measure is the blood cycle to create ecstasies, the ecstasy essential to enter into contact with divinities.

Life is associated to bread and wine

Death is associated to blood and body

These comparisons might seem blasphemous, but they are not. The reason is the absence of vulgarity in the different painted scenes, signs of non-materialism.

The father Zeus, the son Dionysus, the mystery of life in the strength of fecundity, are depicted among those scenes in the nuptial room of the Villa of Mysteries in Pompeii, and it is possible that some important details are still unknown to us.

In New Guinea there was a rite of death and resurrection: a young woman was brought into a big hut, where after the ceremony of initiation a young man copulated with her; during the last copulation and the last hug they have the hut fall on them and they die.

They symbolize the conception of life in death and the resurrection.

As soon as they die they were roasted and eaten in order to take possession of death and resurrection.

One of the basic mysteries of life is that inevitably anyone who feeds himself is nourished with something that has been killed.

We are the past, the present and the future of ourselves.

A remarkable tale of Rig Veda scripts, tells of life living from life. It tells about a skinny starving monster that is ready to devour another monster, when Shiva stops him due to a clemency supplication of the victim. At this point the starving monster shouts, "but I have to survive" and Shiva replied, "eat yourself".

The starving monster then started to devour himself, starting from his feet and when only the face was left Shiva stopped him again, and ordered that from that moment on, the face of the monster had to be sculpted on the doors of the temples representing the mask of glory. (*Power of Myth* - J. Campbell).

From the Veda writings: "***you are I***".

PANDORA (the first woman).

Zeus was angry with Prometheus, the legendary inventor of fire the first energy, and the deity who moulded the first man because he had revealed the secret of fire to mankind (fire energy could mean the spark of life animating human body as it shown in the Cenotaph of Pozzuoli Naples Archeomuseum. See Prometheus). But Zeus instead of punishing Prometheus (maybe because he couldn't, as Prometheus was an archaic deity prior to Zeus) decided to punish humankind by creating a being that would cause violent passions, and drive man to commit any crimes just to possess it. Hephaestus was commanded to

mould a clay figure, with the voice and the strength of a human being, but the aspect of a Deity. Athena taught her housework, the Graces taught the secrets of Aphrodite and Hermes imposed on her a dog's soul, loose morals and named her Pandora, meaning "everybody's gift".

With such premise of course the woman must be a super-creature;  
-the master of the household with the aspect of a deity.  
-attractive enough to cause violent passion due to the sex appeal she has learned from Aphrodite.  
-loose moral on the last step of the harlot scale, a further stereotype of the ancient machismo.

Pandora was then enclosed in a vase together with Elpis "hope", and Hermes brought it to the earth to Epimetheus (see *Prometheus*) Prometheus' brother, who accepted it, although several times he was warned to refuse the gift of the Deities. When Pandora came out the box, Hope was left inside; maybe Zeus' message was, never give up hope.

This myth recalls the anecdote in the Genesis soon after Adam and Eve eat the forbidden fruit they had the knowledge of good and evil but not eternity, the tree of life of life was yet to be found.

Interesting is as well the invention of hope: with the birth of the woman not all is lost, not all is gained.

## PROMETHEUS

son of the Titan, Giapeto, and the Nymph Climene, is a deity who precedes Zeus in the history of mythology. The meaning of the word Prometheus is "foresight" (his brother Epimetheus means "hind sight" in fact he was considered a bit silly). When Zeus became the leader of deities Prometheus, who was the protector of mankind, was often in conflict with Zeus' decisions. According to mythology, Prometheus created mankind by moulding clay while Athena gave divine breath to this new creature. Prometheus, a moralist and teacher of lifestyle, had to protect mankind against Zeus from the universal

flood, and when Zeus took away the fire from the world, Prometheus stole it and brought it back to earth. This is how Greek mythology explains the start of civilization.

Zeus, then, decided to neutralize him. Prometheus, and had him tie up in chains to the mountain Caucasus by the blacksmith Hephaestus, the Vulcan deity of fire. During the day an eagle would devour his immortal liver, symbol of courage, which then grew overnight. This torture was brought to an end by Hercules who killed the Eagle.

Apparently, the Greeks knew about the regenerating power of the liver, today science is explaining that when a section of the liver is removed, it grows again to the size it used to be. Is this the seed idea of the myth ?

This story represents the creation of Mankind. Prometheus, the deity, created man, who lived in a naive and genuine world, Eden. Zeus represents the natural events bothering mankind, and Pandora is the creature that counterbalances the two. By bringing fire to mankind Prometheus brought civilisation.

The legend of the supernatural entities with punishing powers started when the first men saw lightings hit the ground (the earth), striking animals and men and burning the woods.

Was this the way Prometheus brought the fire to men?

*(Power of Myth - J. Campbell).*

In Naples Archaeomuseum on a marble Sarcophagus ((sarkos=flesh – fagos=eater)) from the Roman city of Pozzuoli an incredible sculpted decoration is showing Prometheus presenting the mold of the first man to the entire Greek Olympus. The marble tomb was found empty therefore it can be called Cenotaph from Greek taphos=tomb and kenos=empty.

Some meaning of the word Adam first man:

In Hebrew “adamà” means heart, man appearing from heart dust and a-àdam means ”the man”.

According to a free interpretation by St. Augustine, Adam means all around as well – the world, the whole:

Anatole (east)	earth	(Iammin Acam)
Dusis (west)	air	(Ruach Acam)
Arkto (north)	water	(Nour Acam)
Mesembria allam (south)	fire	(Jebushah Acam)

From womb to womb, from mother's womb to the womb of mother earth. For the ancient writes Adam is the first man of sin, whereas Abraham is the first man of faith.

From Adam to Abraham there are a couple of million years;

....Let's look at it as a words-game....

In Hebrew man is "ish", and adding the termination "ah" we have "ishah", woman.

Like man and wo-man...

From the Bible; I am Ish and as my women you will be "Issah" or from ancient Egypt "Neb" as man/sir and "Nebet" as women/lady.

Masculine and feminine of the same name.

From the expression "they are as one, the same flesh". They melt in one body, united during the conception, or the expression "same flesh", can be, a child born from the two.

... While "n shama" means divine breath, divine light, means light.

According to the "enumaish" legend of ancient Mesopotamia, after deities were born from the water, man was molded with various types of hearts, then the evil deity Marduk mixed it with his blood and breathed on it.

According to palaeontologists, the first footprint of a "Hominid" found in Laetoli (Southern Serengeti Park, in Tanzania) dates back to 3,7 million years ago.

*(La straordinaria storia dell'uomo, P.A. Angela).*

The archaeologist, Michel Brunet of the University of Poitiers, found in Koro Toro, a region of Ciad, a fragment of a mandible with 7 teeth of an Australopithecus dating back to over 3 million years ago.

Are the Hominid of Laetoli and the Australopithecus of Ciad a step of the human evolution since the birth of mono cell?

Or

Are they in a phase of evolution after creation? ?

consideration;

If the first man appeared on earth as a baby, how did he survived? he would have definitely much more chances if he would appear as an adult.

Ancient religious writings can be better understood if we try to trace back the origin of each word or group of words, as words often hide meanings shedding light on obscure symbols or metaphors or ways of living that are now extinguished.

When we read, for instance, that the “Almighty” created the world in 7 days, we can probably recognize the 7 phases of creation, including rest or settling.

7 therefore as the accomplishment of a cycle.

The scientist Wells, has collected human blood samples in most of the world region, included the farthest and isolated areas. After accurate analysis and comparison of the DNA, he reached the conclusion that genetics clearly gives evidence that we are all descend from one human type.

With time this race increased in number and scattered in different continents due to a world cataclysm.

Current races are the result of one evolution process due to climate, food and technical tools at disposal in the different places.

Man living in the equatorial zone, could easily live at open air, therefore at direct contact with the earth and the starry sky. The evolution of these people was faster and more natural.

Men living North with more cloudy sky, rain and cold climate, had a slower evolution.

Mr Wells reports that an African tribe in the region of Calaaary has the somatic aspect of all world races.  
(*History channel*, Dec 13 2006).

According to the Greek mythology, Gaia, the earth, and Uranus, the sky, gave birth to the magnificent Rea, the “Great Mother” of the major divinities of the Olympus, later the Mater magna of the Romans. In certain aspects mythology is the sublimation of the mother image, as the mother is the source, the mother is certain, we breed life through her body.

We can assume that the mother is life conception, the father life sublimation.

For the Egyptians the divinity NUT is the mother, she is the source, her own body is the Universe “Conceiver”. But how was the Universe mother generated?

This question, according our logic, has only one possible answer, and this is “creation”.

The version about evolution goes back to the event of casualness that started the universal cycle.

There are images drawn by the Egyptians representing NUT who swallows the weak sun in the west and then gives it birth east vigorous, so the sun passes through her body at night. A sort of recharging procedure.

A Navajo legend tells of a woman who was made pregnant by the Sun while she was bathing.

(*The Power of Myth*, J. Campbell).

Here the theory of Zecharia Sitchin. After decades of translation from thousands of cuneiform scripts, the earliest known systems of writing in Sumerian in the late 4th millennium BC, in several of his books, Sitchin explains that the Annunaki landed on earth 450 thousand years ago. They came from the so called Nibiru the 12th planet of the solar system which had an orbit around the sun of 3600 years. They chose the earth in order to mine gold and other metals for the needs of their world.

The intensive and very hard mining work, caused high mortality, brought to the rebellion of the Annunaki miners.

The solution agreed for this problem was to create a new creature to replace the Annunaki miners. So the DNA manipulation between the Annunakis and the form of life of the Earth.

Those mixed with the Proto-monkeys generated the “homo sapiens”. The evolution of this species kept going throughout the millennia, women in particular became so pleasant and attractive that the Annunaki males came to the point of copulating with them. Thus giving origin to a giant race called Nephilim.

Other DNA crossing experiment were done with certain animals and this brought to the birth of hybrid bodies. (lion, eagle, serpent, bull, ram, goat).

As evidence of all this there is a rich collection of cave paintings all over the world left by our ancestors. They clearly deal with giant hairy and violent beings having anatomical features of hybrid animals. The negative point of all this was the absence of rules that led to violent results, such as wild and indiscriminate copulations impossible to handle (*Genesis* 6;5).

So it was that the Annunaki leaders caused catastrophic events (floods and nuclear explosions) that nearly brought the living beings to extinction. According to the ancient cuneiform writings from the library of Ninive the extraterrestrial EN.LIL gave a chance to the Earth, that is the story of Utnapishtim mentioned in *Genesis* 6; 13-22 and *Koran* XI, 39-51 as Noah’s arch.

Utnapishtim is a character in Gilgamesh epic who overcomes the death of his friend giant En.ki.du.



The Pharaohs who succeeded him were believed to be the reincarnation of Osiris through Horus.

HATOR was Horus's wife represented with cow horns and sun disk, she is the protective deity of love and joy.

SERAPIS: this divinity was previously known in Asia as "sharopshur", the deity of the sea. Imported into Egypt by Ptolemy, she protected fecundity and was associated with the cult of Osiris. The Greek merchants brought it to Pozzuoli, in Southern Italy, where they had settled in a large community. The temple of Serapis in Pozzuoli, is still considered to be one of the best preserved of the antiquity. Here the magnificent marble columns are sinking and raising in and out of the sea water, due to the bradyseism phenomena.

As we can see, the same divinity is adopted by different civilizations.

ISIS is the daughter of Gheb and Nut, she is the Egyptian deity of life revelation, identified with the star Sirius.

Sirius star disappears from the sky for 70 days and reappears on the day of the spring solstice, thus, in coincidence with the beneficent inundations of the Nile.

The sediments of silt left behind after the flooding of the Nile river was Egypt source of life.

The silt mineral fertilizers was produced by the rain corrosion over the volcanic mountains in Africa.

The black earth clay was called Kemet, the remaining land around the Nile river was Desheret the desert.

The deity of the Nile was the powerful SOBEK represented with a crocodile's head.

The Egyptians considered the Nile symbol of rebirth (see dollar note) and so associated it with the erection of Osiris.

The deity Isis could be represented with wheat as defender of farmers, with a child as savior of pregnant women, with an asp protecting

health, with a rudder and cornucopia representing fortune and abundance. Anyone believing in Isis would gain eternal life. Often Isis is represented having the ANKH (the key of life) in her left hand.

The religious cult of Isis was based on deliverance and immortality, as she had conquered death by resurrecting her husband Osiris. The myth says that Osiris was killed by his brother Seth and thrown in the Nile River. Isis found Osiris and hid him into a tomb. Seth found the tomb and dispersed the body of the brother all over Egypt. The wife-sister Isis found each piece and with the help of

ANUBIS (deity of embalming represented with a jackal's head) ((From this event started the embalming. In order to keep all the different parts of Osiris body they were wrapped in linen bandages.)) with jackal head she reassembled and mummified Osiris with the exception of the genitals, which were thrown in the Nile river and swallowed by a fish.

The myth says that Isis transformed herself into a white dove (just like the holy ghost!) and by flying over the husband's mummified body, she remained pregnant, conceiving Horus in a state of virginity.

She is the promise of life after death, a kind of regeneration and resurrection in the underworld.

Whoever believes in her, receives eternal life.

Religion is based on deliverance and immortality for she is the conqueror of death by resurrecting Osiris.

Another version tells that Osiris' sarcophagus was abandoned along the Nile river, and was absorbed by a scented tree (cedar) that became a Totem.

Isis was able to find him by following the scent of the tree; she lay down on the sarcophagus and navigating on a papyrus she rested and conceived Horus.

OSIRIS, on the other hand, is the deity of the dead.

(For Moon Taurus. the Romans Osiris is Seraphs).

Waning moon: death, waxing moon: rebirth.

Osiris married Isis and together they ruled over Lower Egypt.

Osiris is identified with the constellation of Orion.

The distance from Belletrix, the closest star of Orion is 243 light years, while Alnilam the farthest, is 1350 light years away.

He dies in order to get rebirth in the underworld.

API is the ox and guarantees fertility of the fields.

A holy ox was buried every 15/20 years with a big ceremony.

SEKHMET head of Lioness deity of war who leads the Pharaoh in battle.

THOTH, who was represented with the head of an Ibis, was considered the messenger who carried the 780 hieroglyphic signs (the patron of scribes). Each sign had its own history and its own meaning.

Extremely determinant for the interpretation of the hieroglyphic signs was a text on a black slab of granite, dating back to 3000 years ago, and found in 1799 in Rosetta near Alexandria by Bouchard, an officer of the Napoleonic army.

We can say that Napoleon started the re-discovery of the Egyptian ancient world as he went to Egypt not only with his army, but he brought with him 150 scholars as well engineers, linguists, artists, zoologists and botanists.

(*N.G. Storica* February 2012).

Anyhow, the Rosetta Stele carved on a granite stone, had the same text written in two languages, Ancient Greek and Egyptian, and in three scripts, Ancient Greek, Demotic, the Egyptian common script, and Hieroglyphic, the sacred script used by priest and scribes.

(Copt was a later language of the Christian Egyptians).

A French student of ancient languages, Jean François Champollion understood from the "*Rosetta Stone*" that Hieroglyphics stood for

sounds, similar to the letters of our alphabet. He also learned that special names, such as the names of Pharaohs, were recorded in ovals called “cartouches”, year 1828. (Emily Sands, *Wonders of Egypt*).

KA is the spirit of life and energy, its hieroglyphic sign corresponds to two arms toward the sky.

AMON “invisible” RA “enlightening” is the deity of the sun also represented with the head of an Aries: the horns are the sun rays like the strength that comes from the divine. Same idea of the protuberances sculptured by Michelangelo in the statues of Moses located in the Church of St. Peter's in Vincoli, Rome. (Reverend Ravasi, *Radio Maria* – Sept. 2 , 2002).

In Arab language Karnain means “double horn” or “double rays”.

A strange sculpture (dated 1377-1388 BC) showing a long Egyptian face was the representation of Akhenaton “servant of Aten”. His first name was Amenhotep IV and his first wife was Nefertiti (the first woman of power in the history of the ancient Egypt). Akhenaton refused all kinds of ceremonials and deities, believing only in Amon the sun disc named Amon/Aton/Aten.

His monotheistic system had as a symbol an Aten disc with rays shaped like hands reaching the ground and creating life.

Soon after Akhenaton died, probably killed by unemployed clergy, almost everything sculpted or written mentioning his name was eliminated. (*National Geographic*, Nov 14, 2006).

Many of the above mentioned deities can be admired sculpted or depicted in the Egyptian section of Naples Archaeological museum.

After the death of Cleopatra VII 30 BC Egypt became a Roman province where different communities lived together: Greek and Roman communities (in Alexandria) and several Jews escaped from Judea.

With the rise of Christianity in Egypt, the ancient mystery cult of the Pharaohs that had merged into the Greek and Roman cults joined the Jewish-Christian ideologies. The principles of these ancient mystery

cults were based on the belief that immortality could be reached following the initiatory instructions of a death and rebirth. Symbols help penetrate mysteries.

In the last 2000 years we have had the single exception of Islam, which has similar characters and principles, and anyhow a remarkable adhesion of these philosophies is noticed all over the earth, as a confirmation that these evolutions will never finish.

It does not matter what the names of these religions are, they share a similar seed idea: human beings have felt the need to get in touch with the divine, thus giving life to a credo that could become a source of hope and a relief in times of desperation and sorrow.

The rites can be different from place to place according to the cultural environment, type of government, and results obtained from these experiences.

A prayer of the Eskimo Caribou Shaman Igjiugariuk.

“The only true wisdom can be found far from mankind, off in the wide loneliness, and it can be reached only through pain.

Privation and pain are the only ways to open a man’s mind to anything that is kept hidden to others”.

"The religions of ancient Greece and Rome are extinguished. The so-called divinities of the Olympus have no longer worshippers among living men. They now belong to literature rather than theology. There they will hold their place for ever, and will continue to hold it, for they are too closely connected with the finest productions of poetry and art, both ancient and modern, to be lost by our memory.

In the common imagery the “Omnipotent Conceiver” is usually represented as an old man with a white beard, why not imagine the state-ly beauty of a woman instead?

We can’t give a form to something that we can’t understand.

Believers usually invoke the “Divine” in their inner selves, practicing as meditation prayers with constant repetitions, as the Greeks did by the Temples, think of the Rosary grains, for instance.

This practice in Sanskrit is called Japa' meaning repetition.

The voodoo obsessive rhythm of repetition.

Also the Hindu "hare Krshna hare Krshna Krishna Krishna hare hare" is based on repetition.

People who practice meditation can detach themselves from any other interest and focus all their power on the imagination and on penetrating the mystery. (Power of Myth - J. Campbell).

Muslim are great believers they pray five times a day.

(Any Muslim who is unable to kneel in prayer can pray by holding up his forefinger towards the sky).

To new born Muslims have their father whispering in their ears the name of Allah. Every morning.

Do prayers change the physical processes of human beings?

According Dr Larry Dersey (*Potere curativo delle preghiere* 1996) 50% of experiments has proved that prayers can activate significant changes. Francesco Bottaccioli from N.Y. Academy of science is studying the influence of the brain on physical reaction. He reports that the mind produces hormones that can communicate to the chemical substances of our reaction system.

Furthermore he says that the most powerful prayers are those done with no request of health recover. The supporters of this practice base their studies on the quantum physics.

An experiment done in 1964, formulated the theory that 2 electrons that have first been in contact with each other, when separated, keep moving and reacting as if they were still together regardless of the distance between them.

Also twins living away from each other, show a similar reaction, so that if one of them has a heart attack, for instance, the other one will be likely to get chest pains.

(*Vita e salute*, pag. 11/15, June 1997).

The **electron** is a fundamental small particle of our brain that carries a negative electric charge. This electrically charged matter when in-

fluenced by intensive faith produces electromagnetic fields. Their interaction with adjacent nuclei is the main cause of chemical bonding.

A **chemical bond** is the physical process responsible for attractive interactions.

The explanation of the attractive forces is a complex area that is described by the laws of quantum electrodynamics.

Most human beings, regardless of where they were born and where they are living, feel the need of following an ethic or spiritual model, that can be tested only in a state of solitude and uncontrolled pain.

And if there is a common “Leader” behind all this, that has established a basic minded evolution? As a matter of fact almost everyone said that deities are conceived by the sky and the earth, and that through their incredible stories they have influenced the life of our ancestor.

And what if this idea came from the space?

A Basic religious system should be universal, with no restriction of language, race or nation.

It should be like mankind: all copies from the original but in a universal singularity.

It should not be for a few elected people (like an exclusive club) or bound to translations from its original language

(since meaning changes across languages) or choose among several ancient writings which is the one inspired by “Almighty” and which is a fake.

### Contradictory

Is there a possibility that a religious system can legitimate a physical elimination of a living being?

How many people are willing to be eliminated on behalf of their belief without defending themselves?

How many people would have no reaction looking at the physical elimination of their bellowed or any other living being?

## **BIRTH, DEATH and REBIRTH**

FATES (Moirae or Parche).

Fates were the daughters of the night. They were considered the deities of "Destiny".

Homer writes about Clotho "the weaver", Lachesis "the awarded", and Atropos "the incorruptible".

This last one was the smallest but also the oldest and most powerful.

The meaning is as follows:

Clotho spins the thread of life, Lachesis winds it on the spindle and Atropos cuts it off.

The length of thread is only up to them, no one could interfere.

In Naples Archaeomuseum there is a marble basin tomb on which Clotho spins the life thread of the first man molded by Prometheus.

APOLLO

(son of Latona and Zeus's first son, considered twin of Artemis).

Deity of prophecy, life, sun light and music

After Zeus, Apollo was the most important deity of the Olympus, identified with the sunlight, in order to be honored, a deity does not need to have the semblance of a mortal creature.

The worship of a single deity has links with the Jewish creed.

In the Synagogues there are no images. There is only the Menorah, a seven-arm-candelabrum that with its light represents the presence of "the Divine".

The divine is invisible but He is the flame giving light, warmth and life. This is the meaning of the Menorah candelabrum.

The book "Moses" by Philip Graham reports that the Menorah could derive from an ancient pre-existing symbol called Sabean Stone. The sculpture shows a pole on whose summit is represented a half moon/horn and in its center the sun.

Apollo was the deity of music, love, life mystery and energy as well. He was unapproachable, and people felt a frightened respect for him. Using his arrows Apollo hit his targets from a great distance. He refused to be involved in daily quarrels, as he represented self-control and rationality. The myth tells that Apollo and his sister Artemis (the moon), lived half of the year in the Hyperborean country. Here a sacred population was living, immune from old age, sickness, work, or war, as they knew how to control themselves.

In central Java (Indonesia) a Buddhist Temple of the 9<sup>th</sup> century called Borobudur is decorated with 2672 bas-relief scenes. The second level shows the meditation dimension immune to pain and suffering.

Apollo had power over good and evil as well as the occult science that allows one to foresee and transfer these oracular qualities to others, such as the Sibyls. At the entrance of Apollo's temple in Delphi was written: "You must know yourself". In this Sanctuary people used to go 9 times a year to consult the oracle. The temple was in a park surrounded by buildings such as a theatre, a circus, shops, a gymnasium and other entertainments, it was almost like a small village.

In a small room, beneath the main room of the internal part of the Temple called Nao, there were two crossed vaults through which water springs ran and fumes arose.

According to scientific researches carried out in modern time, the fumes were most likely methane and ethylene (a narcotic with a sweetish smell). The Sybil did not eat before closing herself in the ADYTON just like we do today before anesthesia. When asked a question she went into a frenzied trance.

In Apollo's temple there was a sculpture representing the navel (omphalus), the center and connection with nutrition, energy and life. The ancient Chinese medicine, calls "Chi" or "Qi" the area of the navel as to be the birth place and the center of vital energy. The same principle is found in ancient Egypt, the solar plexus is considered the central tank of the inner solar energy.

“The divine” Krshna as central stomach of creation from which every creature receives nutrition.  
(Srla Prabhupada – *Meeting with the teacher of spirituality*).

In Etruscan mythology, Apollo was known as Aplu.

Anyhow, Apollo must have loved South Italy, as he directed various important personages during their historical evolution toward our country. Today the most important Temple of Apollo in the Bay of Naples is in Pompeii and Cumae.  
(See *Aeneas, Daedalus, Cumae, Deifobe*).

ARTEMIS (daughter of Zeus and Leto).

embodies nature as it was conceived in ancient times in a world of solitary and remote valleys and hills where wild life was preponderant.

Artemis is therefore close to the animals being the one who takes care and hunts them.

It usually represented as a hunter armed with a bow and arrows, and is often accompanied by a grey hound or a stag.

The Ephesian Artemis statue is sculpted with many breast-like protuberances shaped like eggs or bull testicles.

This combined symbolism emphasizes distribution of nourishment, nature lifeblood and reproducing power.

Does creation mean to generate a being or things from nothing?

Birth instead, usually starts with sexual attraction, which brings a man and women to copulate. The orgasm generates a mixture of cells, a genetic preparation of infinite combinations.

The Almighty participates by throwing the cells as dice with the result of infinite combinations.

The Ubiquitous causes the coincidence that makes things. This indicates that He is an inveterate gambler by throwing dices for any possible occasion.

*(A brief history of time - Stephen Hawking).*

A man of science who makes research about the life of atoms, cells, micro-cosmos structure, concludes that the perfection of the rules regulating the basic life of this invisible world, can only be the fruit of a superior conception. But you need to create things first, and here we go back to the superior conception.

(Cells are called so because their aspect is like a structure of a honey comb. Neurons are nerve cells, they are electrically excitable, and their process is to transmit information. Humans are estimated to have 100 trillion of cells; a typical cell mass is 1 nanogram.

A nanogram is 1 billionth of a gram.

Atoms we know their function but no one knows why they exist.

Matter is made of 92 elements – metals, minerals and liquids – the aspect of it is due to nature and the percentage of the single assembled elements.

Cells, evolving and assembling genetically in the laboratory (womb) of a mother for 8-9 months, develop into a being of the same species.

The assembled cells in the new foetus generates invisible forces like sensations, simple perceptions, sensibility, intellect, etc. that later creates a unique life style with its own myths.

Looking, listening, reading, talking etc., are the input that every species receives according to those sensations and to the environment. These life-styles of every human prototype, is activating a process of constant comparison with one another until death.

The various phases of physical and moral development of man have always been the same. As a child, a person is educated in a world of discipline and obedience depending on others, and then he goes on to the next phase of independence and responsibility. Only during the third phase does he get the benefits of the first and second phases, to produce, to gain, then regression, liberation and death.

Myth is useful as an introduction to life and to free oneself from it, to be aware of these phases makes life easier until the conclusion. In each passage one should change style.

(In India a man having gone through the above phases can then change his name and dressing style).

According to some of the ancient writings, the creation of man was based on the perfection of life, therefore life without death. Disease or the process of deterioration of the body in fact saved everything. The physical end of human beings creates space and recycling of any living species.

Are we alone in the universe?

Up to now it is as if we are. Astronomer say there are infinite combinations of worlds and galaxies on which life is possible and so it is very unlikely a mathematic answer.

It has been estimated that since men started sending messages to space via radio signals, considering they are transmitted at approximately the speed of light, so far they have covered a distance of over 50,000 light-years. If any civilization has been reached, how long will it take to get an answer?

The telescope that is helping men of science and astronomers to better understand these matters is Hubble.

Hubble is orbiting close to 600 Km over the Earth and it provides a clear view of the universe, free of the glare effect of the atmosphere.

The power of Hubble enables astronomers to study galaxies and stars as far as 10 billion light-years away. This means that Hubble is actually looking "back in time", giving astronomers an insight into the origins and age of the universe, when it all began.

For each image Hubble receives, astronomers can calculate the distance it comes from and, obviously, how that object looked at the very moment its light departed towards Hubble.

Example:

- light departing 10 billion light years away, from any objects as stars, galaxies or others , takes 10 billion years to reach our planet.

Obviously, as any of the mentioned objects keep moving, by the time that light reaches the Earth, the object will be in a different position, so that what we normally see is not there any longer but rather somewhere else.

Among Hubble's most interesting discoveries, let's mention:

- the age of the Universe being close to 13.7 billion years;
- dark matter energy causing acceleration in the expansion of the universe".

The Milky Way spiral galaxy is the home of our Solar System and is estimated to be made of about 200 billion stars. The center of the Milky Way is about 100,000 light-years in diameter and 1,000 light-years thick. Our home, the Earth, is about 27,000 light-years far away from the centre of the Milky Way.

The Milky Way belongs to a group of Galaxies, whose largest one is Andromeda, named after the daughter of the King of Troy, Priamus and his wife Ecuba.

The Milky Way is slowly approaching Andromeda at a speed that ranges from 100 to 140 km per second, meaning that an impact is predicted to occur in about 4 billion years.

This impact can be associated with what was described during the first cent. AD in the second letter of Peter, chapter 3 vers. 12-13, "skies will dissolve and inflames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for, relying on his promises, is the new heavens and new earth, where uprightness will be at home".

The beginning is also the end, death is born with life, who generates life also generates death. This is the perpetual motion.

In some three-faced sculptures the front represents the Deity and the sides represent "the dualities": good and evil, the beginning and the end, and so on.

According to the Genesis, before duality men and women were not aware of their differences.

The deity of death is also the deity of sex because life derives from it. A man and a woman can conceive life and then die.

Furthermore, sacrifices in honour of the deceased were made to ensure continuation of life.

In life there was a warm and alive person, after death only stillness, cold and decomposition. Where has the vitality gone?

Our ancestors may have thought the dead had returned to mother earth or had ascended to the stars.

When has man discovered death?

When he received the gift of awareness, and discovered to be a mortal being.

From a Latin epitaph placed at the entrance of the cemetery of the medieval Castle in Monterone, Umbria:

“I was as you are, you will be as I am, think of this and may the Almighty be with you”

Religious faith;

Resurrection according to Christianity means that soul will join the totality of the “Almighty” for the universal judgment (meaning “test” in Greek).

Is it the only way to have justice, for billions of people who passed away in desperation and injustice since the beginning of human existence?

Reincarnation, instead, is the assumption of another body after death.

Tenzin Gyatso (the Dalai Lama) says that the target of reincarnation is to complete the work experienced during the preceding life.

The Buddhist philosophy sees the Divine in each one of all living creatures, and only those practicing the correct discipline, can reach and eventually become Divine.

Almost the same concept is shared by some western atheist philosophers, who locate the Divine in each one of us and not in an “Omnipotent divine spirit”.

## Pagan Sacrifices

ended with the distribution of meat to the poor that were called parasites/spongers, meaning they were the ones who ate the meat.

In some areas where the sacrifices were kept in more appreciation, the pieces of meat were thrown in to the sea or buried as something exclusively for the deities.

The arrivals at the ports after long journeys/voyages were one of the many opportunities to set up a sacrificial ceremony.

The commander himself arranged small sacrifices to express his gratefulness.

The animals sacrificed to Dionysus were bulls, he-goats and fawns.

The animals sacrificed to Persephone were pigs and roosters.

The horse was sacrificed to Apollo.

The male rituals involved the entire Polis.

The secret female rituals were dedicated to maternity, sexuality, fertility. The deities were: Persephone, Demeter, Hera and Artemis.

In our archaeological sites, several altars with sculpted scenes of sacrifice can still be seen.

During the ancient Roman time sacrificed animals were sprinkled with flour and wine, then killed with one shot, and only after the approval of the priest the roasted meat was distributed to the believers as nutrition was associated to the divine sacrifice accepted by the deities.

The Aztecs made sacrifices of children, to ensure the sun would rise again.

In Cartages human sacrifice of 2 – 3 year-old children symbol of purity were made in honour of the deity Baal. This was a birth-control system as well.

Ancient Chinese writes, were stating that if 5 people were sacrificed, it was not going to rain the day after.

(Discovery civilization Feb. 26 2006).

The number of people sacrificed to the Deities by the so-called pagans and later by monotheistic religions goes beyond any imagination.

Pagans killed people as votive offering.

Today people are killed by religious fundamentalism in the name of their “Conceiver”.

### **Eternity**

Eternity has nothing to do with time; if you do not catch the moment now, you will not be able to catch it anymore. This is the dimension of time. Eternity will be cut out. Living here and now is the function of life. Life is great the way it is, otherwise it should not exist. Life means pain, desperation, death, happiness, pleasure, vulgarity, aberration, ferocity, and so on.

Some ancient civilization used to set up Tombs, Sarcophagi, Graves and Mausolei as houses for the eternity or places of transit waiting for the next life.

In a lifetime one builds a residence more humble than that for after death, which is required for eternity. Preserving the body at all costs in order for it to be ready to live once again after death has been a myth since the beginning of human history.

