

SENMUT CEILING AND PLANET METIS, A NEW ASTRONOMIC SCENARIO FOR INTERPRETING ANCIENT THEOGONIES

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Dedicated to Immanuel Velikovsky, the first scholar to consider as a real event the mythological birth of Athena from Jupiter's head; and to Roberto Pinotti, whose invitations to San Marino CIRPET meetings led to this work.

1 Introduction

Senmut was a famous minister in the Egyptian XVIII dynasty, at the time of the woman pharaoh Hatshepsut, of whom he was also probably a lover. His tomb is famous for the drawings and hieroglyphic writings on the ceiling, that appeared once the plaster covering them was removed. Their interpretation has been subject of many discussions. For a detailed description of such a ceiling see Barbetta (2015). While reading Barbetta's book, who presented his work at the 2015 San Marino CIRPET conference, this author realized that at least part of the ceiling drawings could be easily explained within the so called VAS astronomic scenario for evolution of the solar system in the last 12.000 years BP. Such a scenario started by Velikovsky (1950), got fundamental development by Ackerman (1999a,b) and more recently by this author, see e.g. his papers published in Russian academic journals, Spedicato (2012, 2013, 2014a).

In the present paper we interpret Senmut tomb ceiling drawings in terms of the most important recent event in solar system, namely the impact of a body larger than Earth on that planet about 7000 BC. As a corollary we get an explanation for the mythological role of Orion, for the cosmic waters, the Easter egg, origin of ritual number 260 in the Mayan calendar, arguing that the roots of Egyptian civilization go back to the time of the Atlantis civilization before 9450 BC as claimed in Plato. Our astronomic key will be applied in further papers to Babylonian, Hindu, Avestan cosmogonies, and others.

2 Metis, Moon, Mars, Jupiter et alia, an unexpected story

We start by a synopsis of the astronomic scenario developed mainly by Ackerman and Spedicato, from a claim by Velikovsky, that will give the key to explain the major features of Senmut ceiling. For more see the quoted papers and books, and especially the website of Ackerman. All data in this paper are b.C.

A about year 9450 the planet we call here M approaches Earth, having entered the inner solar system from outside. At the close passage M loses one of its satellites, that is captured by Earth, becoming our Moon. Due to gravitational stress from the passage, M having a larger mass, Earth is slightly deformed, with earthquakes and fissuring of the oceanic crust, followed by magma emission. Tsunamis and strong rains follow, leading inter alia to the melting of most ices that covered Earth. A quick end in perhaps just a few weeks, of the last Ice Age, then in a phase of great cold, the Younger Dryas, that followed a super Tunguska explosion over Great Lakes about 10.500, see Spedicato (2015b). Many animal species disappear, human population is greatly reduced, the Atlantis civilization disappears (small groups probably survived),

see Spedicato (2014c), the ocean level increases about a hundred meters, flooding large coastal areas.

B M has an orbital period of 20 years, obtained by dividing by 180 the period of 3600 years given by Sumerians in encrypted form. A division by 180 is needed in many ancient chronologies and even length measures, see Spedicato (2014d). M appears with the name Nibiru in Sumerian mythology, of Marduk in Babylonian, of Pachacamac in south American, of Metis in Greek one, possibly Vritra in Hinduism.. We take M from the initial of Metis. Every 20 years Metis approached Earth, an event waited with terror and feasted once it moved away. See the walls of ancient Anatolian city of Catal Huyuk, dated at about the Platonic time for Atlantis, that were painted white about 120 times. The painting might have signaled the escaped catastrophe, a number of paintings done in about 2400 years, see further on a more precise estimate. Notice that number 20 has special ritual value in for instance Mayan calendar. 20 was also the basis for computations in hundreds of languages, now remaining in Basque and several Siberian languages, traces even in the French language.

C after about 120 passages near Earth, M impacted Jupiter, forming a crater of depth possibly over 40.000 km, reaching the core of Jupiter. From the crater enormous mass was expelled towards much of the solar system. The crater corresponds to the Red Spot, usually considered a sign of a giant hurricane, see Ackerman (1999a,b) for its identification as an impact crater. Notice that already Runcorn (1970) had proposed, with others, a not atmospheric origin of Red Spot, as possibly a crater by impact from a crashing satellite. The region affected by the impact extended over hundreds million square km. Certain signs indicate that the Red Spot might soon disappear.

D the mass expelled from Jupiter formed several structures: the latter mass formed planet Venus, still now cooling; the asteroid belt with small bodies along the original Jovian orbit; the Jovian short term comets, all passing near a point on the asteroid belt; even the Jupiter satellites called Galileans. Some mass reached Sun, Earth, Moon, Mars and even Saturn. The birth of Venus can be dated, with unexpected accuracy, using the Mesoamerican chronology, see Spedicato (2015b), to year 6910. Hence we derive for the time M orbited in the inner solar system, after ceding Moon to Earth, a total of years 2540, a figure with possibly an error of only a few years.

