

## Chapter 5:

### **THE GOLDEN AGE: ORIGIN OF THE WORLD RELIGIONS**

Archaeologists and anthropologists designate certain eras in the history of mankind according to the materials ancient man used for his weapons and tools. When stone, flint and obsidian were used for knives, spear tips and axes --which seems to be the only durable material that survived into the present-- experts speak of the Stone Age. When bronze was used for the production of weapons, tools and utensils, this era was called the Bronze Age. Accordingly, as iron served many of these purposes, researchers speak of the Age of Iron. These identifications were made strictly according to the materials used; they do not coincide with the spiritual Five World Ages that define the level of mankind's spirituality during each era, where the quality of the metals involved symbolizes that of man's spiritual nature during the following millennia:

The Golden Age of Man		before 6000 B.C.
The Silver Age	-	6000 B.C. to 4000 B.C.
The Bronze Age	-	4000 B.C. to 2000 B.C.
The Iron Age	-	2000 B.C. to Christ's time
The Age of Clay	-	from Christ's time to A.D.2000.

For the time after A.D. 2000 we have prophecies from many ancient texts, including the Bible, that state that a New Age of Enlightenment will commence. The Greeks inserted the Age of Heroes between the Ages of Bronze and of Iron, from the second half of the 3rd millennium B.C. to a few centuries of the 2nd millennium B.C. The collective term for the Ages of Silver, Bronze, Iron and Clay is "the Dark Ages" because, as the names of the ages suggest, enlightenment declined among mankind, in general.

The prophet Daniel gave us an example for how these materials must be interpreted. King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon (6th century B.C.) had a dream, in which he saw a large statue with a head of gold, a chest of silver, lower body of bronze, legs of iron and feet mixed of iron and clay, a mixture which is inconsistent and fragile; iron and clay do not hold together. Daniel

interpreted this dream. The statue was an image of the Babylonian empire which, although it had a head of gold, its other qualities showed ever lesser value and its fundament was so fragile that it had to break down. The statue symbolized the decline and fall of the Babylonian empire (Dan. 2:31-45). Like\_wise, the Dark Ages have by now reached the lowest level, the end of the Age of Clay. Things cannot get worse as far as spirituality is concerned and many modern people are in search of truth which, eventually, will be found.

Although the information on the Five Spiritual World Ages, which I now present in this book, originates from more than sixty independent sources from around the world, it is nevertheless harmonious and must therefore have a common source of truth. For the beginning of the Golden Age it is not possible to determine a general time element for all mankind, because the data mentioned in individual priestly records or genealogies begin with the founding of a particular priesthood. Such dates are therefore individualized and do not apply to all mankind. Many so-called legends of later times, after 6000 B.C., do not contain any time elements, so that only a person who is familiar with the developments prior to 6000 B.C. and the decline during each of the later World Ages, can place certain events into certain millennia. And if we are given dates for the existence of particular priesthoods during the Golden Age, these sound mythical to us because we simply cannot imagine that a priesthood existed in the same land for many thousand years. It is our experience, in historical times, that many empires, kingdoms or priesthoods flourished and then vanished from the scene. From this viewpoint, it is quite natural that we cannot easily relate to time elements such as the following.

The Tibetan monks claim 70,000 years for their priesthood's existence. Sanskrit texts praise spiritual leaders for their outstanding virtue and unlimited spiritual powers who lived 100,000 years ago. Churchward claims 100,000 years for the existence of the Land of Mu and the Lemurians; Edgar Cayce, America's sleeping prophet, who spoke in terms of the universal system of symbolism during the early years of his career, stated that Atlantis existed for 100,000 years. The late famous mythologist, Joseph Campbell, quoted various datings for the Cro-Magnon cave art in France and

Spain, from 60,000 to 16,000 years ago. This is, however, the dating of the cave art; it does not mean a dating for the existence of the priesthood or spiritual leaders. In Plato's "Timaeus" we read in the Greek text --some English versions do not contain this information clearly-- that the Egyptian priesthood of Sais had written records already in the 17th millennium B.C., and the Athenian priesthood of the Hellenes in the 18th millennium B.C. The Athenian records were destroyed in the 10th millennium B.C., those of Sais still existed during the 6th century B.C. when Solon visited the Saite hall of records. Again, a dating of records does not suggest that these priesthoods were founded at that time. This question of a date for the founding of the priesthoods remains open.