The largest tomb of the ancient world is in China, it belongs to the first Chinese emperor Qin Shi Huangdi, in the mausoleum there is a copy of the emperors army made of about 8 thousand terracotta soldiers, horses, exotic animals, bronze chariots and everything he thought useful to rule the empire after death as well.

The tomb was built by 700.000 workers soon after the unification of China (221 BC).

The most imposing monuments were built to be re-born, for reincarnation, to resurrect, for religious purposes, in a few words to give the soul our last chance.

Tenth\Eleventh century ago clergy settled areas around churches and monasteries called “Almighty’s respite” a ground with an inviolable

ecclesiastical immunity, where it was forbidden to fight. Here graves could not be desecrated. (*Storica* September 2011).

The Egyptians, thousands of years ago, used to build tombs as residences which are the most lavish ever constructed.

Just few words to better focus the care and incredible amount of precious metals involved on a Pharaoh's tomb construction. Tutankhamen tomb was made of quartzite then inside 3 more sarcophagus, the first of cypress wood plated by gold leafs, the second similar to the first one but inlaid with precious stones, the third 110 kilos of pure gold and finally inside of this the mummy having on the face a gold mask and 150 pieces of jewellery and amulets.

This is what the archaeologist Howard Carter found in 1922.

It is interesting to notice that before bodies were mummified, the brain was taken away with a metal spoon via the nostrils, while the lungs, heart, kidneys and liver were placed in specific vases called "canopy".

Mummifications were carried out during the days Sirius could not be seen. The procedure was the one adopted by Isis in recomposing Osiris. The body is wrapped in linen sheets and put in a coffin.

Going back to the star position of the ancient Egyptian time, with proper software, the apparition of the stars of Sirius announced the winter solstice.

Starting from this event, the nights start to be shorter, and the days longer, therefore the return of light symbolizes the rebirth.

Anyhow, embalming was useful but not necessary; it was expensive but it avoided decomposition.

The body was freed of all the organs except for the heart.

Once in the underworld the heart is weighed and only if it isn't heavier than a feather that person can rise from the dead.

The body was then left in a special room to let it dehydrate. After this it was washed, greased with special oils and wrapped in linen band-

ages with amulets. (The word amulet derives from the Arab word "Hamala" meaning to bring to carry).

Recent analyses prove that the embalmers used polymerised oils and greases directly on the bandages and cloths creating a barrier against micro-organisms.

The coniferous resins were used because resistant to the organisms that caused putrefaction.

Beeswax was used for its hydrophobic and antiseptic properties

The concept of death has changed throughout time according to scientific evolution. In the ancient days the majority of people died before the age of 5, and at 30 years death was accepted as today it is accepted at the age of 80. (*TV Science* 96).

Today instead some people before dying of incurable diseases, set up contracts with companies specialized in the preservation of bodies.

As long as the cells are not decomposed, these organizations can intervene in as quickly as possible, right after death is considered legal.

Already in the first phase of preparation of the body, one will work in a very low temperature room. The body is wrapped up in special covers and is set up in metallic cylinders where liquid azoth keeps the temperature constant at 196 °C. below zero. In theory this type of hibernation is eternal. The body can then be brought back to its natural state so that it can be cured, but only when medicine has found the solutions to the diseases responsible for his death.

(The Siberian Salamanders are known for surviving deep freezes (as low as -35°C). In some cases they have been in permafrost for years then slowly revived after melting).

Is the soul frozen with the body at the time of death, or has it left the body?

To believe that the soul survives after death is an old story.

Does the soul leave the body after the last breath?

Or after the last beat of the heart?

Or after the electric activity of the brain ceases?

Or after decomposition of the last cell?

The fact is that we need a body to reach our soul!

This goes back to the axiom of the lamp and the light: the body is the house of the soul, as the lamp is the house of light.

(The body contains the soul, the soul contains no body).

Men of science are working on Biology clone, that is creating through asexual reproduction, trying to reproduce from a man's cell a copy of the same cell.

Someone has to explain how they can reproduce the soul, unless the soul duplicates automatically within the clone cells.

Or maybe this proves the inexistence of the soul, as what we call soul is the energy that gradually builds the awareness of the individual's spiritual needs.

But let's continue with myth...

Our Greek ancestor used to believe the soul left the body with the last breath ( in Greek breath is Pneuma, breeze).

The Arabs call some winds "the breath of Almighty".

Now we have to understand if soul means consciousness, awareness.

The soul breath in Greek mythology is "Psyche". This means that a body without the soul has no reason to exist. The soul has developed criteria of creating a body in order to show up and through this experience to improve. This could also mean that at the beginning bodies were just moved by the natural evolution of cells or the cells were programmed by the soul to reach the phase of being animated. Yes love is the soul's wish and nutrition.

From the Phaedo by Plato, dialogue with Socrates before his execution; death is when the body is released from the soul.

Does awareness need a healthy body to show up?

If the body becomes ill and dies, is conscience forced to abandon the body?

...and if conscience could be controlled and managed by the power of the mind, could it be able to rebuild its healthy body? And if so, by training our mind properly, do we become immortal?

..And if so, love between two consciences or more can direct this power toward other bodies?

It is said that people living in a state of purity have an easier control over their mind.

How many people today are in a state of purity? Living a pure love, a pure orgasm, a pure happiness?

Veda indicates the road of having total control over mind, conscience and spirit.

At this point I ask myself, as Krshna is Almighty, and He wants the best for everybody, why does He not tear us away from material life and gives us the eternal spiritual happiness instead?

Death can as well be the announcement of a divine life.

There is a saying “the snake bites its tail” meaning that the snake chases its tail trying to bite it but unsuccessfully. This is due to the fact that the snake’s material body is shorter than the length of his space-time curve.

If we keep thinking that it is not possible, that the snake cannot bite its tail, we remain anchored to the traditional concept of things. Therefore it is necessary to look at things differently without giving up. Even though its body is not long enough and/or its curving capacity is not sufficient, the snake should not give up and should start to think of an alternative. Instead, of biting its tail it could eject its head or its thoughts along the space-time line until it manages to reach its tail.

On this concept is based the sculpted monster on the temples of Shiva. (See Dionysus cult as well).

According to the rules of relativity if our sight could travel at an endless speed, it would follow a space-time curved trajectory that would allow us to see the nape of our neck.

Below are some explanations related to the theory of relativity conceived by Albert Einstein, dealing with phenomena like the curved space-time as well with the law that nothing can travel faster than the speed of light and others.

$E=mc^2$ , where “E” is Energy, “=” is equal, “m” is mass, “c” is the speed of light, and “<sup>2</sup>” is square.

Because of the equivalence of energy and mass, the energy an object needs for its motion will be added to its mass. In other words, it is harder to increase its speed.

This effect is only significant for objects moving at speed closer to the speed of light.

For example, at 10% the speed of light an object mass is only 0.5% more than normal, while at 90% of the speed of light it would be more than twice its normal mass.

As an object approaches the speed of light, its mass rises even faster, so it takes more and more energy to further increase its speed.

As a matter of fact, it can never reach the speed of light because, by then, its mass would have become infinite, and by the equivalence of mass and energy, it would take an infinite amount of energy to get it there.

For this reason, any normal object is forever confined by relativity to move slower than the speed of light.

Only light, or other waves having no intrinsic mass, can move at light speed.

The photons are the particles composing light. Through the light produced by an object, we perceive its position. The point is, is it its real position?

No, because on their way the photons get deviated by the gravity force. This means that light is travelling curved, and that the object is not actually resting where it seems to be. So the position we perceive is relative.

Time and speed changes according the position and speed of the observers.

Tough all seems clear, at this point, science fosters doubts along with certainties.

Recently, in fact, scientist are observing sub-atomic particles called Neutrinos which are nearly without mass.

These particles come from the core of the Sun and they appear to travel faster than light. If this will be confirmed, besides being the biggest discovery in physics, it will spoil Einstein's theory.

Approximate speed of light is over 300 thousand kilometers per second this means that the distance covered by light in one year is 10 thousand billions of kilometers.

The first and most brilliant star we see at sunset in the Northern hemisphere, is Sirius, 8.6 light-years away.

Let's think for a moment that thoughts are faster than light, not recognized by the immanent scientific rules, but faithful to the laws of relativity.

Surpassing the present (current) moments, our thoughts are able to travel in the future catching images (episodes/events) that we have not experienced yet. Then, when time comes to go through those events, they are like flashes of images that we have already seen.

When we sleep and our body is motionless, the unconscious state has all the energy available. Such energy can eject our thought with such mental power, that it can travel in our future life?

Some of these moments are later recognized and experienced during our daily life as flashes of something we are certain we have not have experienced up to that moment. It is like a slide quickly passing on a screen.

Travelling in the past is a paradox: let's imagine for a moment that we can do it. We could go back in time, meet our parents and cause their death. How could we justify our existence?

As a consequence we would be \*annulled\* together with all those who were generated from them.

Let's make some considerations;

The chemical, physical energies of the soul will forever dissolve after death as they have never had existed?

or

Can the soul be part of the forces that assembles the matter in space?

These utopia have been for some time in my mind.

Are these forces with their incredible wandering pure energy somehow living and assembling matter ?

It could be a way to show Itself, it could be a way to materialize.  
“The energy of the soul needs bodies to make itself known”

(from an editorial of Imma Vitelli in *Vanity fair* 2009 N° 33, about spiritual thoughts of people living on Caternet’s Archipelago Papua New Guinea; “the dead are alive. They float in the space, they talk to us. We ask for protection in war time, rain during drought, fish in case of famine).

or

The soul emigrates in another body?

The so-called reincarnation.

But when does this happen?

Before conception i.e. during that unavoidable phase of attraction that occurs between two people?

and through which body, the man’s or the woman’s, is it installed in the conceived baby?

or is divided between the two and then it reassembles during conception at the climax that represents the divine?

One of the answers is in the “Tibetan book of the dead” a guide that explains the existence of the hereafter world.

In the VI century AD, a mysterious figure came from India to the Tibetan upland.

His name was Patma Sanbaba, meaning “born from Lotus”. Patma became very popular for his mystical powers, he first liberated the land from the evil’s forces, then he created several dungeons so he was believed to have defeated death.

But as Tibetans were not ready for his revolutionary teachings, Patma wrote and hid “The Book of the dead” where he revealed the secrets of the soul, rebirth and reincarnation.

The book was discovered by a certain Karma Lippa during the 16th century, and only in 1919 was brought to the Western world by the American anthropologist Evans Swence.

The manuscript, translated into English, is a method that teaches how to achieve enlightenment, wisdom and hope to be reborn in another life through different stages called Bardo.

The spirit of the deceased will wander in the afterlife for 49 days, and will be guided only by the verses of “the book of the dead”.

During one of the Bardo’s stage the soul of the deceased will experience a dimension where there are men and women coupling, here he will have the opportunity to contemplate them and eventually choose to enter during the moment preceding the divine Climax, the seminal mixture of the couple, thus taking possession of the new bodily conception.

The Orgasm is the immanent witness related to the supreme act of priority between living creatures. Its nature does not distinguish ages or life form.

The absolute unlike feeling practicing coupling, derives from the natural unconscious/conscious purpose that existence is granted only by starting a new life, therefore the consciousness of one’s limited life duration.

The ancient Egyptians represented the divine conception of the pharaoh like the semen of the deity RA in the mother’s womb.

In ancient stories children born from virgins or infertile woman, are intended a gift of the divine will.

Could the amount of knowledge and spirituality gained by an individual in a lifetime have a life of its own after physical death?

I think that the spiritual acquisition of a lifetime cannot end with one’s death, it would be against natural evolution and simply irrational.

“Spirituality is higher than religion and every religion has to consider itself as a service to a higher spirituality and to peace and harmony between men.

This means that each believer should keep within himself all great religions, becoming a sort of living Pantheon.” (From V. Mancuso and C. Augias).

I like to think that the energetic texture of the Universe is made of people's spiritual awareness as well. Energy leaves the body and it mixes with billionth of other energies. In some cases souls according to temporary rules, may be reincarnated, some remain isolated, some divinized and some simply cease to exist.

A personal experience:

Every now and then I spent some time alone with my mother, a very lucid minded old lady. I often ask her to tell me about her life, her childhood memories.

During the last months of my mother's life, I could read in her intense silent blue eyes, questions without answers about her health. My mother was a simple woman who spent her young age during the difficulty of the second world war, married at the age of 19, she spent her entire life running after the needs of my three sisters and myself. She passed away at the age of 87 and I was preparing myself to think about a possible answer to one of her possible questions.

Mom choice

"I know we all have to die, but instead why would it not be possible to remain in my house as a shadow without bothering anyone, so I could still look after you all?"

My Possible answers:

That's it Mom, you won't die; your body will stop living but your soul, your acquisition, will survive in me. I will hand it down to my descendants and you will live forever.

For instance, each time we will eat your preferred meal; the pasta pie, we will think of you!

she would probably reply:

It is not true. The acquisition that you are talking about will not be able to let me eat my favorite dish anymore: you're cheating me!

This is my reply:

Pay attention, mom, as now I will explain to you that you are not allowed to live us.

... I'll start all over again. Let's imagine just for a moment that you will pass away. Your spirit will be able to contemplate the pasta pie, and probably smell it too, the only thing your spirit will not be able to do is to eat it.

Mom

... and you think that is not important. You mean: look at it, smell it and not eat it! It's worse than dying; it's a torture.

My reply

... Ok, I got it. You can eat it too but you have to help me.

Mom

...how? What do you want me to do?

My answer

... it's very simple.

each time you want to eat the macaroni pie you should appear in my dreams, souls can easily do it you know, and ask me:

“ my son, tomorrow I would just love to eat an enormous portion of pasta pie”.

(Recipe: macaroni, tomato sauce, eggs, extra-virgin olive oil, minced meat of first quality, and on the top a sprinkle of grated Parmesan cheese that the heat of the oven will transform into a fine crust).

...I will ask someone to cook it for me. You know I do not know how to do it. When everything is ready I will keep it warm into the oven.

During the night of the day after, while I am sleeping, you will come in my dream, and visit me again, and when you are ready to eat I will have you in my head as part of my sensations. So together, half-asleep, we will go into the kitchen, we will open the oven and a bite for you and another bite for me we will eat the whole pasta pie.

Mom

Puzzled she would reply, I have never heard something like that, probably it is like you are saying, but I do not believe it.

My reply

... I thought you would have said so, mom. But if you do not pass away first I cannot prove it to you.

Mom

... and you think that I should die before time just to find out if I can keep enjoying my pasta-pie?

My answer

... so you see, dying is not worthwhile, don't you think so?  
... and I find this a momentarily satiric conclusion to my theory on the strength of souls in the space.

In Naples there are strong believers in their ancestors' souls' presence. They often pray or make an offer to churches to celebrate a mass for the benefit of their beloved ones. Just in case they have problems in the underworld. Of course, during their prayers, they then ask the spirit of the deceased to somehow repay this due.

The most popular request is to have suggested the lucky numbers for a lottery.

The logic is: we help you offering our prayer and pleading "the supreme being" to be merciful with you, and you do something for me, since you live in the world that knows the future, you can do something for my problem as I am still alive for the benefit of your family as well.

But let's talk about the theories on reincarnation and on the soul's eternal life, developed by venerable thinkers.

From the teaching of the venerable Gedun Tharchin, Geshe Lharampa, about "Karma and Reincarnation", during the birthday meeting of His Holiness Dalai Lama on July 6th 2002, Lam-Rim Institute.

“Have you ever asked yourselves why - if we wish very strongly someone’s reincarnation and we experience/develop the right karma – the apparition of a Buddha becomes inevitable?

The reason why these special people are born is linked to their innate compassion and to their altruistic mind. Their innate qualities leave no choice: they have to appear under a certain appearance in order to help us and meet our desires. The mechanism is the same even from a monotheistic point of view. It is not important if one believes in the “Divine” or not. If “He” wanted to meet our needs, He would make sure we could see Him.

If there are yearnings and the right karma “Almighty” shows himself and meets our needs. Obviously this example is for believers only.

From the Confessions of Saint Augustine:

Tell me, “Ubiquity”, tell me if my childhood came after another life of mine that ended before I was born again, and before that life, o “Ubiquity”, was I somewhere or in some other body?

For the soul there is no birth and no death. Its existence did not start in the past, it doesn’t start in the present and it will not start in the future. It was not born, it is eternal, it has always existed, it is primordial. It does not die when the body dies.

(Bhagavad-gita 2:20).

## SYMBOLISM

(Sym-bol means 2 things put together)

### The **swastika**

(Sanskrit sv = well; asti = is) = well-being – health - luck

The Sumerians that settled between the Tigris and the Euphrates approximately 4000-3500 BC, are considered among the most ancient civilizations. On their ceramics there were often swastikas, representing the universe in movement.

Today we know that most of the galaxies are shaped like a turning swastika.

(In the Archaeomuseum of Paestum (Southern Italy) there are clear decorations of swastikas dating back to 5<sup>th</sup> cent BC). "Swastika" *Encyclopædia Britannica* (2007).

In India the swastika was the sun symbol as well.

(Fire) south	—	north (water)	
			The four cardinal points
(earth) east	—		the four elements
		—	west (air)

In the 1<sup>st</sup> millennium BC the Aryans (Sanskrit Aryas=father) were those people who lived in the present country of Afghanistan, Persia, Pakistan and India.

The Indo-Aryan literary language, is Sanskrit, today considered like Latin because confined to the comprehension of highly educated people.

### The **circle**

means as well totality in terms of time and space.

If we consider the “ultimate” as a point in the center of a circle, it is unavoidable that anyone going toward this center will have to get closer and closer with other human being going in the same direction to the “ultimate”.

Alpha and Omega, beginning and end of life-cycle.

The only possible movement in the known Cosmo is circular. The serpent that bits its tail is a circle.

The cycle wheel of sun set and sun rise.

The **Sun** generates the winds, the heat, the clouds, and by doing so it is the creator of earth life events.

The Sanskrit “divyati” means to shine.

The Sanskrit “divo-ga” means born in the sky.

Zeus in Greek is Djeus, the genitive of Djeüs is Diòs.

Diòs means shining sky.

Dium in Latin means day or sky.

Dyàus in Latin means light.

Let “its” light rain over us, just like a warm embrace.

Just like the representation in ancient Egypt during the time of the Pharaoh Amenhotep IV, the sun disk sculpted with rays like arms and ends towards human being for their benefit.

Fos = light = brilliant = phosphorescence, the first event after Chaos the event that made things visible that made things become.

The Sanskrit word “*Dyaus pitar*” is analogous to the Latin Jupiter that indicates the divine leader; the root of the name Zeus is recognizable in the Germanic name of deity “Tiwaz”.

Moses was dazzled by the presence of Jhw (from the Old Testament).

**Circumcision** Hebrew tradition done with an empty chair for Elias, as witness of the symbolic presence of “Ubiquitous”.

(according to the Greek historian Herodotus V cent BC, as well in ancient Egypt all men were circumcised).

## **Gates**

The ancient Greeks used to call the two solstices gates, the summer solstice as to be the Gate of Men and the winter solstice the Gate of the Deities.

The gates were symbols ; through the first gate one entered the material world of creation; through the second gate one entered the kingdom of the deities.

### **Fish**

Many are the hidden symbols in Christianity, among them the most famous are:

The fish. The first letter of each word when put together in Greek spelling **ICHTHYS** = fish

**I**ESUS or Iesous

**C**HRESTOS

**T**HEOU (of Almighty)

**Y**OIS (son)

**S**ALVADOR or Soter (Saviour)

**Egg** symbol of birth mystery and resurrection, seen most often at Easter. In ancient Egyptian theology, the beginning of things arises from an egg perched on the primordial water hill from which the sun deity RA was born. Ra then slides over the water as a goose.

In India myth sees the waters giving birth to the golden egg.

Circle decoration under the Ionic capitols is made of eggs and darts as death mystery.

### **Dove**

the spirit of the Egyptian divinity Isis was represented as a white dove.

In the Bible, the white dove represents the spirit of the “Almighty”, announcing to Noah the end of the Universal flood.

In the Minoan “Knossos Palace” in Crete on the horned altar is a sculpted Dove. Symbol of epiphany, of the visual appearance of the divine revelation.

The white Dove is often mentioned in Mythology as the spirit of Apollo.

The Dove symbol of epiphany, of the revelation the Holy Ghost and the release of the soul in death.

## Serpent

symbol of sin.

Human nature is usually attracted by anything prohibitive, therefore in order to let life begin man broke the symbolic pact, so everything was born from an act of disobedience.

From the Bible Genesis, Yahweh said to the serpent; because you have beguiled Eve, upon your belly you shall go, and shall eat dust all the days of your life, and to the women to bring forth as a couple and be subjected to her spouse. This set the seal of the patriarchy on the new age. And to the men who had come to the tree and eaten of the fruit, “in the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground out of which you were taken - you are dust and to dust you shall return.

The earth (Gaea) retains the elemental aspect of her function of furnishing the substance into which the new couple arises. Yahweh had breathed his breath into her children’s life, and they were returned to her, not to the father in death.

We are the conscience of earth, her eyes, her voice. We are the natural conscience; we are like the leaves that spontaneously position themselves towards the sun. We are the earth. (J. Campbell, *The power of Myth*).

## Stories related to the Serpent.

The magical serpent rod, which Moses used to frighten the Pharaoh. Yahweh said “What is that in your hand?” And Moses replied “A rod “ Yahweh said “Cast it to the ground” and it became a serpent. Yahweh again said “Put it in your hand and take it by the tail “ and it became a rod. The same rod that later produced water from the rock in the desert.

And when people in the desert murmured against Yahweh, he sent fiery serpents to destroy many people of Israel.....so Moses prayed for the people. And Yahweh said to Moses “Make a fiery serpent, and set it on to a pole; and anyone who is ‘bitten’ by the serpent, when he sees it, and believes, shall live”.

We are informed in II Kings, that people continued to revere the bronze serpent idol in Jerusalem, until the time of King Hezekiah 719-691bc... We were told that the same King broke into pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made, and that since those days, the people of Israel had burned incense and worshipped it.

The idol serpent was called Nehushtan.

On a Sumerian vase in green steatite (Louvre), dated 2025 BC, a figure of two copulating vipers are entwined along a staff in the manner of the caduceus of the Greek deity of mystic knowledge and rebirth. On the same vase, an inscription says “Lord of the tree of Truth”.

Two entwined serpents along a sceptre baton, forms the caduceus symbol in medicine. The serpents are the two vital forces, Solar and Lunar, flowing on both sides of the backbone spine meeting each other on the top.

The wonderful ability of the serpent to slough its skin, and so renew its youth has earned for it throughout the world the character of the master of the mystery or of rebirth of which the moon, waxing and waning, sloughing its shadow and again waxing, is the celestial sign. The moon is the Lord and measure of life - creating comings and goings: equally Lord of birth and death – which two, in sum, are an aspect of one state of being.

The tree with golden apples in the sunset-land of the Hesperides, designed on a Greek vase, is represented with a horned snake coiled up around the tree, and from a cave in the earth at its root there are water wells from a spring.

Tifone titan’s form, half-man, half-snake, we were told, was enormous. He was so large that often his head knocked against the stars and his arms could extend from sunrise to sunset. When he moved the earth groaned, and fire was bursting over the sea. The Ocean boiled. (this explains the origin of the word typhoon).

According to Hesiod, the Medusa was the only immortal Gorgon. It is said that she was a lovely girl. One day Athena caught Medusa

while making love with Poseidon in Athena's sacred temple. The deity became so infuriated by this profanity, that she transformed Medusa into a monster. The lovely Gorgon had fiery eyes and a long tongue lolling out of her mouth, and her hair was made of hissing serpents. Anyone who looked at her was turned to stone.

Asclepius, the deity of healing, secured the blood from the veins of Medusa, both from her left side and from her right. With the first he slays, but with the second he cures and brings back to life. When Perseus slew her, she delivered Crisaore and Pegasus, previously conceived with Poseidon. Her blood gave origin to the coral. Medusa's head was often used for decoration above bakery ovens to stop curious people from opening the little oven door causing drafts and consequently ruining their baking.

(you shall not profane places either ovens or temples. This means to break the rules, to break the myth).

A further tale involving serpents:

Zeus was stating that the joy felt by a woman while making love, was far more intensive than the one felt by a man. Hera of course was stating the opposite and in order to clarify this quarrel, they both decided that the ideal Judge could be the sage fortune teller Tiresia as he had experience from both sides.

His judgment was "if we divide the love pleasure in ten parts, 9 belongs to the woman and one to man".

Hera having heard this, in a fit of anger, struck him blind. Zeus, in compensation, bestowed on him the gift of prophecy.

What does the serpent has to do with it?

Ovid's tale says : while Tiresia was in the woods he offended, with a stroke of his stick, a female snake mating; and (oh wonder) he was changed from man to woman. Thus he lived for seven years, in the 8<sup>th</sup> year he saw the same serpents and by stroking the male snake he returned in his former shape. (A. Morelli *Deities and Myths*).

The Cobra serpent depicted in many Egyptian monuments represents royalty, and it is considered the spiritual vehicle of the Desert as well.

The primordial form of Atum, the original “Creative breeze” deity worshipped in Heliopolis Egypt, was a snake. Atum was later associated with other animals, in particular the lion, the bull and the scarab. But at the end of time, he was expected to take once again the form of a snake.

To control the snake is to control life. The Pharaoh is often associated with the snake. (*Mythology* by Roni Jay).

Krshna is often represented with Cobras serpent, peacock feathers, lotus flower. Symbols of the Egyptian (see Isis) and Greek (see *Hera*) mythology as well.

In India the snake is considered a sacred animal, the symbol of life and death. Here the snake is venerated and protected, as it catches and eats mice, and so protecting the crops.

The Romans, who didn't know about the hibernation phenomena, believed that serpents use to die and be reborn with a new skin. Some snakes change skin 4 times a year.

In the Roman ancient city of Pompeii and in Naples Archaeomuseum, there are several artifacts with figures snakes.

American Indians always tried to be friend of serpents, as they were afraid of the snakes' nature. (*Power of Myth* - J. Campbell).

(Today many people all over the world have serpents at home as pets.)

In China and Japan the serpent is a symbol of power, and some of them, like the Mamba have two phalluses.

The Australian Aboriginal mythology looks at the snakes as rivers as they flow over the ground like a river and are at the base of rainbows. The aborigines mainly eat serpents grilled - here too it is considered powerful.

## SYMBOLISM OF COMPOSITE BODIES

Assyrian winged bull:

has the head of a man (intelligence), the body of a lion (courage), the wings of an eagle (sight and speed) and the feet of a bull (power). One of the versions is that the four archaic signs of the Zodiac have been put together and made into door guardians.

These same four beasts, which are associated with the vision of Ezekiel, become the four evangelists in the Christian tradition.

(*Power of myth* - J. Campbell).

(Materialized virtues of heroes and important personages of ancient civilisations).

Cerberus (Son of Echidna and Tifone):

He had the body of a ferocious dog with 3 heads. Its duty was to forbid dead people to trespass the borders of the eternal night, and to stop living people from entering the underworld.

Only Hercules, Orpheus and Aeneas avoided Cerberus with success.

Hercules chained the dog when he went into the underworld to liberate Alcester.

Orpheus made it fall asleep with the magic melodies of his Lira when he went to implore Pluto and Persephone to concede Eurydice to go back with him.

Aeneas made it fall asleep with a drugged piece of bread as he was commanded to go to the underworld to receive an oracle from his father Anchises.

The monster was the border of human possibilities for those who accept the popular tales, but those people who go further are those that make the difference.

(In the Archaeomuseum of Naples there are several representations of Cerberus).

Chimera, an ancient calendar symbol, a monster with the head of a Lion symbol of spring, the lower abdomen of a Goat as summer, and the tail as Dragon symbol of winter.

Borea = Son of Astreo (struck by Zeus became a star) and Eos (one of the dawns the birth of breezes).

Borea was considered to be the North wind and, King of the winds.

Usually represented as half man with a beard, and half winged horse, either with two faces, or in ancient days with feet formed as serpents.

According to Homer, Borea took as lovers not only the mares of King Eretteo but the daughter Orizia as well. From the union of Borea and Orizia the winged twins Calai and Zete were born.

(even incomprehensible phenomenon had to have an aspect).

Chiron = (Son of Saturn and Philira).

Horseman body, he was the most famous of the Centaurs.

It is said that he was born in that form. Chiron's father Saturn assumed the aspect of a horse to avoid being recognized by his wife Rhea when he was caught while making love with his lover Filia.

(interesting solution to explain why a horse-man body).

The Egyptian Sphinx looking toward sunrise has a body of a lion squatting down, with a male face representing the Pharaoh.

Fawn = Roman divinity, identified as the Greek Silenus. The representation is with man's body, small horns and the tail of a goat.

Silenus = Demon of the woods. Thought to be a human figure with pointed ears, glands hanging under throat, tail and legs of a ram. Figured as bearded man, snub nose, thick lips and potbelly, always drunk but very wise and for this he was chosen by Zeus to be Dionysus' pedagogue.

Silenus was the son of Pan and the father of the centaur Folo.

Satyr is a young Silenus with same appearance.

Symbols printed on the American 1 dollar note, related to Masonry:

**the Eagle** is the symbol of Zeus, the incarnation of the deities on the earth.

The Eagle holds in its talons 13 arrows as symbol of war, and 13 leaves of laurel as symbol of peace. The Eagle looks toward peace, and is decorated with 13 stars forming the **star of David** that is also seals of Salomon.

The two **triangle** of the star with point of crossing and tip to the centre, obtains 10 point from the big bang centre.

The **centre** is the energy furnace.

Nine are the feathers of the tail associated to the 9 divine forces ascended on the world.

On the cusp with the great seal, the 4 faces of the **pyramid** are the symbol of a convergent unity where there is the acquaintance of “Almighty”.

After the flooding of the Nile river, with decreasing of the level of the water what appears before is the cusp of the pyramids like a symbol of rebirth. The **Zed** with the eye of the “Almighty” is like an eagle looking from above. The sun on the pyramid the eye of Amon-Ra.

The **eye** of the “Almighty” like a reason of being, on the base awareness of being part of a society as people and culture. “Annuit coeptis” with the consent of Deity, is written above:

The 13 pyramidal **layers** are the symbol of the first 13 states.

American society finds its roots in Masonry.

(from the *Power oh Myth* by J. Campbell).

## FREEDOM

The meaning of this word has changed through the ages according to the space available and the place where one lives. Any one is free to think what one wants.

### MARSIA

He was a famous shepherd, a Silenus, and musician of the double flute. It is said that his flute originally belonged to Athena, who threw it away as soon as she saw her face badly shaped by blowing it. People often said that Marsia was even better than Apollo as a musician. To avoid doubts, Apollo organised a musical contest during which Marsia was defeated. The shepherd was then tied to a tree by order of Apollo and skinned alive. In the museum of Paestum the bronze statue of Marsia is 1.03 meters. The figure is represented by a bearded Silenus-type, stocky body. He bends his knees, and has his mouth half-opened (like a drunkard who sings). His right arm is missing; maybe he was holding a grapevine and miming a dance. But even if the body is assembled and badly shaped, his refined face is almost archaic, the sharp ears, the hairs on his head and beard are almost chiselled one by one. The contrast between the head and the body, therefore, is conscious. The artist's goal was to have a comic excited figure in ecstasy that was free from the daily pressures of life. The body represents the tortuous rules of the city, while his head portrays "freedom".

(You shall not dare to challenge the "absolute winner", but you are free to do it).

Marsia life was a constant challenge; he was the protagonist of his choices. His body was eliminated but his thoughts remained.

In such a busy and complicated world freedom means mainly respect of public space and awareness of living in harmony with the surroundings.

The Earth will not expand its surface while its population will increase.

If growth will keep increasing as it is, the world population will double in about 50 years.

The only possible way to survive is to have united worlds rule and a strong awareness to apply respect of them.

**A progressive teaching process should start since the very first years of one's life. The basic subjects should be:**

Birth control and awareness of the unity of the heterosexual couples

Rules for the distribution of world population and awareness of the unnatural activities.

Some Human rights are not negotiable; among them there is natural love between a man and a woman to procreate continuity and the right to a home and basic food.

World coordination of utilization and distribution of the natural resources

Land, water, fuel, mineral sources, heat, light, air, forests and food.

World control of pollution

Air, land and acoustics.

How to single out fake prophets and plagiarists

Commercials, advertisements, religions, life philosophies, politics and so on. Most important is the institution of a board of control for the choice of equitable teaching books and teachers. This to avoid implanting in the brain of young students, underhand party strategies.

Control the excesses

How to use forgiveness laically, gratitude, compassion, love, hate and others.

Hate should not overwhelm us but we should not sink into oblivion either.

