

JACOB'S LADDER, A METAPHOR

For other poems see
[2] + [23] p 11

[24] a + b + c

The 24 contained verses were completed 10 Sept., 1992

The contained picture was by daughter Catherine (CAT) in 1970 based on a crude drawing and considerable notes by me.

(she was 20
at that time)

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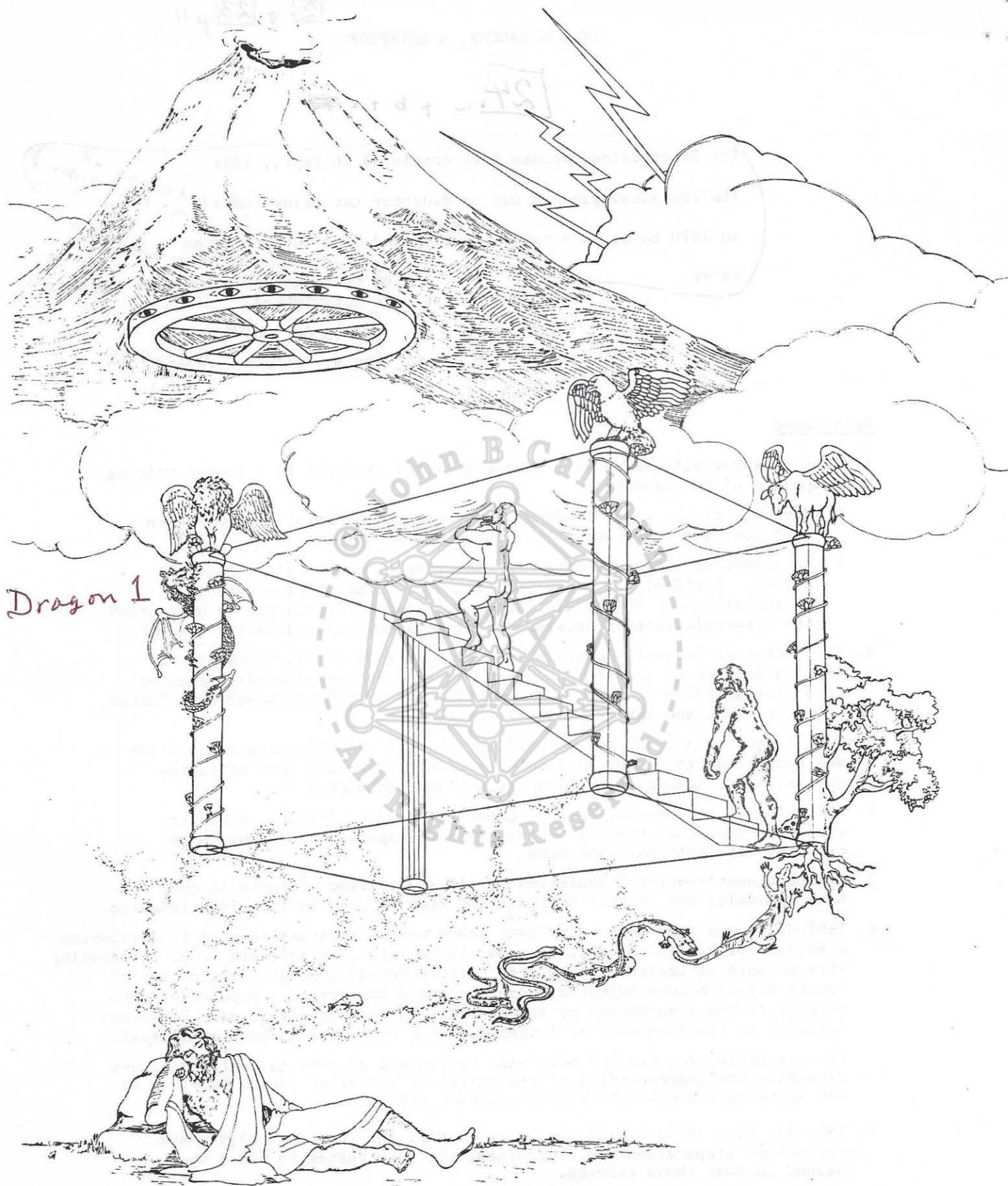
John B. Calhoun
John B. Calhoun 11 Sept '92
(c)