The Sumerian Kinglist, which Sir Leonard Woolley unearthed during his excavations near Ur of the Chaldees and which is generally considered mythical, tops all others: five cities or priesthoods are recorded which succeeded each other. The total of the given years is 241,200 years. Of course, this sounds incredible, especially since reigns for individual kings or high priests spanning as many as 36,000 years are given. I compared these reigns with epochs in the history of a priesthood, as we do in the Bible where we speak of Adamic, Noachic, Abrahamic, Mosaic and later Christian eras. This does not mean that individual leaders lived that long, but the laws which they gave were beneficial for their descendants for a specific epoch. Truly, though unbelievable, the Sumerian Kinglist ought not to be discarded as myth. It should, at least, be kept in mind until further insight becomes available, such as other related records:

Reputed egyptologists like the German Meyers, author of "Aegyptische Chronologie", and James Henry Breasted in "The Ancient Records of Egypt" contributed to this concept with their findings. The earliest written Egyptian records known in Breasted's time were those of the Palermo Stone, and Breasted wrote about these inscriptions:

*"They reveal a great and powerful kingdom from the beginning of the dynasties, enjoying ordered government under a highly developed and aggressive state, and exhibiting a high degree of culture and*

*civilization such as we could not have anticipated in this remote time.<sup>11</sup>*"

Breasted commented that this fragment of the Palermo Stone possibly contained some 120 predynastic kings that were enumerated there, with no indication of how long each king reigned. He quoted the German egyptologist Meyers who believes that this row of enumerations "*must have begun with the gods*". This statement, evidently, refers back to the time of the Golden Age of Man and its spiritual leaders, the gods or sons of God.

What was the nature of the organization of cultures during the Golden Age? In Plato's "Timaeus" (24) we find a description of the various classes of priests and their duties in their priesthoods and toward their followers. These were the priesthoods of the 10th millennium B.C. during a time when the Atlanteans had invaded Mediterranean coastlands and islands. Plato's text is given in symbolic terms:

1- THE CASTE OF PRIESTS WHICH IS SEPARATE FROM ALL OTHERS. These priests formed the high priesthood; they were the givers, keepers and guardians of the law for spiritual life. Having been the most powerful sensitives among all members of the priesthood, they "knew" if the law was being kept by all priests and priestesses.

2- THERE ARE THE ARTIFICERS (experts in individual fields of spiritual or psychic sciences) WHO PLY THEIR SEVERAL CRAFTS BY THEMSELVES AND DO NOT INTERMIX.

3- ...ALSO THERE IS THE CLASS OF SHEPHERDS AND OF HUNTERS, AS WELL AS THAT OF HUSBANDMEN. A shepherd is a priest, the head of a congregation of followers, his flock. This term is still used in Christian literature, where Christ is called "the Good Shepherd". A "hunter" is a priest who gathers in lost souls and brings them back to truth, if possible, much like the biblical Nimrod, the great hunter before the Lord (Gen. 10). A

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<sup>11</sup>Breasted, James Henry. "The Ancient Records of Egypt". Chicago, Ill. The University of Chicago Press. 1927. Vol. I. Pages 51-52.

"husbandman" is the head of a congregation of initiates. We find this term interpreted in various biblical passages such as Jer. 31:32 and Eph. 5:23 and 32.