### Total Scientific research

Reliable statistics, biology, nuclear science, astronomy, physics, math, bio-ethics and medicine. Awareness of one's being and possibility of one's natural or spontaneous elimination

### Concept of justice

Crimes of unprecedented (outright) cruelty against children, handicapped, elders and other people in a clear state of weakness (rapes, beating, blackmailing, moral subjugation and kidnapping.

Punishments should be:

-hard labor or consent to one's own elimination.

The severity of the punishments should be based on the professions and public positions of the culprits. The higher the position the more severe the punishment.

For the same crime the State President should receive the most severe punishment, then the Prime Minister, Magistrates, and so on towards the lower positions. Same system for the Police Force, the ecclesiastic power, media and sanitary system.

(unfortunately today is the reverse).

### History

Ethnic groups and their cultures, political systems of the past, religions, massacres/exterminations and documented tortures.

### Value, purchases and exchanges

Rational purchases and value based on income.

The value of things should be considered as well according to how much time we employ to make certain amount of money .

One of the most important benefits of the above teaching is the **non-**formation of sly cartel-lobbies as;

- producing and selling energy
- producing and selling information
- producing and selling medical remedies
- producing and selling drugs
- producing and selling weapons
- producing and selling justice

Today it is very difficult to prove the illegal aspect of cartel-lobbies, as most probably they operate under the consent of political cartel-lobbies.

This means probably that we unconsciously vote and choose those in charge of giving us hard times, making our life the worst possible, and killing us.

In this case, citizens beside above cartel-lobbies, were, are and will be the only cause of their misfortune.

Theoretical solution to above cartel-lobbies is:

re-conquering the dignity to get indignant and get organized with citizens' cartel-lobbies.

In my point of view this would help a lot people to feel free, to improve their quality of life, to live in peace and respect everybody's freedom.

I often feel as if I were about to be reached by a wave. Therefore I get ready to span it but in the meantime another one arrives, and then another one. Thanks to former experiences I am sometimes able to face them all, other times I let it go (I let myself go). It is a matter of energy. I often get over critical moments unharmed and I think it is a matter of good luck; other times, although I feel harmed, I learn.

Lucky is the one who dies with the awareness that everything he had to do was done, he who has completely fulfilled his plans.

Peace world process should start with teaching everyone a very simple concept:

we must regain the individual natural right, and choose and live independently from any religious system, we have to get away from any imposed constraints.

I believe that this is the only way we can try to resemble intelligent human beings and honor our race.

Having free will, we can choose as a spiritual leader, the most suitable belief to follow. This should allow us to live with dignity without theological constrictions.

To be totally submitted to a spiritual teacher is against the free will that human being received with the spark of life and the ignition of consciousness'

Without this basic condition, there could not be material, cultural and spiritual evolution, but a mass of people submitted to the mental power of few.

It is simply through the daily feelings, temptations and decisions that we take, the reason of living. The so called sin was born with free will.

Millennium ago human being were sacrificed to pagan deities. Today human being are committing mass suicide and killed on the name of their "Conceiver".

I think that the only way to hope in the evidence of "Almighty" is to believe that one day somewhere "He" manifested as a man.

V.Messori in his book "*Ipotesi su Gesù*" said:

If the "Almighty" does not exist, if "He" was not Jesus, then all is allowed.

This of course with the due consideration and respect for other creeds.



## Chapter two

### FROM TROY TO ROME

During the Trojan era, due to the absence of roads, commercial traffic was mostly done via the sea.

Trojans were imposing fees on all vessels in transit to the Black sea, as the natural gateway to middle east cities.

The control was very easy due to the narrow passage of the Dardanelles (Hellespont) Strait.

The Greeks and other merchants paid these fees with reluctance, as beside the economical aspect, it was considered a sort of subjection.

A possible strategy

... some smart Greek diplomats, knowing of the enchanting beauty of Helen, invited the impetuous and handsome young Paris to meet her? They knew there was a strong chance of love at first sight, and it did work, the story of the abduction and the solidarity of the noble leaders, built up an event that changed the historic course of the Mediterranean area.

The betrayal, done to the king Menelaus by Paris, had to be avenged. The Greeks not only reached their target by destroying Troy, thus gaining free transit to the black sea, but they avenged their "honour" of noble leaders as well. (For a further version see Gorgia).

Official version

Peleus and Thetis had not invited Eris, the goddess of discord, to their marriage. Eris stormed to the wedding banquet and threw a golden apple onto the table and said that was for the prettiest. Hera, Athena, and Aphrodite tried to get the apple. Zeus sentenced that Paris, thought to be the most beautiful man alive, would act as the judge. At this point started the bribery attempt, Hera promised him power, Athena promised him wealth, and Aphrodite promised the most beautiful woman in the world. And here is the reason that made Paris choose Aphrodite who promised him that Helen, wife of Menelaus, would be his wife. Once in Sparta, Helen's husband Menelaus left to

go to a funeral in Crete, so while he was away Paris abducted Helen and brought her to Troy.

The Trojan conflict was so violent because it was built on the two most powerful feeling “love and hate”:

Love between Helen and Paris and Hate between the Greeks and the Trojans.

Today, the place recognized as Troy, is the hill of Hissarlik in Turkey. H. Schliemann began excavations at the site that seemed to fit the description given in the Homeric poems where Achilles fought against Hectors.

Here nine distinct layers, 26 meters high, one under the other - were brought to light. The city level in Homer's description is the VIIa, dated 1,250 -1,180 BC.

Egyptians were calling Trojan “people of the sea”.

Another great description by Homer, was the list of 1,172 ships in which 60,000 Achaeans moved against Troy. A further witness he is a reliable reporter.

It is almost certain that Trojans were basically Greek. Their religious system, habits and language were very similar. (Pietro Giurikovic).

The wealthy German Schliemann, following the detailed descriptions, written in the Homeric poem “the Odyssey”, was able to identify the hill where Hectors and Achilles fought, and by so doing, Troy was brought to light, indicating the credibility of the writer. The digging on the hill of Hisarlik dates the year of the Homeric Troy between 1250-1190 BC.

Schliemann died in Naples.

In 1890, Schliemann returned to Athens and travelled to Halle for an operation on his ears, which had become infected. Ignoring the Doctors' advice, Heinrich left the hospital and travelled to Leipzig, Berlin, and Paris. He had planned to return to Athens in time for Christmas, but the condition of his ears became even worse. Too sick to

make the boat ride from Naples, Schliemann remained there, and took the chance to visit the ruins of Pompeii. On Christmas day he collapsed in the Piazza della Santa Carita. Shortly after, he died in the hotel room on December 26.

of HELEN they wrote..

"she takes the eyes of men, destroys cities and burns their houses : so powerful is her beauty.

Women of Euripides asking Menelaus to kill Helen without looking at her.

"beauty, harmony, enchantment, delight, ecstasy, flourishing, radiant, cheerfulness, is there a man with a man nature, even if he is not Paris, that can go further by ignoring this?

The ancient Egyptians have left many documents about men inebriated by young women bodies quivering and shining of perfumed balm. (perfume is a symbol of invisible enticement).

Helen was the daughter of Leda and Zeus.

Helen was often represented as being born from an egg.

(In the Archaeomuseum of Paestum there is a terracotta amphora on which is clearly depicted a scene where Helen was born from an egg).

Helen was reputed the most beautiful woman in the world, when she reached marriageable age, all the greatest men in Greece courted her. Her mother's husband, King Tyndareos of Lacedaemon, was concerned about the trouble that might be caused by the disappointed suitors. Acting on the advice of Odysseus, he got all the suitors to swear that they would support the marriage rights of the successful candidate. He then settled on Menelaus to be the husband of Helen. She lived happily with Menelaus for a number of years, and gave him a daughter, Hermione.

After a decade or so of married life, Helen was abducted by Paris , the son of King Priamus of Troy. Menelaus called on the other suitors to fulfill their oaths and help him get her back. As a result, the Greek leaders mustered the greatest army of the time, placed it under the command of Agamemnon, and set off to wage what became known as the Trojan War.

After the fall of Troy, Menelaus took Helen back to Lacedaemon, where they lived an apparently happy married life once more. After the end of their mortal existence, they continued to be together in Elysium.

(By James Hunter).

## AGAMEMNON

The name means “very resolute” he was the brother of Menelaus and the son of king Atrium of Mycenae (or Argos), and Queen Aerope. The leader of the expedition against Troy was a great hunter and warrior. One day while hunting, he killed by mistake the consecrated hind of the Deity Artemis.

The deity punished him by changing the direction of winds against his fleet, during the departing day from Mycenae’s pier to Troy.

The king was almost there to compromise his honour when the solution came from the foreteller, Calcante.

She suggested to the hero that in order to appease the deity he had to sacrifice his most precious possession, his daughter Iphigenia.

Agamemnon therefore chose to save the pact of honour he had made with the coalition of the Greek states, and while sacrificing his daughter on the altar of Artemis, at the very last moment Iphigenia was replaced by the same deity with a hind. Thanks to the deity!! Or, thanks to the hunting deity Artemis (Diana). She restored Agamemnon's faith.

(This story reminds us of Abraham and Isaac.

Blind faith is a risk, but our instinct can save us. The glance of faith and love goes beyond matter).

## ACHILLES –

(son of Peleus, King of Midones and the Nereid Thetis).

Achilles was the Hero for antonomasia. To make him invulnerable, his mother immersed him in the river Styx holding him by his heel, which remained, dry and vulnerable. The Centaur Chiron trained the young Achilles in combat. When his mother heard from an oracle that he would be killed during the war against Troy, she tried every trick not to send him. But his character was to fight, and the only thing the mother could do was to order the deity Vulcan (Hephaistos), a great forger, to make Achilles the best and most invincible weapon he could conceive. During the 10 years of the war, Achilles and his shining weapon killed an incredible number of enemies. The noblest victim was Hector, sons of King Priamus of Troy.

Achilles falls in love with Polissena daughter of King Priamus. During a night of intense love with the hero, she made him confess the fact of his vulnerable heel.

(Once more love is called to re-establish equity).

Polissena decided then to revenge her brother Hector killed by the hero by revealing Achilles' secret to Paris, who killed Achilles by hitting him in the heel with a poisoned arrow. Unfortunately the series of revenge does not finish with this further death - later the son of Achilles, Neptolemus, kills not only King Priamus but also the young brother of Polissena by throwing him off the walls of Troy.

Only recently I have noticed that the so called “reconstruction of symbols on Achilles' shield” is similar to the “bronze Phoenician cup of the IX-VIII cent BC”, today on exhibition in the Archaeomuseum of Sybaris, Southern Italy.

A further confirmation that certain symbols are simply handed down throughout generations.

## AJAX

(son of Oileo King of Locri).

He was a great bowman (archer) and very fast runner, the strongest and most valorous Greek hero after Achilles.

After the epic duel in which Hector was killed by Achilles, Paris re-vengeed his brother Hector by killing Achilles during the final phase of the Trojan War.

At this point Ajax, being Achilles' best friend, expected to receive his shining and invincible armour so he could replace the fallen hero, but these weapons were given to Ulysses because of his astuteness. Ajax, ashamed and humiliated, placed his sword haft in the ground and committed suicide.

(similar to this was the suicide of the Israeli's king Saul once he had been defeated by the Philistines) .

A bas-relieve sculpted around the VI cent. BC from the Heraion Greek temple in the museum of Paestum (South Italy) shows the suicide of Ajax.

This was a strategic choice and not sentimental. The most important target was not to please a faithful friend like Ajax, but to take Troy with the astuteness of Ulysses.

## BRISEIS

(daughter of Briseis and wife to King Minete).

She was a refined and beautiful lady who became the beloved slave of Achilles during the Trojan War. But soon after that her husband was killed Agamemnon obliged Achilles to give up Briseis and took her into his service. Because of this Achilles refused to fight any more in the war. Only after the death of Patroclus (another Achilles' faithful companion) he decided to go back to war and so Agamemnon gave Briseis back to him.

(An order imposed by the military and executed with diligence by a subordinate, who does not react negatively, is honorable. However, even more honorable is when a superior retracts his order for reasons of priorities).

## AENEAS

son of Anchises and Venus? (See Anchises).

The Prince of Troy married Creusa, the daughter of King Priamus. After the destruction of Troy by the Spartans and allies, he left his homeland on a ship with his father Anchises, (second cousin of Priamus), and a few other valorous devoted followers. Their aim was to reach a land where he could start a **new civilisation which would destroy Greece**.

Aeneas, after various shipwrecks and misadventures, in one of which his father died, heard about the Phlegrean Fields (Naples Bay) where a famous foreteller was living. Here there was the entrance into the hereafter, Lake Avernus, as an oracle from Apollo had advised him. Because of a dream, he convinced himself that Italy was the predicted land to which he should go.

## ANCHISES

(second cousin of King Priamus of Troy) .

Anchises was the shepherd who was loved by Venus, who had assumed a mortal appearance (she took the body of the daughter of the King of Phrygia). Only after Venus had delivered Aeneas, she revealed herself as a Deity. Mythology says that Zeus made Anchises blind after he revealed this secret to other human beings.

(Unbelievable, a lonely shepherd was seduced by a beautiful girl, he could not believe his good fortune, and was blinded because of his pride? or too much pride makes people blind?

AENEAS' STAY IN CUMAE (12 miles North-West from Naples).

It must have been a real adventure to sail during the night along the Tyrrhenian coast about 3200 years ago. (See Homer)

The steersman Palinuro, exhausted, fell asleep. He clung to the helm and splashed into the sea near the tip of the Salentinian coast. (Today, the cape is still called Palinuro, Southern Italy). Aeneas' ship then sailed presumably by the Peninsula of Sorrento entering the Bay of Naples. Here guided by his destiny, he landed in Cumae. While the Trojans were recovering their energy, Achate, the loyal companion of Aeneas, who had been sent on in advance, returned together with the Sibyl (see Deiphobe). This priestess of Apollo commanded Aeneas not to waste time and to make the ritual sacrifice to the deity in the fabulous temple overlooking Cumae. Only after this ceremony could the oracle accept the hero. She led then the hero to the entrance of the sanctuary, and here the virgin cried:

**“Now is the time to ask your fate, the deity is here! The deity!”**

And so saying Deiphobe began to be possessed by Apollo.

Walking along the darkened grotto her voice changed tone, her hair was in wild disorder, her face lost colour and she breathed heavily - she was now a fortune-teller. Poor Aeneas, he was so frightened that he started to pray, promising Apollo a new temple. While doing so, the priestess' voice started to thunder on the walls of the Dromos:

**“The son of Dardanus; Aeneas, will reach Lavinium's kingdom coast.”** (Latium region in Central Italy).

**“You shall have your Simois, your Xanthus, and your Doric camp.”** (These were Aeneas' previous battle fields).

**“Already there is in Latium another Achilles; he too is the son of a divinity.”**

(She meant Turno, the King of the Rutuli, who was son of the sea nymph Venilia).

**“I see wars, horrid wars, the Tiber foaming with much blood. A woman will again be the cause of many evils.”**

(It seems that Aeneas did not want to keep his promise to marry the daughter of King Turno and this was the cause of the war).

**“But the hero will again be saved with the help of a Greek city.”**

(The one who helped Aeneas was Pallante. The Virgilian hero from the city of Pallanteo located on the Palatino hill, and founded by Evandro an Arcadian Greek. Pallante, even though a Greek, he was pleased to help Aeneas because by doing so, he could defeat the indigenous people who were constantly menacing him. According to history, Pallante, killed by Turno, was buried on the Palatino hill and was considered the first young hero to fall for the happy destiny of Rome).

**“Do not relent before distress, but be far bolder than your fortune would permit.”**

The prophecy was over and as soon as Deiphobe returned to normal, Aeneas begged her to escort him to the entrance of the hereafter in Lake Avernus. The Sibyl agreed and told the hero to first bury the body of his companion, Misenus, lying dead on the beach. (The hilltop is still called Misenus). Then he was commanded to look for a golden olive branch to be brought to the underworld as an offer to Persephone.

(Mycenaean “Signet Ring of Nestor”: The Tree of Eternal Life; Pilos, c. 1550-1500 BC... The ring is in solid gold of 31.5 grams. This recalls the Golden Bough, plucked by Aeneas, and that opened him the passage to Avernus. The tree has 2 horizontal boughs and four scenes.

In one we see reunited by the life-giving power of the Deity and symbolised by the chrysalises and butterflies, a young couple whom Death had parted.

On a second scene there is the guardian of the realm, a Lion crouched in the shade of the Tree of the world.

The third and the fourth scenes, the initiatory examination, “griffin ladies” with hands upraised in adoration).

At daybreak an earthquake occurred and while near Lake Avernus the Sibyl shouted:

**“Away, away you uninitiated, only Aeneas can come forward.”**

At the entrance of the underworld the first dangers they had to face were the symbolic pains of weeping, remorse, sickness, old age, death, war, discordance etc. Aeneas extracted his sword but Deiphobe told him there was no danger as they were only shadows. Then they walked to the River Styx where the ferryman, Charon, refused to transfer them as he only transported the souls of the dead. The sibyl convinced Charon to row them through by showing him the golden olive branch gift to the queen of the hereafter and thus they were transported across. Upon arriving at the kingdom of Pluto (Hades), the virgin guided Aeneas to where his father was. Upon seeing his father's shadow he ran to embrace him, but in vain. Here along the river Lethe, (according to mythology, where the souls were destined for reincarnation) Anchises showed Aeneas his future descendants, the Kings of Rome and the Emperors. He also showed him the wars he would have to face against the Italic people. Then through the gate of dreams they emerged into the open air.

DEIFOBE

(daughter of the sea divinity Glauco).

She was an enchanting girl-virgin and priestess-custodian of Apollo's Temple in Cumae, and also the most well-known Sibyl of the Greek world.

It is said that Apollo fell in love with her offering her whatever she desired. The Sibyl answered, "I want to live as many years as the number of grains of sand I can hold in my fist". If she wanted to remain young as well, she had to grant Apollo her virginity. The Sibyl decided to protect her chastity by accepting an anguishing great age. According to Virgilius when Aeneas came to consult the Sibyl, she was about 700 years old and then she lived for 300 years longer becoming so old and small, that she was living in an oil lamp and dissolved into dust. What was left for eternity was her voice predicting the destiny of men.

(Scientifically speaking it has been proved that women have a natural talent as a function of their feminine nature for magic experiments. Many times the predictions are given in a state of hypnosis, or hysteria or over-excitement. Sometimes natural, or provoked, these were considered divine responses.

It seems that chewing Laurel leaves, induced a state of trance).

The house of Deifobe was considered a sanctuary, as the Greeks, like the Romans and other civilisations, could not exist without oracles. Consultations were done before births, travelling, immigrations, marriages, foundation of cities, and others.

The future tellers named Manthis (from the Greek mainesthai, meaning all that is outside of ourselves or something that has been already decided by destiny) were the prophets making that prophecy through rites and ceremonies. In some Greek areas, the fortune-tellers' occupation was the second trade after farming.

Cumae was the destination of pilgrims from all over the Mediterranean sea, a sanctuary village with all the necessary commercial activities.

(the religious destination for pilgrims of nowadays where faith leads to miracles).

(from *Foucs Storia* estate 2011 page 74 – from the statue of Athena tears started to flow when 50 young men were massacred in the sacred area of her temple).

It seems that Sibyls could replace themselves one after another making people believe that they could live for the eternity. People could rarely look at them as in public they were often masked or covered with make-up.

These oracles could be heard from the “dromos” located in a dark enclosure.

The corridor that leads to the oracle chamber of the Sibyl's sanctuary in Delos has the same pentagon shaped pointed arch of the Sybil sanctuary of Cumae.

To reach the “dromos”, the room from which the voice of the Sibyl was thundering out her oracles, there is a long tunnel of almost 100 meters to cover in the half-light.

Still today the visitors are impressed by the echo and the ambience, the tunnel and the dromos, were carved in the dark grey tuff stone.

Said sanctuary was built between the X and VIII cent. BC. The oracle to Eneas took place in Temple of Apollo or a pre-existent construction. (See *Deiphobe*).

## GREATER GREECE

History tells that one of the first colonies of Greater Greece (Megale Hellas for the Romans), was founded in 730 BC by some Greek immigrants looking for new fertile lands. These Greek explorers coming from the Euboea Island they first settled in Phitacuse which is Ischia island in the Bay of Naples.

In the Archaeomuseum of Ischia there are several artefacts as witness of this, among them an Euboean writing showing some letters of the alphabet which they had learned from the Phoenicians, (see alphabet).

Phoenicians or Poeni, ancient Syria and Lebanon as far as Carthage today's Tunis.

**LATIN:** *Poena* = pain or *Poenire* = to punish.

**GREEK:** *Poine* = pain or *Punya* = make pure, redeem

The technique of constructing their philosophy and power both maritime and political soon became the envy of the Italic Etruscan peoples who consequently raised war against them. The Cumaen Greeks with the help of the Syracusan Greeks defeated these Italics during 484 BC in a ship battle that took place in the Bay of Naples . With the Roman occupation in 334 BC, Cumae received the title of "civitas sine suffragio" (without voting rights) and in 180 BC, having remained faithful to Rome it was rewarded with the right to adopt the Latin language and Roman citizenship.

CUMAE = KYME = wave or hill. (14 miles North of Naples).

(See Aeneas, Deiphobe, Daedalus).

According to legend, a white dove sent by Apollo, guided Greek navigators during the daytime and the resounding of bronze cymbals during night, throughout the area along the same course of Homer's Ulysses.

Here in Cumae, they founded a city and where the white Dove came to rest, the temple of Apollo was built.

It is possible that Aeneas preceded Ulysses soon after the Trojan War.

History emerging from legend.

If Aeneas had been here in transit, it was around 1200 BC, which means the Sibyl Deiphobe was already here a priestess of the temple dedicated to Apollo.

Was it the temple built by Daedalus?

The myth says that the engineer came from Crete. The Minoan civilisation flourished up to the end of the II millennium BC, this clicks with the above date.

Now with all the activities related to the Sibyl's sanctuary and the temple, it is quite possible that there was a community too.

AVERNO 10 km north of Naples (see Aeneas' stay in Cumae).

It is a crater started by an eruption over 4000 years ago. (Lake Lucrino, Fusaro and Misenus were volcanoes also). The crater became a lake and today is 34 meters in depth, and later named "Aornon" by the Romans, meaning the place where no birds were living. The air above this Crater Lake was poisoned by emissions of carbonic acid gases. A great forest of high trees, whose black shadows reflected in the water, giving the lake an infernal aspect surrounded the crater.

When under Augustus the gas phenomenon disappeared, the Architect Cocceio constructed a channel connecting the lake to the ocean via Lake Lucrino from the South, and a tunnel connecting the lake to the ancient city of Cumae in the North West. From this city another tunnel called the Roman Crypt went back to the Ocean from the west. There was a strategic system of channels and tunnels with active shipyards, where the Roman fleet was stationed under the Command of the Commodore Plinius the elder first cent. AD.

Not far from Lake Avernus on the hilltop of the city of Bacoli there is a Roman cistern known as *Piscina Mirabilis*. Its capacity was around 13,000 cubic meters and was used as a water supply for the Roman fleet.

(All above can still be visited today in a great state of preservation).

The Roman aqueduct of the 10 AD was 96 km long taking the water from the Mt. Serino springs to Piscina Mirabilis in Bacoli (still intact after 2000 years). From the main aqueduct there were various smaller ones for the distribution of water to the Roman cities located around the Vesuvius such as Pompeii Herculaneum etc.. The reclining of the construction was of 5 centimeters every 50 meters, this to control the water pressure along the way.

### Cement recipe

The city of Rome lies between two extinct volcanic systems. As a result, its builders had access to extensive deposits of pozzolana, an unconsolidated volcanic ash rich in silica, which is an absorbent of vapors and gasses, and alumina. By the first century BC Romans were improving their mortar by adding this local material to the mix. When combined with building lime, the silica and alumina in the pozzolana causes a chemical reaction that creates a mortar eight to ten times stronger than mortar made with quartz sand. Like modern Portland cement.

By chance or experiments, Roman builders discovered that a similar mortar with hydraulic properties could be produced without pozzolana, by adding crushed terra-cotta as an aggregate. In this case, the fragments of fired clay from old tiles and pots introduced silica and alumina into the mortar. Less porous than pozzolana, the crushed terra-cotta tended to be less chemically reactive and therefore less strong. It was, however, denser and more resilient to the infiltration of water than pozzolana mortar and was often chosen for water proofing materials in tanks, pools, aqueducts and harbor installations.

### Procedure:

Limestone in high temperature kilns, becomes like talcum powder called quicklime.

This is due to the evaporation of *carbon dioxide*. Quicklime with water becomes slaked lime.

Cement is a mixture of slaked lime, volcanic or river sand and crushed tiles, but what makes it become hard is the addition of water that amalgamates and allows *carbon dioxide* (binary compound of oxygen) to go back so giving a state of stone to the mixture.

The few ruins left by the Romans after the destruction of the ancient Carthage prove that the Carthaginians were well aware of cement in 220 BC.

(*History channel* Nov 26 2005).

PAESTUM (my preferred Greater Greece ancient site).

Sybaris (Southern Italy) was founded in 720 BC, it is the lost city of loose morals.

According to the tradition the Sybarite's slaves did all the labor for their owners, whose wealthy luxurious life became proverbial in the ancient world. Diodoro Siculus, 1 cent BC, historiographer, reports that Sybarites were slaves of their life-style of luxury and that animals making noise, were banished from the city. Special attention was given to fashion, strictly avoiding color discordance and that horses moved to the pace of melodies played by bands. Wine could be distributed in the different houses via an aqueduct. A Sybarite girl could spend several hours getting ready for a party, and the invitation was sent even a year in advance.

Maybe there is a bit of exaggeration in this, but Greeks used the verb *sybarizen*, as Aristophanes says, referring to someone who would never miss a wine party or a banquet, play *cottabo* (a parlour game), and shout *yu yu*.

The destiny of the Sybarites was atrocious, during a political and diplomatic meeting, hosted by the Sybarites, 30 politician of the nearby town of Crotona were killed. This dishonorable event caused a tremendous reaction, Crotona's army destroyed Sybaris not only, but the course of a river was diverted to cancel any trace of it. The inexistent city was therefore condemned to the "damnatio memoriae" that means a name is banned from memory as if never existed.

(The one who wrote about Sybarites was Sappho, she was born in Ereso a city on the island of Lesbos c.a.640-630, her father died while she was still a young girl so she was given to a rich land owner as wife. During the 600 BC., due to political conflicts Sappho was exiled with all her family to Sicily. The girls of Lesbos were considered

the most refined of all women, they were trained to music, singing and dance and Sappho being an excellent writer, described the life of this splendid creature living on her island).

The Sybarites landed at the mouth of the Sele river 680/670 BC, where the first Heraion temple was built.

Few years later the mouth of the Sele river being very unsafe, the Poseidonians decided to find a more secure area, and exploring the valley between the Alburni mountains and the sea, they found a natural calcareous plateau where the town was built. Between 550 and 430 the city lives its golden age, due to the great production of olive oil and grain.

During the 400 BC after several years of besiege the Lucanians entered the city, and in 273 it became a Roman colony. Allied to Rome against Hannibal, Paestum having shipyards, played a very important role for the construction of vessels for the Roman wars, and received the prestige to mint its own coins, the *Patere*.

The construction of a further stretch of the Appian way, connecting the city of Capua on the Tyrrhenian coast in Western Italy west to Brindisi on the Adriatic coast in Eastern Italy, was a formidable short cut to Greece. The business traffic therefore was diverted from west to east via land, and Paestum was cut away from the international traffic of the world capitol.

The Sele river mouth where the shipyard was located was abandoned, and with it, the enormous amount of wooden trunks. This formed a barrier and a consequent overflow of the river making of the valley a swamp impossible to live in due to the malaria as well.

The Greek deities lost their importance due to Christianity, so the Temples were abandoned and the city was used as stone quarry.

(Paestum more than an archaeological site, it is considered a cultural discovery).

## TEMPLES

The first temples were rectangular full wall construction in the center of a sacred wood where ancestral cults were celebrated. Most likely when the time came that proper cities were built, they felt the necessity to have the temples closer to their living places. They built then rectangular full wall construction surrounded by columns that originally were of wood representing trees.

The Greek temple was the house for the cult figure, for the most part ceremonies, such as the offering of burnt sacrifices, took place outside the temple.

The Panathenaea, a festival honoring Athena, began with dances, singing and torch race; athletic games, musical competitions, and finally a great procession. The purpose of the procession was the decoration of the cult statue of Athena with a new cloak. Some Temples were the archive for civic and personal documents; mistreated slaves could seek sanctuary inside temples, and the gold plate on cult figure was converted into money in terms of civic need, but the main function of the temple remained the house for the deity, not as a meeting place for the faithful.

The Parthenon means the place of the virgin. It is the most famous Greek construction, from the book *Akropolis* by V. Manfredi, "Pericles himself wanted this construction, and Ictinus and Callicrates were the Architects... it took about 15 years to design and build this marble masterpiece of 69,54 meters in length, 30,87 in width and 15 meters high."

The Temple was finished in 438 BC.

The decoration was created by Phidias and his scholars, the total number of human figures sculpted were 360 plus 231 horses, 14 oxen and 4 rams, and all of it painted in blue, red, yellow, ochre and gold.

It is said that the Parthenon, due to its easily guarded location, was used as a huge coffer, closed by powerful front doors where the city treasure was locked. Among these, there was the chryselephantine statue of Athena. This invaluable masterpiece by Phidias was about

12 meters in height, the face, hands, and feet were made of ivory, while the body, armour and weapons were covered with gold leaves. A smaller statue of Athena stood outside the temple dominating the city and the pier (a Roman copy in marble is in the Archaeomuseum of Naples). Here too it is said that the gold shining lance point could be seen from the sea. Another interesting point in favor of version is that there is no evidence of an altar outside the Parthenon.

The Temple was destroyed in 1687, when a Turkish garrison stored gun powder in the Parthenon that exploded due to a bullet shot from a vessel of the Venetian flint.

(the restoration in progress of the Parthenon were estimated to last 40 years with a cost of 70 million euros).

Then Lord Egis, at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> cent. brought the decoration to England now on exhibition in the British Museum.

The only copy of the Parthenon Temple can be admired today in Nashville United States.

Among the best preserved Greek Temples of the V cent. BC, we are proud to have in Paestum, Southern Italy 3 Doric Temples still standing in their original construction.

A Greek Temple is positioned towards sunrise. Primary energy creating life goes therefore in the direction of the Divine mystery.

The correct east position was taken during the equinox days as only twice a year during the equinox we have the precise magnetic east or vernal point.

Due to the inclined terrestrial axe, the Earth moves from the equinox to solstice, of 23° 27 and 30” toward south in winter and toward north in summer.

The Romans accepted the Greek principle but they chose to place their temples southwards to take advantage of the sun at the highest point.

ZEUS = JUPITER (he was born on Mt. Dikti in Krete).

The leader of deities and of the sky.

He shared, together with his brothers Poseidon, the ocean and Hades the Underworld.

(The incredible number of wives, lovers, and children attributed to Zeus as a deity and as a human being through animal metamorphosis, revenges and executions, is still the most interesting thrilling tale of Greek Mythology.

Zeus was the answer to mysterious pregnancies and unfaithfulness, the natural events of life). (*Myth.* by Roni Joy).

Metamorphosis of Zeus =

as a Bull to seduce Europa

as golden rain to seduce Danae

as Swan to seduce Leda

as a young man to seduce Semele

as Anphitryon to seduce Alcmena

as an Eagle to abduct Ganymede

as a Cuckoo to seduce Hera

(*Dei e Miti* / A. Morelli).

Astronomers have named moons orbiting around the planet Jove, with names of deities and people belonging to the Greek mythology with whom Zeus fell desperately in love with.

## GREEK ARTISTIC INSPIRATION

The artistic expression of the Greek people was entirely new and independent in comparison to the great preceding arts: Mesopotamian Assyrian, Egyptian, and Minoan.

The Greeks indeed had discovered the balance between the feelings and the passions of man. They considered man as a symbol and measure of such balance, which reconciles the opposite tendencies of nature: spontaneity and rationality fantasy and order. These are the foundations of Hellenic art, which we call classic, imposed in the ancient world.

The search for perfection and ideal beauty.

While other civilisations, having completed their cycle, died out, classical art gave life to that of the Roman Empire. In the Sumerians, Assyrian, Persian, and Egyptian arts, the themes treated by the artist are rigid, representing the dignity of the sovereign who would work according to the strict laws imposed by the court and the priests.

In Hellas, the city-state is independent and democratic; every artist had the possibility to freely express his genius.