E Earth had two satellites, when M impacted Jupiter: one, the Moon, had been captured in 9450, while Mars, satellite since very long time, possibly formed together with Earth, had water oceans and life, possibly even an intelligent one. Moon being hit by Jovian mass left the original orbit, closer to Earth, where it loomed in the sky one and a half times the width of Sun and Mars, according to some Sumerian tablets. Mars, more heavily hit by Jovan mass, got a depression on one hemisphere and a bulge on the opposite one. Great volcanos appeared with great eruptions. A great

crust fissure formed the Valles Marineris. Mars was initially revolving Earth on an orbit more distant than Moon's, at about one million km, close to Hill's limit of Earth (where Earth and Sun's attractions are equal). After the push received by the Jovian mass, Mars lost the gravitational tie with Earth, ceasing to be our satellite. Earth was also hit by several Jovian pieces, leading to earthquakes, worldwide tsunamis, rains and vapors, see the geologist Alexander Tollmann and his wife Edith (1999). Even part of the water of Martian oceans might have reached our planet, albeit we think that most of Martian water arrived in a later event, the Noachian Flood, that can be dated to possibly one year accuracy at 3161. The waters from Mars appear in *Genesis* as the *fountains from the high*. They arrived in the form of ice at temperature possibly about 200 below zero, thereby explaining how mammoth could be found as almost instantly frozen, see Ginenthal (1997) or Manher (2015)

G the mass lost from Jupiter reduced the Jovian core mass to a value below that of Saturn (estimated at 20 times Earth total mass), this being one of the most important recent discoveries by a space probe. Indeed Venus 5 after thorough analysis of planet Venus explored to some extent Jupiter and Saturn, analyzing their mass distribution, with the said unexpected result. The core mass loss by Jupiter can be naturally explained as the result of a large impact with some object, whose mass has been estimated at Peking University Astrophysics Department to 10 times Earth mass. While no date for the impact has been proposed, we claim that it was the one by Metis at 9450 BC. M impacted Jupiter frontally, slowing the giant planet, that moved to a more distant orbit, because of Kepler law and other effects.

H Earth people saw in the sky the spectacular transformation of the small star of Jupiter into a large body of an ovoid shape, its volume consisting mostly of extremely hot gas, in ionized form, say a plasm. Gas that originated not only from the previous Jovian atmosphere, but also from the Jovian crust consisting to a large extent of methane hydrate. Such a molecule is unstable and would easily turn into gas and plasma. The resulting expanded Jupiter may have appeared in the sky with an angular diameter larger than those of Moon or Sun. A Jupiter then largely consisting of plasma, with giant electrical discharges there occurring, seen on Earth and believed to be the mysterious lightning of Jupiter, never really explained. Around such a body one could see part of the mass that had not escaped from Jupiter gravity, much of it ending in the four Galilean satellites. The age of these satellites may indeed be possibly of only a few thousand years, see Ackerman, *The cosmogony of the solar system*, Academia.Edu, 2015. The sight of the new Galilean satellites moving around Jupiter might be the origin of the Greek myth of the battle between Jupiter and Giants.

I Jupiter expanded assuming a not spherical form, because the plasma in front of the great crater, having a diameter several times Earth's, was pushed to the exterior by the mass exiting the crater. The asymmetric form was well visible from Earth during the rotation of Jupiter, which is quite fast, possibly having been affected by the impact. Due to the high temperature, the expanded gases were probably white hot.

The object appeared in the sky as a kind of egg, the cosmic egg found in many ancient theogonies.

L the mass expelled from a rotating Jupiter was directed not only towards the inner part of the solar system, but also the external part. There it likely reached Saturn orbit. Possibly it interacted with Saturn, explaining several features of that giant planet. These include the rings, due perhaps to fragmentation once the Jovian material passed Saturn Roche limit.

M Ackerman (2015a) claims that Jupiter at the time of the impact had water totaling a mass about 250 Earth mass; a large part of this water was expelled forming inter alia Galilean satellites and Saturn rings. He claims that the isotopic composition of Jovian water was different from terrestrial water, having more deuterium. Thus the almost instantaneous compression of Jupiter surface from the impact of M would lead to nuclear fusion explosions of enormous energy. The fast expansion of the Jovian globe would follow, with projection of mass outside Jupiter.

