

The Pleiades

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This article is in honor of the original people of this continent, the Native Americans, who were guided by the starry constellations and created ancient star maps. Turtle Island is the name, according to Native American legend, for the North American continent. In this mythology North America is thought to be on the back of a large turtle and it is said that the tortoise volunteered itself so that its shell could serve as a home for all creatures on the land. In the Native American Indian lore it is said that there was a time when the earth was in a watery condition, and consequently there was nowhere to live for human beings and animals on this planet of water. Then, arising from the water, a large turtle offered its shell. According to this myth, North America thus came to be situated on the back of this turtle, one of whose hind legs is seen to be Florida, the other hind leg is seen to be Baja California, and Mexico the tail.

Some Native Americans believe that all tribes in North America originated from the Pleiades. In this view the Native Americans are actually descendants from that star cluster and have been given a task by the Pleiades to tend and care for Mother Earth.



The Dance of the Pleiades by Elihu Vedder, in an engraving by F.E. Fillebrown.

In order to cover all the myths, legends, and esoteric teachings relating to the Pleiades, it would be necessary to write an entire book. The following short article is intended to provide some initial background regarding the

Pleiades and then to indicate something of the Native Americans beliefs with respect to this star cluster. It is the author's hope, at a later point in time, to write a more extensive treatise on the Pleiades, which will be footnoted clearly with all the references. As an introduction, however, this article is not a treatise, and there are no footnotes and just a few source references.

One of the central themes of the Pleiades is the impulse for community. For the seven individual stars stand in community, appearing to the naked eye as a well-defined cluster. The star cluster known as the Pleiades is thought to represent seven sisters, the daughters of Atlas and Pleione. In Hindu mythology they are seen as the seven wives of the Seven Holy Rishis, who are represented by the Big Dipper, which are the seven most prominent stars in the constellation of the Great Bear (Ursa Major). In fact, the appearance of the Pleiades, as can be seen in the representation below ('The two parents, left, and the Seven Sisters of the Pleiades') resembles a Small Dipper. The Seven Holy Rishis are considered to have revealed the Vedas, the holy scriptures of India. In some schools of esoteric thought the Pleiades are said to be one of three stellar configurations – the other two being the Big Dipper and Sirius – that are most important for our solar system as animating and inspiring the evolution of the Earth and humanity.

The Pleiades also appear in ancient Jewish lore. They are mentioned in the Book of Job, the oldest book of the Bible.

Job 9:9 – Who maketh the Great Bear, Orion, the Pleiades, and the chambers of the south.

Job 38:31 – Canst thou bind the sweet influences of the Pleiades, or loose the bands of Orion?

The Pleiades are called Kimah in the Old Testament. They are associated with the story of Noah and with the Biblical Flood as referred to in the set of Jewish scriptures known as the Babylonian Talmud: "When the Holy One decided to bring the Deluge on the Earth, He took two stars from Kimah and brought the Deluge on the Earth."

The Pleiades are featured in the star-lore of many ancient cultures. For example, at Lascaux in central France, a cave painting from 16,500 years ago shows the Pleiades in their usual place in the constellation of Taurus the Bull.



Cave painting of Taurus, with the Pleiades above, from 16,500 years ago in Lascaux, France.

The Pleiades were mentioned in a Chinese text from around 2357 B.C. and they were depicted in ancient Mesopotamia as the place of exaltation (most powerful location) of the Moon. It is interesting that Pope John Paul II who, according to Lakota spiritual leader Chanupa Wambdi Wicasa (Deer Man), was a Pipe Carrier in the eyes of the Lakota, was born with both the Sun and Moon in conjunction with the Pleiades. Moreover, the only male U.S. citizen, hitherto, to have been pronounced a saint, John Neumann, Bishop of Philadelphia and the founder of the first Catholic diocesan school system in the United States, was born when the Moon was exalted – that is, when the Moon was in conjunction with the Pleiades. Also, the English Romantic poet John Keats was born when the Moon was at exaltation in conjunction with the Pleiades. His poem “Ode to a Nightingale” was said by poet Algernon Swinburne to be “one of the final masterpieces of human work in all time and for all ages.” And it has also been described to be one of the most perfect poems in the English language. The following lines quoted from “Ode to a Nightingale” even seem to allude to the Moon’s exalted position (as in Keats’ horoscope of birth):

Already with thee! Tender is the night.
And haply the Queen–Moon is on her throne.
Cluster’d around by all her starry Fays...

In 1846 Johann von Mädler of the Estonian Dorpat Observatory postulated that the Pleiades were located at the center of the galaxy. Some 440 light years away, the stars in the Pleiades cluster are thought to have been formed together around 100 million years ago. Viewed from the Northern Hemisphere, the Pleiades reach their highest point in the sky around

midnight on November 21, six months after the conjunction of the Sun with the Pleiades (at 5 degrees Taurus) on May 20. During May, the Sun is drawing close to its conjunction with this beautiful star cluster, and so the Pleiades are not visible. One of the best months for viewing them is November, when they are opposite the Sun in the heavens. Also December and the following winter months are all very good times for viewing the Pleiades, when the star cluster can be seen in the evening sky after sunset.