Deity was seen as an ideal and perfect specimen not as a mortal being: immortality is the only attribute, which clearly distinguishes Deity from man.

In the ancient period the religious ceremony took place in small chapels placed inside the palace of aristocrats. Once the divinity was conceived in a human form it was necessary to provide it with a mansion similar to that of mortal being but richer and more beautiful. First built of wood and bricks, from VII BC, they were replaced by stone. Unfortunately very few Greek statues survived. However, when the Romans conquered Greece they made perfect replicas of Greek statues, and it is through these copies that historians were able to follow the development of Greek art.

Meditation by the philosopher Senofane V cent BC:

...if the horses or the lions could draw their deities, they would represent them like horses or lions.

## SCULPTURE

A nude figure is the highest creation on nature, Greek sculptures are essentially spiritual representation, they were not made to be admired as pieces of art, but for religious, political or historical matters. In the philosophical tradition of the Greeks, sculptors, even though essential, were not considered people of culture due to their manual work. Sculpture derives from the Greek “skállo” and Latin “sculpo” those using cutting tools. ( “téchmites” = manual workers, artisans).

From the day the statue is finished its life starts, after the first phase when the sculptor takes a human form out of a block of marble, the second phase starts of being admired, studied, criticized, rejected etc. until corrosion of time takes it back to the state of mineral.

Soon after a sculpture is finished, copies start to be requested, creating a market and the distinction between a sculptor and a copyist.

A few Greek copyists settled in Italy bringing with them collections of copies and molds starting schools with local artisans.

The statues can be made of bronze (an alloy of tin and copper) lost wax technique, then in marble or other stones originally colored.

Archaeology did not give us sufficient information concerning archaic artists, we can only say they were paid daily, and that a sculptor making flutes on columns was worth 6 times more. This evaluation of categories has been done through the value of personalized votive offerings found in the archaeological sites. Painters were more respected than sculptors.

Greek and Roman portraits and statues of important people, of those days like poets, heroes, philosophers, politicians, emperors or masterpieces were later collected by the Farnese and other wealthy families of the renaissance just to absorb the grandeur of this famous personage and look to be the continuation of it. Of course most of these investments were done for political propaganda.

A relevant collection of Roman copies from original Greek, named Farnese collection, is today in the Archaeomuseum of Naples.

## OLYMPIC GAMES

The “marathon” has its origin from the victory of the Greeks against the Persians in the city of Marathon. Soon after the victory a soldier ran to Athens, 42 km far away, upon his arrival he used his few spared energies to say “nike” which means victory, then he died.

Today the distance to cover during the “marathon” race is still run on 42 km.

The first Olympic game took place in Olympia in 776 BC...

The athletes had to be free citizens, legitimate children and not guilty of crimes, they were performing nude, and this was the main reason why women could not take part in the competitions.

The Roman Christian emperor Theodosius during the year 391 AD, forbade the games, considering them a pagan heritage.

(Only in 1894 Pierre de Coubertin, the French pedagogue and historian founded the International Olympic Committee, with the aim of promoting peace and understanding between peoples through sport. And after 1527 years, in 1896 the Olympic games started again).

The Olympic games were held every 4 years.

During the entire period of the competitions, no hostilities were allowed.

It would be a great cultural improvement if this could happen today as well.

The winner of the Olympic games, received awards of honor, a statue, a free seat in the theatre, a free meal for the rest of his life; it was a sort of Nobel prize.

It is remarkable that a naked man was considered normal to look at as an artefact, while a naked woman, to me far more interesting, was considered porno.

This is the evidence of the inventive power of stereotypes of morality and immorality, first introduced by our ancestors. Today we still follow this cultural heritage either consciously or unconsciously.

## PHILOSOPHY

Philosophia gr. = Philos–friend and sophos-wise.

But the real meaning of it is the eternal research for “the truth”.

Another “datum point” of a philosopher is death.

Aristotle says that the philosophy births from wisdom and not from astonishment.

Heraclites says that ;

Religions are for those who believe.

Science is for those who know.

Philosophy is for those who don't know.

Sanskrit and Chinese verses play as follows:

man who thinks to know, he doesn't know, man who thinks he doesn't know, he knows. In this concept, to know is not, and not to know is knowledge.

(*Power of Myth* - J. Campbell).

A philosopher is in definition somebody that doesn't know, he should start any of his speeches with the word maybe, and adds that a good teacher should remain a pupil.

A great help for good conversation and gossip is to idle.

(*Panta rei* L. De Crescenzo).

What is defined by the word "evil"

Death -but if one suffers fatal diseases, death can also be a liberation.

Pain -loneliness caused by pain brings awareness, a positive aspect of life

Deceit -premeditating deceit gives time to understand about the true nature of goodness

Darkness -if Darkness did not exist, how could we enjoy light

Hate -love pain is often the cause

Revenge -hate is often the cause

What is defined by the word "good"

Life -exists thanks to death which is a time segment

Happiness -is the pleasure to exist without pain

Confidence -is the pleasure to cohabit without fears

Love -is the matrix and essence of all forces in nature

Light -will for the eternity chase dusk, that dissolves while approaching

Forgiveness -is one of the many aspects of love

On the base of the above we must cohabit with awareness, the datum point of Greek philosophers is relative.

It seems therefore that it is not clear which is the good and which the evil as in some cases it is the same thing, and not two different ones; if someone supports such theory, he would not know the answer to the following question;

"have your parents given you good things up to now ?"

answer: “Yes, many good things”. “You therefore are in debt of good and evil things, if you believe that goodness is the same thing as evil”

....here is another aspect of good and evil; eating, drinking, sex, are not a pleasure for very sick people, therefore a good thing in this case is evil.

....but if good and evil are the same thing, the disease for sick people can be good thing as well.

## PHILOSOPHERS

our region, once part of the Greater Greece, has several representation of Greek philosophers in sculptured portraits, writings, graffiti's, mural paintings and mosaics.

THALES (Mileto 624 - 546 / one of the seven sages).

Aristotle handed down all that we know about this philosopher.

Tradition says that Tales acquired all his knowledge from the Egyptians, mainly with geometry and astronomy.

*(Dizionario civiltà classica, Rizzoli).*

Tales envisioned the Earth as a floating raft, and his thought also dealt with stars and illuminated planets like the moon. He discovered the "little bear" and divided the year into 365 days.

*(Panta rei, L. De Crescenzo).*

Undoubtedly, the ancient observers of nature, were attracted by the productive yearly cycles of most of the trees. The seasons of blooming, ripening etc. together with lunar and solar evolution, could then establish the rules for a 365 days solar year.

Tales believed that the universe and the earth had a spherical shape. Looking at the shadow of the Earth on the surface of the moon during the eclipse, the Pythagoreans recognized the roundness of the earth.

In the Middle Ages the concept of the a spherical Earth was abandoned. (see *Alexandria*)

Galileo, perhaps more than anyone else, was the founder of modern science. He believed and made all the efforts to prove that the planets orbited around the sun.

Today we know that:

- the moon works as a stabilizer for the earth rotation and evolution;
- the sun provides light, heat and obviously colours;
- Jupiter acts like a shield, absorbing almost all the meteorites bullets travelling towards with our planet

Asteroids are small planets.

Comets are icy and rock small bodies. When travelling close to the solar radiation and wind they displays a visible trail or tail.

A meteorite is a piece of debris from asteroids or comets.

HERACLITUS (Ephesus 540/480 BC).

Because of his style, and the difficult interpretation of his philosophic doctrine, Heraclites was nicknamed "the dark". Becoming of things is not appearing as Parmenides states, but only concrete reality. It is not possible to wet one's hands twice in the same water, as, the second time, either the hands and water have changed, while speaking he points out that things constantly change therefore of constantly different definitions.

Today we know that cells change and regenerate themselves between 40 to 60 times during a human life, therefore we change constantly. What we were we are no longer.

Events are the results of the elements constantly fighting among themselves and creating things, negative and positive particles, life and death, love and discordance, etc. Heraclites said 25 centuries before Einstein, that infinity has an end. He talks of the great bear, of the sunrise, the sunset and the four cardinal points. A curiosity about Heraclites is that he considered politicians as inferior beings, very

sensitive to power, to temptation and ready to sell their souls for it. Heraclites adds a clear warning, an invective against Ephesus people, "wish you will always be richer, so your vulgarity will be more and more evident".

(*Panta rei*, L. De Crescenzo).

PYTHAGORAS (Samo 571/Metaponto 497).

The philosopher left his homeland perhaps because of the tyranny of Policrates, and came to live in the Greater Greek city of Croton in Southern Italy. Here he founded the so-called Pythagoric school of teaching the various mathematical tables, theorems, and for the first time, the theory that the world was a sphere. He believed in a Universe conceived as a harmony of numbers, stating that nature could be analysed from a mathematical point of view. But, because of the aristocratic tendency of the school, after Pythagoras death, all the disciples, with a few exceptions, were condemned and burnt at the stake.

Scientists describe the Universe in terms of two theories, the general theory of relativity and the theory of quantum mechanics.

The studies of the Big Bang's cause are based on quantum mechanics. This science studies the levels of microscopic, molecular, atomic and subatomic particles, such as a millionth of a millionth of an inch – by means of a specific calculation called quantum.

PARMENIDES (Elea 520?/440? BC).

Philosopher of the V cent. BC living in Elea (Velia) Southern Italy. The only records of his life are those of "The Dialogues" written on his behalf by Plato. In this book, the philosopher is improbably presented in a conversation with Socrates (469-399). The only work of Parmenides, known from the ancient days, is the poem about nature in which the prologue was found almost intact. The poem tells of an imaginary journey towards "the truth". The journey of philosophical

knowledge coming from the regions of night, darkness, and ignorance, (the journey runs on the chariot guided by the divine girls named "the Eliades") and leading us toward the light, passing through the gates of Justice. We can say that Philosophy started with Parmenides. His thought essentially is : "to think and to be is one, as it is impossible to think without being".

what are we? the vehicle lamp that carries the light or the light brought by the lamp vehicle? (*Power of Myth* J. C.).

What is more important the light or the vehicle?

They are the vehicles of consciousness. So which one are you?

With what do you identify yourself? With the vehicle or with what is carried?

And if you can identify yourself with what is carried, namely consciousness, that is the consciousness of light. (light is the "supreme being") (*The hero's Journey* J. C.).

ZENO (Elea 495?/445? BC).

Pupil of Parmenides, besides being defender of his theory, he adds:

-If I think I am.

-I am the model to whom everything is to be compared.

-I am the measure to which everything is to be measured.

In conclusion, human beings are indivisible or they are not.

This theory was explained through paradox and absurd comparison.

DIOGENES (Sinope IV cent. BC named the cynical).

It seems that the Philosopher was very impressed by the Socratic school, that cynicism is a method to subvert the social laws. Legend tells that he lived in a barrel with only a sack as clothing. He possessed nothing even a bowl to drink from it as he used the hollow of his hands.

Diogenes despised rules, fashions and comforts. It is said that Alexander the Great, curious to meet Diogenes, went to question him in a corner of the Athenian Agora. The philosopher at first answered, "Move from where you are, you overshadow me". To anybody who asked him what he was looking for while wandering the city, he answered, "I am looking for **“the man”**".

EMPEDOCLES (490-483/430-423 BC To be is to be multiple).

We are men of short destinies. Life and death are the same thing, which is a provisional combination of 4 elements; Earth, Water, Fire and Air. When the 4 mentioned elements are united by Love this represents the perfection of Life. When Hate overcomes Love, than we have the division of the 4 elements, therefore Death. During the year 430 BC Empedocles threw himself into the crater of Etna's volcano. His death is represented in an Apotheosis named Sphere. (Interesting is one of his thought “a Deity is a thought speeding throughout the Universe”).

ANAXAGORAS (Clazomane 499/Lampsaco 428 BC).

He was born of a noble family. After completing his studies he went to Athens where he opened a school of Philosophy. He taught there for 30 years, his disciples were Pericles, Socrates and others. Accused of impiety for his knowledge about sun and moon eclipses, he retired to Lampsaco where he died.

Briefly his philosophy was :

at the base of everything there are not only the 4 elements, but also infinity of particles (The Omeomerie) uniting them. The NOUS, is the superior intellect, which emerges from nature. Everything is in everything; the world is in a grain of sand, the history of the world in a single happening. Anaxagoras had total disinterest in religious problems and for this was accused of deitylessness.

(He has been the first one to observe that the moon received light from the sun) (*Panta rei* LDC).

## SOPHISTS

were the first masters paid to teach how to control an audience using rhetoric to persuade people independently from truth or demagogy, which is the capacity to obtain their consent with promises which were almost impossible to accomplish.

GORGIA (Lentini 484/376 BC).

The sophist who took Helen's part considered her a victim who was stimulated by Aphrodite (Aphros) to elope with Paris.

Aphrodisiac love was the cause therefore of Helen's unfaithfulness. Paris master of eloquence with his power of persuasion and beauty convinced Helen to leave Greece with all her treasures for Troy. Helen therefore was a victim and not the cause, of the war against Troy. This is an example of Gorgia's rhetoric. Against the Dogma of being, he supported the idea that any sensations, certitudes or opinions are relative.

(Dogmatics are those asserting a principle as an irrefutable truth).

It is said that Gorgia, with the power of his very suggestive words, was often called on to act as an anaesthetic during surgical operations. The philosopher became very rich, through teaching rhetorical techniques, absolutely necessary in politics. He stated that these exercises gave faith to youth, exalted qualities and escaped prejudice. The democratic political class of Athens was formed through these techniques.

PROTAGORAS (Abdera 484-481/411 BC) (Sophist).

The philosopher was questioned while dying why he had always denied the existence of Deities. He then answered "I have only said that, I was not able to conceive if Deities existed or not". After his death the Athenians burned all of Protagoras manuscript writings.

The paradox of Protagoras.

Euagoras, one of Protagoras' pupils, agreed to pay his teacher 500 minae (currency of those days) as the first part of the agreed remuneration of 1000 minae. The balance was agreed to be paid as soon as Eugoras would earn the money winning his first successful case as lawyer.

But Euagoras as soon as he became a lawyer, changed his mind and was not interested in working.

At this point Protagoras brought his student to court, he thought if Euagoras would win the case, he would have to pay me the balance as agreed. If he lost then he will have to pay me just the same because the court decided so.

But Protagoras underestimates his student and the success of his teaching because Eugoras replied "I will not pay the remaining 500 minae ,because if I am successful in the court then I will not pay because the court decided so and if I am not successful I do not have to pay because we agreed so".

SOCRATES (Athens 469/399 BC.)  
(did not agree with the sophists).

The young Socrates worked with his father who was a sculptor. He gave him a hard time with discussions and controversies over what is right, good and evil. A valorous soldier with a deep sense of his native land, and a superstitious man. He participated in Athens' daily life speaking of his philosophy in the streets, squares, and the inns (most probably he avoided staying at home as Xanthippe his wife, was a very nagging woman, shouting and rebuking him all the time). He refused to co-operate with the restoration of the democracy, and was always critical of politicians and religious affairs. This refusal caused him to be accused of inciting the Athenian youths to despise the Deities.

Condemned and imprisoned, Socrates' followers tried to liberate him, but without success as he wasted time discussing the various problems his escape would cause, and so was caught again.

Unfortunately, Socrates did not leave any writings, although Plato and Xenophon wrote his thoughts in a manuscript named "The Dialogues", in which irony was the key to destroy any conversation.

One declares himself a stupid person pretending to always have much to learn, and then manages to turn the conversation so the interlocutor was forced to recognise his own contradictions.

Knowing not to know is a real wisdom; to believe to know is real ignorance. Truth is in you when you seek awareness in yourself of what you are.

One day during an action in court, the philosopher was accused of corrupting young people to deny the Deities and making them believe in Evil, he answered:

"aren't Demons sons of Deities?"

How can I deny the existence of Demons' relative?" Licone, then accused him of public immorality forcing citizens into dialogue, inciting them to disobey the Governments' laws.

Socrates answered, " I act like a gad-fly, keeping people awake with different versions of what they normally hear, a dialogue is not a constriction". But his irony against the Judges, although correct, caused him to be sentenced to death. Socrates passed the last moments of his life discussing the existence and the philosophical immortality of the soul. He stated that only people of evil nature, for their own convenience, denied anything after life. It is great to become wise and virtuous through philosophy, as at the end there is the price of hope. He was then sentenced to drink the Cicuta hemlock (a poisoned herb potion).

DEMOCRITUS (Abdera 470-457/Tracia 350-370 BC).

Being is fullness, solid, substance; not being is a vacuum, emptiness. He explained, while playing dice, the probability concerning number sequences and combinations. He unconsciously compared it with atoms in the cosmos that shot into the vacuum; they assembled due to a mathematical probability and gave origin to the orderly world of today. The Omeomarie of Anaxagoras unites and divides atoms according to their quantity, form, measure and position. Anaxagoras

states that the continuous mixing of atoms is the Nous. (The superior intellect). Democritus states that the different beings are the result of experience, necessity and chances.

(*Panta rei*, L. De Crescenzo).

(Atoms were not born, they simply exist, and causality unites them)

PLATO (Athens 428-427/347 BC).

He was named so because of his large shoulders?. At about the age of 20, Plato met Socrates who became his teacher and remained with him until his death. Plato then started to travel. He went to Egypt, Crete and Syracuse. Once he returned to Athens in 387, Plato founded and managed in the gardens of the mythical hero Accademo, "the academy of philosophy". It was here that he wrote 36 "dialogues" discussing morals, politics, science, mathematics, physics and metaphysics, having as protagonist Socrates. He believed that this world was a shadowy illusion, but that there was a world of abstract ideas, which a mathematically trained mind could learn and contemplate.

With the skills of knowing, learning, to remembering, through studies and science, the mind is able to return to understand what it had already learned in the world of ideas. Concerning politics, Plato believed in a Republic led by Philosophers.

When he died he was the great age of 90 years old.

In Naples Archaeomuseum, there is a mosaic on exhibition, on which Plato is talking about his theory.

The scene shows several 4 more philosophers around Plato listening and discussing next to a colonnade. If the scene is really Plato's school then they are in Accademo's gardens, this means that we are in Athens and the hilltop Acropolis in perspective, is the Parthenon Temple. Interesting is that the Parthenon has no roof. Now the agreed date of the construction is 447 – 438, this means that there is a mistake of 50/60 years in Plato's, or it could just be a simple mistake of the mosaic artist).

ARISTOTLE (Stagira 384/ Calcide /322 BC).

Disciple of Plato's school for 20 years, and tutor of Alexander the Great. The philosopher founded in Athens the Lyceum, or "Peripatetic school", (from Peripatos = the so-called covered walkway in the Lyceum) which taught Mathematics, Physics, Astronomy, Music, and Art. He believed in a good organized instruction of a sound mind in a sound body (*Mens sana in corpore sano*). Man must instruct himself with a moral conduct based on the balance of passions that he named "Giusto mezzo", "*pan=all metron=measure ariston=the best*", in all things moderation.

He believed that education of man was in the rights of social life, and that the teaching tools could have been music, theatre, poetry and art. Aristotle did not believe in being educated in institutions, nor did he believe in Monarchy, which degenerates into Tyranny, or Aristocracy, which degenerates into Oligarchy, or Democracy, which degenerates into Demagoguery. (See Sophists).

Aristotle besides philosophy was carrying out autopsies as well, he is considered to be the first embryologist.

(see Demeter)

Democracy	: Démos = People - Kràtos = Power
Anarchy	: An =Assenza – Archè = Comand
Aristocracy	: Aristos = Perfect - Kratia = Power
Oligarchy	: Oligoi = Few - Archè = Comand
Theocracy	: Theo = Almighty – Kratia = Power

SOLON (640-560 BC).

to avoid concentration of power in the hands of a few, he revised the Constitution and divided the free citizens of Athens into 4 classes: the rich, the almost rich, the almost poor and the poor.

Each class choose the names of 10 candidates, and by doing so the government was a sort of Democracy formed by 40 archons representing the four social classes.

When Solon went to Egypt, the rich took advantage of his absence and changed the laws: the poor were expelled and the power was concentrated in the hands of the three remaining groups which on the basis of their political ideas and economic status can be divided into right, center and left.

The right wing (the rich) was led by Licurgus, the centre (nearly rich) by Manacle, and the left wing (nearly poor) by Pisistratus.

The leadership was in the hands of those who had more power and money: the rich (the right wing).

In order to cut off the rich, Pisistratus married Megacle's daughter.

Thanks to this new alliance Licurgus was expelled.

*(Panta rei, Luciano De Crescenzo).*

The welfare of the democratic Athens was based on the exploitation of the slaves. In this sanctuary of freedom ! there were 4 slaves for every freeman.

*(Costantin Volney, from his lectures at L'Ecole Normal).*

The free citizens, eligible to vote, were approximately 20% of the entire population. All women, males under 14 and slaves did not have the right to vote.

Before Solon city leaders were by birth rights.

*(the through Democracy was started in 507 bc by an Athenian named Clistene.)*

Peter Jones "how the Greek and Romans solved the problems of today".

EPICURES (Samo? 341/270-263 BC Athens).

When he died he was still single. Epicureanism was the philosophy teaching the ethics of life; the wisest way to live and be happy is learning through wisdom. This gives freedom from fear of death, and therefore freedom and dependence on the Deities. The only law is nature and true happiness is understood with an absence of pain.

Death was not there when it comes or we "we are not". If man is made up of atoms why should he be frightened to return to what he was. ("ashes to ashes and dust to dust").

HELLENISTIC PHILOSOPHY is from Alexander the Great's death 323 BC to 30 BC the Roman conquest of Egypt.

A sceptic is one who refuses certitude, stating that "the wise" abstains from judging. After the fall of the Greek cities, the new capitals of culture were Rome, Rhodes and Alexandria.

Philosophy returned to the concrete daily problems of man.

In the ancient Roman city of Herculaneum (Bay of Naples) over 1500 papyrus scrolls were found in the library of the "Villa dei Pisoni", the owner Calpurnio Pisone was the father in law of the emperor Cesar Augustus.

Most of the papyruses are theatre manuscripts of the poet Philodemus follower of the Epicurean philosophy.

STOICISM = Stoa = Colonnade.

The school so called by Zeno of Cizio (Cyprus), 332/263 BC.

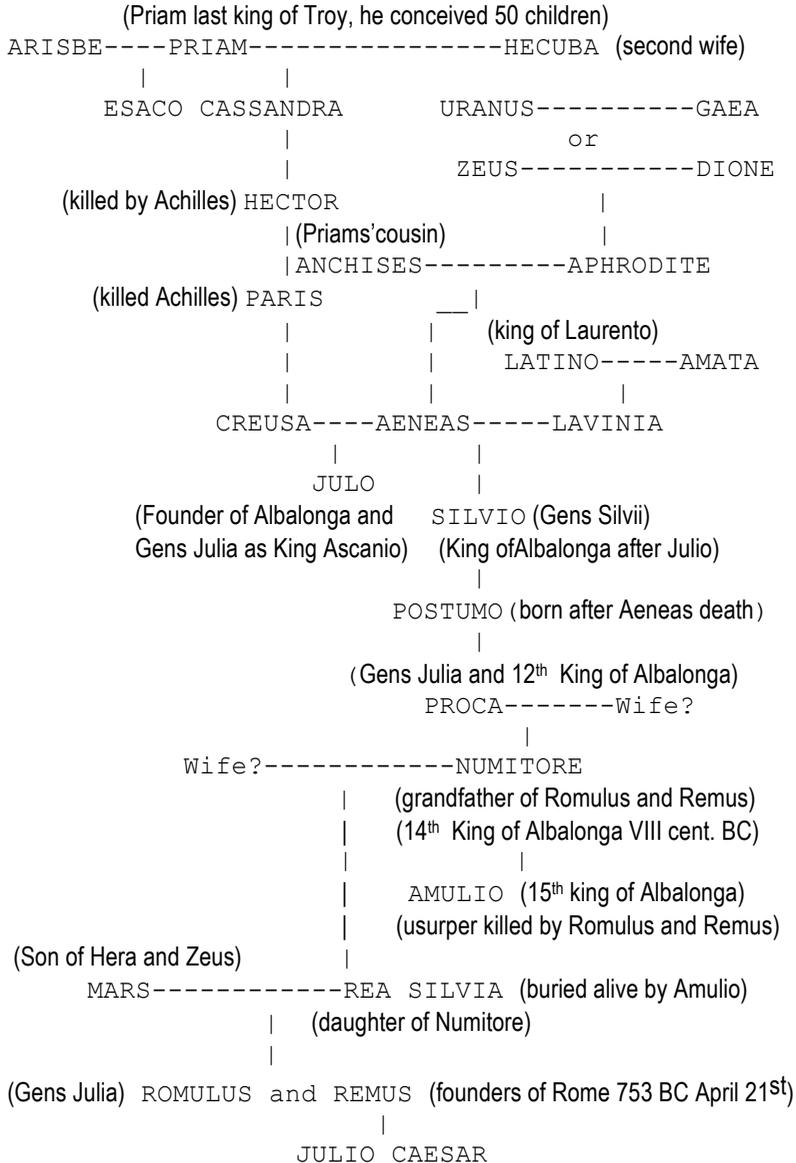
The real pleasure in life is to be wise, indifferent to good and evil. When this is not possible a stoic gives up his life.

HORACE - A Latin poet born in Verona in 65 BC.

The poet started the Epicurean philosophical studies in Rome, and continued to improve his culture in Athens. In Rome, Horace became a good friend of the minister of Octavian Maecenas, and with him he co-operated in the project of consolidation of the Augustan new regime. This was to unify the National dignity.

Horace died during the year 8 BC; he left many poems known for their clarity of language and image.

## Rome Genealogy from Priam to Julio Caesar



("genealogy" the etymon is from Greek "genea" generation and "logos" knowledge, referring to blood descendants).

Numitore had only one child, Rea Silvia. Amulio, during a conspiracy, took Numitore's throne and ordered Rea Silvia to become a vestal virgin to avoid royal descent from his brother (tricky solution applied by many during the later centuries). According to the legend, Rea Silvia was venerated amidst the woods of the Albanian hills in Rome. She became the mother of Romulus and Remus after an intensive night of love with Mars. The twins were born and then abandoned in a wicker basket along the Tiber River.

Also Moses was abandoned in a wicker basket along the Nile river, he was found by the Pharaoh's daughter. A similar story was with the Remus and Romulus the first king of Roman civilization, they were found by a woman named Acca Larentia.

Romulus wanted to found the new city on the Palatine Hill; the twin brother Remus preferred the Aventine Hill and this quarrel brought Romulus to kill Remus. Just like Cain killed Abel. These two important stories started with a fratricide.

A Sumerian legend linked to Sargan (2350 BC), the first famous Semitic king born near the Tigris, tells that he was abandoned in a floating basket along the river. He was found by a gardener.

The origin of important historical events, have brought along the primordial element, water.

...at a certain point along the Tiber river, the basket was stranded and the crying of the children caught the attention of a wolf who suckled them and raised them. Was it a she wolf, or according to a second version, was it a woman named Acca Larentia, nicknamed "she wolf" because of her activity as harlot?

This version seems to be more realistic.

(D.C.C., Rizzoli).

The bronze sculpture representing a she wolf with Romulus and Remus suckling is a work of the Middle Ages.

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Anyhow the twins once adults found out they were the legitimate grandsons of King Numitore and to avenge him they killed the usurper Amulio. For this they received a lot of territory on the other side of the Tiber River.

Here on the hill named Palatino Aenea's descendants have traced out a furrow marking the borders of the foundation of Rome

The Roman Civilisation, a few centuries later, conquered the world known in those days and subdued Greece. The prediction of the oracle became true; Aeneas had accomplished his mission.

Some aspects of Roman history:

Caesar Augustus ordered the destruction of 2000 Greek Prophetic Books. He only saved the Sibylline Books.

The emperor himself died saying: "I played my role well".

The main products of the colonies were; gold from Spain, wheat from Egypt, silk from China, spices from India and aromas from Arabia.

In the I century AD in Rome had a population of one million circa of which 50.000 Jewish people and 13 Synagogues.

During the Imperial Era 50% of the children died within the first 5 years of life.

The deformed or undesired new-born were abandoned or thrown in the garbage.

Average age and height of the Romans of the first century AD:

Men

- Age: 41 years old
- Height: 5 foot 5 inches

Women

- Age: 39 years old
- Height: 5 foot 1 inches

The gladiators could take part to up to 20 matches a day. The evenings before the matches dinners were arranged in the arena.

The gladiators were considered virile symbols and girls were falling in love with them easily. In fact some young men decided spontaneously to become gladiators only to become famous.

some aspects of the ancient Roman glory:

-The story invented by Virgil has mystified the origin of the city founders with a tale concerning Aeneas just to create of the twins Romulus and Remus as to be descending from a deity.

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-They have adopted almost the entire religious system from the Greeks

-They have not invented cement but only a different version of the one invented by the Carthaginians

-By conquering mostly of the world known of those days, they had at their disposal an incredible number of slaves and the best of the world's technology, as Architects, Engineers, builders, men of science and knowledge acquired by the previous civilizations.

They succeeded to build imposing monuments having, funds and megalomaniac visions.

One example for everyone is the story of the Engineer Apollodorus of Damascus working for the Emperors Trajan and Hadrian.

-Their opulence was based on slavery, torture, and physical elimination of all of those considered enemies.

## **DIFFUSION OF CULTURE**

**The Yezidis or Yazidis** are a Kurdish speaking people who live principally in Northern Iraq. They have a rich spiritual tradition that they contend is the world's oldest. Originally from India and therefore related to the Hindus, they also have close connections with many other cultures and traditions they have lived among during their gradual migration westward to the Middle East.

Well before this time, as far back as 2000 BC, the Yezidis lived in the Middle East and playing a role in the Sumerian, Babylonian, Assyrian, and Jewish civilizations.

### **Yezidi Scriptures**

The Yezidis have two sacred books, the *Kitab al-Jilwa*, the "Book of Revelation," written by Sheikh Adi, and the *Mishefa Reş*, the "Black Book," which is said by scholars to have been written in the 11th-12th centuries but, claim the Yezidis, has existed since Tawsi Melek, the Peacock Angel, who first set foot upon Earth.

### **Yezidi Creation Legend**

They acknowledge an inactive, static and transcendental "Divine" who created, or "became", Seven Great Angels, the leader of which was Tawsi Melek, the Peacock "King" or Peacock "Angel".

Leading up to the creation of the cosmos, many Yezidis believe that the "Supreme" was originally "over the seas", a notion reminiscent of the Biblical passage: "And the Spirit of "Almighty", moved upon the face of the waters", and that while playing with a white pearl he threw it into a cosmic sea. The pearl was broken and served as the substance from which the Earth and other planets and stars came into being.

The Yezidis claim to have the oldest religion in the world. They can trace back their religious calendar thus making 2013 CE the Yezidi year of 6762. In relation to some of the other major religions, the Yezidis Calendar is 4,749 years older than the Christian or Gregorian calendar, 990 years older than the Jewish calendar, and it is 5329 years older than the Muslim Calendar.

Soon after the Earth was created it began to shake violently. Tawsi

Melek was then dispatched to Earth to stop the planet's quaking, as well as to endow it with beauty and abundance. When Tawsi Melek descended to Earth, he assumed the form of a glorious peacock - a bird full of the seven primary and secondary colors.

Tawsi Melek then travelled to the Garden of Eden to meet Adam. The first human had been created without a soul, so Tawsi Melek blew the breath of life into him.

He then turned Adam towards the Sun, symbol of the “Supreme Lord”, while stating that there was something greater than a human being and it should be worshipped regularly.

Then Eve was created. But according to the Yezidis before copulating the primal couple enrolled in a kind of competition to see if either of them could bring forth progeny independently of each other. They both stored their seed in a sealed jar and then after an incubation period opened them. Eve's jar was opened and found to be full of insects and vermin, while inside Adam's jar was a beautiful boy-child. This lovely child, known as Shehid bin Jer, “*Son of Jar,*” grew quickly, married, and had offspring. His descendants are the Yezidis. Thus, the Yezidis regard themselves descendants of Adam but not Eve.

Sacred books and traditions of the Yezidis, by Isya Joseph.

## ALPHABET

when human beings felt the necessity to keep records about their world, their conversation, and sounds became figures engraved and painted on stones. These representations of 40,000 years ago, mainly of animals, are proof of the non-existing alphabet but only figures or action of what they wanted to say.

The first type of scripture we know of, is the “cuneiform writing” that goes back to 6000 years ago. Related to the Mesopotamian civilization.

I write I leave a visible sign, then I am I have left my imprints.

The needs for keeping records of specific sounds associated to persons, things and facts.