M an interesting question is the time for Jovian mass to reach Earth. The escape speed from Jupiter is now about 60 km/sec, certainly also similar at the impact time (the speed of a gun bullet is about 1 km/sec, the fragments of a plastic explosive like the one used in the Sinai explosion of a Russian jet reach 8 km/sec...). Let us assume for default a speed of 100 km/sec. If Jupiter was revolving along the present asteroid belt, whose distance from Sun is about 400 million km, then its distance from Earth was between 150 and 550 km. With a speed of 100 km/sec, fragments would breach Earth after between 4 and 9 weeks. A time for observers from Earth enough to see much of the evolution of Jupiter since the impact and its interaction with some of the newly formed bodies.

Below an image of the Red Spot.



3 An astronomic interpretation of Senmut tomb ceiling

In this section we give a new interpretation of features of one half of Senmut tomb, from the above given astronomic scenario. Below two images are given of the ceiling. Figure 1, from a photo reworked for clarity, represents the part analyzed in this paper. Figure 2 represents the whole ceiling, that is divided into two parts partially symmetric. In the first image we see 28 of the 36 decanes, say divisions of the sky, see Barbetta (2015) for a discussion. Hieroglyphs appear, that we do not discuss. On the left side we see a rectangle R inside which there are hieroglyphs, stars and an intriguing drop-like form, with triple contours, called in hieroglyphs the Womb of Nu. We see on the left of R another rectangle S with three large stars and a person standing in one of three boats in S. The central images are surrounded by rows of stars, that we will consider in relation with the symmetric second image.

