

Remembering Kumari Nadu - 'Lemuria' Reflections on Tamil Spatial Legends

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**Heinrich Kruparz, Atlantis and Lemuria,
Legends and Myths or Sunken High Cultures of the Past?
New Proofs – There Are. (in German)
Austria: Weishaupt Verlag, 2009.**

In the context of celebrating Tamil as a classical language, a few questions could be raised: Are the Tamils really proud to be Tamils, with an esteem for their language and culture? Are they aware that they belong to an ancient civilization with great culture? Does creating this awareness play any role in the formation of the school curriculum?

Remembering one's past is to gain one's identity, to recognize one's rootedness in the history of a nation or civilization, and to maintain one's self worth. It is said that remembering is also a process of healing. Remembrance of one's past heritage gives confidence and provides orientation to the future. If one forgets one's past, s/he will lose her/his identity. This is why people trace their origin to an ancient past and claim a lineage from great ancestors of hoary past.

1. The immediate context for this write-up is the publication of a new book in German by Dr. Heinrich Kruparz from Vienna on *Atlantis and Lemuria. Legends and Myths. Or Submerged High Cultures of the Past? There Are New Proofs* (2009). It is an interesting study by a senior geologist from Vienna. An English version of this book is awaited. This is not a review of the book. However a few salient features of this book are presented here.

The author admits his profound love for the mother earth which has its own history and he even talks of *geosophy (wisdom of the earth)*, just like *theosophy* and *anthroposophy*. He assumes an intuitive knowledge that the Atlantis (in the Atlantic ocean), Lemuria (in the Indian ocean) and Rutas Mu (in the Pacific ocean) had been, once upon a time, great cultures which were swallowed up by the ocean. Several references to this are found in the literature of various cultures. This could be proved geologically to be true; they are not just legends and fables.

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He begins with the analysis of the Atlantis legend which has fascinated the Western mind. This is narrated by Plato himself. Atlantis is a legendary sunken island in the Atlantic Ocean west of Gibraltar. The main sources for the legend are two of Plato's Dialogues, *Timaeus and Critias*. According to Plato, Atlantis had a rich civilization and its princes made many conquests in

the Mediterranean before earthquakes destroyed the island. The legend may have originated with the eruption C. 1500 BC of a volcano on THIRA, which was so powerful that it gave rise to earthquakes and tidal waves.

Plato (427-347 B.C.), writing on the origin of the world, mentions this. Solon, who lived in Egypt between 571 and 556, learned this from the priests of Saies in Egypt and he returned to Athens and narrated this to Critias who, in turn, reported this to his grandson. And thus this legend is handed over to the younger students of that time. This is found in the Dialogue between Socrates and Plato. Now it is believed that the Atlantis legend is a fact and that it was the first civilization of humanity. The gods of the ancient Greece were kings and heroes of the Atlantis. They are the ones who built the Pyramids in Egypt and they are the forefathers of the Aryans or Indo-Germanic people.

2. Besides the Atlantis there are also reports of other sunken islands. Perhaps the Atlanters were the remnant or the refugees of the Lemurians. Where were Atlantis, Lemuria and Rutas Mu? The author, as a geologist, provides enough maps in his book to support his claims. According to him, Rutas Mu refers to the Polynesian islands.

Lemuria, Kumari Nadu or Tamil Nadu is referred to in the Tamil literature as a land swallowed up by the ocean. The text written by one Sivasailam Pillai, in a book meant to be used as course material in schools, runs us follows:

Tamil Nadu is a very ancient land. In ancient times this was a vast sprawling land. Formerly, the ocean that is to the south of today's Cape Kumari was a vast landmass that was attached to Tamil Nadu. The western Ghats extended into the ancient portion of land. That section of the mountains was called Kumari. Moreover, two rivers called Kumari and Pahruli flowed there. Because of these, this territory was very fertile, several thousand years ago, the prosperous landmass disappeared into the ocean. It is after this that Tamil Nadu has shrunk to its present boundaries. Today Tamil Nadu extends from Tirupati mountain in the north to Cape Kumari in the south. (Sivasialam Pillai, 1951, 15)

We find the reference to this event in the *Silappathikaram*):