Concerning the Alphabet we use today, it represents the result of a procedure centuries long, in which the proto Sinaitic inscription, of those Nabatee tribes, dated around 3500 year ago have been fundamental.

This Alphabet consisted of 22 letters without vowels, and was mainly used to keep accounts and commercial records of the very busy nomad traffics.

Even though Phoenicians have played a very important role in spreading this Alphabet all over the Mediterranean area, it is not correct to assert that they invented it.

On the Island of Ischia, Naples bay, part of this alphabet was found written on ceramic pottery of the VII cent. BC. Pottery left by the ancient Phoenician and Greeks, now on exhibition in the local museum.

The Greeks could not use this Alphabet for literary purposes and in order to make it softer they added vowels while Romans have rounded figures.

Most of this knowledge saved from the ashes of the Library of Alexandria was kept in custody in Monasteries.

We are talking of a world that out of Byzantium was considered barbarian, and based on violent and corrupted regimes where most of the people were illiterate.

Among these the spoken languages of peoples chased out by the Romans, such as; the Etruscans and Italic tribes, the Etruscans spoke a unique language.

Most of the inscriptions brought to light are on gravestones. It is like to learn English only by going to cemeteries.

A great deal of what is known today, comes from the archaeological findings of the so-called Table of Cortona in 1990.

It is a metal plate that bears 100 engraved words (30 of which are unknown). The inscriptions are on both sides and they are distributed in 32 lines.

Prof. Agostiniani believes that most likely it is a contract between small land owners for the division of a large landed estate. The plate was set up in a temple for future reference.

The origins of the Etruscans dates back to the IX century BC. This civilization was a mixture of people from minor Asia currently Turkey. This area was the intellectual and commercial center of the Greek world in the century before Athens arose to prominence. The Aegean Sea, Central Europe, Sardinia and pre-Etruscan Italic tribes. They joined their forces in order to control the metal working market and gain economic power.

The Etruscans monopolized the metal market in Italy just like today there is a monopoly over petrol.

There were iron fields on the island of Elba and Tuscany.

(For complete sources see *Hera* # 96 – issue January 2008, “*Origine degli Etruschi*”).

## SAILING THE MEDITERRANEAN AND THE TYRRENIAN SEA

On the Mediterranean shore there used to live and still do today, the largest variety of cultures very close one to another.

We can think of the Mediterranean sea as a table around which we discuss business, we fight, we share happiness and misadventure, we learn improvement and regression, and where the “Almighty” represents and plays the rule of the “whole” and the opposite of it.

At the end of the Trojan war, (most common date 1190 BC) two heroes started to travel around the Mediterranean sea.

One was King Ulysses who while sailing toward his kingdom of Ithaca Island had to face several sea storms caused by Poseidon.

The deity was vindictive towards the hero, first because Ulysses was the cause of Palamede’s death (Poseidon's nephew), and secondly because he blinded Polyphemus (Poseidon's son).

The deity made the hero wander the seas through cyclones and storms for about 20 years. Only after many misadventures and serious danger, where he lost all his companions, did Ulysses succeed in

reaching his homeland. Homer, in his poem the *Odyssey*, wrote a very colorful description of this trip, also describing some well-known Southern Italian places. (see mermaids).

The second hero was Aeneas, a Trojan prince. Soon after the destruction of Troy, and following a dream he had had, left his homeland with his father and some faithful companions via the sea. He started this marvelous adventure along the Mediterranean and Tyrrhenian coasts, which Virgil's poem, the *Æneid* speaks of.

(See *Aeneas*).

In X, IX and VIII cent. BC. following the tells of previous navigators, more and more Greeks, searching for generous and fertile land, started to travel the Italian seas.

The Phococeans (from Phococea, a Greek city of Asia Minor, destroyed by the Persians), reached the French coast and founded Marseilles, and Alalia of the coast of the Island of Corsica. It was the presence of these enterprising traders and sailors in that strategic point of the Tyrrhenian sea which made the Etrurians and Carthaginians decide to unite their fleets with 120 ships and move against the Phococeans outside of Alalia's sea. But the superior experience, agility and speed of the Greeks defeated them. Their victory was dearly paid for, as only 20 of the Greek ships of 120 returned to their base. Not feeling safe, they wisely left Alalia travelling south to a more hospitable land.

It was from Reggio (Italy South) that this culture expanded throughout the land of Enotria (one of the four previous names given to Italy along with Esperia, Ausonia and Saturnia). Enotria was the name given by these Greeks perhaps because of the vineyards of which southern Italy was rich. In fact "oionos" in Greek means wine, therefore, wine-land. During these centuries until the V, Pitacuse, Kyme Helea and Paestum were founded.

One of the several confirmation of the reliability of Homer as reporter, was published on the *National Geographic News*, June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2008: "The sun has perished out of heaven, and an evil mist has overspread the world". With those words in the *Odyssey*, Homer laid down a description of a real world total solar eclipse.

For decades it has been known that there has been only one such eclipse during the time Homer wrote about in the Ancient Greek poem, and it took place on April 16, 1178 BC.

The physicist from Rockefeller University and the scholar Constantino Baikouzis, an astronomer, have used astronomical software to simulate the Greek sky, night by night, over 135-year-period before and after the eclipse.

Even without simulating the eclipse itself in their calculations, the researchers found only one date for the noon time darkness: April 16, 1178 BC. (By Thomas H. Maugh II, Los Angeles Times Staff Writer June 24, 2008).

JASON (son of Eson King of Ioclo in Tessaglia).

Was educated by the Centaur Chiron, as was Achilles, and became strong and valorous. In order to become King of Ioclo and prove confirmation of his ability, Jason had to obtain "the Golden Fleece". For this enterprise, Jason organized an expedition and chose 52 of the most valorous men naming them "the Argonauts" from Argo the name of the boat and constructor. The trip lasted many years along the Adriatic, the Tyrrhenian and the Mediterranean seas and the men suffered the dangers of unknown lands, beasts and ferocious indigenous peoples. At the end Jason succeeded in obtaining the Golden Fleece and became king. The Golden Fleece was most likely a ram skins placed on the shore of the river Fasi, now Rion in today's Georgia south Russia. This was the method used by the inhabitants of the area to filter the river sediments in order to catch gold grains in the wool fibers.

If you wish to reach important targets, you have to be ready to face the hardest trials.

## ULYSSES

Ulysses King of Ithaca (a small island of 24 km x 7)

At the end of the Trojan war he departed from Troy with 12 ships and 720 men.

Considering that the ships on which he travelled were provided with 10 oars for each board and a square sail, the distance from Troy to Ithaca could have been covered in three weeks. It took him 20 years instead for the return.

Ulysses passed by many Mediterranean coastal areas, for instance what is today Aci Trezza (a town in Sicily, near Catania) where he met Poseidon's son, Polyphemus, (a giant with one eye) is one of them.

Paleontologists claims that in this area skeletons of dwarf mammoth were found bearing an space with a hole in the middle of their fore-heads.

Not knowing of these animals one can as well assume that in the empty space there was an eye instead of a proboscis.

The rest of the story is most probably due to a manipulation and wrong transcriptions.

These skeletons dating back to those times can be seen at the Museum of Paleontology in Catania.

Ulysses was also in Cumae (Campania region), nearby Cumae where he entered the underworld to learn about his companion's destiny.

This is in accordance with the version of Tim Severin in his book "the Ulysses voyage".

At the Circeo (Lazio region) he met the enchantress Circe and many varieties of new and unknown animals. (TV, *Superquark*, Feb. 5 2005).

Strabo, and dozens of writers after him asserted that Circe, and the Oracle of the dead were located near the Italian river Acheron, in Campania.

The Odyssey makes a puzzling reference to a people called the Cimmerians who lived near the Halls of Hades in a perpetual gloomy

mist. These people according to the "Italian school", were the aboriginal attendants of the shrine who lived in the underground tunnels and never saw the sun. The Halls of Hades were at some vague spot a little distance inland, near some hot springs and a small lake, said to be the Acherusian Lake.

(*The Ulysses Voyage* - Tim Severin).

(it seems to be the morphologic description of the Phlegrean fields ground in the Bay of Naples).

## SIRENS or MERMAIDS

they were the daughters of the Ancient River deity, Achelous and Calliope one of the 9 Muses. The Sirens were depicted as having a strong tail with a human torso and head sprouting the horns of a bull. Myths claim that the Sirens were given wings so that they could search for Persephone, Queen of the Underworld, who was snatched away by Hades.

A version from Apollon. Rhod. 4. 896, says that Sirens received wings from Aphrodite as they wished to remain virgins.

Only two Siren were waiting to lure Ulysses and his men on the rocky coastline, according to the Odyssey.

Later authorities usually listed three of these mythical creatures, and describe them as having the bodies of beautiful virgins, but from the waist down their legs were the feathers of a bird.

(*The Ulysses Voyage* - Tim Severin).

Achelous (Greek: Αχελώος), was the patron deity of the homonymous river in Acarnania region in Greece, where the Teleboians lived. The name Achelous means "*he who washes away concerns*".

From other sources, (Morelli, *Dei e Miti*, & DCC Garzanti) mermaids were represented as having the body of a bird with a woman's head and later as a fish with the bust of a woman. This confusion perhaps

is because of the archaic Greek word " pterughion " meaning both fin and wing.

The representation of mermaids with the aspect of fish is of the 3<sup>rd</sup> cent. ad, again the latin term "pinnis" means feather or fin, or most probably with the event of Christianity, only angels could have wings.

The Sirens were expert musicians, playing Lyre and Double Flute and were most of all enchanting singers.

Venerated in the " Magna Grecia " in the Tyrrhenian sea, as:

Partenope = the virgin.

Leucosia = white deity

Ligea = clear voice

With their melodies they enchanted sailors who, enraptured, wrecked their vessels along the Tyrrhenian coast. Homer, in the Odyssey, tells us that Ulysses had been warned against the danger of the Mermaids. Circe, the sorceress, told him how to defeat them by plugging the sailor's ears with wax. Ulysses tied himself to the vessel's mast and thus they escaped unharmed. Defeated and humiliated, the Sirens committed suicide. The place mentioned by Homer where the mermaids played is "Cape Atheneus", which means the tip of a Peninsula on which there is a temple of Athena. Archaeology gave us some examples of excavated vases near the point of the Peninsula of Sorrento on which Mermaids' figures were painted.

If there were Mermaids temples built by Ulysses this would have been of the XII cent. BC.

Syracusan navigators built the temple of Athena during the year 474 BC. on the same place.

-if this is the place where mermaids were believed to be, we then understand why it is said that the city of Naples was first founded on the tomb of the siren Parthenope, whose body had been drifted on the beach of Megaris, today Castel dell'Ovo. Similarly, the body of Leucosia brought to Punta Licosa, South of Salerno, while the currents might have taken Ligea's body toward Sicily, by Capo Peloro next to Messina.

The Geographer, Strabo, writes about the so-called Li Galli, naming them the SIRENUSE Islands.

There is no doubt that the Greek Teleboians when they first reached Sorrento founded the city and named it.... Sireon = Siren.  
(see *Ulysses and Sirens*).

Above is the evidence of how the official history hides in legends.

Using the shell like a trumpet has to do with the voice of the ocean and the summons to the people, like the sirens.

As symbol of the inner quest Mountains rising out of the water.

Sumerian first form of life has the form of a mountain emerging from water, the upper part is a male and the lower half a female. Then it separates and the upper half part becomes the sky and the deity in the mountain. And then the descent of the cloud is the joining of heaven and heart.

Moses goes to the top of the mountain and the Deity delivers the law to him. Many are the myths related to the mountains.

Furthermore there are some islands in Mediterranean Sea resembling sleeping women in the sea, the isle of Capri, Li Galli and in Malta figures dating back to over 3000 years ago, just like emerging mountains.

In the Strait of Messina there are Scylla and Charydis: at the same time sirens and sea monsters.

From an allegorical point of view the monsters could be the two seas, the Tyrrhenian and the Mediterranean. The beauty of the women represented the attraction towards a mysterious land in a strait that due to the strong currents was considered very dangerous and therefore it became a challenge for the brave/fearless Greek navigators. The contrast between beauty and ugliness, and between violence and calmness.

The many navigators who died by crashing their vessels against unknown rocky islands and coasts, could be related to the mermaids stories.

Their mysterious deaths created legends and tells us of the mind of sailors. These powerful creatures, sea monsters and enchanting bodies at the same time, were warning sailors to be alert against unknown dangers.

## EXPEDITIONS

A chosen male member per family took part in the expeditions. After consulting the oracle of Apollo the chosen colonizers organized themselves to reach the predicted destination.

The head of the expedition, *Ekistes*, was responsible for the oracle's response and therefore he decided the times and the places to explore.

All the members of the expeditions knew that once they had departed they would not have been allowed to go back to their homes, to their families and to their cities.

It is said that the colonizers of Cyrene by mistake landed on the island in front of it. The place was impervious and they ran the risk to die of hunger. They decided to go back to their homes but when they arrived they were pelted with stones. They consulted the oracle again and only then they found out that they had not reached the predicted destination but the island in front of it.

When the colonizers were close to their destination, they continued their navigation sailing along the coast so that they could locate the mouth of a river easy to navigate and explore the territory safer. Once they had singled out the place they had to colonize they first carried out the appropriate rites and sacrifices and then they proceeded choosing the building material and laying down a town plan.

The conflicts with the natives were generally inevitable and solved with the marriage between the head of the expedition and the local chief's daughter. This diplomatic solution was mainly negotiated with a dowry offered to the bride's father, consisting of jewelry, weapons and new technologies, as this would increase his prestige.

So did Aeneas when he found the mouth of the Tiber river in Rome, so did the Sybarite "Eekistes" when he found the mouth of the river Sele in Paestum, Southern Italy.

## ALEXANDER THE GREAT (the son of a dream).

He was born in Pella, Macedonia, now Northern Greece. His father was King Philip II, and his mother was Olympias. (Philip's second wife was a princess called Cleopatra). Philip was a famous commander and combatant of the IV century BC. According to the legend during a battle he was hit by a lance that pierced his upper leg and killed his horse. Nevertheless he continued fighting. For this reason his soldiers considered him a semi deity.

He died in 334 BC killed by one of his body guards Pausania, (probably one of his lovers).

Alexander was born with two different coloured eyes.

He followed his father's footsteps by conquering all the nations of the eastern and south Mediterranean coast, as far as the Indo river where during a battle he was hit with a lance that perforated his lungs. Thanks to Arriano, a reporter of the time, we have a description of that accident. According to what he wrote "the blood was coming out with air bubbles". Transferred to the emergency tent, a man called Cridopulo removed the point of the lance shaped like a hook. This accident convinced Alexander to return home to Pella where he lived for three more years. It is said that he died of fever between the 10<sup>th</sup> and the 13<sup>th</sup> of June in 323 BC. He was almost 33 years old.

His body was bathed in white honey so that his features would remain intact for some time.

Alexander's teacher was Aristotle (follower of Plato).

Under his guidance Alexander studied and learned about natural science, politics, physics, philosophy of theories on the soul, rhetoric, moral and poetics, but above all he loved reading Homer's works that were his inspiration. He took Achilles as his hero.

His story was already written in his destiny.

At only 12 years of age he managed to tame the mythical Bucephalus (bull head), a huge horse that his father and other riders were not able to ride. Alexander noted that the horse was irritated by his own shadow and was able to ride it just by turning it toward the sun.

In Naples archaeological museum Alexander's horse is represented with a dark cloak.

Callistene, Aristotle's nephew and Alexander's secretary, took note of all his master's enterprises, while travelling with him.

I believe that following numbers can give us a better vision of the tasks Alexander's army had to go through when moving.

He had more than 40.000 soldiers organized in ; 31.000 infantry, 9.000 of which were divided into six battalions of 1500, 6000 cavalries and 3000 light infantry.

In less than 12 years he united the nowadays land of Greece, and conquered Turkey, Syria, Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan up to the Indo river, Arabia, part of Jordan, Lebanon, Israel and Egypt.

Many Historians ask themselves how would the political geography of the Mediterranean sea be today if Alexander had lived longer, and succeed to make his dream come true of merging the oriental culture with the Hellenic-western one. After his death the empire was divided among his generals, Egypt was given to Ptolemy.

Cleopatra queen of Egypt, was a Ptolemaic descend.

It is interesting to note that also the second wife of Philip II, king of Macedonia was called Cleopatra.

Historians: Diodoro, Plutarco, Rufo (I century BC) and Arriano (II century BC).

In the Imperial Era Rome had legions with about 180,000 foot-soldiers many of which were accompanied by mastiffs.

In Naples Archaeological Museum, there is a 20 square meters mosaic, showing Alexander the great, leading his legions against the army of Darius the third of Persia.

(Mosaic means; The art of the Muses).

## ALEXANDRIA OF EGYPT

Founded by Alexander the Great in 331 BC, it was the cultural center of the ancient world.

Just to have an idea of the city dimension ; there were 400 theatres, 4000 public baths, and the streets were up to 30 meters wide.

During the Roman Empire Alexandria was one of the most important and fashionable cities of the known world.

The Egyptian, Greek and Roman elites lived there.

Around the year 300 BC Ptolemy I founded the first Library ; the greatest scholars of the time studied there, such as Aristarchus of Samos (astronomer and mathematician he made the first known model where the Earth revolved around the Sun), Archimedes of Syracuse (Physicist, Engineer, Astronomer, and Inventor. He had proven that a sphere has  $\frac{2}{3}$  volume and surface area of its circumscribing cylinder), Eratosthenes of Cyrene (he determined the circumference of the earth by calculating the angle degrees of the obelisks' sun shade) and many others.

The library was constantly enriched; all the ships that reached the port were carefully inspected and all the documents, maps and all texts that seemed interesting were copied for the Library. Furthermore the building was equipped with a laboratory for the research in astronomy, mathematic, and medical sciences.

Here during the years of the Roman Empire about 700.000 rolls of hand-written manuscripts were gathered. Each roll generally contained more than one book (from the Greek Biblos).

Unfortunately the Library was burnt.

Among the most important documents reduced to ashes, there were the manuscripts of Plato, Aristotle as well as copies of the Old Testament.

Some doubts arise that the lost writings were in contrast with the religious and political leaders' strategy of those days. The first fire of the library was started by the Romans under Julius Cesar in 47 BC. It is recorded that 40 thousand papyrus scrolls were reduced to ashes only in one section.

The second fire was started upon order of queen Zenobia from Palmyra (she ruled Egypt 269-274 AD).

Over a century later a woman with name Hypatia took care of what was left in the library. She was a teacher of Philosophy a great scientist and mathematician as well.

But as she refused to be converted to Christianity, she was persecuted and burned in a dunghill by Saint Cirillus in 415 AD. The followers of Hypatia scared of being persecuted to, they simply disappeared.

The remaining writes survived to the above mentioned destructions were firstly guarded in the ancient Christian Abbeys, and then most of them were brought to the Vatican library.

(Some of the above mentioned abbeys were located in our region Italy south, well connected via sea with Alexandria from the port of the mediaeval Republic of Amalfi).

The fact that those writings were preserved in an enclosed environment, out of reach for common men, was one of the main reasons to the obscurantism of the middle ages. These Abbeys had the world's knowledge in their hands and for sure some of these writings translated and rewritten suffered of significant changes.

i.e.:

The “Donatio” which reproduces the record of the bestowal of the large territory of Rome and surroundings to the papacy by the emperor

[http://www.britannica.com/eb/topic?idxStructId=133873&typeId=13Constantine the Great.](http://www.britannica.com/eb/topic?idxStructId=133873&typeId=13Constantine%20the%20Great)

It also appoints to Pope [http://www.britannica.com/eb/topic?idxStructId=577628&typeId=13Sylvester I](http://www.britannica.com/eb/topic?idxStructId=577628&typeId=13Sylvester%20I) (reigned 314–335) both spiritual and secular power.

Only in the 15th century, the Italian historian Lorenzo Valla proved the “Donatio” to be a forgery.

The document by an unknown writer of the 8th century was actually based on legends dating back to the 5th cent AD, but nonetheless it greatly influenced political and religious affairs in medieval Europe.

After over 2000 years, in honor of the ancient glory of Alexandria, the day 24th of April 2005 a new library was opened. The cost of this grandiose enterprise desired by the Egyptian government and Unesco was of 1.500 euro millions.

## SEVEN WONDERS OF THE ANCIENT WORLD

### The Temple of Artemis in Ephesus 8-19

The Archaic temple was designed by Kersifron and Metagenes between 620 and 550 BC. Made of 160 columns and a golden statue. Built with marble blocks weighing over 20 tons. (The quarry was at a distance of 11 km) it took 50 years to finish.

In 356 BC Herostratus with the sole purpose of becoming famous and remembered by historians, lit a fire that destroyed the temple.

The new construction, considered to be one of the seven wonders, was designed by the architect and sculptor Scopas of Paros. It had 127 columns, each of 17,5 meters high and it is recorded that was still under construction when Alexander the great was in Ephesus in 333 BC.

### The statue of Zeus in Olympia

The statue of Zeus was created by the famous sculptor Phidias, who also made the statue of Athena Parthenos for the acropolis of Athens. Zeus was represented crowned with a wreath of olive and seated on a throne, holding a scepter topped with an eagle in his left hand, and a victory in his right.

Sculpted in wood, but covered with gold sheets, the statue had the face made of ivory, whereas the hair, the beard and the scepter were made of gold.

The throne of the father of the deities and the base of the statue were decorated with painted mythical scenes, in gold, ebony and precious stones.

This was one of the Seven Wonders of the ancient World. Although there is a description of it by Pausanias and several coins, nothing of it has been preserved. After the end of the Olympic Games (393 AD), the statue was transferred to Constantinople, where it was destroyed by a fire in ad 475.

### Mausoleum of Alicarnassus

Constructed during the 373 BC by Mausolus, the King of Caria. The mausoleum became the family tomb where his wife and his sister Artemisia were buried as well. The construction was 14 floors high and remained standing until the 15 century, when the local people started to use it as a quarry for other constructions.

### Apollo's statue

The colossus was built around 312 BC. Planned by Hares (a pupil of Lisippus). The statue was 36 meters high made of an iron trellis covered by 220 tons of bronze slabs. In 256 BC it fell to pieces due to a strong earthquake. The various pieces remained on the ground until the VII century AD as a tourist attraction.

### The lighthouse of Alexandria

Build around the 7<sup>th</sup> century BC under the reign of Ptolemy II, it was considered the first skyscraper, being 120 meters high.

The construction of limestone and granite blocks was built in 12 years.

A severe earthquake caused the fall of it, and after so many centuries some carved blocks can still be seen on the bottom of the sea.

It is said that the light could be seen 50 km away.

### The pyramid of Cheops

It was built around 2650 BC. The pyramid is the only construction amongst the 7 wonders of the ancient world that can still be admired. According to recent studies the pyramid was built by 20000 Egyptians, mostly peasants. The estimated time to build this construction is 23 years.

### The hanging gardens of Babylon

The construction located in the very center of a plain, was made around the year 650 BC under the king Nabucodonosor.

The gardens of different terraces were supplied by water and a two-lane road for the transit of wagons. The king made this construction

as a gift for his wife who loved nature. The gardens were destroyed by King Serse in 400 BC. (La macchina del tempo August 2005.) MALTA means “escape, rescue” in the Phoenician language. (Unavoidable station of transit for navigators of the Medieval Italian Republics).

The oldest order of chivalry is “the knights of Saint John of the Hospitalers” founded during the 11<sup>th</sup> century by Gerardo Sasso, a noble monk from Ravello in Amalfi (Italy south).

To become a Knight it was compulsory to prove 8 generations of nobility (not bought). Furthermore they had to sign a will leaving to the Order 3/4 of everything they possessed including armaments.

The “blessed Gerard” was travelling with a group of traders from Amalfi who were often dealing with sick navigators and pilgrims travelling to the Holy Land. The decision of starting a foundation to help this serious problem was probably due to his great knowledge in medical remedies known by “the blessed Gerard” from the nearby first world school of medicine in Salerno.

The facts are that the order built Hospitals in Jerusalem on the island of Cyprus and Rhodes. The Order was enlarged and sponsored by noble European families with a Grandmaster and training school for young knights.

Century later Sulamein the magnificent (Turk), felt that this Christian order was becoming too powerful and in 6 months of siege made the knights surrender. The generosity of Sulamein allowed the Order to move to the island of Malta with their entire library. In 1530 the island of Malta fell under Charles the V of Spain (holy Roman Emperor and king of Sicily and Malta), he gave the Island to the Knights for the symbolic amount of 1 Falcon per year. From this moment on the Order invested a tremendous amount of money, building the aqueduct, the sewage system, Hospital and other structures for world diplomacy. The Hospital had space for 600 beds but in an emergency they could take care of up to 2000 patients, irrespective of race, political and religious standing, even Moslems. Next to the Hospital there was a surgery school and Pharmacy. In 1530 when the Knights settled on the island the population was 20000, when they left in 1798 there were 100000.

(The ancient maritime republic of Amalfi has in fact the same coat of arms of the knights of the Malta order).

Salerno was the intersection of civilizations that throughout the centuries have left a great knowledge in medical remedies;

-Greek – Etruscan VIII-VII cent. BC.

With the colonization from Etruria Italian center-north territory, and Greater Greece from Southern Italy.

-The Jews, landed in Southern Italy soon after the conquest of the Judea land by Alexander, III cent. BC.

-Romans by conquering the world known of in those days were in contact with various medical solutions.

-Arabs in transit along southern Italy as well due to the busy commercial relationship with the nearby maritime Republic of Amalfi starting from the 9 cent. AD.

In consideration of the above experience it is a must to mention the names of the ancient fathers of medical remedies, like the Greek Asclepius, 1200 BC, and Imhotem the Egyptian, 2667 BC.

Among ancient medical remedies there were:

Flower wreaths that our ancestors were often wearing on their heads, for therapeutic purposes as well.

Ivy wreaths could be tightened on the head to relieve headaches due to too much or badly mixed wine, while flower wreaths of myrtle, could alleviate wine intoxication.

Analysing a 3000 – year old mummy of a woman called Asr, it was discovered that she had chewed Lotus petals. Today we know that this flower, a symbol of life for the Egyptians, was a stimulant for the blood circulation.

Ancient Romans were using Mandrake (nowadays Novocaine) extract as an anesthetics.

Flower wreaths of saffron and sage, were used to induce asleep.

An important page of South Italy's history is interweaved with the Jewish culture.

The story of the Jews in Italy is one of the most interesting chapters in the history of the people of Israel in exile. Their immigrations to the Occident began properly with the conquest of Judea by Alexander the Great. The Jews next directed their steps to Italy, and particularly to Rome.

The Romans had an affinity for the sea and for foreigners, and especially for Greek and Oriental merchants. For this reason, the Jews at first were attracted largely to the active and more openly commercial centres of the Mediterranean world. These numerous Jews, having disembarked at the ports of Brindisi and Pozzuoli, through Apulia, Samnium, and Campania, (Italy South) came as far as Rome or established themselves on the lands along the way. But however distant they were, and although constituting an ethnic minority, they never forgot their motherland and the need to help brothers in misfortune. Many of the freed prisoners with their descendants assumed the conditions of freedmen, and did not hesitate to mix with the Roman plebes and to live in the most crowded quarters of Rome. Such a social phenomenon was also observed at Pompeii.

During the last century of the Republic the number of Jews in Italy increased considerably, especially with the prisoners of war brought back in 61 BC by Gnaeus Pompeius after the conquest of Judea during his triumphant return to Rome.

A passage in Cicero tells of the political line followed by the Jews during the last years of the Republic. The Jews sided with the democratic party of the young Julius Caesar and also sided with him in the civil war of 49 BC. In recognition of the aid received, Caesar showed himself well disposed toward the Jews, and gave them privileges which in the period of the Christian emperors, has been called the "Magna Charta" of the Jews.

Among their privileges they were authorized to constitute a community, have freedom from military service, and the right to judge their suits according to Jewish law.

At Jesus' time, under the rule of the emperor Cesar, Jewish people were paying heavy taxes to the public treasury, and most of them were even selling their lands in order to pay.

One of the solution to skip taxation was the conversion to Christianity

But the sentiment which was shaping the political conduct of Rome in those years in respect to its population and to the Jewish world, suffered a serious setback under Tiberius.

The restrictive orders emanating from Tiberius in 19 AD were probably suggested by Sejanus, the extremely bitter anti-Semitic minister of Tiberius.

The Roman Senate decreed the expulsion of the Jews from all of Italy. At the same time their sacred utensils and manuscripts were seized and burned. About four thousand Jews living in Rome with their families were led away from their homes and deported to Sardinia, which was then an inhospitable and dangerous land because of the numerous brigands and the unhealthy climate.

At the fall of Sejanus, Tiberius confirmed the privileges formerly conceded by Caesar and by Augustus, and the Jews were able to return to Rome.

During the reign of Claudius, other episodes of intolerance took place, pictorial documents at Pompeii from this time shows that such sentiments were shared by some inhabitants of the Campanian cities. Today it is agreed that probably this intolerance and disorder were caused by the new credo brought in by Jesus of Nazareth.

In Rome, in the bosom of the Jewish community, there were two parties, which existed, in violent opposition to each other. One was made up of those who saw in Jesus the expected Messiah, and the other was made up of those who denied such identification.

The years of Nero's reign passed tranquilly for the Jews of the empire. Poppea Sabina, according to some of Pompeian birth, and certainly of a Pompeian family name, having become the wife of Nero, followed an enthusiastic political course in favour of the Jews.

The fall of Jerusalem, although it did not abolish the privileges conceded to the Jews, had grave repercussions for the Jewish population of the Empire. The tax of two drachmas, which up to that time had been paid by the Jews for the maintenance of the Temple in Jerusalem, was assigned, with the naming of the Fiscus to the Procurator and Capitularia Judeorum for the imperial fiscus.

The money taken from the Jews was intended by Vespasian (rule 69-79 AD) to restore the public treasury exhausted by the extravagance of Nero, and by the warlike ambitions of his successors.

This tax continued to be imposed on the Jews for the next three centuries, even by Christian emperors, and was abolished in 361 AD by Julian the Apostate.

The end of the Jewish war caused a large increase in the Jewish population of Italy. Thousands of prisoners were carried in part to Rome and to Southern Italy. By now the tragedy of the Vesuvian countryside was at hand. The terrible cataclysm due to the eruption of Vesuvius in 79 AD, was understood as a deserved punishment for the destruction of the Sanctuary at Jerusalem built by King Solomon and dedicated to the “life conceiver” of all peoples.

Coincidences:

Dark omens had rarely disturbed the people. Among the signs interpreted as presaging bad luck was the comet, which was said to have tracked the southern heavens for six months, from the autumn of 60 AD to the spring of 61. And actually a year later, on February 1, 62, a great earthquake devastated the southern part of Campania Italy south.

It was also on Campanian land, on the burnt shore of Pompeii, that for the first time the idea of the “divine punisher” of Sodom (Badedra in Hebrew means burn) and Gomorra (Numeira in Hebrew means buried, submerged) avenger of human sickness was reflected in the midst of fire.

The early Christians believed that Deity, as censor, did not allow the abrogation of his justice, and because of the impiety and immorality of the Pompeian, the city was destroyed by a rain of fire.

*(The Jews in Pompeii by Carlo Giordano and Isidoro Kahn).*

Sodom: a city in Palestine near the Dead Sea; one of the most insecure and unstable seismic areas on earth.

The Arabic and African tectonic platforms clash here.

Sodom and Gomorrah were probably destroyed by an earthquake which caused an underground explosion and a following rain of fire balls.

Today we know that in the whole area of Jordan and surrounding there are deposits of methane gas, sulphur, tar and petroleum. During an earthquake the ground slides down on itself emitting fire, activating a destructive explosion from the compressed methane gas chambers.

The Romans called the Dead Sea *asfaltus* because of the sources of methane and bitumen. According to recent theories Sodom and Gomorrah may have slipped on the bottom of the Dead Sea.

Here the asphalt may be found crystallized. It was a source of wealth exported to Egypt too.

The asphalt was used as malt, combustible or for mummifications.

The anecdote of Sodom and Gomorrah narrated in the Bible was probably inspired from a true event.

Genesis - chapter 19, vers. 24-25.

Few more details related to Hebrew heritage:

Aramaic the language of the people (VII century BC) very similar to Hebrew which was the religious language.

It became the official language in Persia in the V century BC.

In Palestine at the time of Jesus who spoke what may be classified as Galilee Aramaic

They are called Semitic languages from Sem, one of Noah's sons.

Galilee is the northern region of Palestine. It comprises Nazareth, Tiberiade, Cafarnao.