Figure 1

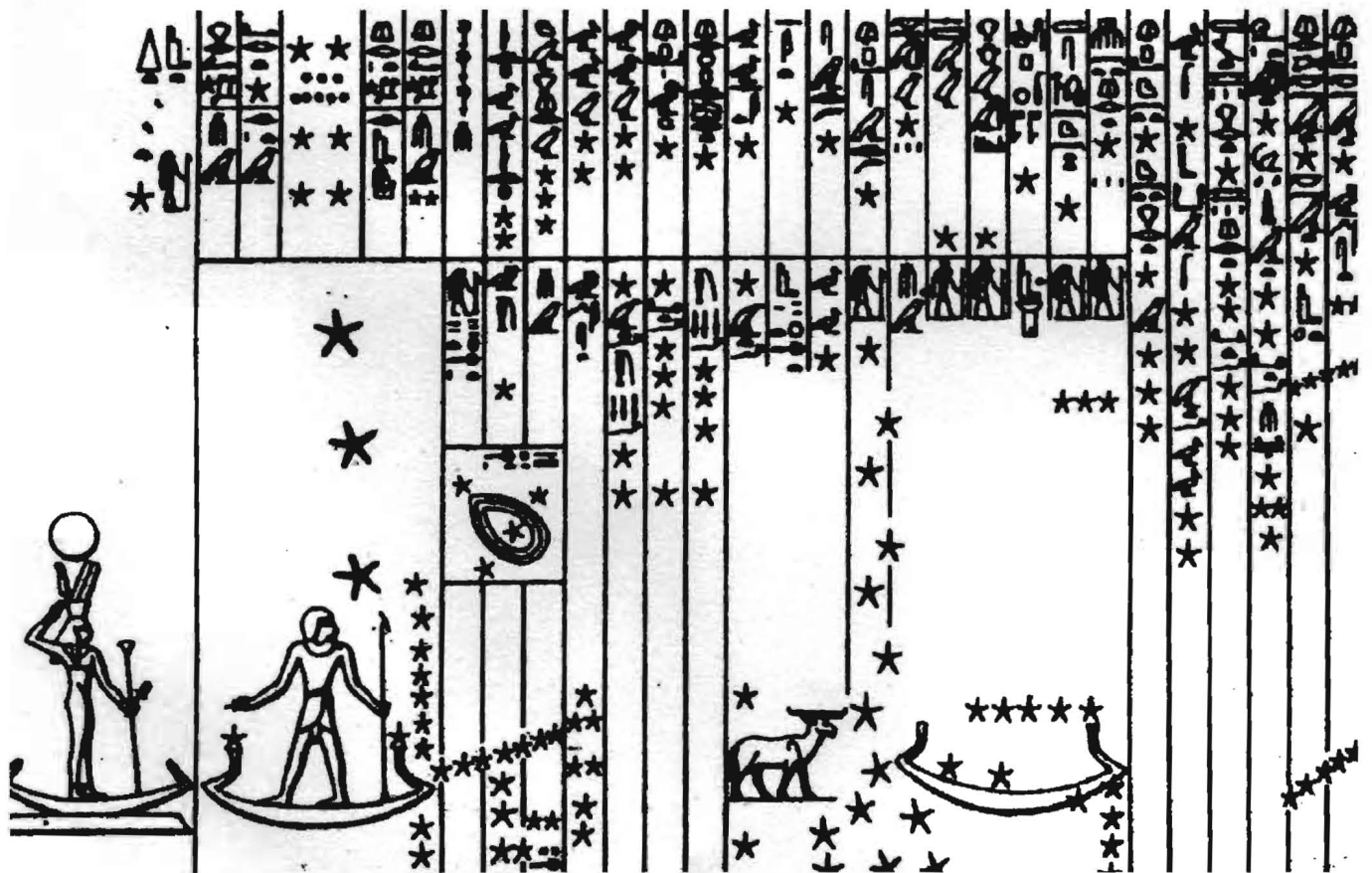
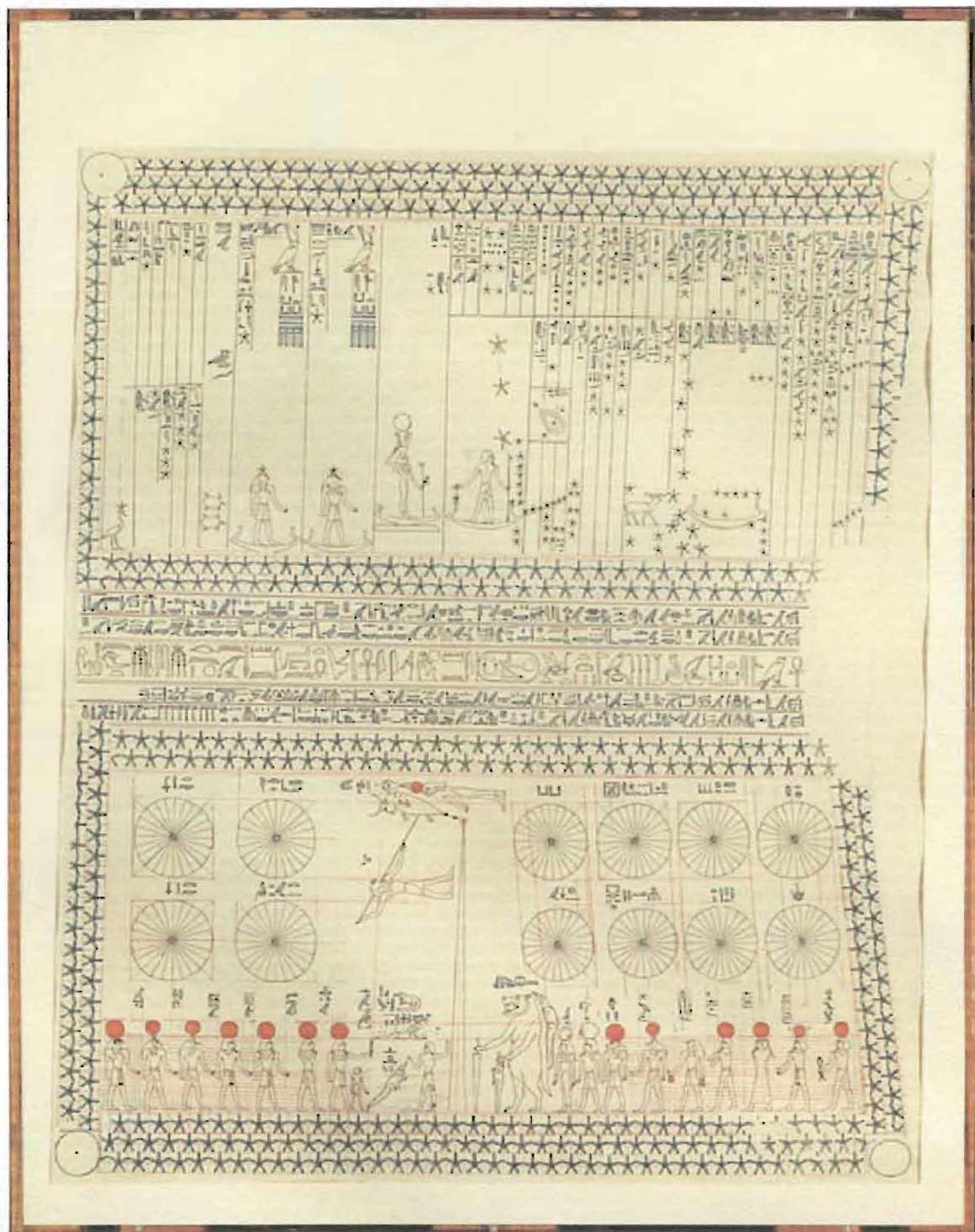


Figure 2



We make the following, admittedly partial, considerations on Senmut ceiling:

