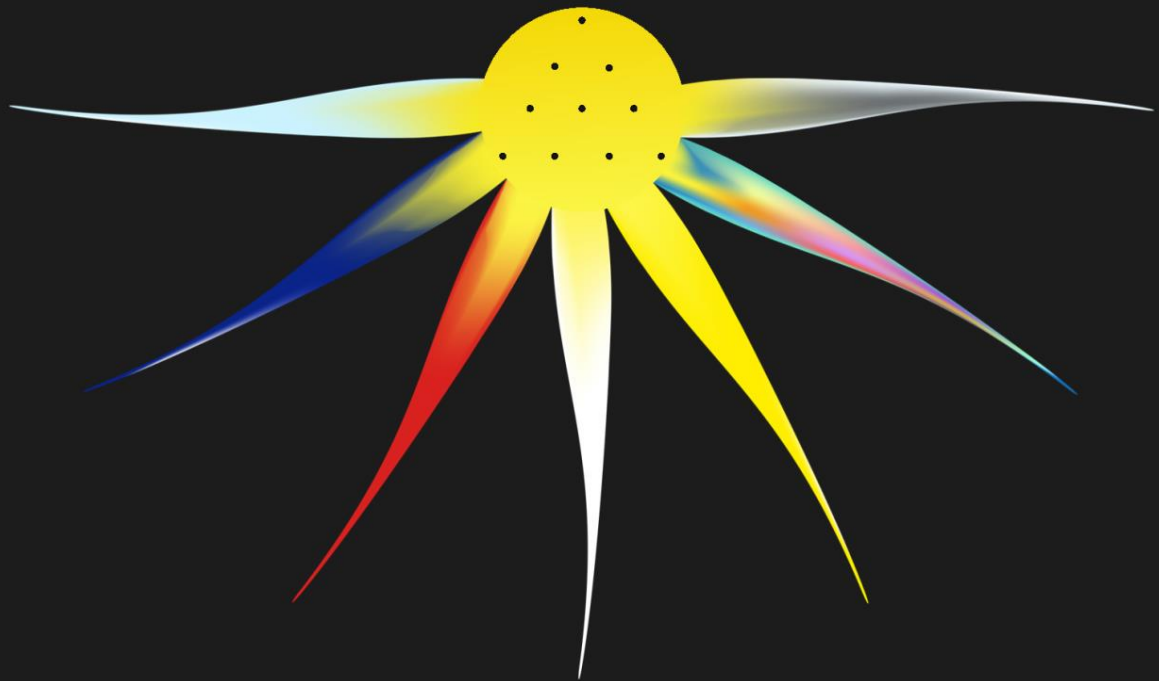


*The sacred rays of the Sun are emanations of the Divine Monas.*



## **The Seventeen-rayed Sun is a hierarchy of divine emanations, from the Heavenly Man down to terrestrial men, and their respective hierarchies.**

First published in *The Theosophist*, Vol. IV, No. 8, May 1883, p. 202.  
Republished in *Blavatsky Collected Writings*, (THE SEVENTEEN-RAYED SUN-DISC) IV pp. 445-47.

The following interesting letter was received by us from Fresno, California. As it is a private one, we can give but extracts from it.

Exploring Copán and Quirigua in Honduras and Guatemala last year, I had the good fortune to make a discovery, which I am sure will interest you. As you are aware, the most prominent sculptured monuments in Copán consist of four-sided columns of from 10 to 12 feet high. These columns represent generally only on one side large sculptured personages in high relief.