Genesis tells about Abraham, the first "patriarch" of the Jewish ethnic and son of Terach, who left from Ur, in the Mesopotamia Lowland, (about 1850 BC) he was 99 years old when "the divine will" spoke to him and ordered him to go to the land of Caanan (south Phoenicia, from the heights of Golan along the Jordan river to the dead sea) where he settled with his tribe.

Successor of Abraham (meaning father of many) will be the son Isaac (meaning laugh) and, after this, Jacobs (meaning heeler) who was also called Israel “he who fights with Jhw”.

Jacob was Esaus’s (meaning hairy) twin brother.

(Genesis, XI, 31-32, in Gen. 2000, p. 27).

Israel was then chosen to be the name of the 12 tribes that constituted the Hebrew population.

Israel became a New State on May 14, 1948.+

The Jewish religion follows the Pentateuch: the first 5 books of the Old Testament (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy) said to be the words of “Almighty”. While the Psalms divided into 5 books are the answers.

In consideration of the nowadays expansion of Judaism, we can deduce that the restricted number of this people is based on an elite descent.

The target of the Bible is to create believers not men of science.

Among personages of prestige mentioned in the ancient history of the Giudea land, I like to mention Solomon. Among his harem of famous wives there was the daughter of the Pharaoh and the daughter of the King of Tyro. These relationships allowed him to establish important commercial partnerships for the import of gold and cedar from Lebanon.

Salomon handed down his wisdom to his People so making the grandeur of the Hebraic state.

Furthermore, Solomon built the Temple in Jerusalem not conceived as to be the house where “the divine presence” was living, but the place from which people could direct their prayers to Yahweh.

the temple was built on the rock believed to be the altar where Abraham was almost about to sacrifice Isaac. Today in the same place there is the Mosque of Al-Aksa, and the altar of Abraham become the sacred place from where Mohamed ascended to heaven.

The temple is the place where human kind meets to concentrate their praying.

The dispute for dominion of the plane of Al-Aksa has been and still is, the cause of millions of deaths in the last 3000 years.

Briefing on the construction of the so called temple of Solomon on the plane of Al-Aksa:

The builder was Hiram Abif, a man with knowledge in geometry and astronomy.

It is said that the secret formulas used for this construction were later discovered by the Templar. (soon after Jerusalem was conquered by the first crusade in 1099, the Templar order was founded during 1119).

During the 1300's the Templar were persecuted and executed by the catholic clergy, those very few who succeeded to hide, have handed down their experience to a new order, the Masons.

The Masons became the builders for the Templar officially not existing.

During the 1446 the Templar/mason family, the Saintclear, built the cathedral of Rosleen in Scotland which is said to be a copy 1 to 3 of the Temple of Salomon.

The cathedral is like a book sculpted in stone, rich in symbols concerning the history of the Templars. We can say that both the Templar and Mason were mostly man of science, engineers, architects, astronomers and mathematicians.

In those days of oppression by some of the Christian leaders, we had Descartes, a man of science on the churches side, who explained that natural phenomena like light etc, were basically regulated by the "divine laws". While the Freemason, Newton's opposers, proved that only with the serious knowledge of science these phenomena can be understood.

Newton started Illuminism followed by Voltaire in France and Franklin in the Usa.

Many famous politicians were masons like Churchill and 13 presidents of Usa.

Today Masons are about 3 million all over the world and they are no longer a secret organization ?.

*(History channel FEB 18, 2007).*

In Naples there is a very interesting chapel built by the Prince Raimondo di Sangro who was the Master of the local Masonic lodge in 1750. The chapel is decorated with unique master pieces and several symbols related to Masonry.

POZZUOLI - (near Naples Southern Italy).

Was founded in 529 with the name of “dicearchia”, meaning : the right government. The founders were from the island of Samos (in the Aegean Sea). This group of colonists was made up of politicians and farmers. They shared with Cumae (in the Bay of Naples) the task of defending their Greek culture, first against the Etruscans and then against the Samnites.

The maritime power of Cumae was also due to the supremacy over the military harbour of Miseno and mercantile of Pozzuoli. The new life of this city began with the dominion of the Romans in 194 BC which brought the advantages of a port with a constant relationship with Greece and the Orient, and the excellent roads that led to Capua located on the ancient Appian Way.

Through the port of Pozzuoli the Romans entered into contact with Egypt, Syria and Asia. The port had a customhouse so that the goods entering Roman Campania might be specially taxed.

Pozzuoli saw the transit of foreign ambassadors, philosophers, princes and Christian preachers like S. Paul, its great maritime emporium was loaded with rare and exotic wares, gates open to any foreign cults.

During the year 55 AD St. Paul disembarked in Ephesus where he started to preach Christianity. This new credo after a little while caused the crisis of the local business based on the activity of making and selling pagan votive offerings, the silver statuettes of Artemis.

(the most venerated sanctuary in Ephesus was the Temple of Artemis. This Temple was the destination of pilgrims from all over the Mediterranean coast).

The preacher was forced to leave the city in order to re-establish the economy of Ephesus.

Then he went to Jerusalem, where the problems caused by Jesus were still vividly remembered.

Here St. Paul was immediately arrested by the Romans, and brought to Italy by the centurion Julius. The navigation course was via Alexandria, Malta, Syracuse Sicily, Calabria landing in Pozzuoli, the gateway from south on the ancient Appian way. St. Paul was 55 years old and officially a Roman citizen, so he appealed to the Roman cassation court.

commentary

(...it was a cold morning of February 61 AD when the Apostle Paul saw Tiberius' cliff from a ship passing on the Eastern side of the isle of Capri.

So states a book by Amedeo Maiuri "Lettere di Tiberio da Capri".

Paul could not know he was passing by the residence where Tiberius had been living at the time of the crucifixion of Jesus. From this site, the emperor voluntarily exiled himself for 11 years ((26 - 37 AD)) and ruled safely the empire.

Tiberius was sending daily messages via sea to Sorrento, and by horses along the peninsula and Appian way, to his friends, to the senate, and his relatives living in Rome. Dispatches could cover this distance in about 26 hours. Along the way the horses were changed every 3 or 4 miles. Some of the letter dispatches written by the Emperor were found and here is a part of the letter concerning Jesus which Tiberius writes to Pontius Pilate, Governor of Judea.

...from the legal proceeding I read, nothing appears against the person of the Emperor. Therefore, oh Pontius, I believe you have obeyed the Pharisees law of Sanhedrin and not the Roman... -we must distrust the internal religious fight. The empire founded by Augustus recognizes the various foreign cults, preserving the religion of our ancestors. - I am very much aware of how intolerant and stubborn the Jewish people are and I know you have done your best...(see Jewish)

- the Orient is a land of prophets and wizards and I would not be surprised if the Chrestòs religion, as far as I understand, is speaking mainly to slaves, fisherman, poor people and artisans, and will attract more followers than Spartacus did with slaves set free from jails and arenas...

-but the messengers tell me that you do not mention that Chrestòs of Nazareth rose after his death and his apparition increases the number of disciples...

-it is my wish that Chrestòs followers should be left in peace and that anyone in the future accused by the Sanhedrin must be brought here to Capri to be judged directly by me...

- Vale...- Tiberius".

(Chrestòs means "the anointed". Ancient Israelis ritual was to anoint kings with oil).

Well, to return to Saint Paul, he landed in Pozzuoli. The commercial ship on which he was travelling sailed from the port of Alexandria and once here Paul could see one of the most organized and imposing ports in all of the Tyrrhenian and Mediterranean area.

After Tiberius' death, Pozzuoli's port became the theatre of the most sensational madness committed by Caligula. He ordered a bridge to be built by laying hundreds of boats side by side to connect his imperial palace in Baia to the harbour of Pozzuoli. This was only done to imitate the triumphant cavalcade of Serse's (son of Darius of Persia) crossing the Hellespont (the ancient name of the Dardanelles).

Pozzuoli's port became less important under Claudius due to the construction of a large harbour at the mouth of the Tiber river.

And St. Paul?

The Roman militia after such a long and difficult navigation once in the port of Pozzuoli, were looking to recover their energy before starting the trip to Rome.

Pozzuoli was offering to the sailors a large range of entertainment so they were happy to get rid of S. Paul.

The Apostle was lodged among the Judaic community for a week. Here Paul enchanted people by preached the new credo. “Grab his phrase, shake it until all the words will fall on the ground. What is left will inflame your heart”  
(From a listener of Saint Paul).

Pozzuoli became then the gateway of Christianity in the occident. Rome, being the capitol, was the ideal field within which to spread the new religion.

## ROADS -

It is recorded that during the 1<sup>st</sup> cent. AD the world known under the Roman control (almost all of Europe and all the countries along the coast of the Mediterranean sea) was connected by 120,000 km of roads, of which 80,000 km, led to Rome.

Most of these roads were from 4 to 6 meters large and in certain point from 10 to 14 meters to allow two-way traffic carriage. The sidewalks were from 3 to 10 meters according to the importance of the road.

The means of transportation were mainly wagons pulled by horses that were moved at a speed of approximately 7 km/hour. Furthermore some carts/wagons were provided with an odometer (mile meter): an instrument that indicated 1 mile every 400 turns of the wheel: and at each mile a ball fell in a container.

The distance from Rome to Brindisi (Southern Italy) was covered in 2 weeks.

(Angela, *Passaggio a nord-ovest*, Sept. 15, 2005).

The shape of the road was usually hump-backed and flutes for drainage on both sides.

Along the Appian Way there were 360 “cippus” boundary stones: one for every mile. (1 Roman mile is equal to 1000 steps, 1475 meters).

Along most of the roads there were stations one days walk from each other called Mansiones. These stations were composed of Hospitiam

sleeping rooms, stables and warehouses. Every 5 miles one could find Mutationes which were equipped only for changing horses and quick snacks, it is supposed that every 5 Mutationes there was a Mansiones.

The traffic consisted mainly of Cursus publicus or fiscalis consisting of couriers (tabellari) employed by the Public administration, these could be Cursus aler (regular mail) or velox (speed mail) the most fast one.

According to some of Plinius writes, the speed for the Cursus aler was of 5/6 miles per hour, they were delivering dispatches all over the empire.

Less expensive was travelling via sea or rivers, but for sure far slower, of course with the exception of places around the Mediterranean coast.

It is recorded by Plinius that the senator Valerio went by a small and fast sail boat fair wind, from Pozzuoli in the Bay of Naples to Alexandria in Egypt in 9 days.

One day in the year 2005, I was walking with some visitors in the ancient Roman city of Pompeii talking about roads construction.

Among them there was a gentleman paying particular attention to this matter, his name was David. At first I thought it was the usual interest toward Archaeology, but two months later I received the following letter.

#### Subject: Corporate Mind

Here is the look into the corporate mind that is very interesting, educational, historical, completely true, and hysterical all at the same time. The US standard railroad gauge (width between the two rails) is 4 feet, 8.5 inches. That's an exceeding odd number.

Why was that gauge used?

Because that's the way they built them in England, and the US railroads were built by the English expatriates.

Why did the English build them like that?

Because the first rail lines were built by the same people who built the pre-railroad tramways, and that's the gauge they used.

Why did "they" use that gauge then?

Because the people who built the tramways used the same jigs and tools that they used for building wagons which used that wheel spacing.

Okay! Why did the wagons have that particular odd wheel spacing ?

Well, if they tried to use any other spacing, the wagon wheels would break on some of the old, long distance roads in England, because that's the spacing of the wheel ruts.

So who built those old rutted roads?

The first long distance roads in Europe (and England) were built by the Imperial Rome for their legions.

The roads have been used ever since.

What about the ruts in the roads?

Roman war chariots first formed the initial ruts, which everyone else had to match for fear of destroying their wagon wheels. Since the chariots were made for (or by) Imperial Rome, they were all alike in the matter of wheel spacing.

The United States standard railroad gauge of 4 feet, 8.5 inches derives from the original specification for an Imperial Roman war chariot. Specifications and bureaucracies live forever. So the next time you are handed a specification and wonder who was that horse's ass who came up with it, you may be exactly right, because the Imperial Roman war chariots were made just wide enough to accommodate the back ends of two horses. Thus, we have the answer to the original question.

Now the twist to the story .....

There is an interesting extension to the story about railroad gauges and horses' rear. When we see a space shuttle sitting on its launch pad, there are two big booster rockets attached to the sides of the main fuel tank. These are solid rocket boosters or SRBs. The SRBs are made by Thiokol at their factory in Utah.

The engineers who designed the SRBs might have preferred to make them a bit fatter, but the SRBs had to be shipped by train from the

factory to the launch site. The railroad line from the factory had to run through a tunnel in the mountains. The USBs had to fit through that tunnel. The tunnel is slightly wider than the railroad track, and the railroad is about as wide as two horses' behinds. So, the major design feature of what is arguably the world's most advanced transportation system was determined over two thousand years ago by the width of a horse's rear.

Another interesting aspect of the ancient Roman city consists of mural inscriptions and graffiti, mostly electoral propaganda, swearing, porno literature, love mottos and commercials.

In Pompeii an interesting palindrome of the I century AD, was found in the large gymnasium and in the house of Paquius Proculus.

It is known with the name SATOR

This magic square composition was found in several Roman sites : it was found 4 times at Dura Europos, on the banks of the Euphrates (in Mesopotamia in the III century AD. One of them was written in Greek).

It was also found:

In the ancient city of Aquincum (Hungary) in the II century AD.

In the ruins of Cirencester, county of Gloucester and at Watermore, the ancient Corinium Donuborum (Britannia) in the IV century AD.

In Germany at Halberstadt, Rosenheim, Oberaudorf and Hamersleben.

In France at Bergfried, in the castles of Chinon, Jarnac and Puy.

As graffiti in Cappadocia in the XII century AD.

In Rome under the basilica of the church of Santa Maria Maggiore.

In the church of the Virgin Mary in the IX century ad, on the island of Tana in Ethiopia.

In Coptic Egyptian papyri where the words were changed into SADOR, ARODA, DANAD, ADORA, RODAS.

The poet Virgil calls SATOR the father of men.

(*Aeneid* I, 254-255) (*Hera*: July 31, 2002)

> S A T O R  
 A R E P O <  
 > T E N E T  
 O P E R A <  
 > R O T A S

SATOR = sower of seeds = inseminator  
 OPERA = creates = activates = decides  
 TENET = holds = controls = leads = defends  
 AREPO = arare(to plough) = AR (Sanskrit)to push = plough  
 ROTAS = wheel = destiny = life

“The divine” decides about man seeds, and leads his destiny.

or

ROTAS = wheel = destiny = life  
 AREPO = arare (to plough)= AR (Sanskrit) to push = plough  
 TENET = holds = controls = leads = defends  
 OPERA = creates = activates = decides  
 SATOR = sower of seeds

Destiny of man seeds is decided by the “Omnipotent” sower.

Earth = Woman - Element to inseminate, fertilized; that gives life; a receiver as motionless base

A womb where life is assembled; a laboratory where there are the elements and the instruments to create and also receive death.

Man = Strength=Activator =Donator=Rain=Sky=Sower

SATOR becomes ROTAS which becomes again SATOR

OPERA = Life

Read backwards OPERA becomes AREPO=death

After TENET the creation becomes the opposite of the movements towards the end that is also the beginning.

The meaning of SATOR can be explained as follows:

-He who cuts the furrow for the sower, activates the wheel of life

-He who pushes the wheel in order to open the furrow to the sower, creates life

-He who leads the wheel on the area to plough, activates life

In order to fertilize the soil the rain water has to enter a fissure.

In order to continue the cycle of life the semen or seed has to be inserted into a fertile terrain.

The natural instinct to give and receive the seed is the creation secret, who does not give the furrowed ground for the sower, rules the opposite of OPERA, i.e. AREPO = inertness = death.

The Sator is the Cosmo's sower.

The natural cycles of Cosmo, have created the Sun, the Moon, the Heat, the Cold, the Water, the Air, the Earth, the Eros, these are the basic rules supporting the sower, until the natural cycle terminates to restart, this is the presence of the "mystery".

It would be senseless to imagine the universe without the presence of a "seed conceiver", it would be a dreadful silence.

Man of science are astonished of the day by day discovery, the perfection of the macro and micro universe, by the perfect balance of the structure supporting the millions of life type and the interwoven matter forming universe, it all can't be conceived without a precise design. It is enough to meditate on any of the scientific report of cosmology, bioresearch and nuclear structure to realize the fascinating aspect of our universe, assuming there is only one.

Now the eternal question is ; how far are we from the "Ultimate"?

Until the 15<sup>th</sup> century most scientific answer still came from the religious systems. Then gradually while scientist were giving us the correct explanation of things, more and more religious answers started to be were replaced.

Another anecdote involving the SATOR is related to the church of the Virgin Mary in Tanakirkos Ethiopia.

In 610 BC the “Ark of the covenant” was brought from Jerusalem to Elephantine, an island on the Nile river.

In 410 BC it was brought by the Jewish refugees along the Nile to the island of Tanakirkos on Lake Tana in Ethiopia.

Most likely they followed the route taken by king Menelic.

On the island there is a stone altar shaped according to the Jewish rite of making sacrifices in honor of the Ark.

The traces of the Ark were lost after the building of the church of the Virgin Mary by the Templar.

On the central pillar of the church, where according to the legend Jesus appeared to lead the construction, the magic square Sator is composed as follows:

S	A	D	O	R
A	L	A	D	O
D	A	N	A	T
A	B	E	R	A
R	O	D	A	S

The frescos in the church of the Virgin Mary are dated back approximately to the year 1200 AD. They represent the Templar who transport the Ark.

In this church there is also a Sancta Santorum construction in which the so called Ark is kept. One sole guardian dedicates his life to ensure that no one may enter.

In 1925 two scholars, Grosser and Agrell, produced an interesting interpretation of the magic square.

In their opinion 21 letters out of 25 composed the Pater Noster; the remaining two  $\alpha$  (alpha) and two  $\omega$  (omega) were to be considered as the beginning and the end of everything according to the Apocalypse in John’s Gospel. (Apocalypse in Greek means revelation).

A (Alpha)

P  
A  
T  
E  
R  
A P A T E R N O S T E R O  
O  
S  
T  
E  
R

O (Omega)

We should consider that in 64 AD the Christians were considered outlaws; merely saying the word Christian could mean a condemnation to death. Therefore codified messages were for the Christians one way not to be persecuted and to preserve their traditions.

Many different interpretations have been given to the palindrome SATOR. Often linked to the order of the Templar as an encrypted code.

ROTA lat. The becoming wheel

ORAT lat. Word, talk (oratio)

TARO hebr. The leading principle, origin, cause

AROT gr. Work, action, labor (arotos)

RATO lat. Achievement, fulfillment (ratus)

OTAR gr. Listen, pay attention, to hear (otarion)

ATOR Egyptian Deity of Harmony, deity of love, fertility and consecration.

I assumed, instead, said the historian Silvana Lanella, that if the entire phrase could be read to coils, without repeating tenet, we obtain:  
SATOR OPERA TENET AREPO ROTAS.

“The sower holds the work, arepo the wheels”, what could it mean?  
From Latin TENET can be translated also with: to hold in hand, to have the control or, with a modern term, to manage.

The sower (grain winnower) has the control of the works, or the jobs, the daily actions.

Also in the Roman world the ROTAS, then, can be interpreted like the wheels of the fortune or the wheels of the destiny.

Remains the mystery of the word AREPO, but if it derived truly from the Greek “Areopago”, the place of reunion of the supreme judgment?

We could then suppose that it was a popular form, derivatives from the contracted Aeropago term, to indicate the supreme court or the same judge.

From the grammatical and semantic point of view we obtain:

SATOR, nominative singular, the sower

OPERA, plural accusative “le opera”

TENET, present, verb, third singular person, “tiene” holds

AREPO, nominative singular, the Areopago

ROTAS, accusative plural, the Destinies

The sense of the entire phrase appears simple and clear enough:

The sower has the control of Works, the supreme court (controls) the wheels of the destiny.

That is: the sower decides its daily works, but the supreme court decides its destiny.

Widening above concept, it can be interpreted:

man manages and decides his daily actions, but the supreme judge controls his destiny.

The Palindrome, could be a sort of a simple proverb, under the shape of play on words to make it easy to remember, that in reality explains

the philosophical concept of the limited free will of human beings in comparison with one of the divinities.

If in fact we think of the supreme judge as deities, we will obtain:

“man decides his sets in daily action, but deity decides his destiny”  
(Silvana Lanella - Historian).

In which way can we conciliate the apparent ability of man to decide about his own actions and his ability to choose, with the awareness of the existence of a “divine will” that regulates and orders all things?

Tenet is the key word, work is vital for human being, it brings discipline, order and rationality. Keeps the brain busy and avoids waste of time that can bring to a dangerous mental chaos.

## TECHNOLOGY

the inventions done by our ancestors, improved throughout the centuries are still in use today. I believe that some of us ignore their origin and the value of years of research and attempts.

Ancient Greeks developed their own technology since the 8th cent. BC. The word Technology comes from the Greek "technikos" which means artistic, professional.

### Antikythera

find from the 80 BC shipwreck discovered in the neighborhood of the island of Antikythera.

This is a complex mechanism with at least 31 gears, which calculates the calendar dates of movable festivals and can be used as a navigational aid based on the relative positions of the constellations.

Hero's automaton was an ingenious device that moved autonomously through a pre-programmed pattern designed by the inventor, which must have amazed anyone who saw it. The master mind of this device was Hero of Alexandria, who lived in about the 1st century AD

and invented many automatic gadgets. Historians of science and technology agree the great Renaissance engineer Leonardo da Vinci was inspired and influenced by Hero's work.

Ktesibios was a Greek physicist and inventor 285-222 BC. He wrote the first treaties on the science of compressed air and its uses in pumps. All his research reports are lost (most probably in the Library of Alexandria). Many modern experts refer to him as the "Edison of Antiquity".

Ktesibios invented the Hydraulic water Organ and pumps, of which the principle behind this machine is still employed in today's modern pumps.

His inventions include the water clock and the ancient musical instrument known as the hydraulis, which is the fore runner of the modern pipe organ.

Time flows is a mystery. But the expression "time flows", probably comes from a water clock. A tank holding water, with a very small hole in its bottom, from which the water slowly drips. The level of the water sinks and its height is a measure of the time passed since it was full of water.

The first clock recognized by humans was the sky in the simplest form first by the day and the night period. The astrolabe is a device for solving problems relating the time and the position of the sun and the stars. Astrolabe derives from Aster Labaneim "get the stars".

Astrolabes are used to show how the sky looks at a specific place at a given time. This is done by drawing the sky on the face of the astrolabe and making the stars position in the sky easy to find.

Glass working was practiced by the ancient Egyptians at a very early period of their national existence.

Sir J. G. Wilkinson, in his "Able work on the Manners and Customs of the ancient Egyptians", has adduced three distinct proofs that the art of Glass working was practiced in Egypt three thousand five hundred years ago.

According to a Phoenician legend handed down by Pliny, some caravans of merchants coming from Egypt loaded with blocks of sodium carbonate or nitrate (sea salt) stopped to spend the night along the river Belo. Having the necessity of stones in order to make a fire place, they used the blocks of soda, under which fire went on all night long.

When the morning came merchants were astonished to see that where there was river sand and the soda's blocks, there was a new shining slab of glass.

This phenomenon was easily spread throughout Egypt and Mesopotamia where different experiments and manipulations created new variations and colors.

Adding different minerals and metal dioxide create colors.

For the blue you need copper oxide, to make transparent antimony or manganese. These manufactures at the beginning was for creating pieces of jewelry glass pearl, earrings etc. later many kind of pottery and window glasses.



## Chapter Three

### LOVE, PLEASURE AND FAMILY RELATIONS

The natural rule of Love is a perpetual attempt to be eternal, and this is done with the searching of a partner to accomplish this mission.

#### **WOMEN**

AMAZON means without a breast.

The legend says that they lived using men only for procreation or for eroticism. Once they had got what they wanted, men were killed or kept as slaves.

It is believed that they lived in the area of the Black Sea.

Greek mythology teaches us to be afraid of women with special features such as Mermaids (see Sirens) but it also shows how a woman can be the solution for an ideal life.

(see Jason and Medea, the daughter of the king of Colchide, Black Sea area).

#### Anecdotes of the past, women status:

In ancient Rome, Egnatius Metellus took a stick and beat his wife to death because she had drunk some wine.

Not only did no one charge him with the crime, but no one even blamed him. Everyone considered this an excellent example of one who had justly paid the penalty for violating the laws of sobriety. Indeed, any woman who immoderately seeks the use of wine closes the door on all virtues and opens it to vices.

To these we should add the case of Publius Sempronius Sophus who filed his wife with divorce simply because she dared attend the gym games without his knowledge.

I have copied Cato's words from a speech called *On the Dowry*, in which it is stated that husbands who caught their wives in adultery could kill them: if she has drunk wine she is punished; if she has done wrong with another man, she is condemned to death.

Some laws:

-If a free woman conceives and has a child after having become a slave, the child will be free.

-If, after a divorce has taken place, a woman finds herself to be pregnant, she should within thirty days notify either her husband or his father to send witnesses for the purpose of making an examination of her condition: and if this is not done, they shall in any event be compelled to recognize the child of the woman.

-If the woman does not announce that she is pregnant, or does not admit witnesses sent to make an examination of her, neither the father nor the grandfather will be compelled to support the child.

-When a woman denies that she is pregnant by her husband, the latter is permitted to make an examination of her, and appoint persons to watch out for her.

-The physical examination of the woman is made by five midwives, and the decision of the majority shall be held to be true.

-It has been decided that a midwife who introduces the child of another in order that it may be substituted shall be punished with death.

(Pregnancy, status, and paternity. Paul, *Opinions* 2.24.1-9. L. The jurist Julius Paulus, or Paul).

There are many representations of mural paintings in several Archaeological areas in the Bay of Naples, showing women as mothers, as teenagers, as harlots, as priestesses, as deities and as initiated, of which the above points can be applied.

APHRODITE (Venus).

According to Hesiod, she was the Daughter of Uranus and Gaia

According to Homer, she was the daughter of Dione and Zeus. (*Iliad* XX, 107).

Uranus “the sky” in a love embrace over Gaea “the earth” was emasculated by Chronos “the time” (see *Uranus*).

The phallus of Uranus fell into the sea, floated on the waves, which then dissolved, into white froth, and from the froth (in Greek Aphros) Aphrodite was born.

The navigators venerated this marvelous and fantastically born creature, not as Poseidon was venerated, but as the deity who kept the sea nice and calm, assuring safe navigation.

On earth she is venerated as the deity of spring in flower, the season that invites love. Aphrodite was the personification of beauty, the invisible power that made humankind love each other, using the language of longing and seduction.

Sacred to Aphrodite were the Dolphins, Roses, Pomegranates, Myrtle and Apples. By the order of Zeus she married Vulcan, with whom she had Priapus. Afterwards she had several other lovers of great prestige, among them:

Mars with whom, she had Eros and Cupid.

Dionysus with whom she had the 3 Graces and Hymen.

Hermes with whom she had Hermaphrodite.

With the shepherd Anchises, she conceived Aeneas

but the handsome shepherd Adonis, remained her preferred love above all. (see *Aeneas*).

There are many Venus' sculptures and paintings in the various museums and ancient roman cities in the Bay of Naples.

## HERMES son of Maya and Zeus

The messenger of deities, guide for the deceased to the underworld, protector of Home life, commerce, flocks and herds. He has a serene, obliging and teasing character, his life through robbery and lies made him a master on finding solution to get himself and others out from any troubles. From this point of view Hermes is a very humanlike deity.

Hermes falls often in love with beautiful ladies, so conceiving many children but he never gets involved in a marriage.

...and this aspect for all, should be enough to understand his shrewdness.

The legend of Hermes can be associated to several modern myths, something between Robin Hood, Lupin, Superman and Casanova.

Many are the sculptures and mural paintings in the Archaeomuseum and ancient Roman cities in Bay of Naples.

HERMAPHRODITIUS (Son of Hermes and Aphrodite).

Asiatic 's origin divinity. Hermaphrodites body was a united being body, formed by male and female sexes . This specific representation came to Greece via Cyprus from Syria.

In Greece Hermaphrodites had a girl's breasts and long hair. The Nymph Salmace fell in love with him and they melted into one human being by embracing each other.

*(Diz. Civiltà Classica, Rizzoli)*

..or rather she embraced him despite his protests and called the deities to unite them. What else do we have to imagine to explain the contrast or conflict between physical evidence and contradicting tendencies?

A painted representation is in the Museum of Paestum.

DAPHNE (A nymph daughter of the fluvial deity Peneo and Gaea).

Daphne had a lover, Leucippus, who, in order to stay near Daphne and thus among the bathing nymphs, disguised himself as a girl.

Apollo was extremely jealous of Daphne and in order to unmask, he convinced the nymphs to have a bath naked.

So Leucippus was forced to get undressed, and as soon his nature was evident he was torn to pieces by the nymphs.

Daphne, left alone, ran away in order not to be caught by Apollo, tired of running, she prayed to the mother earth (Gaea) to help her, (in Ovid's account it is her father a river deity to whom she calls) and so Daphne was turned into a Laurel tree.

Apollo at this point could not go further, he took some Laurel leaves and made himself a wreath.

The seed idea of this myth is to explain why Dawn and Light can't get together as their approaching makes Dawn disappear or vv. The name Daphne derives from the Sanskrit word "Ahana" which means, "Dawn".

GRACES = ariti in Greek (the 3 daughters of Zeus and Eurinome).

AGLALIA = glowing  
EUFROSINE = jovial  
TALIA = prosperous

They were part of a team and were followers of Apollo and Venus. The Graces were in charge of making relationships among human-kind pleasant and loving, with good conversation and delightful wisdom.

No doubt the above virtues make life more liveable.

Again Mosaics and paintings of this myth can be seen in Pompeii and Naples Archaeomuseum.

PRIAPUS (the promoter of fertility).

Aphrodite was Priapus' mother, but his Father could have been Dionysus or most unlikely Hephaestus.

Priapus was born ill shaped, with a long tongue and an enormous Phallus, soon after the delivery his mother, Aphrodite, abandoned the little monster in the countryside where the shepherds, seeing his attributes, welcomed him as a good presage of abundance and fertility. Presumably the idea was that a house without an erection is a house without birth, therefore Priapus was a presage of abundance and life.

As an adult he is represented as a bearded man, almost naked with his genitals in great evidence.

Priapism is the modern medical term referring to the male permanent erection.

Anyhow, it seems that for this unusual physical appearance Priapus was seen as a good luck omen by the shepherds. The Priapei were temples where odes were recited, in honour of the reproductive power, the basic male-kind sexual instinct.

The animal sacred to Priapus was the donkey (obviously), a symbol of bestial lust (lewdness).

In India the lingam (phallus) is the most common symbol this generates “deities” by piercing the yoni (vagina) of deity.

*(Power of Myth. J. Campbell).*

Statues and painting of Priapus are in Pompeii and Naples Archaeo-museum.

Here below a story from Maori Mythology similar to Greek.

One day the pregnant Taranga was walking on the beach when suddenly Maui was born prematurely. Since he was an unformed child, she took some of her hair, wrapped the body in it and put the bundle down in the waves (see Aphrodite). There he was found by sea-fairies who took him with them and cared for him. They hid him in some sea algae until a storm tore it to pieces and brought Maui back onto the beach.

Tama-Rangi, Maui's own ancestor, found the child there. He brought Maui back to life and taught him the experience of his fathers, their tales and songs.

One day, Maui came upon a meeting house and upon entering recognized his brothers, who were standing in front of their mother. Taranga did not recognize him until he reminded her that she had thrown him into the sea(see Hephaistos). At last she embraced him, and called him Maui-Potiki, Maui-Tikitiki ('Maui the Last-Born', 'Maui the Top-Knot'). He slept in his mother's bedroom, and so discovered each morning at dawn that she had disappeared (see Daphne). When he asked his brothers they told him that they knew nothing about it. He decided to secretly follow his mother when she left at first light. She disappeared beneath a clump of reeds in the bushes. When Maui lifted the clump, he saw the underworld (see Persephone). He took his mother's apron and wrapped himself in it. By this means he took on the shape of a wood pigeon and descended into the

underworld. There he found his mother who was resting under a tree with her husband Makea-Tutara. He shed his disguise and Taranga presented him to his father.

Another similarity

Psyche a Greek deities, originally of fortune and chance, and then of prosperity was very popular in several Greek cities.

Tyche was portrayed with a cornucopia, a rudder of destiny, and a wheel of fortune. The Romans identified her with their deity Fortuna. In the Maori tradition the deity Tiki is an ornament looking like a human embryo worn only by women, representing fertility.

Tyche in the Mediterranean world and Tiki in the Pacific Ocean, 12000 miles away from each other.