In the teachings of spiritual science, the Pleiades are very significant, being 'the region where the whole solar system entered the universe.' Rudolf Steiner also stated that: 'The next solar system will take place in the Pleiades. The whole solar system is moving toward the Pleiades.'

Alcyone, the brightest star of the Pleiades is over 800 times more luminous than our Sun.

... the great and burning star,
Immeasurably old, immeasurably far,
Surging forth its silver flame
Through eternity, ... Alcyone!

[from Archibald Lampman's poem, Alcyone]

In connection with the Pleiades and the year 2012, it is worth noting that an annular solar eclipse will take place on May 20, 2012 (May 21, 2012 for local time in the Eastern Hemisphere). A solar eclipse occurs when the Moon passes between Earth and the Sun, thereby totally or partially obscuring the Earth's view of the Sun. An annular solar eclipse occurs when the Moon's apparent diameter is smaller than the Sun, causing the Sun to look like an annulus (ring), blocking most of the Sun's light. An annular eclipse appears as a partial eclipse over a region thousands of miles wide. The annular solar eclipse on May 20, 2012 is in conjunction with the Pleiades. In other words, as seen from the Earth, the annular eclipse will take place against the background of the Pleiades. The annular phase will be visible from the Chinese coast, the south of Japan, and the western part of the United States. Tokyo will be on the central path. Its maximum will occur in the North Pacific, south of the Aleutian islands for 5 minutes and 46 seconds, and finish in the west of the USA. It will be the first central eclipse of the 21st century in the continental USA. In Sacramento, California, about 87% of the Sun will be obscured by the Moon, in San Francisco about 84%, and in Los Angeles about 78%. See below regarding the significance of the annular solar eclipse on May 20, 2012 in conjunction with the Pleiades.



The two parents, left, and the seven sisters of the Pleiades.

The Pleiades cluster is not always easy to see in the heavens. At first glance, it appears like a fuzzy haze. The appearance of the Pleiades in the night sky changes from night to night throughout the year, depending on viewing conditions. If conditions are excellent, one can see with the naked eye all seven stars in the Pleiades – the seven representing the Seven Sisters. To ensure seeing all of them, however, it is best to view these stars using binoculars. The easiest way to locate them is to first find Orion's Belt – the three stars in the middle of Orion, which appear close together in a straight line. Then, for viewers in the northern hemisphere, one extends the line of these three stars up diagonally to the right. If one – as a stargazer in the northern hemisphere – follows the imaginary line of the belt of Orion down diagonally to the left, one comes to the bright star Sirius. If, however, one follows the line up, proceeding away from Sirius, the extended line passes a little below the bright star Aldebaran (15 degrees Taurus) marking the eye of the Bull in Taurus, until one comes to the Pleiades. The three stars in the belt of Orion serve as a pointer to locate the Pleiades, with Aldebaran as a marker on the way – Aldebaran located on the tip of the left-hand arm of a distinctive tilted V-shape of stars forming the cluster known as the Hyades (the half-sisters of the Pleiades). For observers in the Southern Hemisphere, the above description has to be reversed, so that one follows the line extending from the belt of Orion down to the Pleiades.

Since the Pleiades are located in the neck of the Bull, at 5 degrees in the sign of Taurus, they are too close to the Sun to be visible during May,

when the Sun is also in Taurus (the Sun is in the sidereal sign of Taurus from May 15 to June 15). After the conjunction of the Sun with the Pleiades on about May 20, they first become visible again in the night sky before sunrise on the eastern horizon in the second half of June. This first viewing in the East, before sunrise, is known as the heliacal rising of the Pleiades. For the Maori of New Zealand, the heliacal rising of the Pleiades denoted the beginning of spring there. After the day of their heliacal rising, they begin to rise a little earlier each morning, becoming visible each night for a longer period before dawn. They are clearly visible in November, when they rise as the Sun is setting, and then set at sunrise, allowing them to be seen throughout the entire night in the period around November 21. On this date, six months after the Sun's conjunction with the star cluster around May 20, the Pleiades are in opposition to the Sun. This signifies the rising of the Pleiades simultaneously with the setting of the Sun, which is known as the acronychal rising of the Pleiades. This was important to the Pawnee tribe of the Native Americans, as discussed below. On a clear winter night the unaided eye might be able to see the six brightest stars in the cluster, and if conditions are really excellent, all seven – together with the two stars marking the parents of the Seven Sisters: Atlas and Pleione. However, as indicated above, it is generally advisable to use binoculars. As the winter progresses, the time of their setting gradually draws nearer toward sunset. By mid-April one can see them only for a short time after sunset, setting in the West. Then, in May, they are no longer visible, as they approach their conjunction with the Sun on May 20. Interestingly, Rudolf Steiner spoke of the conjunction of the Sun with the Pleiades as significant for the impulse of freedom.