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“May the great king live forever, protecting the whole earth for all ages, to come. Long live our Tennavan, ruler of the southern lands, to which he annexed the Ganges and the northern Himalaya. To show his valor to other monarchs, he hurled his spear against the furious sea, which, in its rage,

devoured the river Pahruli and the land of the Kumari together with its vast circle of mountains.”) ((*Kâdukânkâdai* , lines 20-25, Translation by Alain Danielou)

The literary works cited in support of the theory of this lost world are: a commentary on this *Silappathikaram* by Adiyarkunallar, a commentary on *Iraiyana Akapporul* attributed to Nakkirar, and verses from the anthologies of *Kalittokai* and *Purananuru*. According to these accounts, Kumari Nadu had been divided into forty-nine Tamil territories, named “Seven Tengu Nadu”, “Seven Maturai Nadu”, “Seven front sandy tracts (Çlu Munpalai Nadu)”, “seven back sandy tracts (Çlu Pinpalai Nadu)”, “seven hilly tracts (Çlu Kunra Nadu)”, “seven eastern littoral lands (Çlu Kunakarai Nadu)” and “seven dwarf-palm tracts (Çlu Kurumpanai Nadu).” (Sumathi Ramaswamy, 2000, 584) These fertile regions formed the heartland of the antediluvian Pandyan kingdom. Two large rivers, the Pahruli and the Kumari, flowed through the Kumari Nadu and contributed to its fertility and so on.

The term ‘Lemuria’ was first coined by the British zoologist Philip Lutley Sclater in 1864, after the monkey-like *lemur,s* which supposedly inhabited these lands in some distant paleotime. The Tamil intellectuals use the phrases narrated by modern geology, “the Indo-African Continent, “Gondwanaland”; for some time this entity, which was their ancestral homeland and the birthplace of their language and cultures, went *unnamed*. Epithets like “the sprawling landmass,” “the vast territory in the southern sea”, “the land seized by the ocean” and so on were used. Kumari Kandam is a derivative of the Sanskrit term “Kumarika Khanda”. (“Kumari Dvipa.”) According to some Sanskrit Puranas, the latter was one of the nine divisions of *Bharatavarsha*, the ancient term used to signify the Indian sub-continent. Actually the correct name would be Tamilakam, Tamilnadu, as it is now used.

The loss of this Kumari Nadu has become part of the collective memory of Tamil nationalism. That is, Tamil speakers are asked to imagine that their antediluvian ancestors had lived on a vast continent called Lemuria that had been their homeland, the “birthplace of humanity” and “the cradle of civilization.” Nowadays, Lemuria generally merits only a brief mention in the discussion on the Dravidians, but never enters the linear flow of Indian history beginning with the Indus valley, followed by the arrival of the Aryans in the subcontinent.

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Geography was an essential part of the elementary school curriculum after independence. But then influenced by the colonial mentors, these geography school-books were a primary vehicle through which racial consciousness about the peoples of the world was disseminated in colonial

India, so that a specific sense of being-in-the-world spatially was promoted. Europe was thus centered as the home of the most civilized, the most powerful of all the nations and, of course, India, not to mention Tamil Nadu, was radically de-centered. Geography was a science of measurement and description and so there was considerable scorn at the fabulous Hindu spatial vision of the world.

One should be clear that the earth has a history and it is a history marked by catastrophic losses. Earth's history cannot be static, fixed once and for all. It is constantly changing, as we have seen in the recent past as a result of the impact of the tsunami. The Tamil fables about the lost territory of Kumari Nadu do not seek to *recover*, but only to *remember*, as evidence of the greatness of the Tamil people, once upon a time, long, long ago. The forgetfulness of the past, "loss of nostalgia, that is, the loss of the desire to long for what is lost" can be more harmful than the original loss itself." (Sumathi Ramaswamy, 2000, 596) This is meant to awaken in the Tamil minds an awareness, an yearning for the unreclaimable past which one cannot find, but a past that still plays a great role in the formation of the psyche of the people who seem to be losing their identity and dignity.