## PROSTITUTION

There is a Latin verse regarding them:

"Lupa" was named only because of her loose morals, never satisfied with other bodies, and then from Lupa, Lupanare was named, the entertainment place of the Harlots."

During Augustus' time, prostitutes were obliged to register. Their activity was under the control of the Ediles who were Policemen keeping order and to avoid scandals in the streets. The Lupanare had to close at the 3rd hour (9 morning hour). Furthermore the official Harlots were obliged to wear precise uniforms with their hair dyed blue or yellow.

Below is a list of the categories for Prostitute:

- Meretrice, the ones who were officially registered.
- Prostibules, not registered, they were sub-divided into:
- Delicate if they were cultured and artists of manner, and
- Famouse, those destined to work in gardens, parks, attracting the attention of clients with a soft howling.
- Bustarie, those who worked near funeral monuments or

cemeteries.

- Ambultrices, the streetwalkers.
- Diabulae, middle-aged women who sold themselves for little money. They used to decorate the suburbs.
- Blitidie, the Harlots of the Bars. The name derives from Blitem, a popular drink of those times.
- Gallinae, the Harlots whose field of activity was the countryside.
- Forariae, the belles of the provincial roads (similar to the current truck drivers' prostitutes).
- Quadrantarie, the most degraded and cheapest of all.

like the Purina of the Greek cities who were starving harlots selling themselves in exchange for food.

Prostitutes could be either volunteers or slaves, whose erotic use was not forbidden. Around these Harlots, there were bands of Lenons, Adductores, Perdoctores, and Conciliatores (pimps, panders, sugar daddies and exploiters). In the Brothel there was a Hall, which contained on either side rooms of different shapes. At the entrance of each room there was a pallet, an oil lamp and a wax writing tablet on which one could read, "engaged" or "free".

Infection of venereal diseases was rather serious. Preventive measures were adopted which included spreading medical oils, herbs and other magic concoctions. It seems that prophylactic condoms were used as well; they were obtained mainly from Lamb appendixes.

An astonishing collection of porno-paintings can still today be admired in the ancient roman city of Pompeii and the "Gabinetto segreto" of the National Archaeomuseum of Naples.

In Greece the regular harlots were called "pornè", and on the back of their sandals was written "follow my foot print".

An interesting chapter is about the Greek Hierodule who were girls donated for sacred prostitution. Most probably a rite imported in Greater Greece from Orient.

An interesting editorial by S. Nucini Vanity Fair Oct 22 – 08 reports her investigation in India where sacred prostitution still exists and they are called “Devadasi”.

The human sacrifice of this previous civilization here is transformed in a human donation.

Young woman were given as slaves in charge to look after the maintenance of the Temple, the clergy and any of the propriety belonging to it.

These girls were firstly offered virgin to the priests then while they were still young they had to concede themselves in the sacred of temples to anyone who was making a request by dropping a few coins nearby the chosen one.

This habit was spread around the Mediterranean cities by the Phoenicians, as well, the male or female prostitutes were called dogs or bitches for their natural submission to the Temple of Astarte Ishtar Aphrodite.

It is said that at least once in a women life even if married, she had to show her submission by going in the Temple as a prostitute. For this act no one could dare to blame her. The takings were then paid to the temple.

An ugly Ierodula could spend many years in a Temple as not being often chosen, she or he could never pay back their freedom.

*(Discovery civilization 26 Feb 2006).*

It was a regular procedure that harlots after their activity had to go through a rite of purification by bathing in specific water basins. This system of pools can still be seen next to major Temple of the 430 BC, among the remains of the ancient Greek city of Paestum.

Ancient civilization had a sort of obsession for purity when dealing with religious activities. The contact with blood, sacrificed animals,

menstruations had to go through water purification in appropriate basins.

The architecture of these basins in Paestum is almost the same of the Jewish “Mikvah” “Mikvaot” for their rites of purification.

This artifact belongs to the “talking architecture” like many monuments of the ancient world.

Anyhow, here below is a list of a woman's status throughout the centuries.

The Sumerian daughter of a tailor married the son of another tailor but later she decided to remain at home with her father. In order to divorce, it was enough at that time, a declaration stating her renounces. She wrote *“Ninkhilisu, daughter of the seamstress Luna, married to Suninshubura, son of the tailor states; as I wish to remain home with my father, and this could damage the position of my husband, I renounce to my rights as a bride”*.

This denotes a high condition of feminism.

The Assyro-Babylones woman marks regression. Marriage is preceded by a written contract and an established price, donation of the boyfriend to his girlfriend, which shows the subordination of the female. Polygamy exits while divorce initiated by women is accepted only in exceptional cases.

In Egypt infidelity was punished with death. The woman was burned alive and her ashes thrown into the Nile. The same destiny was reserved for her lover.

This punishment was found written in letters and on tomb inscriptions, while male adultery was not punished, and he could take home concubines.

In Greece there is a contrast between Athens and Sparta. In Sparta the woman was totally free, and in the case where she was not able to have children she was not obliged to be faithful. Also, she was allowed to be seen in public, could play sports together with the men

and for this reason the Athenians vindicated their envy by naming them “show off of legs”.

In Athens the woman stayed home, she had a limited education as school was barred to them. She was exposed to divorce with the obligation to return the dowry.

Education in schools in ancient Athens was at first limited to aristocratic boys.

By the 4th century BC all 18-year-old males spent two years in a *gymnasion*, a state school devoted to the overall physical and intellectual development of a young man. More advanced education in philosophy, mathematics, logic and rhetoric was available to the aristocracy in highly select gymnasia like the academy of Plato and the lyceum of Aristotle.

Although girls in ancient Greece received no formal education in the literary arts, many of them were taught to read and write informally, in the home.

## LOVE

The majority of people believe that Plato(nic) love is a relationship between two persons who do not make physical copulation. The actual story is slightly different.

Plato was convinced that love had, as its final result, the procreation of beauty and to explain it he wrote what is considered the masterpiece of classical literature "The Symposium". The Symposium was about a wine drinking party where people of culture spent time discussing and talking about philosophy, politics, love, music or play parlour games, such as drinking competition called *kotabos*.

The only women accepted in the Symposium party, were the so called “Etere”, meaning, playmate. These girls were trained to dance naked, play double flute, sing, have conversation and make love.

If one day someone will make a cartoon with all the figures painted on the Greek existing ceramic pottery, an original film of the Greek civilization could finally be seen).  
(V.M. Manfredi *Akropolis*).

Wine was understood as a drink that inebriates and frees (releases, liberates) the primordial instincts.

After the meal a leader was chosen by throwing dice. His name was Symposiarch who conducted and judged the parlor games. He decided the percentage of water to be mixed with wine, the beginning and the end of the games, the number and the size of the different cups of wine to serve to each member of the Symposium and the burlesque penances to apply in case of improprieties.

interesting : this game is still played in the poolroom called Cantinas in Southern Italy. It is called "Passatella or Sotto e Padrone". Of course not during a Symposium Greek style but while playing cards. Elderly men decides the leader of the game how has total control of how and who has to drink wine and how many glasses. The point is that there is no water involved and therefore arguing is unavoidable.

### Briefing on the hypothetical Symposium by Plato

One evening party took place at Agatones house. The tragic Poet invited, among others, the general of the Greek army, Pausanias; the young philosopher, Phaedrus; the statesman and general, Alcibiades; the comedian poet Aristophanes; the philosophers Aristotle and Socrates and the physician Erissimaco.

The subject chosen for the conversation was "love".

The first to talk was young Phaedrus, who said that love was the most powerful of all deities, and that the lover is happier than the beloved as he is the one to be possessed by divinity.

More original was Pausanias who answered, "you are talking about love as if there was only one, when in reality there are two, the "celestial" of Aphrodite Urania, and "vulgar" of Aphrodite Pandemia.

Man usually practices the second one, running behind women's bodies rather than their souls. The result of this miserable target is to have a stupid person to be with. The real lover prefers men, admiring their strong natures and their vivid intelligence.

A rash observation.

After Pausanias' talk, it was then Aristophanes' turn as they followed a certain order, but he had a hiccup.

The doctor Erissimaco told him, "while I talk, you hold your breath until your hiccup is over", and he continued, "There are many kinds of love. I see love in man, in woman, in animals, in plants and in all the living species.

Wherever there is an opposite: full and empty hot and cold, sour and sweet, dry and humid, I see love's intervention to appease and restore harmony. Medicine, therefore, can be a love tool. When vulgar love pushes man to abuse eating, the celestial love, under the aspect of medicine, establishes the right equilibrium".

A noisy sneeze of Aristophanes stopped Erissimaco from talking. At this point the poet took the advantage to start his speech.

"It is fantastic, oh Erissimaco how the equilibrium in a human body, therefore, LOVE, can be obtained by sneezing; because as you can see my hiccup is over." "Your defect, oh Aristophanes, is that you want to be funny at all costs", answered the doctor. "Do not worry, oh Erissimaco, as what I am going to say will not be funny but ridiculous" and he continued, "to understand the power of LOVE, it is necessary that you all listen carefully to what nature has to suffer.

At the beginning humankind could be recognized under 3 sexual appearances, man, woman and androgyny. All of them had 4 legs, 4 arms, 4 eyes etc. They could walk in any direction like spiders; they had a terrible double and arrogant character, and superhuman power. They considered themselves so complete and perfect as to dare to challenge the Olympic deities as their equal. Zeus became angry be-

cause of this, and after long meditation, gave orders to Apollo to separate them surgically into two distinct bodies.

The result of this separation was an unhappy humanity as each half was missing the other half. The demi-man was looking for the demi woman the demi woman for the demi woman and the demi androgynous-man was desperately looking for the demi-androgynous-woman and vice versa. This longing to join with the lost twin soul, this irresistible desire to complete oneself, this mysterious attraction is called love.

...and if

“The whole”, tired of the arrogance of the double bodies-being, thought that this creation was not a good result and instead of destroying it, “He” decided to divide it. Then having already in His mind as destination the earth. It is possible that “He” left them with one precise biological instruction, find your missing part and reproduce yourself.

But what about the double man and the double woman they could not reproduce among themselves. Here we have the grandiosity of “Almighty”, the contradiction, the apparent disorder, logic is evident only if non-logic exists.

Aristophanes’ fantasy explained not only attraction between man and woman but also between two women and two men, and the separation of the double bodies confirms the fact that some humans have more and some less of the missing half.

One point is clear, love is not aware of the sex of any living being, it does not care if they are two women or two men or a man and a woman or animals or cells or atoms, they are naturally attracted.

Spiritually, love strikes two living creatures despite their sexual nature.

Then if these creatures in love decide to live together, well this is still fantastic.

The point is, when bodies decide to couple, and it is from this very particular moment that starts a series of happenings creating the story of most of us.

Back to the Symposium..

After a brief and silent pause, Agatones started his speech, which was without much sense. He kept the attention of the audience with sentences of great effect, as he was a poet and a sensational orator. For this speech and because he was the host, he received great applause.

Only Socrates did not agree and said,

"In my way of thinking, I believe that each one of us had to say the truth and not to make an Apology (in Greek means defence) of love. I can only try to tell you what I think is the truth about love.

Who instructed me about love was a woman called Diotina. She told me that love was someone between a deity and a mortal being, not handsome, not ugly, not ignorant nor intelligent. One day the Olympic deities were celebrating the birth of Aphrodite, and Poro was also invited to the party. (Poro was the deity of expediency and of coming up with brilliant solutions). Penia (the personification of Poverty) was the only deity, who was left outside the Olympus gate. She was badly dressed and of poor aspect. At a certain point, during the party, Poro, being drunk, went outside and fell on the ground near Penia. The deity thought, "I am so poor among all, maybe if I make love with Poro who is so smart in finding solutions I will be able to improve my destiny".

So Socrates concluded that love was born from the union of poverty and expediency.

In the Archaeological museum of Paestum, there is a Greek tomb of the fifth cent. BC, the painted inner part is showing an all-around Symposium. Here below a brief description.

The diver tomb is in a special room, the five slabs of a rectangular grave of the V cent. BC. are painted on the internal part of it with 13 figures on white plaster.

The tomb, besides being considered a rare painting of the Greek golden age, has a sequence decoration like a movie showing a Symposium party of 2500 years ago. On the long sides there are 10 men,

between young (heromenes) and elders (herastes), sitting on 6 small beds, divided in 4 couples and 2 singles.

All of them are covered with elegant different sheets from waist down. Some are musicians, some are having conversation, some drinking, some caressing each other or looking at themselves with complicity.

What a great convivial.

On the two short sides there is a slave next to a wine container, and on the other, the life teacher accompanying the deceased for his last journey, preceded by a young double flute player.

But the magic part of it is the tomb lid.

Here is depicted a dark figure having the silhouette of a human being with no volume, just a flat shadow, his soul is performing a perfect dive, from the pillars of Hercules in to the Okeanos, the water of the unknown world.

Probably his aim is to join an eternal Symposium.

The wine of our ancestors had a higher percentage of alcohol consequently diluted with water.

This allowed people to drink in larger quantity therefore the Symposium would last longer.

It is a fact that those people who dared to drink pure wine, were considered barbarians as this could cause madness.

The terracotta wine container was called “crater”.

(Ker means to mix, and the section where these ceramic containers were made, was called “kerameikòn”).

(Ulysses gave wine to Polyphemos, not only it was the first time the giant drunk wine, but it was pure winejuice as well.

Polyphemos fell into such a deep sleep with only two cups. Ulysses and his companions could easily stick a pointed pole in his single eye to blind him).

EROS = total love that leads to the family and to harmony.

FILIA = love, friendship, esteem/respect etc.

AGAPE = love for everything and everybody, Eros and Filia together.

The world is not without love.

Body love, Spiritual love, Social love, Economic love, Aesthetic love, Charitable love and Erotic love. A great interwoven exchange among living beings, done with compatible elements like glance, attitude, caress, smell, shape, sound and color.

Human beings are angels with a single wing, but love attraction unites them and make them fly.

*(A thought of L. de Crescenzo).*

In a state of embryo we are not, then the convulsions, the passage to the light, and the instinctive research of the missing half essential for procreation.

*(Power of Myth - J.C.).*

Words invented by human beings to describe the magic spark of love, are limitative. Two people in love looking deeply and silently into their eyes, they do not need to talk, their conversation is out of the concept of the human time.

Amore means a single being divided in two.

*(Gabriel Garcia Marquez, 1928).*

..the gentle man overcomes all obstacles.

He who makes himself work all day will never know a moment of enjoyment, but he who spends all day enjoying himself will not be able to hold on to his wealth.

*( a thought of Pta-hotep c1900 BC).*

*(.. a thought written before Greek Symposium).*

AMORINO (Cupid for the Romans, Eros for the Greeks.)

Is represented as a young man winged and naked. From the wound of his arrows were born the pains of love. He was venerated as protector of friendship and love between human beings. Amore's parents are still a matter of discussion, (it couldn't be otherwise).

The imagination of Aristophanes relates that Amore was born from an egg laid by the Night under the wings of a bat (it would be interesting to know how he came to this conclusion).

Orpheus says that Amore was conceived before anyone else.

Seneca suggests Amore came from the union of Vulcan and Venus.

Simonide is the only one who states that Amore was born through Mars and Venus, and brought up mainly on the milk of wild beasts.

Anyhow, Amore's main work was and still is to strike people with his arrows and make them fall in love.

From Aphrodite to Hera, from Eros to Himeros (Desire) and Pothos (Torment), love among the Greeks has become the topic of researches carried out in different fields like psychoanalysis, sociology, anthropology.

ANDROMEDA (daughter of King Cefeus and Cassiopeia).

Cassiopeia instead of keeping her mouth shut she boasted that her daughter Andromeda was more beautiful than the Nereids (mother pride).

The Nereids considered this comparison an insult and asked Neptune to punish Cassiopeia.

Neptune sent a sea monster to devastate the coast of the Cefeus region. According to the Oracle, the only way to stop this disaster was to sacrifice Andromeda who was chained to the reef, as an offering to the monster

Important renouncement are often required to re-establish harmony.

At this point the legend says that Perseus (one of the many sons attributed to Zeus), while flying back home after he had slain the Medusa, saw Andromeda chained on the rock, and fell in love with her.

Andromeda related her misadventure to Perseus who decided to liberate her on the condition that her father Cefeus consents their marriage. Cefeus agreed and offered him the throne as well.

But on the wedding day, an old fiancé of Andromeda, his name was Fineo, appeared on the scene, claiming his rights to marry Andromeda.

After the first polite discussion, a violent fight started between the two competitors and Perseus, to put an end to this uncomfortable situation, took out the Medusas' head from his bag and all his enemies looking at her were petrified, turned into stone. Perseus then could finally marry Andromeda.

.. and Zeus to remind the posterity of the epic adventure done by his son, worked it out in a way that all this had to be written in the sky forever and today, Perseus, Pegasus, Andromeda and Cassiopeia are also known as Constellations.

Some of these Constellations are sculpted on the starry sky supported by Atlantis. Naples Archaeomuseum.

With the absence of electricity in total darkness our ancestors of thousands of years ago could contemplate an incredible bright starry sky.

The welkin was moving from east to west and so they thought that the earth was the center and immobile.

*Still today there are places on earth where one can look at a bright starry sky, and if you find one you have the sensation of entering the universe. The gateways are; deserts, ocean, mountains.*

## CIPARISSUS

Handsome young man dear to Apollo. By mistake he killed a deer that he himself had trained and for this reason he wanted to commit suicide.

Apollo, touched by his pain, transformed him into a Cypress tree.

A tragedy can produce unpredictable reaction in one's life.

## HADES (It means the invisible) and PERSEPHONE

Demeter was the Queen of fecundity and fertility of the agricultural ground. Without Demeter the earth would have been dry and arid.

She had a wonderful daughter Persephone who loved wandering happily with her friends the nymphs, in the blooming countryside. One day a flower that was mysteriously growing in a hundred corollas and colours took her attention. The flower's perfume was sweet and magical, and she thought that it was one of the many surprises that her mother Demeter often gave her. Persephone went near the flower to honour her mother's gift when suddenly the ground opened up and the chariot of Hades, the King of the underworld appeared and Persephone was kidnapped (death need love to).

Her mother heard her cry for help, but it was too late. Demeter didn't know what had happened to her daughter, so she went to the Sun and said, "you are the Deity of light, from your height you can see and illuminate everything. I heard my daughter screaming but I could not see what had happened to her." The Sun answered, "your anguish moves me, and I must tell you the truth. Hades has taken your daughter to the underworld, as he wants to marry her. Do not cry as your daughter will be married to a king blessed by Zeus."

Demeter, being sure of the unhappiness of her daughter and being aware that she could not fight against Zeus, she abandoned the earth. The ground without her protection became dry and arid, and the world, without food started to starve. At this point Zeus, the father of mankind, in order to stop this calamity sent Hermes (the messenger of the deities) to the underworld to talk to Hades.

Once there Hermes said "Zeus is ordering you to send Persephone back to the earth or her mother will destroy humankind by not permitting any seeds to sprout, and this will involve the underworld as well". Hades understood the gravity of the situation and accepted the request of Zeus on the condition that Persephone had to eat a few seeds of pomegranates (according to a divine disposition this was a link to the underworld).

Hades himself took Persephone to her mother, Demeter, and while embracing in their joy, Hermes invited Demeter to return among the deities to bless the earth, which she did. The agreement was that Persephone could stay with her mother for two thirds of the year.

This period of time she stays with her mother is associated with spring that awakens nature. The leaves of trees turn green, flowers bloom and fruit ripens.

When she leaves her mother, Demeter, to go back to Hades in autumn, nature dies because of the mother's grief for the loss of her beautiful daughter.

The seed was a way to explain the change of seasons.

A great legend that associated the natural love of a mother with the natural love of nature and its cycles.

*Dea-mother = Demeter = Embryo = matrix = mother = earth*

Insert the semen carried by the seminal liquid like the water that penetrates the earth.

Gaia the Earth, Uranus the sky that produces water, the fertilizer of the earth.

The water of a river can be associated to the seminal liquid, while the sea water can be associated to the foetal liquid.

(Temple of Demeter in Paestum).

(Art work in Naples Archaeomuseum).

HYPNOS (Deity of sleep and twin brother of Thanatos representing death)

Ovid writes that Hypnos had a castle where everybody could sleep 24 hours a day, and having fantastic dreams. One day Hypnos fell in love, and as each time he touched people they fell asleep, he had to give his beloved the gift of sleeping with her eyes open. So he thought she could at least look at me while making love. Great solution to explain the day Dream.

(Statue Naples Archeomuseum).

PROTESILAUS (son of King Ficlo in Epiros).  
and  
LAODAMIA (a sculptress daughter of Bellerophon).

The love story is as follows:

Protesilaus was nicknamed Iolao by the Greeks, which means "the first", as he was the first one to step off the vessel upon arrival in Troy, and was then killed by Hector. Acasto, father of Laodamia, soon after Helen was kidnapped, granted Menelaus 40 war vessels and a captain of noble birth for the war against Troy. When the time came to leave, and wishing to remain at home, Acasto let Laodamia marry Prince Iolao, who left for the war on his behalf.

The married couple only had the first night together as the morning after he sailed for Troy, and upon arrival was killed. The story says that Tethis, the invisible mother of Achilles, hearing from Apollo that the first warrior to set foot on the soil of Troy would be killed, pushed Iolao off the vessel first. This tremendous injustice of destiny caused Laodamia from the earth, and Iolao, from the underworld, to invoke Persephone and Hades: he said, " We have been together only once, our love is still unsatisfied. Please work it out so we can see each other once more ". Hades answered: "How can you still remember Laodamia, haven't you drunken from the river Lethe yet?"

(Lethe was the river of oblivion, souls had to go through it before getting to the underworld) "Yes I did, "he answered", but the love between Laodamia and I is stronger. You have been in love just like me, you know what I mean ". At this point the Queen and the King of the Underworld, touched by the desperation of Iolao, allowed them to see each other again but only for short time.

Iolao then appeared to Laodamia while sleeping and woke her. They embraced and kissed each other crying with happiness. All of a sudden Laodamia whispered, "please my love, take the position as if you would like to embrace me, as I want to make a sculpture in wax of you doing so, and continued, "and so, when you will disappear I can still place myself in your arms and be with you" so she did.

One day her father sent a servant to see why his daughter remained in her room, and discovering that Laodamia spent most of the time in

the arms of the wax statue Iolao, her father thought she was going mad. To save her, he ordered the statue to be thrown into a container of boiling oil.

When Laodamia saw Iolao melting, she threw herself into the hot oil container to embrace her beloved, for the last time and joined him forever.

Plinius the elder, in his book of natural history, writes about two majestic elm trees growing near the tomb of Iolao, in Thrace, whose branches were in flower both winter and summer, with the exception of the branch looking in the direction of Troy, which never bloomed. There are no limits to true love.

PSYCHE (the enchanting story between love and soul).

Her human aspect was of a wonderful girl. In order to get rid of her, Aphrodite ordered Cupid Amore to make her fall in love with a miserable man, but as soon as Amore Cupid saw her, he fall in love instead.

Now he had to find a way to be with her and not be recognized. He then manoeuvred her destiny in a way that one day, she was lost and forced to find shelter in Amore's Castle. The night came and Psyche decided to go to sleep, she asked the voices to bring her a lamp, the answer was that the Royal Palace owner could appear to her only in total darkness. The poor girl had no choice the only thing she could do was to go to bed and wait, but contrarily to all her fears the contact with what she was told was a monster, was a real revelation instead. He had a soft velvet skin, perfumed lips and tenderly manners and of course Psyche fell in love with him.

Great way to explain blind love.

The problem was Psyche's family, they were looking for the lost girl, in fact the two sisters wandering around the mountains were brought by the winds to the Royal Place. Here they met Psyche who gave them plenty of gifts being so happy to see them again.

Psyche lived in intense love with Cupid Amore, the compromise was the darkness, he clearly said to her that the moment she would have seen his face, she would lose him forever. One night the envy of the two sisters pushed Psyche's curiosity, and while Amore Cupid was next to her sleeping, she drew the oil lamp near his face, but a drop of hot oil fell on Amore's face who woke up and disappeared.

Psyche did not give up, and due to her spirit and love, she found Amore Cupid.

Zeus accepted them in the immortal kingdom of Olympus where they conceived a beautiful girl, called voluptuousness.

MELEAGER (son of Ares and Althea).

He was one of the Argonauts. He first married Cleopatra then the huntress Atalantas. The hero hunted the ferocious wild boar in the forest of Calidonis, and together with Atalantas they succeeded to kill the beast.

Meleager, being a gentleman, and in love, he promised and gave the skin to Atalantas who had first wounded the boar with an arrow. But, Meleager's uncles started to complain; as being the beast killed on their property they wanted the wild boar skin for themselves.

Meleager, offended as the skin was literally pulled out of Atalantas hands, became so furious that he killed both uncles.

Try always to keep your promises, and be careful to challenge people who have made promises of love.

NARCISSUS (son of the fluvial Deity Cefiso and the nymph Liriopie).

Once upon a time there was a beautiful girl named Liriopie who while bathing, was seduced (in a love whirlpool) by the river Cefiso. So Narcissus was conceived. Soon after his birth, the mother asked the blind foreteller Tiresia how long Narcissus would live, and Tiresia answered, "Until he will not see his image and thereby know himself". Immediately all reflective objects were taken away from his house.

Narcissus grew up and became a very handsome boy, and not only women but also men committed suicide, because he ignored them. He was cold and cruel. His only hobby was to hunt (obviously alone). One day, the Nymph Echo, noticed him and fell in love with. Echo was a famous gossiper (a kind of "chatterbox") among the drawing rooms of the Olympus reign.

Quite often Zeus used Echo to entertain Hera with one of her stories so he could sneak away with his lovers. Hera, after a while understood the farce and punished Echo by striking her dumb- "from now on, the tongue that disturbed me, can only repeat the last word of other peoples conversations" sentenced Hera.

Not only was Echo dumb but also, worst of all, she could not express her feelings to the man she loved. Ashamed of this, Echo retired into a cave where she covered herself with leaves and let herself be dissolved by her pain. The only thing that remained in the air was her voice or the capacity to repeat the last word heard.

Echo became a sound, another suicide because of the beauty of Narcissus.

Millennium ago if you did not know how to explain the echo phenomena this story could be the answer.

At this point people started making angry remarks about Narcissus arrogant and presumptuous character "vox populi vox Dei ". All these disappointments reached the Deities and, in particular, Nemesis (Ramnunte), the Deity who was daughter of the night, and punisher of all excesses.

Nemesis than arranged the events, so that, while Narcissus was hunting, he felt attracted to walk toward a small limpid water spring, where for the first time, he saw the reflection of his handsome image. Narcissus, in a love ecstasy with himself, started to talk tenderly to his own image. He was so taken by his reflection that went mad as he couldn't embrace and kiss himself. He died of his desperation drown in his own image.

When Narcissus was taken to the underworld, while passing by the Black River Styx he was happy not to see himself reflected in the water (the Styx was the river where no images are reflected as it is a

spiritual and not a material world). He thought, Narcissus still lives in that image reflected in the limpid water spring upon the mountain Helicon.

Another version states that Narcissus killed himself using a sword and that where his blood spilt, a flower grew and flourished, and was later named after him.

This particular flower grows in humid places leaning toward the water.

Egoism and Narcissism blind the mind and lead to darkness.

A great mural painting of Narcissus can be admired in the house of Loreius Tiburtinus in the ancient city of Pompeii.

ORPHEUS (son of Egeus and the muse Calliope).

The meaning of "Music" derives from Muse's talent to captivate.

During ancient Greek times in a world of harmony and beauty there was a singer who was also an exquisite poet. His name was Orpheus. When singing with his lyre, Orpheus charmed everyone who stopped to listen and brought all nature into harmony. One day while singing as he walked through the blossoming countryside, he saw a beautiful girl picking flowers. It was love at first sight. She was the nymph Eurydice. Their love was immediate and nothing could be compared to it; but Evil, envious of them, lay in wait.

On their wedding day, while Eurydice was picking flowers to make herself a wreath, she fell to the ground, lifeless, having been bitten by an asp.

(a second version says she fell in to a hole full of serpents, while fleeing from a Satyr who wanted to seduce her).

Poor Orpheus went mad with grief and wandered through the countryside expressing his pain in his songs. But this was not the way to get Eurydice back. He then decided to go directly to the underworld and, along the way, he moved everyone with his enchanting voice to allow him passage.

Once in the presence of Hades and Persephone, he started to sing such a touching poem that Hades and Persephone gave him permission to take Eurydice out of the underworld with him. The imposed condition was, not to look back at her until they reached the sun light. Along the way, Orpheus not hearing her footsteps, thought that no one was following him and turned back and there she was, more beautiful than ever. He raced to embrace her but she dissolved in a white cloud, and was lost forever.

Another version says that Eurydice, while following Orpheus, was tenderly talking to him, by saying: "Orpheus, Orpheus dear, why you don't look at me? Don't you love me anymore? Of course, after all he had done to have his beloved back, it was spontaneous to look back at her, losing her forever.

The poet tried again and again for 7 days and 7 nights, wandering in the underworld in search of her, feeding himself on his own tears, but the permission to obtain Eurydice was not given to him again. Crying in pain, he came out the hereafter and continued singing to the world about his lost beloved and looked at all females as the cause of men's desperation.

We read in the legend that he refused the advances of the Bacchantes priestess and for this he was butchered and thrown into the ocean. His head floated on his wooden lyre so he could sing his melodies forever.

Have blind faith in the deities and be careful to accept or deny women's proposals.

In the National Archaeomuseum in Naples there is a Greek bas-relief of the above story.

## PYRAMUS and THISBE

This story is similar to Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*.

In the Ovidian version, this Myth takes place in ancient Babylon, where these two young lovers grew up in connecting houses through the wall.

Forbidden by their parents to wed because of different social positions, they whisper their love for each other through the crevice in one of the walls.

One day they decided to run off and meet near a fountain next to a Mulberry bush.

Thisbe arrives first but upon seeing a lioness with a bloody mouth from a recent kill, she flees to the nearest cave leaving her veil behind.

The lioness tears up the veil by chance while drinking in the nearby fountain.

Soon after, Pyramus walked by and saw the veil, his love gift to her, covered in blood.

He immediately thought that Thisbe had been killed by the hungry lion, and unsheathes his sword, killing himself and falling on it.

When Thisbe returned to tell Pyramus what had happened, she found him lying on the ground next to the blood-covered Mulberry bush with his sword in his chest.

She then went to the still breathing Pyramus and asked what had happened. Crying in sorrow, she took Pyramus' blood-stained sword and stabbed herself.

In the end, the deities listen to Thisbe's lament, and forever change the color of the Mulberry fruits into the stained red color to honor the forbidden love.

In ancient Pompeii this Myth can be seen painted on the wall of the house of Loreius Tiburtinus.

EUROPA (Daughter of King Agenore of Tyre in Phoenicia).

Europa was on the north shore of the African continent, the beautiful lady was noticed by Zeus who fell in love with her as well.

This time Zeus took on the appearance of a white bull.

Europa attracted by the grazing animal, started to play with it, and jumping on its back she was brought swimming to the island of Crete.

Here after taking on the form of a human-being, Zeus made love with her, and so was conceived Minos.

Europa, was later abandoned by Zeus, and married the Cretan King, Asterio.

The etymology of the word Europa derives from Semitic "ereb" meaning occident or from the Greek Europe meaning large face referring to the moon.

A different version recounts that while Europa was walking on the seashore, she was immersed in waves caused by Zeus and transformed into a white bull. The Mediterranean was the maritime space of the Deities and heroes. The passage from myth to history is short.

Plato writes:

We are grouped around the Mediterranean (68.000 km of coast) like frogs round a pond.

In Pompeii there is a house where on the plaster wall is engraved a design of a Phoenician sail boat of the first century ad. The boat has 2 masts with a main sail and a jib. On the boats prow is written the word "Europa".

GANYMEDE (son of Troo and Calliroe).

Mentioned in the Iliad of Homer as the most handsome among mankind. He was raped by Zeus under the aspect of an Eagle and brought to Olympus where he became the deity's cupbearer. According to ma-

licious voices, Zeus raped the handsome boy, not because of lack of subjects, but for the intimate performance.

Trifling, most probably a myth to justify the expansion of homosexuality practice. Zeus did it, all is allowed. Representations of this myth are in Pompeii and Naples Archaeomuseum.

IO (daughter of Inaco a fluvial deity from Argus).

One of Hera's fabulous priestess.

Zeus (again) fell in love with her and in order to keep his wife away, he changed the day to night.

Hera understood the deceitfulness of her husband and went to look for him. Zeus, who was always well informed about all the deities' positions due to his very efficient secret service, knew that Hera was coming, and transformed IO into a white cow.