The other sides again contain ornaments and glyphic inscriptions, hitherto not read or deciphered. One pillar, not previously described, however, contains only hieroglyphics arranged on all sides. It seems to be a record, perhaps of laws, perhaps of historical events. This pillar is about 10 feet high, and the sides 3 and 4 feet wide respectively. But the most remarkable [feature] is that this pillar was covered by a cap in the shape of a very low truncate pyramid. On this pyramid was seen a forced dead head of colossal dimensions and surrounding the same was an expanded “sun-disc,” crowning the very cap. The rays of the sun-disc were distinctly marked. The similarity of the same and the sun-disc common in the Egyptian monuments was so marked, that it immediately struck me that the *number of rays* must be 17, the sacred number of the Egyptian sun-disc. Upon counting the rays they were found to be as expected — 17.<sup>1</sup>

Now is this a pure “coincidence,” or is it another link in the broken and scattered chain, whose finding points toward an ancient connection between the Central American peoples, the Mayas and other races, and the Egyptians by means of a connecting Atlantis?

Another curiosity, naturally a “coincidence,” is worthy of notice. One of these sculptured personages dressed in priestly robes and holding in his hand a small square box, has his legs above the sandals ornamented with the CRES-

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<sup>1</sup> [We could not trace the Mayan Sun described by the correspondent to *The Theosophist* but for the benefit of our readers are here present two examples of the Seventeen-rayed Sun, one from old Egypt and another from modern Kazakhstan: they can be seen on the last page of this compilation. Also cf. “The Number Seven and our Society” in our Theosophy and Theosophists Series, where number 17 occurs five times. — ED. PHIL.]

CENT. The same sign was used by the Romans to signify immortality and similarly placed above the sandals.

Cannot your trans-Himalayan Brothers give us any clue to these hieroglyphics inscribed on the Central American Monuments? Or have you no Psychometrists who could decipher them psychometrically? If anyone should be willing to try to do so, I would send him a small portion of one of the glyphs I have in my possession, and maybe some good will come out of it.

E. G.

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### Editorial reply by H.P. Blavatsky

Assuredly the discovery mentioned in the above letter — the pillar with its 17-rayed sun-disc — points once more to an ancient connection between the central American peoples and the lost continent of Atlantis. The uniformity in the symbolic meanings of American antiquities, and of antiquities connected with the “Wisdom Religion” in Egypt or any other parts of Europe or Asia where they may be observed, is certainly far more remarkable than would be agreeable to theorists who wish to account for it by help of that hard-worked servant — coincidence. It has been traced with great patience through many different departments of archæology by Mr. Donnelly in his recent *Atlantis: the Antediluvian World*. The second part of the title of this volume, by the way, will not be quite acceptable to students of the subject who approach it from the side of occult science. The deluge is better left alone until cosmogony is more generally understood than at present. There is no one deluge that can conveniently be taken as a turning point in the world’s history — with everything before that antediluvian, and everything of later date — postdiluvian. There have been many such deluges cutting [off] the various races of mankind at the appointed time in their development.<sup>1</sup> The situation has already been referred to in the “Fragments of Occult Truth.” During the occupation of the Earth for one period by the great tidal wave of humanity, seven great races are successively developed, their end being in every case marked by a tremendous cataclysm which changes the face of the earth in the distribution of land and water. The present race of mankind, as often stated, is the fifth race. The inhabitants of the great continent of Atlantis were the fourth race. When they were in their prime, the European continent was not in existence as we know it now, but none the less was there free communication between Atlantis and such portions of Europe as did exist, and Egypt. The ancient Egyptians themselves were not an Atlantic colony. Mr. Donnelly is mistaken on that point, but the Wisdom Religion of the initiates was certainly identical and hence the identities of symbolical sculpture. This is what the “Himalayan Brothers” say. Whether any of our psychometrists will see any further depends on the degree of their development. At any rate, we accept the offer of our esteemed correspondent with thanks and will expect the promised portion of the glyph, before we venture to say anything further.

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<sup>1</sup> [Several deluges are mixed up in the memories of the peoples of our (Fifth) Race: the first, was astronomical and cosmical; subsequent ones, terrestrial. The astronomical records of Universal History begun in the third subrace of the Atlantean Fourth Race. For further information and commentary, see “Appendix on the Divine Instructors of our Race” and related studies in our Secret Doctrine’s Third Proposition Series. — ED. PHIL.]

