

Running head: X AND Y

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October 13, 2010

Essay 1

X and Y

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Western Civilization to 1650

Water is powerful. Fear is powerful. Beer is powerful. Written word made up of an original rudimentary alphabet is powerful. Blood is powerful. Control is powerful. Money is powerful. Sex is powerful. Politics derived and operating as the gross puppetry, the secondary belch of all said such, is powerful. Many *gods* morphing into one *God* is profoundly and forever powerful. Human beings settling nearer to each other than not in order so that some semblance of survival-turned-*civilization* could be executed, endured, experienced with a hope of someday being enjoyed by all who were *ever* to walk upright on two feet again... is powerful, indeed.

Though all of the said threats remain powerful in the confusion of today where *high gloss* is preferred to scalping by too many frightened ones, when attempting to surmise an arrival point at the most intrinsic *thread* which is responsible for weaving the core of what drove our centuries-stirred, twice-braided, and then reproduced “civilized” dancing human DNA (much-preceding the eventuality of money or politics), the great sacred enigma and stark actuality of *water/life-giving rivers* was the symbolic and actual *watery womb* of such coding of the structure of human and mammalian information-laden *strands*. The people of these founding times were ironic in their *zero gloss*: refreshingly all-valor while devastatingly physical in the flexing, flaying, lashing, seething acts of humiliation that such muscle/power is so capable of concocting.

The water:

Once upon an impossibly tenuous time for human kind—“Life was like walking on the edge of a knife (Pickett)”—there were two *God(s)-given*, sometimes gushing, other times sadly dry protean rivers that quenched a fated part of a vast desert’s thirst. These indispensable double vessels of crisscrossing water would do much for many, and then many more, and then some. Somewhat resembling a dancing “x” as a human chromosome from an aerial mapped view, the rivers converged at one *vital point* and then stretched far and away from each other again with

veins of tributaries that are debated to this day. This “x” would come to predict far more than the simple sex of a human being, it would literally, then much later—when people possessed the hard-earned luxury to ponder—*allegorically*, come to represent every single belief and action that human kind was fated to hold or to execute. Such rumored contentious “x” vicinity is at reverent times entertained to be *the actual* or “...*allegorical Garden of Eden* (Pickett).”

If considering the cataclysmic happenings of this Earth’s rivers and land over such a long period, much is still avidly debated in these *modern* times as to if this *Garden* indeed had an actual “location” and most especially when the big question looms for some, “Sure, we can try and deduce Eden’s location, but how does that edify God (Gray)?” Yet, still:

“The origin of the term "Eden", which in Hebrew means "delight," may lie with the Akkadian word *edinu*, which itself derives from the Sumerian term *E.DIN*. The Sumerian term means "plain" or "steppe," so the connection between the words may be coincidental, although this word is known to have been used by the Sumerians to refer to Mesopotamia as the "valley of E'din," meaning the fertile lands between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. *The Garden of Eden* described in the Book of Genesis as being the place where the first man, Adam, and the first woman, Eve, lived after they were created by God. The past physical existence of this *garden* forms part of the creation belief of the Abrahamic religions. The creation story in Genesis relates the geographical location of both Eden and *the garden* to four major rivers—Pishon, Gihon, Hiddekel, Euphrates—as well as a number of named regions: Havilah, Cush, Asshur or Assyria...(Garden).”

“It can also be interpreted that four rivers become one, a confluence of rivers, which better suits the topography of Mesopotamia and the nature of rivers (Fischer).”

How does a humbled one segue from such holiness as *the four rivers* to the inkling stock of a quiet question about why *the number four* figures so prominently? Since symbolism is (fortunately or unfortunately) *foundation* where the beginnings of this so-called “civilized” people of this time are concerned, the number “four” figures prominently in Genesis and could quite possibly be symbolic representation of the whole world. We sure act like it.

Deserving of wonderment and ponderation—if you finally concede that you live in a four dimensional world, that is:

“Creation is the next thing after *the Godhead*, and the number four always refers to all that is created...Four is the number of all things that have a beginning, all things that are made, of material things and of matter itself...For examples of this we have the four cardinal directions, north, south, east and west...Four seasons of the year, spring, summer, autumn and winter...Four dimensions contain all we can experience; length, width, height and time...Note here that the fourth dimension, time, is separated from the rest in that we only have a limited movement through time compared to the other dimensions...So four is clearly shown to be the number of the natural creation and composed of three plus one
The fourth book of the bible is the book of Numbers...The name of this book in the Hebrew is Bemidbar which means "the wilderness"...Thus the title of the fourth book speaks of the Creation (Harris).”

