

PREFACE FOR ON SOLAR PATHS [SUR LES SENTIERS SOLAIRES] BY

PAUL VINCENT

RUNNING HEAD: Solar Paths

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ON SOLAR PATHS

Preface

Paul Vincent has written a stimulating book that takes the reader to distant lands and ways of life that are normally thought of as, at best, representing legendary or mythological truths. Yet, the author supports his argument of their historicity with a formidable amount of interesting research and impeccable logic. The title of the book, *Sur Les Sentiers Solaires*, is indicative of the book's underlying theme, which is that since the beginning of human time, humankind has always been pre-occupied with finding a relationship with the Source, symbolized by the sun, the visible centre of the solar system and the source of life. In antiquity and beyond, humankind has always lived in two worlds, that of God and the gods, and that of the everyday life as we live and know it. What is particularly relevant is the fact that worldly life at that time was generally not divorced or alienated from the inner world, but directly influenced by a conscious relationship to it. Perhaps better said, we need to learn today that the outer world is nothing but a reflection of the world within and what we produce externally is a direct manifestation of the psychological and spiritual state of our psyche.

I use the word beyond antiquity above because the legendary places that are discussed in this book are Atlantis and Lemuria, two continents that evidence informs us existed, in the case of Atlantis, a sizable continent in the Atlantic Ocean, submerged some 11,000 years ago and referred to by Plato, and Lemuria, a vast continent in the Pacific Ocean that submerged much earlier.

Solar Paths

Plato was informed by Egyptian priests that, after a catastrophe that took place some 9000 years earlier, many Atlanteans found their way to pre-historic Egypt, bringing their esoteric and religious knowledge and wisdom with them, and evidence indicates that others made their way to the Americas and elsewhere. This explains the mystery behind the Sphinx, which has now been proven to have been erected some 10,500 years BCE during the astrological Age of Leo, as well as the historically later building and locations of the Egyptian pyramids and their astrological and spiritual significance. It also reflects the similarities found between the religious and cultural phenomena of Egypt and Aztec, Mayan and other ancient cultures of the Americas, including the existence of Pyramids there, as well as their existential knowledge and wisdom. There is also evidence to suggest that a few Lemurians had earlier landed in Egypt, bringing their cultural and spiritual influence to bear there as well.

But the more immediate story behind Lemuria, which had stretched to the Indian Ocean, is that it included South India, Madagascar and Ethiopia, a subject also explored in this interesting book. The Dravidians of South India, according to legend and other evidence, are direct descendants of the Lemurians as are the people of Ethiopia and Madagascar. Whereas, according to legend, Atlantis sunk because of the misuse of occult knowledge, Lemuria is reported to have been a spiritually-organized civilization, whose influence continues to be felt in south India and, for that matter, Ethiopia in its unique relationship with Judaism and Christianity. Despite the Dravidian's spiritual pedigree, while referring to the

Solar Paths

ancient account of the conquest of the local Dravidians by the Aryans from the North, Monsieur Vincent presents a provocative thesis that their embeddedness in the cycles of nature with its nature-oriented tradition of Goddess worship was suppressed in favor of the cult of the Brahmin-priest and the patriarchal tradition from the North. In fact it is very evident that the Brahmins of south India, with their relatively pale skin, are, to this day, visibly different from their south Indian Dravidian brothers and sisters, lending support to the author's argument.

In the Egyptian reference, the focus is on Akhenaton, who is presented as the younger brother of Moses, coincidentally bringing a new perspective on the history of the Jewish people. His importance lies in the fact that, during his reign, he challenged the contemporary religious hierarchy with its polytheistic belief in many gods without a supreme head, with an overriding God, Aton, symbolized by the solar disk. Akhenaton can be characterized as a henotheist in that he believed in the unity of the supreme God, without suppressing the many gods. He was, accordingly, the first to believe in the existence of a supreme divinity even prior to Judaism, at least in the West, and the author proposes that he effectively advocated a solar path as did Moses and later Jesus that was meant to encourage people to live in unity with the Divine. During his reign there was a move towards greater naturalism and a humanization process, as expressed in artistic depictions of Akhenaton and his wife, Neferetiti, as well as the fact that people were no longer subjected to priestly machinations. For the first time, they were recognized with potential for individual spiritual realization,

Solar Paths

had daily access to Akhenaton and received spiritual messages directly from him. A highly interesting and relevant fact is that Akhenaton planned for the development of a solar-city in which people were meant to live freely according to truth. But, according to the record of history, it was too early for this realization. When Akhenaton died, he was replaced by the 9 year-old Tutankhamon, and the priests who regained ascendance, ensured that the many gods found favor again in the religious temperament of the people and the god Aton was given far less prominence.

This book broadens one's perspective to include human ancestors that date back to times that are far older than the claims and understanding of conventional scholarship. Unlike the one-sided bias of the modern and post-modern minds and their inclination to rely mainly on the efficiencies of the left-brain and the conscious mind, the author insists on the need of relating life to the inner worlds and following a solar path that illuminates and brings consciousness to all life. He turns to the comprehensive teachings of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother as an indication of where we are headed in our long trajectory and evolution of consciousness, in a manner that is consistent with the story of Atlantis and Lemuria, where the Mother located the legendary Garden of Eden of the Bible. Specifically, the book ends with reference to Auroville in South India, a city - in - process based on the vision of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother, as the essential next step in the material realization of the evolution of consciousness building on spiritual blueprints from our ancestors on Solar paths. The reader of Sur Les

Solar Paths

Sentiers Solaires is rewarded with a journey that incorporates the dawn of human consciousness, its journeys through forgotten times as well as the need today for individuals to consciously participate in the unfolding new world with its demands for integral knowledge and fullness of life, only possible through conscious individual relatedness between the Divine and the manifestation.