Background

1. This metaphor will serve as a thematic flavor prologue to a longer writing comprised of two aspects:
 - a. Coverage of the major findings and conclusions of my research which have possible implications for the human scene.
 - b. Interspersed with commentary on the changing course of my research effort, particularly as it led to the development of a strategy of research most compatible with a 1942 commitment to try to understand the interrelationship between social behavior and population dynamics.
2. This metaphor congealed early on during a 1967-74 formulations of the implications of my research. However, by 1972-74 an added dimension of these formulations focused on practicality at age 57 of launching a larger, 10+ year, last and larger cycle of research.
3. Such a cycle was initiated in 1975. By the end of 1985, data acquisition was completed, the computer data base restructured for more effective access, and a number of preliminary analyses conducted.
4. 1986, formal retirement, age 70, December 31: Many critical computer analyses completed, these encompassing many aspects of my studies on crowding with both mice and rats.
5. All pertinent records transferred to 450 square feet of space in our home remodeled for further analysis and study of the 1975 to 1985 research.
6. 1987-91: These five post-retirement years nearly entirely devoted to developing a measure of health as adaptive capacity in rats at a moderate level of crowding. This measure of health derives from differences in absolute frequencies of longer duration more adjusted behaviors among members of a population with respect to the frequencies of short duration, emotionally loaded, behaviors relative to the frequency of longer duration behaviors in each individual.

(A comparable progress had been made by the end of 1986 in reaffirming and extending the understanding of the origin of universal autism in mice, an end state only compatible with population extinction.)
7. 1986-92: Four efforts made to secure funding for further analyses and manuscript preparations. All unsuccessful. Many thanks to those who helped further these efforts.
8. June 1992: Decided instead to write a book, more comprehensive yet appropriate for a broader audience. In the past writings by self and others in public media, radio, & T.V. also helped my research goals survive.
9. November 1993: (Georgetown lecture) Shifted to a more autobiographical mode "authored" by my Cousin Jack, my staid and stable alter ego. This enables interdigitation of short stories, such as my trip with the Dr. Livingstone, with quasi-formal unnormal science.

[25]



Dragon 1

Jacob's Ladder, A Metaphor

First the stone
The stone that Jacob laid his head upon
One among many, hailstones from heaven
1 Falling therefrom fifty eight hundred years ago
Hailing the first rays of civilization
No written language this to tell
From mouth to mouth its legend grew

By myth preserved, the Eye of Ra
After Atum by vine from heaven came
Swift bright star from east to come again
2 The Kalinga's Red Haired Giant from sky fallen
Twirling many-eyed wheel the night sky coursing
Many-eyed beings, all-seeing too
Cherubim, bull, eagle, lion, human one too

Myth and fact join hands in fifteen forty six
Out on pampas of northern Argentine
Indians there showed conquistadors where firey gods
3 To earth fell, inflaming earth itself
Not gold but great black rocks, a graveyard full
One nine ton weight to Spain returned
All this by accompanying priests recorded

That account by Cassidy read in ninteen sixty five → Science, 149:1055 (1965)
To colleagues said "Let's go see if true"
In pampas there a strip they found
4 Two by twenty miles from east to west
Found burried deep a field of meteors
Surrounded in their earthen coffin
By cold embers, trees fired by meteors heat

- All this by Cassidy found, in Science recorded
This field of heaven, its death by carbon dated
Five thousand eight hundred years ago
- 5 Before our present proud sceptical minds
Millions of meteorites orbited earth
Eight thousand tons of rock
Many ones a talents weight, near eighty pounds
- How seen by people so long ago
As the field of heaven circled earth
Every eighty-eight minutes, accurate this
- 6 Eight times each night it overhead swept
Reflecting the sun's beams down to earth
Challenging the moon for speculation
This for years, generations, wise ones only guess
- Its orbits shifting somewhat north to south
This band brightest overhead seen
Near Bethel on the mount where Jacob later slept
- 7 At Ghassul where wise potters settled down
As the Field of Heaven passed right over
There just west of Jordon's river
Where Jesus by John baptized
- Brightest from Jericho to Ur
In civilization's dawning days
Coming from the northeast
- 8 Sweeping over Africa, across Lake Chad
Southwestward over the Atlantic
Over its future Argentine grave
Back northwest its orbits completing

Many "Jacobs" saw this sight, considered
Present frailties transformed to future gain
Some saw the fall, more wondered where it went
9 All pondered the portent of its absence
Predicted it might come again
Passed on this wondering, this memory deep imbedded
By word of mouth near two hundred fifty generations

Till pampa Indians told conquistadors
Whose priests passed on to Cassidy
Metaphors of myth now science joined
10 Of equal weight in truth abound
Turns sight further to the fall
To earth's potent gravitational pull
To where else the meteorites fell