The Moon is set,
And the Pleiades.
Night's half gone,
Time's passing.
I sleep alone now.
 Sappho

To bring to realization the impulse of freedom, it was necessary for a time that we should forget our relationship not only to the Pleiades but also with all the stars in the heavens. The Sun and Moon uniting in the Pleiades, in the crucial year of 2012, announces that this time of “forgetting the stars” may be over, as may be surmised from the discussion below.

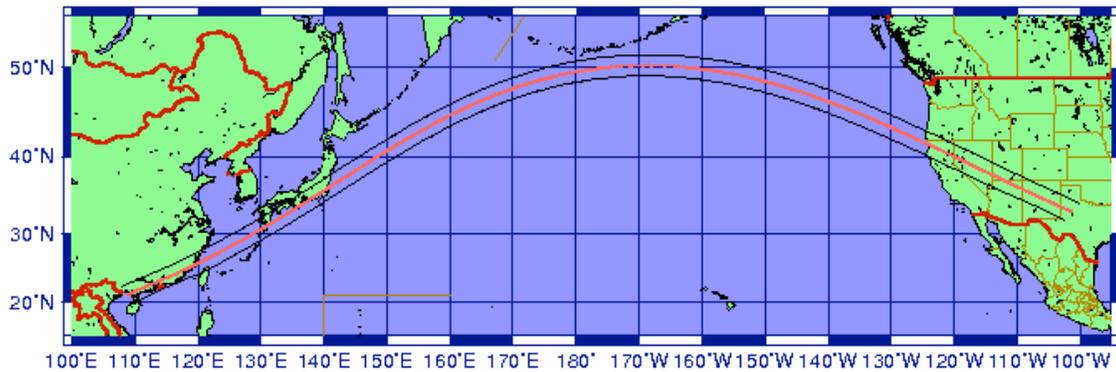
In the ancient Egyptian mysteries we hear how Osiris was slain by Typhon/Seth and how Isis made the priests keep the whereabouts of his grave a secret. She instituted a great cult in honor of Osiris. This cult kept

sacred the memory of Osiris, whereby the spiritual perception that once existed in humanity lived on. According to Rudolf Steiner, the time which Typhon/Seth was said to have slain Osiris was indicated as the time of November when the Sun sets in Scorpio and the Full Moon appears in the Pleiades. It was during the Egyptian cultural epoch that Christ, in His gradual descent toward the Earth, began to work down from the Sun into the sphere of the Moon. In this Egyptian myth, this is indicated by the Full Moon in the Pleiades. The “death of Osiris” that took place at this time was, symbolically, a “departure” of Osiris from the Sun – or, rather, it denoted a new phase of activity of Osiris who, while still inwardly united with the Sun, was now working into the sphere of the Moon and, through the Moon’s phases, was raying down upon the Earth.

Isis is often depicted wearing a crown of cow horns with the solar disk between them. Legend tells us that she lost her crown because she set Typhon/Seth free and that it was Hermes who replaced her golden crown with the cow horns. Rudolf Steiner speaks of “lifting the veil” of Isis–Sophia by transforming the cow horns through the power of the living Word. As the Pleiades are located at 5 degrees in the neck of the Bull and the horns rise from the center of this constellation, marked by the star Aldebaran at 15 degrees Taurus, it is easy to imagine that on the human level it is the Eustachian tubes rising from the larynx which are represented here. Contemplating this human physiology in the region of the throat, correspondingly on a heavenly level an image of cosmic listening arises, whereby the horns of the Bull serve as antennae to bring in from the Pleiades and other special stellar locations the cosmic forces that resurrect the living Word (see Lacquanna Paul & Robert Powell, *Cosmic Dances of the Zodiac*, description of Taurus, for further indications regarding the Word and the constellation of the Bull).

