

CrossTalk

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter June, 2014

Agriculture, the Original Sin?



An artist impression of how G-T might have looked at the time.

Everyone knows the story of Adam

and Eve, the Garden of Eden and the “forbidden fruit”. A new and intriguing theory is now emerging that suggests this story may be more than mere folk memory, or

an allegory to warn mankind about the consequences of living a life of sin. The question archeologists, historians and others are now asking is, “could the Eden story actually be based on historical facts?”

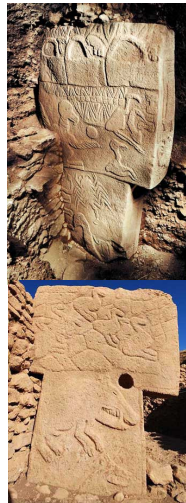
At a dig in southern Turkey, archeologists have uncovered 40-odd massive T-shaped and exquisitely carved pillars arranged in circular formations. The site is called Gobekli Tepe and is said to be the world's oldest temple. It is astonishingly old. It dates from the Neolithic period of human history, about 10,000 BC, back to the time of the “cavemen”!

Pottery, writing and even the wheel had not been invented yet! The people of that time were “hunter-gatherers” living an idyllic life, hunting, plucking fruit from trees and, generally, living a laid-back, idyllic existence.

Archeological evidence suggests that these people were taller, stronger, lived longer and generally enjoyed better health than people living in the agricultural societies that came after them.

The surrounding land at Gobekli Tepe at that time was lush, green and forested; a paradise, nothing like the dust-bowl it is today.

But what would make these people give up their idyllic life-style for a life of toil and hardship, plowing the land, sowing and harvesting crops?



The answer, some say, lies in the establishment of a religious cult centered at Gobekli Tepe. The intricately carved monoliths there seem to be celebrating the hunter-gather's rich, carefree and leisured way of life; but a way of life that was eventually lost to the pressures of an increasing population as more and more people came to the site to pay homage and worship.

To support an ever increasing population, hunter-gathers turned to cultivating the local wild grasses – thus, agriculture was born! Trees were felled to make way for crops. Then, without natural cover, game animals started to dissipate, making the cultivation of grains even more necessary. The land became overworked and, finally, barren.

Could, then, the “fruit of knowledge” have actually been wheat?!

Is the story of Adam and Eve's banishment from paradise and the Garden of Eden for eating the “fruit of knowledge” a simple parable about punishment for sin, or could it be a story about actual loss?

Another intriguing thing happened around 8,000 BC. The people living at Gobekli Tepe deliberately buried the whole site so that it disappeared into the



barren landscape that still exists there today. Was this an attempt to cover up their “sin”? Is the story of Adam and Eve, as it has come down to us through the ages, a testimony to the guilt these early people might have felt as a result of destroying their own “Paradise”?

Net News

NET LESSONS: Too busy to come to CROSSROADS?

.... Try our *lessons through the net!*

SITE OF THE MONTH:

For more information about Gobekli Tepe go here:

<http://www.redicecreations.com/article.php?id=5919>

Some Thoughts for the Month



Joshua Says: Last month's end of term party, in contrast to our opening party in April, was a quiet and intimate affair, but very enjoyable, nevertheless. There was plenty of good food and beverages, and those who came seemed to enjoy the company and the chance to chat with their teachers in English. I do thank all those who turned up, students and teachers alike, for making it an enjoyable and friendly event.

Junko Says: Finally, our outside sign will be put in place this month. It feels like the last step in moving to our new location is now completed. But have you noticed the open patch of "garden" in front of our building. It's just calling out for some flowers, don't you agree? We will answer the call and start planting some shrubs and other plants there soon. I wonder if any of our students would like to donate, or even plant, some flowers there...? It's Ok, we have permission....



Kenneth Says: The story of Adam and Eve is a creation myth common to three Abrahamic religions (Judaism, Christianity and Islam). In Christian theology, the fall of man describes the transition from innocent obedience to God to a state of guilty disobedience. Now, more than ever, mankind's destiny is to find the way of truth and abide within the laws of physics in the Garden of Eden, or perish.

Adrienne Says: I just got back from Tokyo to see my new granddaughter. Her name is Emma. When she frowns, she looks like her father, who is my son. She only cries when her parents give her a bath. Both of her parents are half-European, and she also looks half-European. I wonder how she will look when I see her again in August.



Danielle Dit: Depuis janvier, je suis très occupée! J'ai vu le spectacle "Ovo" du Cirque du Soleil (le Cirque du Soleil est québécois!) et celui du groupe japonais l'Arc-en-ciel à Tokyo. À Matsuyama, pour la troisième fois j'ai assisté au concert de la merveilleuse Fujiko Heming. J'ai aussi aimé le concert de Nathaniel Rosen, un violoncelliste qui a habité à Matsuyama. Bientôt, je verrai le ballet "Roméo et Juliette" de la troupe K-ballet. J'ai aussi adoré le spectacle de Kodo! Ouf, que de culture!