Next falling orbit beyond pampa's narrow field
As flat pebbles thrown skipping across a pond
Spread thinly north to south
11 Across the northern coast of Chile
Many stones lower or higher in the field
Fell widely scattered in later or earlier orbits
Many found became honored more

Among the finders Arab nomads
Each honored one in acacia ark transported
Ark by red cloth draped protected spirit Ka within
12 Within a smaller red cloth covered the stone contained
Cloth bedecked with jeweled eyes, a center pocket too
Therein two flat lapis lazuli scarabs, lots they were
Transformed by Moses into stone covenant tablets

Into the nineteenth century these arks continued
Each nomad tribe its own sacred meteorite
Then camel carried each caravan protected
13 Until removed to safety behind each of
Two conflicting camps, each ark replaced
By maiden fair, bare breasted, veilles for all to see
Child of looser to winner, a fee for peace

Of all these stones, meteors once
A major black one in Mecca stays
Reminds us still of Jacobs stone on Bethel high
14 Of his frailty by spiritual mutation changed
Of all those earlier frailties by mutation
Born new form and function, a miasma
From Jacob's head forever changing

One strand among many flowing therefrom
Gains bone to become the stone of form
One strand again soon us and ours
15 Each major change brought more awareness
Until the tree of life its fruit portends
Awareness into knowledge turned
Habitats of mind enlarging

Till peeks out galago, bush baby small
By then a new course beyond genes assured
In each head a new environment grows
16 Grows with it crystal firmament above
Steps through it finally to heaven too
First step up brain near in final form
Second step up into culture blooming bound

- Each step up brings population doubled
Charge to Abraham, to Jacob, all fulfilled
As population doubles new roles keep pace
17 So do networks flowing information
Precipitating insights, creations never seen before
Each population doubling, half the time of prior one
Till soon explosion to infinity forebode
- Each right foot up the world transformed
A revolution in perspective, coping too
Tradition, myth, knowledge codified
18 Aware to life, agriculture mines resources
Destiny through religion revealed, conformity required
Holistic artistic renaissance soon superimposed
In turn scientific and electronic revolutions rise
- O'er this course deviance more than tradition honored
Template changing ever so slightly gained
Over conformities obedience to template obeying
19 Till search we must for those creative deviants
Whose progeny, their insights sorely needed
Evolutionary designing an open-ended future
In whose realization we can all participate
- Michelangelo in his Creation of Adam
Shows God his hand to Adam extended
Lays hands on him, by that grace brought life.
20 When I was younger, instructor too
The textbook then in comparative anatomy
Displayed as frontispiece this Adam's start
That to emphasize a message clear

From time to time in near instant flash
New form and function suddenly appear
From which new diversity spreads far as near
21 On each of these God lays his hand, gives life
By gene and culture both these creations stemmed
So God and Evolution into One do merge
The fruit of the tree of life by our design we then may eat

Jacob saw the last step as through the gate to heaven
Humans the last to support the throne of God
By Teilhard seen the Omega point, the goal
22 Noösphere, world brain, completed
Von Foerster as Doomsday, twenty twenty-six A.D.
Unless we change our ways by ways unstated
Perhaps by the Compassionate Revolution then extended

A phase shift, transition, two hundred years or more
Be fruitful and multiply, a charge maintained
Not persons more, but ideas, insights, compassion too
23 This shift less people, ever, ever more
This shift by memory electronic growing
If we falter, honor tradition even more
We like Lake Manyara lung fish, stay in time frozen

Or as likely in a trap all innocent do we fall
Fail from our experience inadequate to know
Become incapable of knowing more, only less
24 Till we still less than we so long ago
But could it be that mice and rats
With lives so much shorter than thee or me
Can tell us stories we need to hear

FIRST DRAFT

IMAGES OF PEACE, THROUGH CHANGE DEFINED (A Christmas Message)

Said Job: "Agree with God and live in peace,
Thereby good will come to you." Job 22:21

Said God through Isaiah: "Behold I do a new
thing in nature, my servant." Isa 43:19
IB v5 p 495

"I put cedar and acacia in the wilderness
and cypress and pine in the desert." Isa 41:19-20

Two habitats, two traditions,
A change in space, not time.

* * *

Change in time, God's challenge
to his enemies to try to do the same.