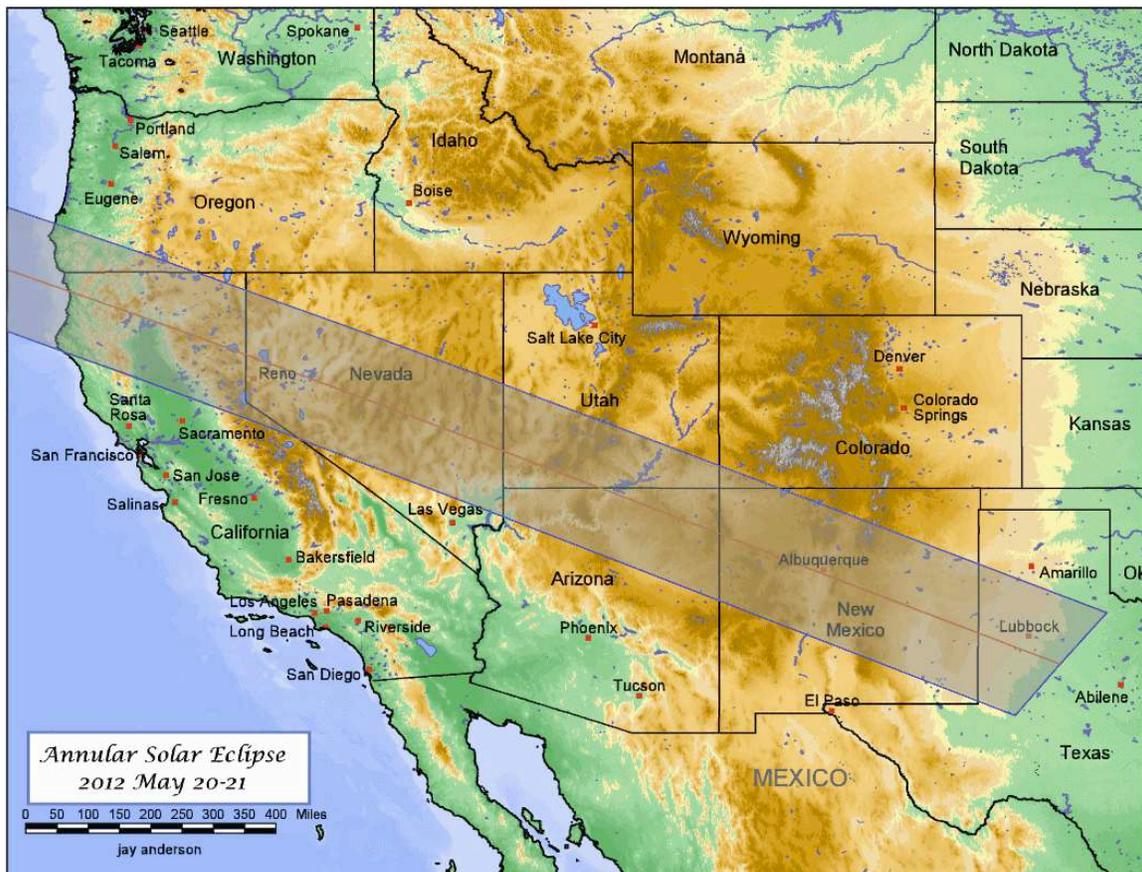
It is through receiving the living Word that humanity transforms the nature of the will. The living Word sounding from the Pleiades, as mentioned by Rudolf Steiner, marks the origin of our solar system; the beginning of life brought forth through the Word. With the annular solar eclipse of May 20, 2012, in the Pleiades, just sixteen days before the astronomically rare event of the Venus transit across the face of the Sun on June 5/6, 2012, we are all called to contemplate Isis–Sophia and the work of lifting the veil of the Divine Feminine at this time when the disk of the Sun, united with transiting Venus, appears in Taurus between the horns of the Bull. As described by Rudolf Steiner, the veil of Isis–Sophia is lifted by transforming the lower will forces through the power of the living Word, an image corresponding to the Sun in Taurus between the Bull’s horns, as at Christ’s Ascension, when the power of the Word united heaven and earth.

Path of the annular solar eclipse on May 20, 2012:



<http://www.hermit.org/Eclipse/2012-05-20/>

Path of the annular solar eclipse on May 20, 2012 across the United States:



<http://home.cc.umanitoba.ca/~jander/ase2012/usa1.png>

The part of the path of this eclipse that crosses the United States passes over Mt. Shasta, the great power center of the North American continent, sacred to Native Americans, and spoken of by the poet Joaquin Miller in this way: “Lonely as God, and white as a winter moon, Mount Shasta

starts up sudden and solitary...” This path also passes over Los Alamos, where the explosion of the first atomic bomb took place on July 16, 1945, a line of development arising on account of the extreme materialism that gained a stronghold in the United States. Materialism is thwarting the true mission of Turtle Island. As expressed by the “signs in the heavens”, the Great Mother is calling to her children. Connecting to the Cosmic Word, the Great Spirit, by awakening us to Isis–Sophia who speaks to us through the signs in the heavens, can help to awaken us to the true mission of Turtle Island. This is what the ancients knew. It was White Buffalo Calf Woman – a manifestation of an aspect of Sophia – who brought the sacred peace pipe to Native Americans. Pipe Carriers lift her veil by making peace. When we lift the veil of Isis–Sophia, we see the stars and learn again to read the heavenly script. The picture language of Egypt that died into the abstract intellect is rising again, but now in a new way. The above and the below are reuniting. Hermes stands ready to renew the crown of Isis–Sophia, wisdom of God.