- A1 stars are 5-pointed. Number 5 can be explained noting that Metis was fifth of the celestial objects seen from Earth in terms of their distance, coming after Moon, Mars, Sun and Jupiter. Indeed if Metis had period 20, than its aphelion lied between the orbits of Jupiter and Saturn. After Metis disappeared in the Jovian impact, a 5-pointed star could have become Mars, in the sequence of distances from Earth given by Moon, Sun, Mercury, Venus, Mars. The 6-pointed star then would be Jupiter, still considered the king of planets, but a peaceful planet, a symbol taken by David and especially Solomon, man of peace; man also of wisdom, knowledge and glory.... As stated in Bible, Gospels included, but considered by many modern biblical scholars as someone who never existed
- A2 based upon counting of this author, in the ceiling of Senmut, Figure 1, there are, outside R, 127 stars. Now between the passage of Metis close to Earth, which ended Ice Age and gave Moon as a new satellite, estimated at 9450, see Spedicato (2014c) and the impact on Jupiter, dated at 6910 from Mesoamerican chronology, there is an interval of 2450 years. Dividing such number by 20, we get 127 for the number of revolutions of Metis in this interval, to be associated with 127 passages somewhat close to Earth, possibly also explaining the about 120 white paintings of the walls of Çatal Huyuk. The correspondence of the 127 calculated passages with the 127 stars in the ceiling may be casual, but with a low probability. Notice that the 127 stars appear of different size, a suggestion that the passage took place at different distances. Notice moreover that 127 passages memorized implies that such a memory was kept from about 9450, well before the Metis impact took place. This suggests a civilization that existed at the time of Atlantis. Thus pre-dynastic Egypt must have roots at least from the end of the last Ice Age, confirming Manetho's and others statements that Egyptian kings existed since thousands of years. See Bacchi (2015) for further considerations.
- A3 the number of stars in each decane might count how many times Metis got its aphelion in that decane. Such number is indeed expected not to have been constant for each decane, since Metis orbit is not expected to have been in resonance with the orbits of other planets, due to the recent capture
- A4 the drop-like structure in R, known as the *Womb of Nu*, we identify as Jupiter after the impact. Due to the heat delivered by the impact, Jupiter atmosphere, added with gases from the crust, expanded greatly, making that planet an object in the sky visible from Earth with angular size possibly greater than that of Moon of Sun. Jupiter, moving slowly along the constellations, is visible

from Earth only during part of the 24 hours day. The size of Jupiter most probably appeared to increase significantly over a few days, hence the three contours of the drop may show its size in three successive days, till it reached the maximum size and stabilized for some time. After the impact and the transient associated events, Jupiter cooled slowly, while moving also to its new and present orbit. How long did it take to reach the present state is unknown now and certainly would not be an easy calculation.

- A5 the fact that Jupiter appears having a drop form instead of a spherical form is a natural consequence of the pressure on the atmosphere and plasma by the material expelled from the crater, even now coming out in small amounts. Material ejected from the crater consisted initially of molten mass, then of gas. It crossed the external layer of atmosphere, pushing it outside and originating the form of pointed drop seen in R. Later the form rounded to some extent, giving an ovoid shape.
- A6 the 5-pointed star inside the drop we interpret as Metis inside Jupiter body, after the impact. Recall the Greek myth where *Metis, a wife of Jupiter, being pregnant of Athena entered the body of Jupiter, who expelled Athena from his head*. A perfect description of what happened in the present scenario, a fact recalled by Velikovsky in *Worlds in Collision*, whose synopsis I read age 7 in *Selezione del Reader's Digest*. Thus Greek myth goes back as well to at least about 7000. It may go back even earlier, to first times of Egypt according to Manetho. Indeed the myth of Prometheus, *who taught man how to keep the fire*, is dated by Iginus at three myriads before his time. A date that might be associated with the starting of the first Indian yuga at 27.000, see Spedicato (2014d), or the demise of the Neanderthal man, also dated about 27.000 in studies directed by Brunetto Chiarelli, Florence University, albeit for such a demise other dates have been proposed
- A7 less easy is interpreting the three 5-pointed stars around the drop. They could be 3 of the 4 Galilean satellites that according to Ackerman (2015b), formed from material that after expulsion orbited around Jupiter. Probably only 3 of the 4 objects could be seen at the same time. They had to be very bright due to their heat. Moving around Jupiter they looked as attacking him. Here might be the otherwise mysterious origin of the myth of Giants attacking Jupiter. The myth of a similar attack by Titans, that occurred earlier, might relate to a first passage of Metis near Jupiter, with possible loss of some Metis satellites
- A8 In Sumerian and Akkadian mythology Marduk fights and defeats Tiamat, that opens like a shell and expels its inner organs. That looks like the description of the initial M impact. The impact moment is not shown in Senmut ceiling. This can be explained by Jupiter, that is visible only for part of the day due to Earth rotation, rising in the sky for Egyptian ancestors when the impact had already occurred some hours before. Now the original land of the Sumerians, called by