"From this time forth I make you hear new things,
hidden things which you have not known." Isa 48:6

Tell us what is to come hereafter,
what is to happen, the things to come. Isa 41:22-23

Once old tradition joins forces with those new;
paradigm shifts in understanding do then take place. Kuhn 1963

* * *

Out of the old, the new is born.
Change wedding agreement, peace becomes.

Across the span of time the CATS' eyes blink.
New prophet Elliot renews the theme.

In his garden, The Sacred Wood, he says:
New tradition gains strength with bindings to those old. 1920
EB 6:724g

Transitions always inbetween: tradition and creativity;
continuity and adaptation; thought and feeling.

* * *

Cross and manger in time united, by time collapsed.
The last is first, first last. Peace.

This all ordained by bright meteor's fall
six thousand years ago from its orbiting course. Sci 1965

From east to west, many times each day it went.
God walked across this glassy vaulted dome.

Looked down and watched those human ants below.
They looked up, climbed high mountains to commune. Job 22:14
Isa 40:22, IB v5 p441
Isa 40:9

* * *

Began an inward search for what all this meant.
Pantheons of gods into one and son became.

Kept searching backward from which we came.
Saw a flash in time, knew death and life lasting ever.

Just a yesterday, forty thousand years ago, then humans true.
Groping to become, new roles acquired, more population too.

Until Christ by his own will on his own shoulders laid
Isaiah's cloak of "suffering servant"; theologians now attest. IB v5 p 413-4

* * *

Backwards and forwards time us compresses;
Backwards fifty-five thousand years to a needle's eye. Sci Oct 1 '93 p28

That eye a falls, Kalambo, south shore Lake Tanganyika found.
There found a tiny band, central one, ancestors to us all. R_x Tr Cat 1973

So thin the ice, the eye so narrow,
that we now may have never been.

Survivors of that cold, cold, winter, long years long;
From that womb, fisherwomen's, a diaspora to us did flow.

* * *

By DNA, gene and Mt, the stream backwards to its origin.
By a needle's eye, time shorter, from us may also flow.

Two hundred years to 2175 A.D. will tell the tale.
Our trial, our honor may it be, full known in years so few to come.

A revolution compassionate, ecological, all roles, all niches,
we and nature, hand to mutual helping hand fulfill.

Change so fast, a rainbow blur of traditions overlapping,
A PEACE never so known before

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Edith and Jack one year more

Nothing spectacular, mean age 75 (E + J)/2

No Foreign travel (China in 94?)

Kitchen fever

One heart a murmuring

Two states a calling

Three musings crystalizing

A resting place

No foreign travel (China in 94?)

We have long hoped to visit China. Hoped to ever since a 1971 trip was cancelled. We were then to have been the first U.S. citizens to enter China for a long time. Both of us were cleared to go on official leave from our federal jobs, with travel paid for six weeks. Roberto Rossellini had asked Jack to help him with interview with Mao and later travel exploring issues relating to creativity and population. We cleared also by Chou En-lai. This all fell through with the announcement of Kissinger's secret visit and Nixon's planned trip. - - - A 3 week trip with Northwestern Alumni looks tantalizing. (Next spring)

Kitchen fever

After 30 years, our kitchen new when we moved in, Edith began to yearn for a revision, which we did totally. Started planning in January '93 and just occupied the new one this December. Gorgeous, all the latest, even new hardwood floors. We learned nearly enough to go into business ourselves! But we did rely on a small business run by a Mennonite minister and his wife 60 miles north of Bethesda. Hope someone else after us will enjoy it as much as we do now.

One heart a murmuring, Edith's

"Listened" to at three hospitals: Johns Hopkins in Baltimore; ST. Vincents in Portland OR; George Washington in D.C. It's getting a little stiff and kicks up its feet once in a while. But Edith figures she will keep it for a while. Greatly enjoyed our 11 days in Portland. Jack took long walks around the beautifully renovated downtown area.

Stopped in Laramie, Wyoming, on the way out to Oregon to visit Edith's brother, Gene Gressley, and family. He took us out to see the "91 Ranch", Its 10,000 acres lies east of the tiny village of Centennial made famous by Mitchner. It (the ranch) is being renewed and renovated again into a fully working ranch by the Walkers 2, both professional pilots. This ranch was originally established by Nigel Gresley from England. Possible common ancestors of Nigel, Gene & Edith must be back to the 1600s or before.

Two states a calling, VT and NH for two weeks

These have for long been prospects for resettling after we have been retired long enough to decide to relocate. Not too far from Dartmouth College in Hanover seems attractive, this enhanced by its Hitchcock Hospital and Medical School. We found many records of Jack's Hovey ancestors in both states.