The number “four” holds up sturdy enough when the feet for beds to be slept on, legs for tables to be eaten upon, and our decided compass directions. Four-way stops are halting in America, four quarters make up one dollar to be held up by our four fingers/toes and its hand/foot’s opposer that extends from one of our four limbs. We stretch out to be one big four-cornered *box* in the four corners of this possibly four-dimensional “world.” On *the four rivers*:

“...Cosmas Indicopleustes stated that these rivers flow from the east into the Garden of Eden, then westward underground and resurface as four rivers in this world...streams formed from melted mountain snow and other sources like rain add water to the flow of all these rivers after their entrance into the visible world, but the ultimate source is the river of the *Garden of Eden* described in the Book of Genesis (Byron).”

Men of religion have come to fasten to the belief that the river that issues from Eden does something such as, "...it then divides and becomes four branches. The name of the first is *Pishon*, the one that winds through the whole land is *Havilah*, where the gold is—The gold of that land is good; bdellium is there, and *lapis lazuli*—the second river is *Gihon*, the one that winds through the whole land of Cush...the third river is *Hiddekel—or Tigris*, the one that flows east of Asshur...the fourth river is *Perat—or Euphrates* (Sarna).” From King James version,

“**10**And a river went out of Eden to water the garden; and from thence it was parted, and became into four heads. **11**The name of the first is Pison: that is it which compasseth the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold; **12**And the gold of that land is good: there is bdellium and the onyx stone. **13**And the name of the second river is Gihon: the same is it that compasseth the whole land of Ethiopia. **14**And the name of the third river is Hiddekel: that is it which goeth toward the east of Assyria. And the fourth river is Euphrates (Genesis).”

“X” marked the spot. “Mesopotamia—Greek for *land between the rivers* (Pickett).”

This vortical point was prime for civilization breeding, indeed. Moses is known to have written that he thought so. The biblical *Garden of Eden*, written of in the book of Genesis in the Holy Bible, is most possibly conjured from this such “x” place. In those days, water was as powerful a force as the *god(s)* that were blamed for making the weather as foreignly frightening as the

alien sky gods that they believed each exercised particular super powers—of which were to be begged to for x, y, or z—far before x, y, and z were scribed on the first stone. “These *four rivers* encompassed *the whole known world* of the Hebrews *at the time* of Moses (Harris).”—possibly linking the *allegorical Garden of Eden* to being representative of... this, our whole world? Beautiful.

Survival of the *flow-est*: The Euphrates and Tigris rivers met at this *magical vortex* and made the human beings able to... live: To work, to eat, to sleep, to war, to work, to kill, to fork up red dry dirt so that water could move into it and make life happen, to sleep, to live, to sweat, to ache, to slave over red dirt some more.

Barley (to-later-be-famous when fermented due to its soothing properties), dates, melons, cucumbers, and other less durable crops were most abundant on this land nearest to the water. Dearly basic beer and a rudimentary essential alphabet would come to be the two massive hinges which held up, and would ultimately be responsible for swinging open the huge door of the four-cornered fate for this early civilization’s arduous carving out of the ultimate should-be/might-be-Garden-of-Eden that some *cultivated* ones may describe as certainly impetus.

Fermented barley had its new geographical magnetism. The dizzying concoction was widely and wildly popular, but simply too heavy to transport to distant regions. So, the people moved to be close to the beautiful brew bevy. You may have moved as well, if having to have slept on a meager reed mat for a “bed” after a hard day’s chiseling away at tributaries of the mercurial Tigris River with your simple “...harvesting sickle or pick-axe, or just a stick with a rock tied to it (Pickett),” after eating your humble portion of the allotted “family barley bowl.”

God: *the* three-letter word that did *not* “save time,” as it may today: The belief in many *gods* turned into believing in one *God*. Polytheism-turned-monotheism made it simpler *in order*

to inflict *fear* and thus *control* the masses. A snowball never saw itself so... big. People were becoming far too complicated to be able to control every single *God* and who prayed to “x” or “y” to behold “z.” Too much room for this messy confusion had to go. Maybe that is when Algebra took form in the quiet brain of a reed-matt-sleeping-barley-drinker.

