

The Greek conception of Space and Time, as transition from the ancient Mysteries to the expansion of Hellenistic Science

Konstantinos Karnassiotis, Researcher of Geomythology,
Academy of Institutions and Cultures

- Source Research: Lampros Papagiannis, Ph.D. of Philosophy,
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
Panayiotis Papaspyrou, Ph.D. Candidate,
Section of Astrophysics, Astronomy and Mechanics,
Department of Physics, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

ABSTRACT

During the transition from the Stone Age to the Bronze Age a strong and variant movement is indicated among the peoples of the Aegean. Societies constitute safer and more organized settlements, some of which holding the imperial palaces, are transformed into cities. Simultaneously great merchandise centres are developed in cities such as Thyra, Lemnos etc. Within those regimes political and religious power are identical, since religion covers all aspects of life, though they cannot be identified as of Asian type, given the fact that an element of participation exists in the society. The main feature of the Bronze Age is the procession of minerals and means of navigating. Those two are interconnected and depended to each other. Cycladian and Minoan-Mycenaean boats navigate throughout the Mediterranean and even reach the west coast of the Atlantic Ocean. A dense web of Merchandise centres, Navigation Centres, Craft Industries, and Cities are scattered everywhere. New methods for exploitation of minerals and advanced techniques of ship building and navigation transform empiricism into a new know-how leading to modern technologies. At the same time Surgery and Astronomy begin to develop. Thanks to experience and knowledge hydraulics and road-constructing related projects of the Bronze Age appear. The then known world is now reachable thanks to water paths and is transformed to the Creto-Mycenaean inland. The Aegean has gathered an impressive amount of knowledge. However at approximately 1100 B.C. the societies around the Aegean collapse owing to a swarm of comets and the climate changes they cause. The main characteristic of the Societies of participation is that knowledge is no longer a privilege of the clergy as in the theocratic empires of Asia or Egypt. Knowledge may be shared with those who have the will to accept it and possess the ability to take advantage of it. In those primal Greek societies of the Bronze Age and the forthcoming Iron Age knowledge is dispensed through Mysteries along with answers to cosmos related questions. Those questions deal with the Universe and God. Mysteries are of cognitive, but also moral character. Perseus and Hercules are only two examples of such character in the sense that their feasts aim to the common good. They all the times find themselves moving to the west, further from the Atlantic, only to reach the north before they wander through the galaxies. As they return people set Mysteries to honour them, while they rise to be-

come solar gods. Through such procedures the primal world of the Greeks alters the pursuit of the dimension of space and time to the quality of the cosmologic elements. And the attempt to conceive and understand leads to theories that is Philosophy, the attempt to systematize knowledge to a body creates boundaries, that is Science and in order to verify the results, they develop Technology. The road is one and only. The survey for the dimension of space and time takes them to construct maps, astronomical tools and portable time-telling machines, an orgasm of manufacture during the Hellenistic Period.

At the beginning of the Archaic and Classic Period a new type of expansion takes place at the Aegean. The Greeks constitute a very dense web of colonies, which allows Plato to refer to the Mediterranean as the "Greek lake". They carry their know-how, develop technology even further and interchange with the peoples with who they are in contact. This knowledge becomes systematized into Science. With Alexander the Third the Greek cities reach the ultimate of the East and Arale. Technology and Science reach their peak. It is then that the Antikythera Mechanism is invented; the greatest technological and scientific achievement, an analogical type of calculator providing data up to this very day.