Three musings crystalizing

Over the past three years struggled twice to prepare long accounts, normal science ones, of his 1975-86 cycle of research. Post-retirement lack of access to his computer files finally convinced him to take another approach, to prepare for a wider audience his understanding of the 1975-2175 Compassionate Revolution and the relevance of his animal research to that human process.

A resting place

Edith's

In November we took a short trip to Indiana to visit her older relatives who live in or near Huntington (Dan Quayle's home too). While there we made further plans for our grave markers in the well kept Funk Cemetery out in the countryside away from Huntington. There her pioneer ancestors lie. Our ashes to be there, genealogical markers they, the plate that is for family history. We have spent many happy days in cemeteries trying to explore our past.

Hope all of you have had as full a year as we
Best wishes for the holidays and the coming year

Edith and Jack Calhoun

5705 Cheshire Drive
Bethesda MD 20814

BIRTH and REBIRTH - An unfinished Christmas message

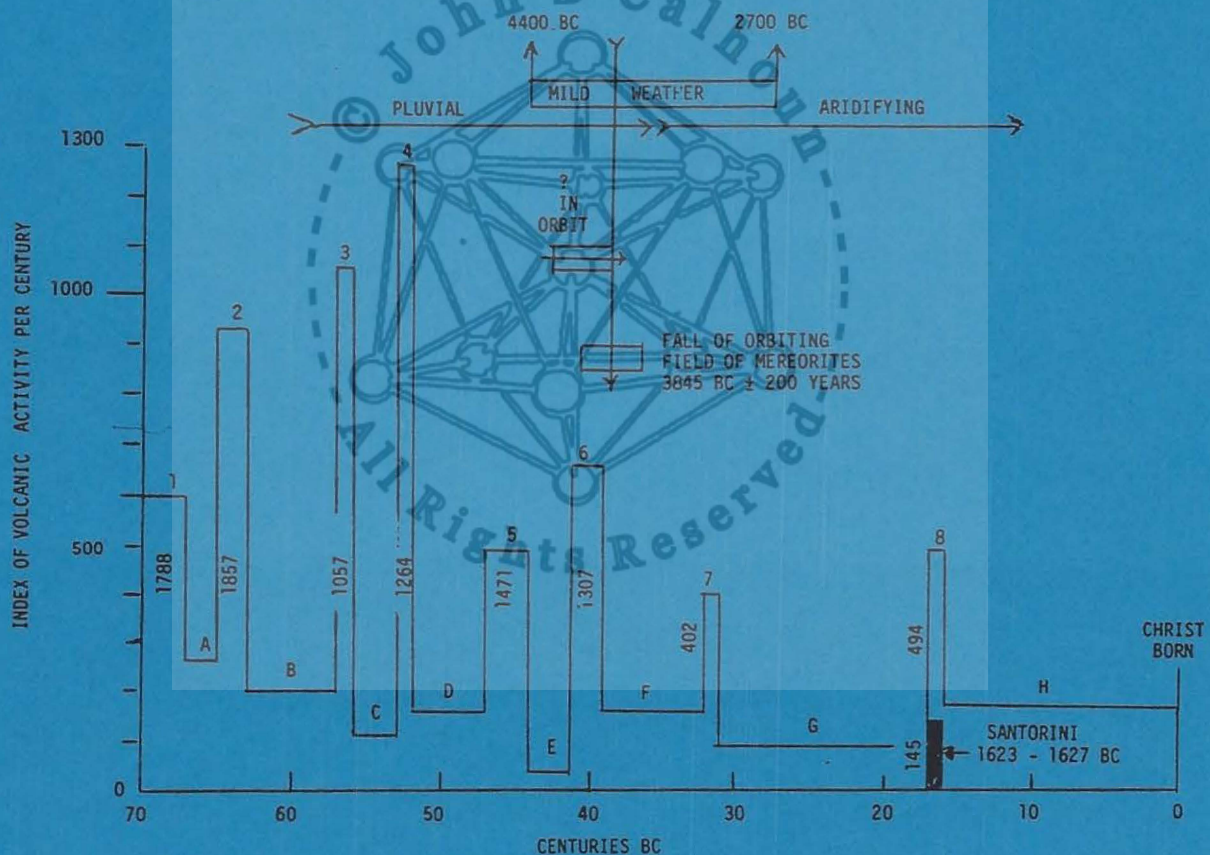
1. "Myth, the only reality."
So said Salustius, long ago,
Two centuries before Christ's birth.
This birth by star from east foretold
By legend traces backwards still
To six thousand years from now.
2. To upland valleys in the high Pamirs
Where springs and spring-time melting snows
Gurgle down to form the Oxus river of Greek fame.
In these valleys scattered villages there abound.
Wheat and barley, gourd and mellow, did there grow
Cattle, sheep and goats the provinder enlarged.
3. Cattle near the village always stayed
Sheep and goats there sometimes too
But when greening grass did beckon from high plateaus
Still called the place where heaven and earth do meet
There these sheep and goats were taken to summers end
By shepherds old and young acolytes, two or three
4. The stars above their courses ever seen
The sun and moon their changes felt
All life and weather with spirits filled
Shepherd sages to their acolytes distilled
An understanding to all comfort brings
This for a thousand years or more
Till sky by strange event transformed
5. A huge bright light did above appear
The heaven oft coursing each day plus night
From northeast to southwest did speed
A magic carpet between earth and moon
By Science a meteorite field now known
The only one in history in orbit held
6. For nigh three centuries held there overhead
The shepherd sages insights growing watched as
Earth pulled it towards its bosom
First single meteorites, both large and small
Till first large mass in Argentine did fall
Red haired giant six thousand years ago.
7. Before it came, it still had been, invisible
After it disappeared, it still above, invisible
Since it once to us so visible, so it must be once again
These some the thoughts of high-Pamir shepherd sages
Great it was, length in miles twenty, width two, depth a quarter
Fast it was, twenty two minutes each orbit, sixty-five each day-night
8. It coursed across a firmament, hard and crystal clear
Where flowed rivers, mirrors true of those far below
Emmanated power, gave rebirth to man and all on earth
In this beginning first was mind, from mind came word
And the word was God, the only one, all powerful
Viewed by nomads as Great Father, by agriculturists as Great Mother
9. God by either gender known, by many attributes was clothed
Each attribute a god itself, or down to earth in human form
Great Mother of herself from the word might 'rise
Or if from Great Father, she still a son by virgin birth did give
This host of heaven sometimes quiet, sometimes in conflict seen
Rumbling thunder and bursts of lightning from meteorites colliding
10. Such the thoughts of Pamir sages, by others so elaborated
These sages hewed a sacred language, Sanskrit it came to be
To express the Word they came to know, and understood so well
In later times as Avesta, Veda, Upanishad was known
Word so sacred they kept four thousand years from written form
In form precise by word of mouth passed on for five thousand years
11. Not long it took to need four classes to preserve the Word
Farmers with their crops and sheep to feed and clothe the rest
Priests to preserve the Word and practice it
Warriors to guide, protect and administrate the whole
Traders roaming far from home, so long away, near outcasts they
Yet missionaries of mind where ere they went, word and example