4- THE WARRIOR CLASS is commanded, by law, to devote its work solely to military pursuits. This will be understood better when we discuss the problem which the Athenians and also other Mediterranean peoples had with the Atlanteans during the 10th millennium B.C. Warrior priests, then, are not active soldiers themselves but supportive of soldiers. I have taken an example of such priestly activities from the Bible, where Moses himself acted as a warrior priest, when the Amalekites attacked the Israelites after the exodus from Egypt, shortly before their arrival near Mount Sinai:

"Then came Amalek and fought with Israel at Rephidim. And Moses said to Joshua, 'Choose for us men, and go out, fight with Amalek; tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod (power) of God in my hand.' So Joshua did as Moses told him, and fought with Amalek; and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. Whenever Moses held up his hand, Israel prevailed; and whenever he lowered his hand, Amalek prevailed. But Moses' hands grew weary; so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat upon it, and Aaron and Hur held up his hands, one on the one side, and the other on the other side; so his hands were steady until the going down of the sun. And Joshua mowed down Amalek and his people with the sword."

Ex. 17:8-13.

Here Moses' hands guided superior spiritual powers to Joshua and his fighting men which gave them the strength, endurance, and knowledge needed to defend the people and to overcome the enemy. Moses, in this case, was the warrior priest.

Yet there was a time when war was unknown on the earth because, according to Plato's *"Critias"*, even the Atlanteans had experienced a Golden Age in their homeland. Plato copied the detail from Solon's translations made in the Egyptian Hall of Records :

*"For many generations, as long as the divine nature lasted in them, they were obedient to the laws, and well-affectioned toward the god (Poseidon, the founder of the earliest Atlantean priesthood), whose seed they were; for they possessed true and in every way great spirits, uniting gentleness with wisdom in the various chances of life, and in their intercourse with one another. They despised everything but virtue, caring little for their present state of life, and thinking lightly of the possession of gold and other property, which seemed only a burden to them; neither were they intoxicated by luxury, nor did wealth deprive them of their self-control; but they were sober and saw clearly that all these goods are increased by virtue and friendship with one another, whereas by too great regard and respect for them, they are lost and friendship with them. By such reflections and by the continuance in them of a divine nature, the qualities which we have described grew and increased among them."*

About the remote past of the Greek peoples, Plato said in the Dialogue *"Statesman"* (271) that God Himself was the shepherd of mankind, and there were demi-gods. At that time there was no violence or devouring of one another, nor war or quarrel among the people. *"...and I might tell you of ten thousand other blessings, which belonged to that dispensation."* In Plato's *"Laws IV"* (713), a discussion about the "primeval world", that is the first of the five Worlds or Ages, is recorded. This, then, was the happy life of mankind in days when all things were spontaneous and abundant. Demi-gods, who are of a higher and more divine race, were the leaders of mankind.

In *"The Book of the Hopi"* there is an interesting account of life in the First World, of which gold is symbolic:

*"For seven years he (a child) led the normal earthly life of a child. Then came the first initiation into a religious society, and he began to learn that, although he had human parents, his real parents were the universal entities who had created him through them..."*

*"He began to learn that he had two aspects. He was a member of an earthly family and tribal clan, and he was a citizen of the great*

*universe, to which he owed a growing allegiance as his understanding developed...<sup>12</sup> "*

In other words, children grew up with the full awareness of the existence of the higher spiritual self, and a child's spiritual development was apparently nurtured by efficient teachers who were powerful sensitives themselves. Since such teachers proved, practically, the value of spiritual gifts or powers in many fields, one can easily understand that such "blessings" which were no mysteries to anyone, at that time, were something worth striving for. When we trace the legends of the Natives of the Americas, we find they all remember a time when the wise grandfathers or fathers were the blessed leaders of their people, and they also say that the day will come when they will return to ease the yoke of their people and to lead them toward better lives again.