them *Dilmun*, and located to the east of their later domain in present southern Irak, should be identified north of India, in or close to Tibet, see Spedicato (2001a,b). The Tibetan connection appears intriguingly also in the proper name of the Sumerians, say *black heads*, the same used by Tibetans, say *Bopas*. Sumerian name *Dilmun* means in zhang zhung language, used in the past throughout much of interior Asia, *blue sky*, very well expressing a main feature of the Tibetan land due to aridity and elevation. Dilmun was close to present deserts of Takla Makan and Lob Nor, that till a few thousand years ago were partly a huge inner sea of sweet water. This is a recent geological finding, due to Turkish geomorphologist Eröl Orghuz, who used satellite photographs. We identify this huge basin of sweet water with the Sumerian *Abzu*, meaning in Sanskrit *Sweet water*, with secondary meaning *abyss*, since it lied well below the high mountain ranges surrounding it, say Kunlun, Tienshan, Altai... Now there is evidence, see for instance Bacchi (2015) or Temple (2010), that Egyptian civilization goes back thousands of years before the historical dynasties, whose first king was Menes, dated at around 2800, an uncertain date. The Egyptian civilization seems to originate from outside the Nile basin, possibly from north-west Africa, the present Morocco. Between Morocco and NW Tibet there are a hundred degrees of longitude difference, say some seven hours difference. Sumerians in their original land might have seen the impact itself, while the ancestors of the Egyptian civilization would have seen Jupiter as it appeared several hours after the impact, when it had already developed the form called *Womb of Ra*.

The M impact and its aftermath most probably appears in the cosmogony of other people, among them the Indus-Sarasvati civilization, whose beginning is now set at about 7000, from evidence at the archaeological site of Mehrgar, see Kak (1994). In the quoted works of Ackerman much use is made of the Vedic texts, wherefrom he derives the evolution of Athena, then planet Venus, whose circular orbit was finally obtained at about the time Rome was founded. It

- A9 Jesus can be considered in a sense as a witness of the M impact on Jupiter. First notice his declaration that *before Abraham was, I exist*. Abraham birth date is 2094, from chronology of *Septuaginta* and our dating Noah's Flood at 3161. Thus Jesus claims to know very old events, albeit he also declares his ignorance of the future, known only to his Father. His claim in Luke 10-18 *I have seen Satan fall from the sky like a lightings*, can be interpreted as a description of Athena-Satan-Lucifer expelled from Jupiter, under electrical discharges. Satan and Lucifer were related in biblical and extra-biblical traditions. Lucifer was associated to the Morning Star, say to Venus appearing in the morning before sunrise. Venus in the sky after sunset was considered as a different star or god, Hesperus. The discovery of the identity of Lucifer and Hesperus is attributed to Pythagoras, who probably got it by scholars he met in his travels to Egypt, Mesopotamia, India... many scholars are silent on the origin of claims presented as their own. Just consider Copernicus, who deleted

references to Aristarchus, or Einstein, whose famous formula was derived and published before him by Olinto De Pretto, a friend of Einstein father...