In the year 2012: the annular eclipse of the Sun in the Pleiades on May 20, the Venus transit across the Sun 16 days later (June 5/6), and the Sun at the winter solstice (December 21) crossing the Galactic Equator, marking the end of the Mayan calendar, are heavenly signs along the way that we are to change our ways. We are to remember the Great Mother clothed in the mantle of Nature, and also we are to behold Sophia in the Sun, Moon and stars as the promise of the true mission of America. This is one aspect of the message from the heavens expressed through these great events in the year 2012, signifying that this time of “forgetting the stars” is over and that we are to re–establish our connection with the Pleiades and all the other wonderful stars and star clusters in the heavens. Another aspect is that we are called to dance together like the seven sisters, in peace and harmony with all creation.

Native Americans, believing they are the ‘Children of the Pleiades,’ issued a call in 1996 for the protection of Mother Earth

Standing Elk, one of the spiritual leaders of the Lakota Sioux and, for them, the Keeper of the Six–Pointed Star–Nation Altar, was led through a vision to organize a conference bringing together the “star knowledge” of tribal cultures. “The Star Knowledge Conference and Sun Dance” took place on the Yankton Sioux Reservation in South Dakota in June of 1996. The unprecedented gathering brought together indigenous tribal leaders from across the Americas and as far away as Australia. Interested people from non–tribal cultures also attended, and one of those, Richard J. Boylan, PhD, of Sacramento, California, offers tapes of the discussion and a published summary: <http://www.v-j-enterprises.com/skcrichb.html>, which forms the basis for the following (abbreviated) text.

In announcing the conference, Standing Elk said his vision told him that Native American spiritual knowledge about the Star Nations was “to be shared with our brothers of the four directions,” meaning, with one another and with the other races of the world. His Sioux people are among the American tribes who proudly trace their origins to the Pleiades, but the star connection encompasses all, Standing Elk announced. “The Way of the Stars is in every culture.”

Steve Red Buffalo, also of the Lakota, in discussing the Star People coming to Earth from the Pleiades, said that the Pleiades are connected with the chanupa, the sacred pipe. He said the chanupa symbolizes the union of the Earth, represented by the pipe’s stone, with the sky, represented by the hollow stem through which smoke is drawn and sent heavenward. Further, the bowl of the pipe, with its hole for accepting the pipe stem, represents the woman; the stem represents the man. Joining the pipe symbolizes a union and a balance between male and female aspects of the world.

According to the conference report, in keeping with the theme of sharing wisdom among cultures, “Lakota spiritual leader Chanupa Wambdi Wicasa (Deer Man) startled those listening by stating that Pope John Paul II was a Pipe Carrier,” meaning a person who kept the traditions of Native-American spirituality. “The Pope fasted and entered into a sweat lodge ceremony with the Lakota while visiting in Canada, and congratulated the Lakota for keeping their traditions and ceremonies,” Deer Man told the conference.

Deer Man then spoke of the dangers of pollutants such as herbicides, acid rain, and nuclear tests, by which he said humanity had unbalanced the Earth. “We have to help the Earth come back into balance,” he said. “Time as you know it is coming to an end, sooner than you think.” The shift and the danger, he said, accompany our crossing from the Fourth World to the Fifth, a teaching also held by the Hopi people.

The end of the Fourth World and beginning of the Fifth takes place in 2012 or 2013, according to the ancient calendar of the Maya. In addition to tracing their origins to the Pleiades, the Maya also speak of the Pleiades as the seven great powers of the Cosmos, the seven Suns that are the brothers of our Sun. The period that could be called the end times of the Fourth World began in 1987, according to Don Alejandro Wandering Wolf of Guatemala, who promoted the Maya message of the Pleiades through lectures, both before and after the Yankton Star Conference. Now the dawn of the Maya new age is fast approaching.