12. Along their westward way they went, left bits of home, outposts
Where ere they went, from Pamirs to Euphrates reached
Enriching legends there arising, of Gilgamish, Marduk, Tiamat
Enriched themselves from trading Badakhshan sacred lapis lazuli
Enriched the home of The One God, Anu, god of sky and heaven above
From powdered blue lapis lazuli painted walls his home on earth enriched
13. White Temple of Uruk this, twin force to Pamir people scattered
In this his home, his property, God did commune with people
This communion reached back one thousand years to the It still orbiting
To the first observatory at this place to watch the It, Anu become
No stick or stone from God's property could be taken, so it was
That White Temple finally stood on ziggurat layers of former temples

Word and worship, life from death become

If we are to get out our Christmas cards, I had better interrupt this mini epic on birth, rebirth, and mind. These 13 "verses" are meant to be preceded by sections on the great volcanic blowout in Sumatra of 80,000 years ago; our ancestors - the surviving remnant of 57,000 years ago; God's admonition to Abraham, 43,000 years of; with finally: "What will be our orbiting meteorite field to stimulate our mind and will during the Compassionate Revolution of 1975-2175 A.D.?"

jack calhoun Dec.13, 1994



In part from Science 1965 149:1055; 1994 264:948

- The RE-CREATION of humans and nature, in human minds, was marked by
- (1) 1700 years of mild weather starting about the time the meteorite field was caught in orbit.
 - (2) Termination of 40 centuries of heightened volcanic activity that was 13 times that of the next 30 centuries.
 - (3) The "Fall" of the orbiting meteorite field about 6,000 years ago.
 - (4) The "Deluge" at the end of a millennia long Pluvial, which just before or after the "Fall" produced great floods in the Indus, Tigris, and Euphrates valleys.