The Greek philosopher, poet and historian, Hesiod, wrote in *"Work and Days"*(106-180) about the Golden Age:

*"First of all the immortal gods created a golden race of mortal men who lived just like gods, carefree in heart, aloof and apart from toil and sorrow. Wretched old age did not come to them, but, ever strong in legs and arms, they enjoyed themselves with feasts, separated from all evils. They had all good things for the earth yielded plenty on her own accord. They lived happily and peacefully.<sup>13</sup> "*

The Roman Ovid provided a similar report in his *"Metamorphosis I"* (89-162):

*"The first age of mankind was a Golden Age, which, with no one to give punishment, of its own free will cherished what was right and good. There was no punishment and no fear, but men lived in safety without judges. Mortals (common people, non-sensitives) knew no*

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<sup>12</sup>Waters, Frank. "Book of the Hopi". New York. Viking Penguin Inc. 1983.

<sup>13</sup>Hendricks, Rhoda. (Translator). "Classical Gods and Heroes". New York. William Morrow and Company, Inc. The Ages of Mankind.

*shores but their own; not yet did protective ditches surround cities. There were no helmets, no swords. Without the need for soldiers, nations lived in pleasant peace, free from care. The earth gave forth all things of her own accord...<sup>14</sup> "*

Then Ovid described how people picked their sustenance from trees and bushes, and rich grain that grew without labour because *"the fields, always fertile, were white with the heavy ears of corn."*

These few accounts quoted here are mirror pictures of all others from around the world which contain identical information. Since there had not been any war among mankind prior to 6000 B.C., except for the one during the 10th millennium B.C. which will be discussed in the next chapter, it is not surprising that archaeologists did not unearth remnants of weapons of war or protective walls around cities, except in Central and South America. In fact, some scholars state that the evidence found among the Cro-Magnon people in southern France and Spain proves inter-relationships between groups, tribes or hunting bands who occupied these and other sites. There is no proof of fighting among these groups. They buried their dead. The remains of dozens of individuals show no signs of people having been killed on purpose. Scholars thus suggest a certain peaceful organization, a certain agreement on ways to use the landscape and its benefits<sup>15</sup>. From an objective viewpoint, it is obvious that a high degree of sophistication and mutual ideals and goals among all people were vital for peaceful relationships between different groups for thousands of years.

By the way, these people may not have dressed merely in animal skins or furs, or loin cloths as so often shown on today's illustrations. An engraving on a stone, found at Lussac-les-Chateaux, France, shows a seated woman of the Magdalenian period (17,000 to 11,000 years ago), wearing hat, shoes, jacket and trousers<sup>16</sup>. On the right side of her lap is something that I

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<sup>14</sup>Ibid.

<sup>15</sup>Putman, John J. "The Search for Modern Humans". National Geographic Magazine. Vol. 174, No. 4, October 1988. Page 448.

<sup>16</sup>Charroux, Robert. "One Hundred Thousand Years of Man's Unknown History". New York. Berkley Medallion Books. 1971.



would say is a purse. There is also evidence of fabrics being used in the remote past, although cloth, in general, decays rather swiftly. In Israel's southern Negev desert a cave has been discovered which contained 9,000-year-old artifacts, including a life-sized stone figure and plaited rope, string and a napkin-sized cloth made out of woven flax. No cloth this old was ever found before. The rope and the cloth were the first proof that flax was cultivated during this period not only for oil but also for weaving, a process which requires great preparations. The pieces of string were dated 7160 B.C., plus or minus 300 years<sup>17</sup>. And if no cloth of earlier millennia has been discovered --this piece in the Negev desert survived miraculously-- this does not mean that it did not exist earlier. Mother Earth's housekeepers, time and decay, have tidied up after every civilization to make room for new ones.