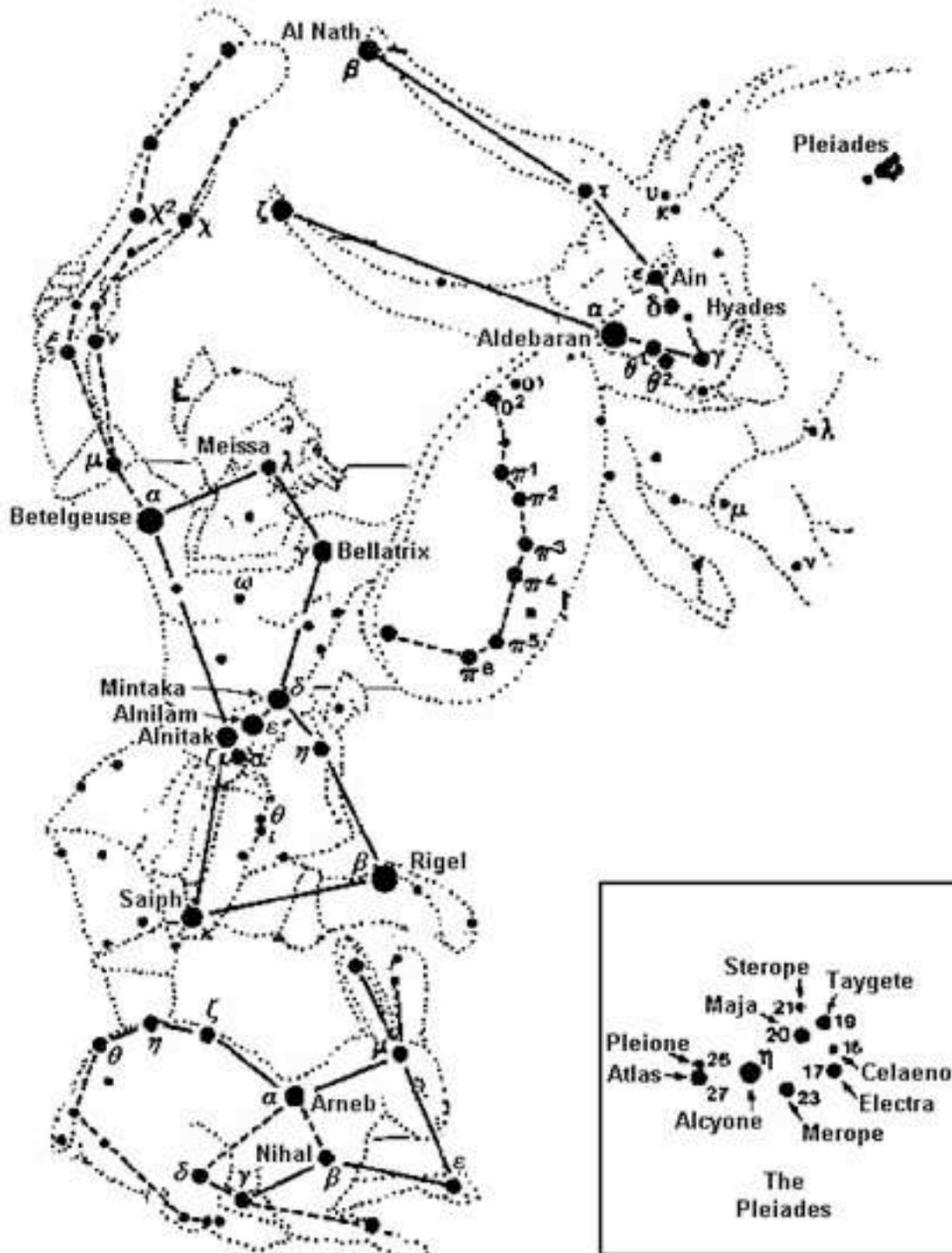
“There will be huge problems,” Wandering Wolf said in a speech in Santa Fe, New Mexico, in 1999. “Catastrophes and cataclysms will befall us. So I have been asked to speak to you, and all over the world, of these prophecies. We speak in defense of the natural world. No more pollution of the planet. It cannot survive it, and then we will not be able to survive without our Mother Earth. There is no more distinction between races and colors and creeds. Your sadness and loneliness is the same as mine. We have the same feelings of love. Why? We have the same Sun, one breath, all the Earth is fed by the one Sun, air, water – Mother Earth – and we return here.”

The call for a new level of togetherness among the people of the Earth, reminding one and all to take care of this special planet to which the Maya say we return – that is the heart and soul of the modern message evolving from the star-lore of today. It is a message that is entirely in keeping with another aspect of the Pleiades celebrated by tribal people. Throughout all of known time, the little family cluster of the Pleiades has stayed together – its stars small but united in glittering splendor. In their Hako ceremony, the people of the Pawnee Nation of indigenous peoples sing a prayer of hope to the Pleiades during their November rising across the eastern horizon shortly after sunset.

Look as they rise, rise up
Over the line where sky meets the earth;
Pleiades!
Lo! They, ascending, come to guide us,
Leading us safely, keeping us one;
Pleiades, teach us to be, like you, united.

[Pawnee Ceremonial Song – translated by Alice C. Fletcher, *Ha-ko Ceremony*, 1904]

The Pleiades star cluster represents an underlying unity. There is a communal nature holding them invisibly together. Gazing up at these special stars, one can contemplate down through the ages those who, like the Native Americans, have looked up to their light for inspiration. As the poet Alfred Lord Tennyson wrote, the Pleiades glitter “like a swarm of fireflies tangled in a silver braid.” His words have been confirmed by way of powerful modern telescopes, which show that the cluster of seven stars shines within a group of more than one thousand stars “tangled in a silver braid.”