The suspicious Hera took the "cow" away to her garden and ordered the monster Argus to look after it/her. Argus was a perfect guardian. He had 100 eyes; while 50 were awake, the other 50 were sleeping and vice versa. But Zeus did not give up, he sent Hermes to enchant Argus into a deep sleep and slew him.

Imagine the fury of Hera to hear about the death of the faithful guardian, and in his memory she placed Argus' eyes on the peacock feathers, then she sent a cloud of gad fly to torment the young cow.

IO, due to this torment started to run over the Caucasian region as far as Nubia and Egypt, but exhausted she found relief on the shore of the Nile river. Here IO, was welcomed by the Deity Isis, and returned to her original form of a woman.

A great thriller and a nice story for the peacock's feathers decoration. The eyes of Argus were everywhere to report to Hera whatever they were looking at, and make everyone feel observed. A great link between Greek and Egyptian mythology as often Isis is represented with horns.

Of this myth there is an original painting in Naples Archaeomuseum. The wall painting found in the temple of Isis among the remains of the ancient Roman city of Pompeii, shows Io sitting on the Nile river, and the Egyptian deity Isis welcoming her.

DANAE (The only daughter of King Acrisio of Argo and Eurydice).

According to a Delphian oracle King Acrisio learned that one-day he had to be killed by the son of his daughter. The king in order to change his destiny ordered that his daughter Danae had to be closed in an underground prison, so she could not have love contact with anyone.

..but here the solution

Zeus enchanted by the beauty of Danae took the shape of a sun ray or gold shining rain and so entering the prison through a ceiling window, he took Danae in a love embrace. This is the way that Perseus was conceived.

Among the various interpretations of this myth the closest seed idea is the parable of the wheat (Perseus) fertilized by the sun light in the darkness of the womb of the earth, and developing into burgeoning life.

Acrisio then abandoned both Danae and Perseus closed in a wooden box on the waves of the Ocean.

Zeus of course was looking after his son and worked it out in a way that the wooden box landed on the island of Serifo. Here Perseus grew up more handsome and powerful than ever. (see *Pegasus*).

(*Dei e Miti* A. Morelli).

Zeus = Events creating destiny

..love - sweet and subtle enemy, open yourself to the world, do not judge only, all things belong to “deities”, they are there, they are in the myth.

(*Power of Myth* - J. Campbell).

## PLEASURE

In ancient Rome, lead poisoning was a disease of the wealthy who used lead extensively: leaden cooking utensils and pots, leaden wine urns, lead plumbing (Plumbing derives from plumbum, Latin for "Lead"), vessels used to concentrate grape juice, containers used to store wine, and lead-based makeup.

In those days there were no substances (like sulphites) to act as preservatives for the wines.

Lead is naturally sweet in taste and was found to enhance both the color and bouquet of wine.

The Romans shipped wines all over their empire, as far as northern Germany. A preservative was needed to prevent bacteria from turning the wines into vinegar. The Greeks added pine tree resin to their wines but the Romans preferred sweet Sapa, a boiled down concentrate of grape juice. The problem with Sapa was that the kettle used in boiling unfermented grape juice into a concentrate was made of lead, which leaks into the liquid because of the high acidic content of the grape juice. The final product, Sapa, is a sweet aromatic syrup containing about one gram of lead per liter. Because of its sweet taste, many Romans used it as a sweetening agent in many dishes.

When taken together, all the pathways of lead in Roman society, and the intake of lead in Roman times is estimated to have varied from about 35 mg/day to about 250 mg/day, compared to today's daily intake of 0.3mg in the United states in the 1980's.

(National Academy of Sciences, 1980).

The origin of the wine drink is not clearly known, the date is between 8000 and 4000 years BC.

The visual documentation on ancient graffiti, paintings, sculpture and other types of art, are giving us an itinerary that starts in Egypt via Palestine, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Mesopotamia, Crete, Greece and Italy.

Here below, from Eubulo in Athens "I sofisti in banchetto" III, 36, a great report concerning the use of the wine drug.

To mix wine for the sages during the symposium, I only use 3 craters.

One, which usually they drink first, is for good health.

The second is for love and pleasures.

The third to sleep well.

...soon after this ritual, wise men prefers to go home

...as the fourth crater leads to insolence

The fifth makes you yell

The sixth leads to orgy

The seventh to black eyes

The eighth to persecution mania

The ninth leads to madness and to throw away furniture

PAN (among the many Pans the most famous was the Hermopan son of Hermes and the shepherdess nymph Penelope)

Pan was born with horns and legs of a goat to harmonise with the countryside. As soon as he was delivered, the mother frightened by the aspect of the little monster threw him away.

The Hermopan child, because of his joyful nature, was placed near Zeus by his father Hermes, and he became the happiness of everyone: he loved to wonder over the mountains, valley and countryside having plenty of adventures, but his unforgettable love remained Selenene "the Moon".

There was only one thing that could make him furious, if someone dared to disturb him while having a nap, then he uttered in a such violent way that people were running in pan-ic. Pan in Greek means "all".

A further version says that Pan was considered to be the cause of the sudden fear that sometimes comes for no reason, especially in lonely places. That's why this sensation is called "panic".

In Naples National Archaeomuseum there is a superb marble sculpture, where Pan is teaching music to the handsome young boy Daphnis.

Interesting is the attitude of Daphnis, he was sculpted in reluctant position against Pan, Daphnis is clearly showing his embarrassment as he understood that Pan's intention is not to teach him music but he wanted to seduce him by using the magic of music.

PASIPHAE (daughter of the Sun and nymph Perseide).

Pasiphae married Minos, King of Crete. She was bewitched and fell in love with a superb white bull created by Poseidon in revenge for a wrongdoing committed by her husband.

Because making love with a bull was anatomically impossible, Pasiphae consulted Daedalus (craftsman), the most famous engineer and carpenter of those days, to resolve her problem. Daedalus made an empty wooden cow for her and covered it with cow skin. Pasiphae could then get into it, consummating a love act with the sacred bull. After a torturous pregnancy she delivered a monster, the body of a human being with the head of a bull that she named Minotaur.

Imagine the reaction of Minos! He was furious! He then ordered Daedalus to build a labyrinth in which the Minotaur, Pasiphae, Daedalus and his son Icarus were imprisoned.

Minos, during those years, was at war against Athens. He restored peace to them on the condition that they had to make an offering of 14 children per year. They were brought to the labyrinth as food for the Minotaur.

Theseus son of the Egeus, King of Athens, to stop this disgusting tribute, offered himself in exchange for one of the children. Once in Crete he met Ariadne (the daughter of King Minos) who gave him the head of a thread skein.

So Theseus after slaying the Minotaur, could find his way out by following the thread.

On the way back to Athens he took Ariadne on board his boat with him, and because of a rough sea they were forced to stop on the isle of Naxos.

During the night, while Ariadne was sleeping, Theseus fled away.

Here the abandoned Ariadne met Dionysus who married her.

..a warning, for those, who are going against the natural rules of the species.

The quest that each one of us has to face going toward the truth, the labyrinth track is a continuous incognita that through life's experiences takes us closer and closer to centre point, the ultimate.

We have a wall painting in the ancient Roman house of Vettii in Pompeii showing Daedalus presenting the wooden cow to Pasiphae and of Theseus and Minotaurus in the Archaeomuseum of Naples.

## FAMILY RELATIONS

HERA = JUNO (daughter of Chronos and Rea).  
deity of marriage and birth.

Her name means "lady", she married her brother Zeus in a secret wedding ceremony that took place in the submarine palace of the deities Ocean and Teti.

Among all the gifts she received from the deities, her grandmother Gaea gave her the tree of the golden apples.

A version of this myth says that Zeus, in order to marry Hera, took the aspect of a Cuckoo bird. He then caused a storm in which he acted as a lost poor bird, cold and wet. Hera took "the bird" and placed him under her dress to warm him up. Well the rest of the story is easy to imagine. Zeus to rectify the fraud was obliged to marry her.

Hera is the Deity protecting marriages, and was extremely jealous of Zeus.

We consider Hera as the founder of the institution of marriage, as an official declaration to then procreate in the role of a mother.

Her strategies of revenge against the unfaithfulness of her husband Zeus, his lovers and the children born from them, is the most interesting and intricate part of Greek Mythology.

Hera was mainly the wife of Zeus and not the mother of his children. Zeus procreated hundreds and hundreds of children with other deities and human beings, as well as on his own, but the only official son he had with Hera was Mars.

Hera had children like Tifone and others on her own to revenge herself against Zeus' unfaithfulness.

HERACLES = HERCULES (son of Zeus and Alcmena).

Whose name means the glory of Hera or simply 'glory' or he became glorious because of Hera's persecutions.

Hercules was the fruit of one of a further unfaithfulness of Zeus, this time with Alcmena, wife of Anphitryon.

The story says that in the absence of the husband Zeus took his place and ordered the Sun to disappear for 3 days, as he had to conceive a man where no other equal had been seen before.

Thus he did.

Hercules was the fruit of 3 days and 3 nights of intense and lightning love..

As an infant he strangled two snakes sent by Hera who, in fact, tried several times to kill him. (see mural painting in the House of Vettii in Pompeii)

Zeus gave him the best instructors, and Hercules became expert in combat with all weapons, as well as in medicine, surgery, riding chariots, music and Philosophy.

Zeus was so proud of this conception that he committed the imprudence of telling everyone that the destiny of his next born was to rule the Kingdom of Perseus.

Hera then used all her power, and Knowing that Perseus' daughter was 7 months pregnant, she made her deliver a boy with the name Euristeus (meaning first born).

Euristeus became king instead of Hercules (because this boy was next in the line of succession).

Thunder and lightning between Zeus and Hera indicated that their discussion became violent and wild. However, at the end of the argument the compromise of the 12 labours (for Hercules) was established.

A second version is related to the constellation, Hercules became immortal when he succeeded in sucking milk from the breast of the sleeping Hera, with the complicity of the same Zeus and Hermes. In that occasion there was the creation of the notorious "trace".

This episode, together with the anger for the treason, shows the reason of Hera's hates towards Hercules and, being unable to kill him, she will try to make his life impossible. In fact, the hero, under her bewitched influence, killed his sons and then went, repented, to Delphi's Oracle, to learn how to delete his fault. The Oracle told him that he had to go to king Euristeus in Mycenae, to serve him. So King

Euristeus assigned to Hercules impossible tasks if he wanted to get back his freedom.

Hercules had to obey the compromise agreed by his father Zeus and started his first labour:

(From each labour, the hero achieved experience and power to face the next).

First, he had to kill the Nemeas's Lion, a monster with an impenetrable skin.

Second, he killed the Hydra of Lerna who had 7 to 9 heads. These heads re-grew every time Hercules cut them off so that he had to burn them.

For the first time we read about cauterize procedure).

No doubt this was one of the most disgusting labours as the Hydra had rotten breath. Poor Hercules had to combat it without breathing.

Third, he killed Cerinea an extremely fast hind, that had bronze feet and golden horns, this particular hind was sacred to Artemis.

Fourth, he captured Erimantose's, a wild boar, which devastated the Arcadia region.

Fifth, he had to remove the manure accumulated for 30 years in the stables of King Augia.

No one could ever enter these stables as ferocious silver bulls were guarding it.

This enterprise was accomplished by diverting the course of the river Alfeo through the stables.

Sixth, he exterminated the Stinfodidis birds that had bronze talons, beaks and feathers used as arrows.

Seventh, he captured the ferocious Cretan bull sent by Neptune to King Minos.

Eighth, he killed Diomedes, King of Bistonti, a cruel bloodthirsty man who fed his ferocious female horses on human flesh.

Ninth, he captured the maiden-zone of the Amazon Queen Ippolitas.

During the tenth labour, He conquered the bulls of Gerion.

Gerion was a monstrous giant with three bodies.

His bodyguard was a dragon with seven heads, and a dog with two.

Hercules had to kill all of them in order to take the bulls away.

During this enterprise he passed by the coast of Naples stopping on the Island near Pompeii named Erkulis Patrae, then he founded the nearby city of Herculaneum.

The eleventh, was the conquest of the divine golden Apples from the garden of Hesperides, the terrible daughter of the night and the ocean.

And at the end, the twelfth was to descend the underworld to capture the three headed dog Cerberus, the guardian to the entrance of the underworld.

Sculptures and paintings representing Hercules can be admired in the Archaeomuseum of Naples, in Pompeii and Herculaneum.

It is always so interesting to learn about these incredible stories, I believe we all need all in all to travel by fantasy, and adventure tells. The proof is the success of Henry Potter, Star wars, Eragon and others, we love conflict between good and evil, and tasks of heroes and avengers. It has always been and will be like that.

Hercules married Deianira, daughter of king Aeneas.

One day, while crossing a torrent, they asked for help to the Centaur Nessus, to whom Deianira was entrusted; Hercules waded the torrent by swimming, but the centaur tried to use violence on the woman, and so the hero hit him with an arrow wet in the Hydra's lethal blood. Nessus, while dying, convinced Deianira to keep some of his blood, and told her that this could make her husband faithful.

The woman was convinced and one day, suspecting the unfaithfulness of her husband, strewed one dress of Hercules with the blood, and when he wore it, he felt terrible aches.

The myth narrates that Hercules in order to stop the terrible pains; he built himself a funeral pile on Mount Eta, destroying his immortal body.

Athena brought his soul to join the other Deities of the Olympus, and Zeus gave him eternity by naming Hercules a constellation in the sky.

Jealousy is again the devastating combination of two powers, love and hate.

TELEPHOS (Son of Hercules and Auge).

Auge priestess of Athena, she was raped by Hercules. Made pregnant, she delivered Telephos. To avoid a scandal, she exposed the infant on Mt. Parthenion. Here Telephos was miraculously suckled by a deer.

A great mural painting of Telephos suckled by a Doe can be admired in Naples Archeomuseum.

Telephos adult became the king of Mysians, he married the princess Argiope, and became famous for his wisdom. One of the Greek leaders besieged Troy. Here during a battle was mistakenly wounded by Achilles. As the terrible wound would not heal, Telephos consulted an oracle which responded “the weapon that wounded shall heal”.

Ulysses knowing of an oracle that said that Troy could not be defeated without the participation of Telephos, secretly scraped some rust from Achilles’ lance during the night while he was sleeping. By doing this he was able to make a medication to heal Telephos, who could then provide his precious aid for the war strategy against Troy.

The scene here described can be seen on a bas-relief in the ancient Roman city of Herculaneum, in the house of Telephos.

ATHENA = MINERVA (conceived by Zeus and Metis)

Metis represented prudence and thoughtfulness, she was pregnant with Athena when Zeus, in order to keep these virtues for himself, he devoured his pregnant wife.

After the gestation, Athena was sprung from her father's brain, already adult and with weapons (see Hephaestus). She was the incarnation of virginity the Deity of common sense and wisdom, of war courage and active cleverness. Athena is similar to Apollo in that she is diplomatic and wise before going into action.

Athena is associated with the Nike, symbol of victory.  
(see Parthenon).

The origin of the most noble plant of the Mediterranean sea shore, is ascribed to Athena.

The history starts with the competition between Poseidon and Athena for the patronage of the Attica region. The winner was he who would have invented the most beautiful gift for the local inhabitants.

Poseidon struck the ground with the trident making a horse jump out the ground. A powerful animal for running and irreplaceable for wars.

Athena struck the ground with the spear and sprouted the olive tree, generous plant of hard wood, also used to carve the first images of deities, from the fruit we have nourishment, medicine, and oil combustible for the illumination of houses and temples.

The victory of Athena, due to the unanimous judgment of the inhabitants, caused the construction of a magnificent temple on the higher part of the city, that the ancient people of Mycenae, called "asty" and that the later Greeks called "Akropolis".

(V.M.Manfredi *Akropolis*)

## BELLEROPHON (Ipponoo) (son of Poseidon and Medusa)

He was the rider of the winged horse, Pegasus, given to him by his father.

Anthea, wife to King Preto in Tirinto, fell in love with Bellerophon. The father of Anthea, to keep Bellerophon away from his daughter, and also to find out if he was really protected by Deities, commanded Bellerophon to accomplish some labors.

He had to kill the Chimera monster, engage in combat against the Amazons and perform other tasks. Once back in Tirinto, Bellerophon tried all he could do to keep himself away from Anthea (because she kept annoying him) but in vain. He then took her for a trip on Pegasus and from the height of the sky in a nosedive made Anthea fall into the Ocean where she died.

In his old age he started to doubt the existence of Deities and flew high in the sky with Pegasus in order to see if the Deities were really there. Pegasus considered Bellerophon curiosity a sacrilege and, in a nosedive, made Bellerophon fall to the ground and killed him.

Pegasus then flew away free in the sky and became a constellation.

..do unto others as you would have done unto you!

In the Archaeomuseum of Naples the sculpture of Atlas holds the starry sky on which Pegasus can be seen.

## CHIRON (the wise centaur son of Saturn).

Was an amazing person, a type of phenomenon who was an eclectic expert in science, music, politics, war strategy, combat, hunting, medicine, astronomy and magic. Chiron trained the most famous heroes of the Greek mythology, such as Hercules, Jason, Asclepius, Ulysses, and Achilles.

The centaur often hunted with Artemis from whom he learned all the medical art of herbs.

Chiron was made immortal by his half-brother Zeus, but wounded by mistake on his knee by his brother Hercules

The arrows of Hercules were causing incurable wounds as they were poisoned with the blood of the monster Hydra of Lerna, causing ferocious pain.

Zeus to avoid sufferings to Chiron granted him death.

Today, we can still admire Chiron in the starry sky in the form of a Constellation.

(Chiron horse/man, see Composite body).

During night time, our ancestors had as a referring point, the stars, and to better remember them, they were associated to figures named constellation.

Death is unavoidable also for those people of talent, but their thoughts remain.

DAEDALUS was born in Athens, descending from the royal house.

Ingenious inventor, architect, engineer, carpenter, Daedalus had as a pupil, his nephew Talo, a boy of great "Talent", he was the inventor of the drill and the saw. Daedalus killed Talos, perhaps out of envy, or because of incestuous contact with his mother.

Daedalus was pursued for this murder and was exiled to Crete where he was welcomed to Knossos by King Minos (see *Pasiphae*).

Daedalus escaped from Crete with his son Icarus by inventing wings built with wax and flying across the Mediterranean Sea. While flying he warned his son not to fly high as the wings could melt because of the sun's heat, but Icarus flew so close to the sun that the wax wings liquefied making him fall into the Ionian sea where he drowned.

Daedalus continued towards the Tyrrhenian sea and landed in Cumae where he enriched Apollo's Temple with golden gates showing scenes of the Minotaur and Ariadne's thread, Theseus and the Trojan war in honour of Aeneas who came to hear the Sibyl's oracle (see *Deifobe*).

Sons do not often listen to their parents' advice. It is incredible how instinct brings man to a constant challenge. We are brought to think that we can do better than our ancestors or can win where everyone else loses.

Thanks to this we continue to improve ourselves.

Another extremely intricate story is the tale of Daedalus while in exile on the Isle of Crete. Here he was commanded by Pasiphae to build a wooden cow as she wanted an un-natural contact with a sacred bull, see Pasiphae.

Again Schliemann, who followed Homers' poem, word by word, found the palace of Minos later brought to light by the archaeologist Evans. The fortress palace is spread on 6 acres with hundreds of extremely intricate enclosures on different levels, just like a labyrinth.

All of this can still be seen today on the Isle of Crete.

A mural painting showing Daedalus is from the House of the Vettii in the ancient city of Pompeii.

DIRCE was the second wife of Lico, King of Tebe.

Because of the enchanting Dirce, the king repudiated and abandoned his first wife Antiope, while pregnant of the twins Anfion and Zetos. To revenge for the wrong suffered of the mother, the two brothers punished Dirce with a terrible torture.

She was tied to the horns of a furious bull and dragged down from the same mountain where Antiope had been abandoned.

In Naples Achaeomuseum there is a group of statues representing above event.

Meditate before taking somebody else's husband; sooner or later someone could balance the suffering due.

Here below another sample of Mythological Torture

TANTALUS-King of Sipilo in Lydia, son of Zeus or Tmolos and Pluto.

Extremely rich and powerful, Tantalus was often admitted to the Olympus table. It seems that he started to abuse this privilege by revealing some of Olympus secrets, heard in confidence while banqueting with the Deities. Another version was related by Pindaro, (born between 522 and 518 BC... at Thebe in Beozia. Pindaro is considered the musician who most represented the Greek choral lyrics,) says that Tantalus was punished because he took away the Nectar and the Ambrosia from Olympus to serve it to his friends.

In Tartarus (the lowest place of the Underworld for eternal punishments), Tantalus, was not only condemned to be plunged into fresh and limpid water, that each time he tried to drink because he was thirsty, the water disappeared. But as well condemned to look at trees branches with abundant tempting fruits, which were then taken away by the wind when he was hungry and tried to reach them.

Another version by Pindaro states that Tantalus was not punished in the Tartarus, but in the air, by having an enormous rock suspended over his head, always threatening to fall on him.

Wealth can give you important friends, but in order to keep them, discretion and intelligence is necessary.

Making a comparison between the Greek Myths and Christianity we can say that Tartarus was Hell, Elysian Fields the Paradise and the Oblivion river side purgatory.

HEPHAISTOS (Vulcan) according Hesiod son of Hera and Zeus.

The mechanical engineer of Olympus.

It seems that Hera to make her husband Zeus jealous, generated Hephaestus on her own.

Maybe because of this, the boy was born weak and ill shaped. Hera didn't hesitate, as soon as she saw the little monster, to throw him over Mt. Olympus into the Ocean.

Here Eurinome and Teti saved him and brought him up.

Hephaestus had a natural talent for working any kind of object (mostly metals) with fire, but he was also a great surgeon for difficult birth deliveries. One of his best operations was the birth of Athena.

The story is as follows:

**a)** Metis was the daughter of the earth Gaea and Ether the air, she was the first wife of Zeus. Metis was representing thoughtfulness and prudence, virtues that Zeus wanted to have at all times at his disposal, but how?

Here the genial solution;

he simply swallowed his wife Métis while pregnant of Athena.

This to explain that Athena was delivered by the mother, but kept in the body of the father.

In short, they were 3 persons in one.

**b)** Hephaestus was asked to solve a headache of Zeus.

At a certain point, Athena adult, wanted to come to the light, and here starts the headache of Zeus.

Hephaestus was called to intervene, the rude surgeon took a club, and broke Zeus' head with a spectacular heavy blow.

Athena came happily out, representing the father's wisdom.

For this spectacular surgery, Hephaestus asked and obtained the right to marry the deity, the condition not known by Hephaestus, was that Athena had the right to reject Hephaestus love advances, each time she wanted to.

In fact something didn't work "the first night"; mythology says that Athena jealous of her virginity, dissolved herself just before the excitement of Hephaestus reached her.

**c)** Atrocious! the "marriage" was not consumed, the seeds of Hephaestus, as Athena was not there anymore, fell on the earth, (Athena's grandmother), who generated Erichthonios, a little monster with snakes instead of feet.

However, going back to what his mother Hera did to him, as soon he was delivered, the tale says that (He)phaistos decided to take his revenge as follows; He constructed a particular metal throne for

(Her)a, and as soon as she sat on it, she was automatically chained to the throne, which started to float in the air. Hera's fury took the attention of the deities who asked Hephaestus to liberate his mother.

#### **d) Revenge**

The revenging answer was "I don't remember having a mother". (Hephaestus did not forget when the mother soon after his birth threw him away).

Then Ares and Dionysus tried to convince Hephaestus, and during a wine party, the deity agreed to liberate Hera on the condition that Aphrodite had to become his wife. (second mistake, see point b). In fact, even with Aphrodite things didn't work out well. She was the perfection of sex and beauty, and Hephaestus was ill shaped, not good looking and a lover of poor quality.

Time passed and the poor cuckold decided to stop the humiliation due to the unfaithfulness of Aphrodite.

Hephaistos built a strong gold net and when Aphrodite was in bed with Mars the net fell on them and they remained immobilised. Finally Hephaestus could prove Aphrodite's unfaithfulness.

The naked lovers were brought then to the presence of Deities' council to be punished, but due to the embarrassing position and maybe the furious expression of both Aphrodite and Mars, they provoked a funny reaction. The deities at the beginning were serious, but at the end they exploded in such noisy laughter that poor Hephaistos decided that the most honourable thing to do was to liberate Aphrodite and get a "divorce".

This is a story with many modern human characteristics, and would be a great theme for a comedy.

The other point is that a genius is not necessarily wise as well.

MEDEA (Sorceress, enchantress, daughter of King Ecate).

She was the lover of Jason, who later abandoned her for another woman. Medea, mad with jealousy, punished Jason by killing their two children.

(Mural painting in the Archaeomuseum of Naples).

Jealousy can bring to the lowest level of life, and poisons people's mind.

## ORESTES

He was the son of King Agamemnon and Clytemnestra.

His sister Electra saved him, against the fury of their mother and his lover Aegistus. The young man was brought secretly to the nearby city where he was raised under the protection of King Focide.

In fact, Clytemnestra and Aegistus after they had killed Agamemnon they wanted to kill Orestes as well.

Just a remind; Agamemnon was killed soon back home when after 10 years of the Trojan war.

Orestes, when an adult, helped by his sister, killed his unfaithful mother and her lover.

He became a wise king and, he died at the age of over 90, after having been bitten by a snake.

Time is avenger and establishes equity.

(statues in Naples Archaeomuseum).

## Conclusion

-we are living in the wrong year, and time dilates according the position and the speed of the observers.

-we are looking at the starry sky as it was and not as it is...

-we are not what we were, as we change constantly...

Plato was correct, this is a world of shadowy illusions, that only a mathematically trained mind can see and contemplate.

One thing seems to be certain, when people searching desperately for help, they conclude that human beings are useless therefore they naturally raise their attention through a divinity or a symbol representing it, toward the height, the heaven, where “The omnipotent” above all, is the last chance.

the questions are ;

“where do we not go?

“which are the missing ways?

“is man the true “Whole”?

“is the “Supreme being” in our mind only ?”

In mythological story tales of the ancient world we read:

-about children being born from the body of the father

-self-fertilization of the woman

-conceptions from intercours between parents and consequent offspring

-love affairs among two males and two females

-indiscriminate vengeance between members of the same family

In contemporary life we read:

-families made up by single parents, either women or men

-family ménages with more than one father or mother

-anonymous inseminations

-liberalization of sexual division and traditional cohabitation

It seems to read the premise of when the chaos generated mass destruction from which a new order was born

do not walk in front of me as I may not follow  
do not walk behind me as I may not lead  
walk beside me and be my good friend

adaptation from a meditation by A. Camus

*a sincere and loyal friendship just like the mythological heroes had*

From a Sumerian Psalm 3500 BC:  
lord thou know the fate of the earth (Sumer)  
I trusted your call  
father Enlil  
lord of the land  
lord of the right command  
shepherd of the black-headed ones (men)  
from the mountain of the dawn  
to the mountain of the sunset  
there is no other lord in this land  
you alone are the king

Is a believer

- *a gullible?*

*or*

- *an enlightened?*

*or simply*

- *an undecided?*

Is a non-believer

- *an unaware?*

*or*

- *a consciously determined?*

*or simply*

- *an undecided?*



## TIME LINE

Before Christian Era.

- ❖ 6000 years ago: one of the earliest known system of writing in history was the cuneiform writing invented by the Sumerians.
- ❖ 2500 - Shem, Ham, Japheth: Noah's sons, Ham was regarded as the ancestor of the Hamites, the Canaanites, the Egyptians and the Babylonians as Shem was considered the father of the Semites and Japheth the father of the Indo- Europeans.
- ❖ Second millennium Stone Age.
- ❖ c. 1996 Abraham, born in Hur descending from Shem, died when he was 175 years old. He lived in Anaan 1850 bc. He married his step-sister.
- ❖ c.1450 Cretan palace destroyed.
- ❖ c.1400 Mycenaean conquest of Crete.
- ❖ c.1350 lion gate, treasury of Atreus, Mycenaean palace Exodus 7 thesis from 1570 BC.. to 1200 BC..
- ❖ 1300-1250 Hittites max expansion.
- ❖ c. 1300-1184 Homer's Troy presumed fall 1190.

- ❖ c. 1250 Moses in Egypt (La Bibbia Corr. Sera Libro 1 page 41).
- ❖ 11<sup>th</sup> cent. Dorian and Ionians arrive in Greece, beginning of Hellenic (or Greek) culture.
- ❖ c. 1000 – King David era.
- ❖ IX century bc.. origin of Jewish alphabet according a Moabite writing on a stone, Deity was written with the letters “Jhwh”.
- ❖ 9<sup>th</sup> century Rhodian navigators founded Partenope, modern Naples.
- ❖ 979 – estimated foundation of Israeli’s kingdom.
- ❖ 932 – Salomon died.
- ❖ 9<sup>th</sup> cent northern Italy has Etruscan settlements.
- ❖ c.814 Foundation of Carthage, today’s Tunis.
- ❖ c.800-600 colonization of Magna Grecia begins, Pithecusa, Cumae, Parthenope, Paestum and Velia are founded.
- ❖ 8<sup>th</sup> century Homer composes Iliad and Odysseus.
- ❖ 776 first Olympic Games.
- ❖ 753 legendary date of Rome foundation by Romulus and Remus.

- ❖ 740 Isaiah era.
- ❖ 640 – 560 Solon.
- ❖ 586 Jerusalem destroyed by the Babylonian king Nabucodonosor.
- ❖ 539 exodus of the Jews. Among all the Jews living in Babylonia there were important bankers as well. From clay tablets in cuneiform writing we learned that one day King of Babylonia Cyrus II said he dreamed the Hebrew JHWH who ordered him to set free all the Jews from Babylonia so they could reach Jerusalem to build the great temple in his honor. To accomplish this mission King Cyrus helped them to find the funds.
- ❖ 500's - golden age of Greece. Under Pericles the Parthenon on the acropolis of Athens was built, the arts flourish, Paestum Temples are built. Italic peoples, Oscans, Samnites, Lucanians mix with Greeks.
- ❖ 509 Roman republic founded; last king banished.
- ❖ 474 Greeks in Magna Graecia defeat Etruscans who retreat to North Italy.
- ❖ 450 Herodotus visits Egypt.
- ❖ 450 to 300 Greek classic Period.
- ❖ 449-429 Pericles rules Athens (15 times elected).
- ❖ 447 - 438 Parthenon construction.

- ❖ 428-427b / 348-347d Plato.
- ❖ 399 Socrates drains the hemlock cup.
- ❖ 350 First stretch of the great Chinese walls.
- ❖ 336 Alexander the Great succeeds Philip of Macedon.
- ❖ 331 Jerusalem conquered by Alexander.
- ❖ 323 Alexander the Great dies.
- ❖ 3<sup>rd</sup> to 1<sup>st</sup> century bc.. Hellenistic period.
- ❖ 300's -200 Romans conquered Samnites; eventually put all Italy under Roman rule, (327 Naples and 273 Paestum).
- ❖ 264/146 Punic wars; Rome against Phoenician colonies Hannibal defeated.
- ❖ 146 Greece under Roman rule.
- ❖ 100's Greece falls to the Romans "captive Greece captured Rome".
- ❖ 73 Spartacus leads slave revolt.
- ❖ 44 Caesar Julius assassinated; end of Roman Republic.
- ❖ 27 August's Caesar 1<sup>st</sup> Roman Emperor, Pax Romana .
- ❖ Christian Era.

- ❖ 14-19 Virgil writes *Æneid* at Naples golden age of Roman literature.
- ❖ 30 Tiberius rules the empire from Capri.
- ❖ 62 earthquake destruction in Campania.
- ❖ 66 fire of Nero in Rome.
- ❖ 79 Pompeii, Herculaneum and other Roman cities covered by volcanic material erupted by the Vesuvius.
- ❖ 196, up to this date Istanbul was called Byzantium, then “Augusta Antonia” soon after the conquest by the Emperor Septimius Severus, then...
- ❖ 330 Constantine moves capital of Empire to Constantinople (ex Augusta Antonia).
- ❖ 313 with the Edit of Milan Constantine legalizes Christianity.
- ❖ 476 Odoacres sacks Rome fall of the Roman Empire; the Emperor Romulus Augustulus banished to Naples at Castel dell’ Ovo.
- ❖ 529 Benedict of Norcia established rule for western monastic life; mount Cassino monastery.
- ❖ 534 Naples conquered by Belisarius; comes under Byzantine rule.
- ❖ 800 Charlemagne is crowned Holy Roman emperor; the Arabs control the Mediterranean Sea.

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IL CORANO  
BAHA'ISMO  
MOSE'  
I PRIMI CRISTIANI  
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