So, the earthly ominous “they” meshed them... *gods to God*. Social control reigned itself neatly in like a successful noose hung on an age-old oak tree. *Pick-a-god* “...vanished like water on a July sidewalk (Pickett).” Eerily, *as* civilization then became more and more “cohesive,” so did its “*God/s*.” Projections of all kinds of schizophrenic “*gods*” (mirroring the emotionally tried and fried state of this beleaguered people) abounded, locking the heavy thick key of control fixed into schematic place to turn loudly, cockily clicking this fearsome rule into place—once one *God* was inflicted and so enforced. Fear is powerful. Smart people knew this. *God* is/was a projection of social mentality. It is unfortunate that so much in this world is based upon this castle in the sand, this illusion. A healthy mind’s *God* will always change because s/he changes.

An *archetype of civilization* that stirred a certain template of social stratification ensued. This model marked a controlled cascade that bled down from the surreptitious blood(y) line of hierarchy: God(s) » Priests would be divining and responsible for making sure that people had fair proportion of enough to eat and for surveys that would measure the land: temple-land-serfs & scribes-writing-accountants-surveyors-tax collectors (tithing). Kings » Ensi » Generals » Officers » Nobility: estates, lands, & serfs: Peasants owned their own land and were “free,” but serfs were “slaves” of a certain sort who were placed in charge of the land, but in a great sense looked upon as a sort of “free slave” and keeper of this land(s). Women meant nothing; they silently sank beneath all of the above listed. Men couldn’t survive without one, so, we continue to scratch our heads about “history.” The big secret is that women *did* matter, but male

machismo did not allow such to be inscribed at such a testosterone-drenched time. If anyone holds an I.Q. above freezer temperature, then that person knows good and well that children are not born if a man does not make a woman “happy.” So, basic math would have it that in actuality, male bravado was King. With respect to men, this kind of front was needed to survive. Their wins made the women “happy” at night. Babies were born because of wins and happiness. Countries were born of such female lust and follow-through. Years later, let’s just concede to it.

Assyria was centered on the Tigris River, in north Mesopotamia—now Iraq. “It came to rule regional empires a number of times; it spanned four countries: in Syria it extended west to the Euphrates river; in Turkey it extended north to Harran, Edessa, Diyarbakir, and Lake Van; in Iran it extended east to Lake Urmi, and in Iraq it extended to about 100 miles south of Kirkuk. This is the Assyrian heartland, from which so much of the ancient Near East came to be controlled (Betbassoo).”

The Assyrians were ferocious, finger-flaying, merciless, seething savages who are known to have made their bloody way to The Black Sea. They flayed fingers; most probably scalps. They boiled children. They did unmentionable things to women. They did unimaginably humiliating and degrading acts to human beings. They fought, victims bled and bled; the Assyrians won. Did the term “ass” come from such? Later, the great Persia would come to subjugate the Assyrians. Modern day disgustingly attempts to dress them up like a Prozac-stuffed turkey: “This period of history saw the development of the fundamentals of our civilization: animal domestication, agriculture, pottery, controllable fire/kilns...With regards to the Assyrians, because of rich corn fields, Arbel was one of the very earliest permanent agricultural settlements (Betbassoo).”

“The Golden Age, 2400 B.C.- 612 B.C.,...would see 1800 years of Assyrian hegemony

over Mesopotamia, beginning with Sargon of Akkad in 2371 B.C. and ending with the tragic fall of Nineveh in 612 B.C. (Betbassoo).” Assyrians came to be the first nation to accept Christianity. Long before this, mighty Persia would quash the long-reigning merciless mavericks out of power.

There was no “x.” There was no “y.” Yet. “Y” would soon follow “x” when the Phoenicians made it so. The reason that little characters are able to be pieced together between spaces today remains an homage. The Phoenicians were an enigmatic band of sea-faring merchants who boiled sea murex in order to sell an important purple dye that when worn (purple cloth), signified royalty:

“Purple was a symbol of power, and, above all, wealth. An ounce of good purple dye would cost many times more than a pound of gold. The Phoenicians had long ago given up their secret of how to make "Tyrian Purple", but that didn't lower the cost: it still took more than ten thousand murex mollusks to make one raw wool toga into a purple "toga picta". Someone had to know where the right varieties of murex were found and had to dredge the spiny shellfish from the sea, and then they had beat and break them with iron bars—also dangerous work in the days before safety goggles. Then, after the slimy mess sat in the sun for several hours to let the color mature, someone had to wade into the now stinking mess to sop up the ooze and then dry it out (Halsall).”