Constellation map of Orion, Taurus and the Pleiades

Further notes concerning the Pleiades and Native Americans:*

The Native American tribe, the Kiowa, had a myth that explained the creation of the Pleiades. According to the Kiowa there were seven young maidens that went out to play and were spotted by several giant bears. The bears saw the young women and began to chase them. In an effort to escape the bears the women climbed on top of a rock and prayed to the spirit of the rock to save them. Hearing their prayers the rock began to rise from the ground towards the heavens so that the bears couldn't reach the maidens. The seven women reached the sky and were then turned into the star constellation we know today as the Pleiades. The bears in an effort to climb the rock left deep claw marks in the sides, which had become too steep to climb. The rock later became known as Devil's Tower, which is located in the state of Wyoming.

The Lakota tribe also had a legend that linked the origin of the Pleiades to Devils Tower.

Early Dakota stories speak of the Tiyami home of the ancestors as being the Pleiades. They say that the Pleiades rise with the Sun in May and that when someone dies their spirit returns south to the seven sisters.

The Hopis called the Pleiades the Chuhukon, meaning those who cling together. They considered themselves direct descendants of the Pleiades. The Navajos named the Pleiades the 'Sparkling Suns' or the Delyahey, the home of the 'Black God'.

The Iroquois pray to them for happiness.

The Cree say that they have come to Earth from the stars in spirit form first and then became flesh and blood.

According to the Seris (of northwestern Mexico), these stars are seven women who are giving birth. The constellation is known as Cmaamc, which is apparently an archaic plural of the noun cmaam "woman".

It was common among the indigenous peoples of the Americas to measure keenness of vision by the number of stars the viewer could see in the Pleiades, a practice which was also used in historical Europe especially in Greece.

In the ancient Andes, the Pleiades were associated with abundance, because they return to the Southern Hemisphere sky each year at harvest-time. In Quechua they are called collca ('storehouse').

Paul Goble, Native American storyteller, tells a Blackfoot legend, which he says is told by other tribes as well. In the story, the Pleiades are orphans that were not cared for by the people, so they became Stars. Sun Man is angered by the mistreatment of the children and punishes the people with a drought, until the dogs, the only friends of the orphans, intercede on behalf of the people.

The Hopi Indians built their underground kivas for multiple utilitarian uses, the most important of which was their ceremonial meeting place. The access was a ladder through a small hole in the roof of the round hole in the ground. During certain ceremonies, the night passage of the Pleiades over the center of the opening of the entrance hole was a direct

signal to begin a certain ceremony. Most of the cultures used the angle of the Pleiades in the night sky as a time telling device.

A Cheyenne myth "The Girl Who Married a Dog", states that the group of seven stars known as the Pleiades originated from seven puppies which a Cheyenne chief's daughter gave birth to after mysteriously being visited by a dog in human form to whom she vowed "Wherever you go, I go".

The early Monte Alto Culture and others in Guatemala such as Ujuxte and Takalik Abaj, made its early observatories, using the star Eta Draconis and the cluster of stars, the Pleiades, as reference, which they called the seven sisters, and which they thought to be their original place of origin.

The ancient Aztecs of Mexico and Central America based their calendar upon the Pleiades. Their calendar year began when priests first remarked the asterism rising heliacally in the east, immediately before the Sun's dawn light obliterated the view of the stars. Aztecs called the Pleiades Tianquiztli ("marketplace").

*The primary source for these further notes is the Wikipedia article "The Pleiades in Folklore and Literature of Indigenous Peoples of the Americas"

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http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pleiades_in_folklore_and_literature#Indigenous_peoples_of_the_Americas

The Pleiades and the Year 2012

Earlier in this article reference is made to the annular eclipse of the Sun on May 20, 2012, which is aligned with the Pleiades. Since, as Rudolf Steiner mentioned, the conjunction of the Sun with the Pleiades is an indicator of freedom, the eclipse of the Sun in the Pleiades, even though not a total eclipse, is on the one hand an indicator of a force of opposition to the impulse of freedom and on the other hand a sign of the heavens supporting the unfolding of freedom for humanity. This will be a critical time for the world, as the push toward a global government will assert itself powerfully as part of the events leading up to the galactic alignment of December 21, 2012 - the end of the Maya calendar - referred to in the article "World Pentecost" in the previous issue of this journal. In this connection it is important to realize that there are always two levels in relation to all cosmic events: (1) as an expression of the forces of the light; and (2) as signs of the endeavor of the forces of darkness to invert the good impulses streaming from the heavens. Since the Pleiades represent both freedom and community, it is key that true community unfolds in complete freedom, motivated by love, as comes to expression in the words of Christ, "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in their midst" (Matthew 18:16).