3. We are not merely defined by the language-milieu in which we are born and brought up, but also by the land to which we belong, the space that shapes our minds and our ways of thinking. That is why the destiny of a nation, the geographical space, the Mother Earth, is closely linked with the destiny of humanity. This is what is meant by the term Geosophy, which deals with the relation between the Earth and humanity. Structurally, the human being is built like the mother earth. That is, the vibration of our planet or the "heart-beat of the earth" corresponds to the heart-beat of the human being, to the energy flow of the human body, as it is shown in the working of the cakras, the astral body, energy body etc., as also by the conception of the body-soul unity as the core of one's personality. Mother Earth like human beings is of spiritual origin. It reacts to our thinking and our consciousness. So we must have a respect for the Mother Earth as a living being.

The evolution of the human consciousness is closely connected with the heartbeat of Mother earth. The inner iron-core of the earth is crystal. This is mostly the structured part of the earth. There is also a correspondence to the human brain in the form of beta-waves of 40 hertz. This means mental concentration and structured thinking which is crystal-clear. For there is a resonance with the core-earth of Mother Earth. This is geosophy." (Kruparuz 384)

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The catastrophe of the Atlantis or Lemuria civilization has left a wound in humanity, which waits for its healing which can take place only by the recovery of Mother Earth. The energy of Atlantis and Lemuria is not yet released. After its release, Atlantis and Lemuria will belong to the future and no more be of the past. The legacy of these civilizations will rise again.

Dr. Kruparz, at the beginning of his scholarly study on this theme, talks of the spiritual challenge. (15-21) According to him, for ages a core of matter drifts into space and time, wherein the cosmic powers direct it in a particular direction. For us human beings this core matter is known as Planet Earth, namely, our Mother Earth, which is also called “Terra Gaia” by some extra-terrestrials.

Dr. Kruparz further postulates that the Earth, together with the similar moving heavenly bodies, occupies a definite place in the cosmos. Following the ancient tradition in the post-Atlantic Indian cultural circles, we, the inhabitants of the Earth, find ourselves in a certain galaxy or zone, from which the planetary human beings could gain access to the higher worlds and also to the lower worlds. Based on this one classifies the different eras (*yugas*) as golden, silver, copper or iron age. But the consciousness of humanity is so deeply sunk into the material world that it considers only the Earth unable to look beyond it. The good spirits from the ‘world of light’ above do everything to gain the incarnated souls (the *Jivas*) back to their Divine origin. However, there are limitations, since they respect the freedom of the human beings. So there arises a conflict between light and darkness, between the seven higher and the seven lower planetary systems, as the Vedas report. (The number seven is also taken over by the theosophists and anthroposophists.) Accordingly humanity wanders during the earthly sojourn from rebirth to rebirth seven involution and evolution stages. The involution began with the soul getting into the material world. But the *homo sapiens* will actually rise to higher wisdom at some time in the future. The author presupposes that the human being is a spiritual reality, which came into the material world to gather the earthly experiences. S/he returns, enriched here on earth, at a distant future, back to the kingdom of the exclusively spiritual reality.

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Then Dr. Kruparz talks about the seven periods of humanity. The *first* epoch of humanity loses itself into the night of the remotest past. From a cave of souls came down the spiritual being to the earth which was in the form of gas, in order to accept this as its Mother. In the *second* epoch the earth turned into a fluid sphere and that was the head region of the earthly body, that is, today’s high North, the entire earth was then surrounded by a hot-moisture atmosphere. This area sank after a global catastrophe into snow and ice. The *third* epoch was that of Lemuria which is to be located in two

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different regions: one in the Indian Ocean and the other in the Pacific Ocean. This is the period in which one finds also dinosaurs. This period came to an end with a volcano. The *fourth* one is the Atlantis epoch of humanity. With the help of the refugees from the Lemuria in the Indian Ocean and Rutas Mu (in the Pacific) which had a developed culture, the Atlantic culture flourished. The *fifth* epoch of humanity is what we are at present.

There is a certainty that after this period a new Earth will emerge brought about by spiritual power, for we are spiritual beings, who have behind us a thousand years long experience. The presupposition is that the process of humanity reaching perfection will take place through evolution in the spiritual sense. It is also assumed that humanity alone is not at fault for today's misery, but egoistic groups of extra-terrestrials are also responsible to a considerable extent. (9)

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