They were known to have settled (Israel) the coast. They were the first people to sail around Africa. They burned cities. They took over. Importantly, these Canaanites birthed an alphabet which consisted of “...22 original letters—Arabic is composed of 28 letters and is *Phoenetic*...(Pickett).” They taught it to the Hebrews and to the Greeks. Interestingly:

“The main source of knowledge about Canaanite religion before the new sources

became available after 1930 (primarily the Ugaritic materials) was Philo of Byblos, the Greek name of ancient Gebal on the Mediterranean (Josh. 13:5, 1 Kings 5:18), forty-two miles north of Sidon...Philo lived around 100 AD and was a native Phoenician scholar and gathered data for a historical work called *Phoenikika* or "Phoenician Matters", designated *Phoenician History* by later Greek scholars...According to Porphyry and Eusebius, Philo translated the writings of an earlier Phoenician named Sanchuniathon, who was supposed to have lived at a very remote age, whom W. F. Albright placed between 700 and 500 BC. Sanchuniathon in turn supposedly got his material from one Hierombalus under Abibal, king of Berytus, who is said to have flourished before the Trojan War (Quartz).”

Persia (Iran) dominated the land beginning with *Cyrus the Great* (aka Cyrus II & King of Babylon, etc., other such affectionate titles) in 539 BC and kept expanding its territories. Demonstrating each King's individuality towards ruling the land "Cyrus was the father, Cambyses was a master, and Darius was a shopkeeper (Nosotro).”

King Cyrus, beyond loved and venerated by his loyal people, beholding the winsome charisma of a sort of *elected-Hitler-with-a-heart/modern JFK* (but more gallant, chivalrous, and most probably more keen) of such the day, seemed to be a keen psychologist of a mass proportional sort who could and did mentally manipulate in any way, shape, or form that he deemed fitting to the absolute achieving of his (decent) well-meaning aims. The Mardukian-honoring leader ran the Persian Empire. In this harsh time, he may have seemed well-intentioned, but when considering the savage Assyrians' heralding in that kingdom's "social atmosphere" a question beckons:

Might pink have seemed *warm* to an entire people after blue was all that they had seen?

Less debatable:

“The ancient Middle East was home to one of the greatest and strongest warring factions in all of history. The sands were stained red with blood of all who have died in her deserts. The sixty years before 500 B.C. experienced some of the most well known rebellions in history, where fathers fought fathers, and where brothers fought brothers. The rebellion of Persia in 550 B.C. led by Cyrus II (later called Cyrus the Great) conquered much of *the known world*. The king created an empire that stretched from the border deserts of Egypt to the mountains of Asia Minor, all the way to the lush rainforests to it’s time. Cyrus was called a man of peace, a man of human rights, and a man that carved one of the greatest empires in history, The Achaemenid Persian Empire (Cyrus).”

Persia became exceedingly wealthy under King Cyrus’ dominion and was known to have, “...stored seven tons of gold (Pickett).” The Median Army belonged to Cyrus, who was chosen by Hemas and “...curried favor with the Babylonians (Pickett).” He made his conquering way to the Aegean Sea for Persia. Darius (522-486 B.C.): the fair tax-man. King Darius, known as honest, judicious, and fair, instituted a ten percent flat tax on everyone. This was a first.

Other than varying historic and modern global utilized *alphabets*, today, some things have not drastically changed. “The biblical *Four Rivers* remain to be disputed (Fischer).” Water is still powerful. Beer is still powerful. Purple dye is still powerful. Fear, money, sex, and mass control remain to be threatening. Our modern day “civilization” continues to employ war to exercise power, fear, and more control. Today, there exist different accepted global *gods* and the on-going freedom to practice whichever belief one chooses; it is also rarely legal in *most* parts of the world to buy or own a human being or to boil a family’s child at a customary wedding party.

Do things *change*? Change may be a silly dream—a fleeting illusion much like the

possession of a false sense of exhibiting power over people. “Thirty spokes will converge in the hub of a wheel, but the use of the cart will depend on the part of the hub that is void (Blakney, p. 63).” Today, we spin a much similar wheel that bears similar spokes and its void continues to be deeply at work. “X” and “Y” are still ubiquitously useful in the ultimate making a human being and on our modern tablets where the scribing out of what has happened for the use of generations to come gets shelved and read and brooded over and over and about...some more.

Belief is powerful. In the way of controlling a body of people, the revered Lao Tzu warned that it be most propitious to, “Rule a large country as small fish are cooked...Since then the Wise Man and the people harm each other not at all, their several virtues should converge (Blakney, p. 113).” But what do we know? Today, so-called *civilized* creatures are still part of their own domesticated, turning, churning culture which still (more than not) stubbornly adheres to its very own claim(s) that somewhere, somehow, its very own powerful *God* —still rules.

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P.S. This essay is 13 pages. $3 + 1 = \text{FOUR}$. Have a nice day.