The West Beyond the West: The Mysterious “Wernes” of the Egyptian Underworld and the Chad Palaeolake

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Abstract

Amduat, one of the Egyptian guides to the underworld, provides specific descriptions and measurements relating to the first three hours after sunset, during which the sun god Re passes through an interstitial realm (the first hour) before arriving at two gigantic sweet-water oceans (the second and third hours). Rather than seeing in this imagery reflections of the unconscious and antecedents of modern psychotherapy (as has been proposed by some modern scholars), the present work argues that the description was inspired by actual knowledge of the environment of the region to the distant southwest of the Nile Valley, beyond the Gilf Kebir and Gebel Uweinat on modern Egypt's southwest corner. Recent evidence has made plausible that the Abu Ballas Trail connected Egypt with the Chad Basin of Central Africa. Elements of the factual description provided in the Amduat (including environmental and linguistic details; e.g., the hitherto unexplained name “Wernes”) can be corroborated by modern palaeoecological reconstruction of the area as having comprised gigantic palaeolakes, as well as by linguistic and narrative evidence.

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Hermann Jungraithmayr has welcomed the publication of “The West Beyond the West” with regard to the common prehistory of the Egyptian and Chadic languages. Comparable linguistic features between the two (such as second tenses [7]) have long been noticed along with common lexical elements. T. Schneider, “The West beyond the West: The Mysterious ‘Wernes’ of the Egyptian Underworld and the Chad Palaeolakes,” Journal of Ancient Egyptian Interconnections 3: (2012), 3–9. See www.carlobergmann.de; C. Bergmann, Der letzte Beduine. Meine Karawanen zu den Geheimnissen der Wüste. In mythology, the Greek underworld is an otherworld where souls go after death. The original Greek idea of afterlife is that, at the moment of death, the soul is...
separated from the corpse, taking on the shape of the former person, and is transported to the entrance of the underworld. The underworld itself—sometimes known as Hades, after its patron god—is described as being either at the outer bounds of the ocean or beneath the depths or ends of the earth. It is considered the dark counterpart to the The world is full of unsolved mysteries, but there are some that stand above others. So intriguing, perplexing and unexplainable, these 12 unsolved mysteries of the world continue to confound experts, conspiracy theorists and casual observers alike. 1. Nazca Lines. On an isolated, arid plateau in southern Peru, the wind almost never blows. In this place, around the year 400 to 650 AD, the people of the Nazca culture began to remove the red stones covering the ground, leaving the white earth beneath visible. The art they created is phenomenal. Whilst some of the designs are simple lines, over 7