- A10 When M impacted Jupiter, the giant planet was seen from Earth in a position in the sky near or above Orion constellation, thus explaining the Orion importance within Egyptian, and other peoples, cosmogonies. If name Orion has Sanskrit origin, its meaning is water, *Ur* being a special Sanskrit name for water (that has other names, e.g. *pani*, the name still now used in Hindi, Bengali, Sinti... and given to the ancient India navigators). Notice that *Ur* appears among ancient cities in the Sumerian *Ur*, or the Kashmiri *Uri* (in a forthcoming paper we claim that Abraham originated from that city, validating a forgotten statement by Clearchus of Soli). Thus it is natural to see Orion constellation associated to water, because waters affected Earth from tsunamis and great rains, after Jovian mass hit continents and mainly ocean. So not cosmic water in the sense of water in deep space. Some of the water that affected our planet in the aftermath of M impact may have arrived from Martian ocean, since Mars as an Earth satellite was also affected by the event.
- A11 Association of Jupiter with Orion may be confirmed by rectangle R, where three great stars appear aligned as the three stars, Al Nitak, Al Nilam, Al Mintaka, of Orion constellation belt. The three names might refer to the three great rivers Tanai (now Don, once possibly united with Volga), Nile and Mintaka-Tarim. These rivers may define the region controlled by Noah's three sons Sem, Japhet and Cam. The persons standing on boats recall that vast continental areas were flooded by the tsunami following the oceanic impacts. Perhaps the reference is to the flooding of coastal areas of north-west Africa (Morocco, Mauritania... up to the Atlas range). They became lagoons for many centuries, leaving many now dry lake bottoms covered by salt. Also lake Tchad probably received water, increasing its surface. There possibly the special technology for reed boats was developed, later used by Thor Heyerdhal in his famous explorations.
- A12 After developing the above arguments, I read the Proceedings of the *Velikovsky Centennial Celebration, 1895-1995, New York, 1995*, organized by Charles Ginenthal, a book I had left unread for fifteen years. I found a paper by Renate Schukies, an anthropologist of the Great Plains Indian tribes, especially the Cheyenne. She found among those Indians the belief that planet Venus originated from Orion. A belief explained by VAS scenario since the impact of M impacted occurred, with birth of Athena-Venus, when Jupiter was seen in front of Orion constellation. I found soon Renate's phone number and talked with her now living in Hamburg
- A13 The Turkish (not Islamic) symbol of a lunar crescent with a 5-pointed star between its horns can be explained within VAS scenario, noting that when Moon appeared first in the sky, about 9450 after dissolution of the clouds

originated by the great rains, also other celestial bodies became again visible. If M was then not too far and was still well visible, while moving away from Earth, then possibly it appeared in the sky between the lunar horns. After 6910, when M no more existed, that event might have repeated with Mars instead of M, before it ceased to be Earth satellite, at the time of Noachian Flood, 3161

- A14 The part of Senmut ceiling, that we have considered, is surrounded by a frame of larger 5-pointed stars, numbering, if our counting is correct, 260. 260 is the number of days in the sacred year of the Mayas, see Barbiero (2015) and Spedicato (2015b). Thus, unless we are facing another unlikely coincidence, a relation is suggested between the Mayan and Egyptian civilizations, dating to very old times. Note first that 260 is the product of 20, here seen as the period of M, and 13, a cabala type relation. Now 13 is inter alia a sacred number to the Aztecs, see Spedicato (2015b), and to other people. It was quite probably the number of months in a year before the Noachian Flood. This statement comes from Giuseppe Brunod, who analysed Val Camonica petroglyphs. There a transition is shown of the number of months from 13 to 12 near the end of fourth millennium BC. The real reason why 260 was important for Mayas is unknown in the academic world. A weak proposal sees a relation with the number of weeks for human pregnancy, estimated at 266 for the present year of 365.25 days, or 262 for a year of 360 days, as arguments show to be the case before Noachian Flood. See later for another possibility within VAS scenario.
- A15 Almost unknown is that 260 appears in Cambodia, not far from Angkor, in the temple of Ta Prohm, whose walls measure about 1000 by 600 meters,. The sum of these numbers is close to a multiple of the golden section ratio, say 1.618... a relation that if not by chance would give the first case where the golden section is noted in eastern Asian archaeology, as commented astronomer Adriano Gaspani. In that temple there are 260 statues of gods set around the statues of some gurus. The temple was built in 1186 AD, from a local inscription, thus shortly after that 1178 AD when the Giordano Bruno crater was formed near north lunar pole by an asteroid impact. The lunar impact was probably followed by some pieces of the asteroid hitting the Pacific Ocean. Those impacts of moderate energy led to several events, inter alia migration of Aztecs from Mexican coast to inner Mexican highland, the demise of the coastal Peruvian states substituted by the Incas empire, the burning of forests in New Zealand with the large Moa bird disappearing... see Spedicato (1988). It is expected that important tsunamis affected the southern part of Cambodia, that is low lying, and where the initial Cambodian Fusan civilization started. The catastrophic event might be at the origin of the construction of the Ta Prohm temple. If the number 260 of statues has an astronomic derivation, then we may conjecture that an object with orbital period 260 might have existed, coming very close to Earth every 260 days, looming quite large in the sky, thus justifying the size of the stars that in the frame are bigger than those inside. The body might be related to the 1178 lunar impact, after some orbital perturbation.

Venus present period being 225, Earth 365, the body would have orbited between Venus and Earth orbits. Its origin might have been as another M satellite, lost to M but not captured by Earth. Thus the origin of 260 would be not in a numerical symbolism, but in real events, either astronomic or from human biology.