As for the "wisdom of the ages", a term which many of today's researchers use but few explain what it encompasses, we find in every tradition brief references. For instance, the Hopi state:

*"The First People (those of the First World or Golden Age) understood the mystery of their parenthood. In their pristine wisdom they also understood their own structure and functions - the nature of man himself..."*

Observe: "...in their pristine wisdom..." This wisdom is evident in cave art around the world. I have mentioned in Chapter 3, Ill. No. 13...the original meaning of the Sacred Bull and the trees of knowledge, of the Egyptian Ibis staff which symbolizes that part of the midbrain which provides the power of intuitive thought, namely, of invention. The cave art in the Burro Flat, southern California, that shows the myelin sheaths, nerve impulses and bursts, and so on, that are identical to illustrations in today's neurology books, proves that the ancient spiritual leaders knew of their spiritual nature as well as of man's physical functioning, including that of the nervous system. All of this knowledge is included in the "wisdom of the ages" but,

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<sup>17</sup>"Cave Unveils Antiquity". The Vancouver Sun. Saturday, March 23, 1985. Page D 16.

since it has been recorded in symbolic terms accurate interpretations have eluded us for several millennia.

There is also a brief record of the Golden Age of Man in the Bible, in Gen. 2:18-25, in addition to a number of later biblical elaborations on the subject.. A detailed interpretation will be outlined in my Chapter 19.

Can we modern city dwellers only imagine the kind of lives which people of the Golden Age lived? With the guidance and protection of their enlightened spiritual leaders, they were safe from whatever accident or dramatic experience might have struck suddenly. Prophets would have foreseen such events and prevented them. Sickness was unknown because efficient healers took care of their flock. This means, at the same time that, as the Greek Hesiod recorded, wretched old age did not come to them nor premature death. People aged in good health until their time to pass on was right.

Life was sacred! Thus all life in nature and in communities received due respect. People lived communal life-styles where everyone, unless too young or too old, contributed with individual work, talents, skills, or in chosen fields to the needs of the community, and people received from it all that their families required. Monetary systems were unknown. There was no interest in the accumulation of treasures and material goods, because who needed them? This explains why crime and war were unknown. What did individuals or nations own that was not available to all others? Everyone owned equal chattels and enjoyed equal status because everyone's individual contribution was important to the oneness.

Perhaps, I can relate to such life-styles because I visited, or lived temporarily with and studied those of country folks as well as nomads --who live in seclusion, far away from big cities-- in the Near East, in Europe, and among the conservative Natives in North America, and so on. Although my recent experiences of this nature are but a small taste of life during the Golden Age under the leadership of gods or sons of God, it is nevertheless some insight that allows for a glimpse into the past.

Among the people of the Golden Age who lived communal life-styles there was no stress created by competition, unemployment, poverty, envy, jealousy, greed, the race with the clock, bills payable to doctors, tax collectors, banks, landlords, or for hydro, fuel, cars and mechanics, and so on. What a blessed peaceful way of living this must have been in comparison to today... One can easily see why Hesiod, Ovid and other historians called the Golden Age a time when man seemed to live like in a paradise. Fear itself was unknown then, that is, fear of war, crimes and violence, epidemics, natural disasters. No need to lock doors, or worry about one's children for everyone cared for everyone's safety, as I have seen in the communes among the people I visited, or in the tent city of the nomads. And if some of the prehistoric cultures --most of them were outdoors people, anyway-- dwelled in caves, they may not have done so because they were too primitive to build cities. As mentioned earlier, their caves had the same temperature all year round. It was therefore not necessary to cut down forests for firewood to heat one's home. Wood for building houses and cities was not needed, which preserved forests. The use of wood may have been minimized to furnishings, shelving, spindles, weaving frames, perhaps cradles, etc. While speaking of natural or man-made cave dwellings, I wonder if they were possibly healthier than today's concrete jungles called cities. Some of these cave dwellings still existed during Christ's time, and they had beautifully carved facades and entrances with pillars, as in the Nabataean city of Petra, east of the Jordan. Of course, today these caves are dusty and dirty, but were they like that 10,000 or 15,000 years ago? We may just underestimate our ancestors' knowledge of what is the safest and healthiest way of living for both Mother Earth and man himself. Remember, life in whatever form was sacred among these ancients.