The push toward global government can be seen as an inversion of the good impulses - those streaming from the Pleiades (May 20, 2012)

having to do with freedom and community, those connected with the Venus transit (June 5/6, 2012) having to do with the Christ impulse of the Holy Grail and the awakening of unconditional love, and those emanating from the galactic alignment (December 18–21, 2012), connected with the great wave of Divine Love, as discussed in the ‘World Pentecost’ article in the previous issue of the journal. The push toward global government is taking place without regard for individual freedom, thus forcing “world community” without the Christ impulse, and drawing its motivation by way of creating a great wave of fear (global war on terrorism) – instead of in alignment with the great wave of Divine Love. In relation to (1) above, the heavenly intention for humanity is World Pentecost, and with respect to (2), the counter-impulse is the drive toward global government under a single leader (see the quote from Daniel Andreev’s ‘Rose of the World’ in this issue of the journal).

In line with the community impulse of the Pleiades, the ‘Rose of the World’ is the name for the true global community to arise in the future through the inspiration of Divine Sophia during the sixth cultural epoch (to use Rudolf Steiner’s expression for this future culture of brotherly and sisterly love destined to arise during the Age of Aquarius). Humanity has the task of gradually working toward the Rose of the World through living the Christ impulse and through aligning with Sophia, the Holy Wisdom of creation, who holds the Divine Plan for the earth and humankind. The Rose of the World, as the true future global community, can only arise in freedom and love. The inversion of the Rose of the World, as discussed in my book *Christ and the Maya Calendar*, co-authored with Kevin Dann, is the one-world government ruled by the Antichrist. Even though the push toward the one world government is now taking place, so also the Rose of the World is already taking shape on a higher level in preparation for its cultural manifestation in the Age of Aquarius. Now in an embryonic form, it is called *Sophia’s Beehive*. The Pleiades can be thought of as a star portal crowning Sophia’s Beehive – a portal open to the in-streaming of freedom and love. By way of concluding this article on the Pleiades, here with the text of a vision had by the same young woman who is referred to near the end of Daniel Andreev’s ‘Rose of the World’ text in this issue of the journal. She had this vision in relation to beholding a Choreocosmos workshop in which the participants were engaged in the community-building activity of cosmic dance. (It may be mentioned here that the activity of cosmic dance is very much in the spirit of the Pleiades, the seven sisters who loved to dance.)



Sophia's Beehive

I then saw a dome of light appear that remained fixed over the location of a Sophia community. It resembles a beehive of violet light whose top is a crown of stars, and is a portal into the spiritual dimension...Inside the dome of light were astonishing honeycomb light-formations rising in a spiral! Inside the 'honeycombs of light' I saw numberless angelic beings at work. They were constructing a spiritual edifice that will descend to the physical realm in the future- a place where spiritual honey shall flow freely. The nectar of life will flow in the Sophia community....

I then began to hear the hum of angelic beings above, like that of honeybees, only it was the music of the spheres being sung - from above. Beyond any earthly sound, it was the sound of AUM - if one can imagine heavenly beings making that sound - pouring it into the dome of light. I saw everyone spiritually present within the dome receive these musical vibratory currents: it is how each person's heart is tuned to this music - the music of Sophia's heart! I was then taken into the Heart of Sophia, passing through in rays of violet light. Within Her Heart were the hearts of all of humanity! All of humanity was in Her Heart! Each human being is a light within Her Heart and has Her light within their own heart - rays of every color and intensity - so many shades of light! Sophia loves all human beings! I was imbued with the fragrance of roses given off by the light of Her beholding us! We are all flowers in Her glorious garden!

From Sophia's Heart....

Love thy neighbor: Again I say, Love thy neighbor, for all are one in the Heart of Sophia - we are all one. Sophia loves all alike, and all are known by Her. She gazes upon each and every face; She recognizes you, each and every one. The warmth around you is her embrace; She holds you in Her arms; you are Her Heaven - and She is yours. You are the Heaven that She knows. As She smiles upon you Her sweet breath caresses your face - the dew that falls upon you is Her kiss. You are Her star - She sent you to Earth to become an Earthstar....Wherever a human being has become a star, the ground around them becomes holy ground. They

become saints in the eyes of Sophia and the ground where they live and work become their temples.

Meditate upon entering into the beehive of Sophia, where Sophia's work is being done and where all of Her workers are nourished by the nectar of truth, beauty, and goodness. You do not have to live anywhere in particular. Wherever you are, you may enter into the spiritual beehive of Sophia...

Excerpted from 'Choreocosmos and Sophia's Beehive Vision (June 10, 2009)', published in the Advent 2009 *Starlight* newsletter of the Sophia Foundation of North America. This vision of Sophia's Beehive was bestowed upon a young woman, who is very dedicated to Sophia and who wishes to remain anonymous.