Our considerations open several themes to research, where the VAS scenario provides a key to interpret historical or prehistorical events not in the rather usual symbolic or exoteric nature, but referring to real, albeit, unusual events. An approach for which science is indebted to Velikovsky. Such themes include:

- Analysis of the Tiamat myth, and generally of the Sumerian Theogony
- Egyptian god Ra to be identified not with Sun but with Jupiter, also from features in Sun identification in the petroglyphs of Val Camonica or Monte Bego that cannot be applied to Sun
- Intelligent beings reaching Earth during, say, last Ice Age, to be present at the two most important and unusual events in recent solar system history. These are the impact of M on Jupiter in 6910 and the Noachian Flood in 3161, when Mars passed close to Earth and lost its core from the Valles Marineris, as proposed by Ackerman and further developed by Spedicato, quoted papers.
- Contacts between civilizations in north west Africa considered by Bacchi and Temple as the origin of the Egyptian civilization, and at least a Mesoamerican civilization, that produced extremely accurate calendars. Contacts probably existing already at the time of the Platonic civilization of Atlantis, located by Spedicato (2014 c) in the island of Kiskeya-Hispaniola, and whose developments started before the fatal year 9450...

Note 1 : on Nibiru and Sitchin

Zecharia Sitchin is author of several books, sold in million copies, where he assumes the arrival on our planet of intelligent people from a planet named Nibiru in Sumerian sources, orbiting our Sun with a period of 3600 years. In VAS scenario the period is

20 years and we do not assume or need that intelligent beings lived in Nibiru. Note that Sitchin got his main ideas from the little known mathematician Matest Agrest, born like him in Baku. I met Sitchin in New York. He told me that he never read books by other authors, to avoid doubts about his own theories.

There have been critical remarks about Sitchin knowledge of ancient Semitic languages and doubts that a planet Nibiru exists in Sumerian literature. Some followers of Sitchin have associated Nibiru to a hypothesized *planet X* or star *Nemesis*, as a companion of Sun, claiming that Nibiru will return; such a return is of course impossible within VAS scenario.

Analysis of Sitchin statements is due to Bible scholar Michael Heiser, who certifies existence of Nibiru from evidence in *Chicago Assyrian Dictionary*, where the other name Neberu is preferred (vowels are usually not known in many ancient consonant only scriptures). Here Nibiru appears with the main meaning of *passage*, a meaning well justified in VAS scenario, but mysterious for Sumerologists. Nibiru is also associated to a sky divine body, being preceded by words *mul* = *star*, or *D* = *dingir* = *god*. The role of Nibiru is enigma for academic scholars of Sumerian astronomy, who ignore the VAS scenario. Nibiru is also quoted in a 1961 paper of Benno Landsberger, one of the greatest assyriologist of last century.

Sitchin (1976) associates his Nibiru's period of 3600 years to one sar-shar, o saros, o sare, a unit used by Babylonians, as claimed by Syncellus, Abydenus, Berosus, Alexander Polyhistor. A short saros of 20 years is discussed in Spedicato (2004), related to the short saros of 18 years of Chaldeans, see Lorenzo Hervás y Panduro (1781), a now forgotten astronomer, abbot and member of Cortona Etruscan Academy, known inter alia for a 1794 book on the discovery of Uranus in 1781. We like to recall that Euler calculated by mind Uranus orbital parameters. After getting the result he drank a cup of tea, caressed his young nephew and passed away.

Sitchin considers Nibiru as the twelfth planet of Sumerians, a statement we do not comment. 3600 also defines the Great Year in Pythagoras and Plato, being the period at whose end planets and stars take again their initial configuration. The square of 3600 appears in Plato's *Politicus*, with a complex meaning.

Note 2: 127 in Tibet?

Tibetan calendar uses cycles of 60 years, as in other calendars, each year being defined by a unique combination of one from 12 animals and one from 5 elements. Such a calendar had no beginning year, contrary to Christian or Islamic calendars. Before the Chinese took full control of Tibet, around 1950 AD, some scholarly lamas

were given the task to establish the beginning year. This was taken as 127 b. C., when the great king Nyatri Tsenpo supposedly acceded to the throne. The king followed the pre-Buddhist religion called Bön, existing also in Kashmir, substituted by Buddhism after the sixth century A.D. Nyatri Tsenpo built the first masonry building in Tibet, near river Yarlung, Brahmaputra in Sanskrit, that still exists (of the about 10.000 monasteries in Tibet before Cultural Revolution, only 11 were left intact...). Nyatri Tsenpo also established the Losar, or Tibetan New Year festival, lasting now 15 days, and corresponding to the day he ascended to the throne.

The agreement of year 127 b.C. for the beginning of the Tibetan calendar with the number of 127 stars in Senmut ceiling should be purely casual. However it seems that Nyatri Tsenpo actually came to the throne in 414 a.D. Therefore one wonders if that date was changed by the lamas in order to associate it with another number of secret meaning...

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