What kind of material evidence of civilization would such peaceful people leave behind for today's archaeologists to unearth? Nothing but that which is usually found: cave art, durable flint, obsidian or stone knives and finely carved bone handles, ornaments on bones, traces of fire, remnants of pottery if it has not dissolved in water, and animal bones. Human bones may not occur that often because many cultures burned their dead as did the Celts, the Greeks, the people of East India until the 19th century, and the Natives of the Americas. Since no treasures were accumulated, no gold or

silver and precious stones can be found. Let us compare this situation with historical times. What kind of material evidence did prophets, healers, seers and sons of God leave for posterity? Their "tools" were of spiritual nature which do not leave material evidence. However, all are being remembered for millennia, to this day. Their disciples or contemporary historians have produced memorials either in stone or written records, or the word is passed on orally from generation to generation.

And the memories of the mighty men of the Golden Age live on, although such memories become myth or fairy-tales to materialistic-minded civilizations. Even during the current space-age we can relate to heroes with superior wisdom and superhuman powers, and we purchase books for our children about Superman and Wonderwoman, while young and old enjoy fairy-tales about wise kings and queens who could work miracles. Intuitively, or subconsciously, we can relate to certain aspects of such "stories", for our souls know that we have the faculties for the development of higher powers beyond physical and conscious abilities. And if the world religions are right about reincarnation, we may have had our own life-times during the Golden Age and remember it only intuitively. In fact, the Books of Enoch, Baruch, Ezra, and others in the Old Testament Apocrypha contain much insight into reincarnation, life after death and spiritual worlds where we dwell between lives. Since Christianity does not include such concepts in its teachings, is this one of the reasons for the removal of these inspired apocryphal books from the Old Testament?

And if mankind lived the ideal life during the Golden Age, and according to the Plan of Creation, as the Hopi put it, according to which man was created for the purpose of spiritual (psychic) evolution, why did this age ever end? The biblical patriarch Enoch, the seventh from the Adam of Gen. 3:20 to 5:2, <sup>wrote that</sup> the purpose of human life on earth was almost fulfilled during the Golden Age but - the spirit of the lower places (lower human traits) brought it to an end. Man's paradise of world peace and universal brotherhood came to an end. There is a Celtic prophecy which was made prior to "Ragnarok", a word which translates as "death of the gods". A prophetess foresaw that the end of the divine age approached. A new one would commence in which women (congregations of initiates; see my Ch. 13)

would be shameless and men would be strengthless (husbandmen, i.e., spiritual leaders would be without spiritual powers). Old men, that is, the elders would give false judgments; legislators would make unjust laws, warriors would betray one another and many men would become thieves. There would be no more virtue left in the world. In other words, all of these virtues were cherished during the divine age<sup>18</sup>.

This kind of a prophecy must have been as shocking to the people of that time, as it would be to us if someone foretold that we have to get along without all of our technical conveniences in the near future. The weight of such news does not seem like much, unless one looks more closely at detail. For example, what would we city people do without electricity, where and how would we cook, get water and food? Transportation would come to a standstill, as would the food-producing industry, and this would leave supermarkets empty. And we don't even know what sort of natural sustenance in forests, such as roots and berries, is edible. Where would we end up?

Likewise, the people of the Golden Age could not imagine life without their spiritual leaders, the gods, and their customary life-styles. And so we read in a number of ancient texts that the gods created a new world, a second one, but translators of such records understood that these worlds are part of the initial creation stories which makes the creation look like the gods couldn't do anything right to begin with. They started several times creating a "New World, Sun, or Age" until, eventually, they got it right. In reality, these records refer to the Five Spiritual World Ages, and the gods involved are the leaders of mankind during the beginning of each Age.

Let us now trace the events that led to the end of the Golden Age.

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<sup>18</sup>Squire, Charles. "Celtic Myth and Legend". Newcastle Publishing Co. Inc. 1975. Pages 117-118.