## The ten points inscribed within the Pythagorean triangle are worth all the theogonies and angelologies ever emanated from the theological brain.

**The Seventeen-rayed Sun stands for the emanations of the Divine Monas, from the Heavenly Man down to terrestrial men, and their respective hierarchies.**

Some years ago we remarked<sup>1</sup> that the Esoteric Doctrine may well be called the “thread-doctrine,” since, like *Sūtrātman*, in the Vedānta philosophy,<sup>2</sup> it passes through and strings together all the ancient philosophical religious systems, and reconciles and explains them all. We say now it does more. It not only reconciles the various and apparently conflicting systems, but it checks the discoveries of modern exact science, and shows some of them to be necessarily correct, since they are found corroborated in the ancient records. All this will, no doubt, be regarded as terribly impertinent and disrespectful, a veritable crime of *lèse-science*;<sup>3</sup> nevertheless, it is a fact.



Theo-Philosophy proceeds on broader lines. From the very beginning of *Æons* — in time and space in our Round and Globe — the Mysteries of Nature (at any rate, those which it is lawful for our races to know) were recorded by the pupils of those same now invisible “heavenly men,” in geometrical figures and symbols. The keys thereto passed from one generation of “wise men” to the other. Some of the symbols, thus passed from the east to the west, were brought therefrom by Pythagoras, who was not the inventor of his famous “Triangle.” The latter figure, along with the plane cube and circle, are more eloquent and scientific descriptions of the order of the evolution of the Universe, spiritual and psychic, as well as physical, than volumes of descriptive Cosmogonies and revealed “*Geneses*.” The *ten points* inscribed within that “Pythagorean *triangle*” are worth all the theogonies and angelologies ever emanated from the theological brain. For he who interprets them — on their very face, and in the order given — will find in these seventeen points (the seven Mathematical Points hidden) the uninterrupted series of the genealogies from the first *Heavenly* to *terrestrial* man. And, as they give the order of Beings, so they reveal the order in which were evolved the Kosmos, our earth, and the primordial elements by which the latter was generated. Begotten in the invisible *Depths*, and in the womb of the same “Mother” as its fellow-globes — he who will master the mysteries of our Earth, will have mastered those of all others.<sup>4</sup>



<sup>1</sup> “The Septenary Principle,” in *Five Years of Theosophy*, p. 197. [*Blavatsky Collected Writings*, Vol. IV, p. 582]

<sup>2</sup> The *Ātman* or Spirit (the Spiritual SELF) passing like a thread through the five subtle bodies (or principles, *Kośas*) is called “thread-soul,” or *Sūtrātman* in Vedāntic philosophy. [Cf. “The *Sūtrātman* of the Upanishads” in our *Constitution of Man Series*. — ED. PHIL.]

<sup>3</sup> [diminished science]

<sup>4</sup> *Secret Doctrine*, I pp. 610, 612-13

ATLANTEAN REALITIES SERIES  
THE SEVENTEEN-RAYED SUN



Akhenaten represented as Sphinx, basking in seventeen rays of Aten, Kestner Museum



Petroglyph of a rayed sun disc riding a bull, Tamgaly, Kazakhstan  
The sun-disc contains ten metaphysical points

## Suggested reading for students.<sup>1</sup>



### On the Fourth Race of Humanity and its fall into matter.

- “Antiquity of the Atlanto-Aryan tribes in Europe”
- “Atlantean Credentials of the New World”
- “Atlantis' study - Esoteric Geochronology”
- “Chaldeans, Hierophants of the Aryan Root-Race”
- “Egypt was the image of heaven on earth and temple of the whole world”
- “Insights to Universal History”
- “Ireland, the last outpost of Atlantis”
- “Lamas and Druses, descendants of the Elect Race”
- “Like the Phoenix of lore, Arts and Sciences die only to revive”
- “Rise and Demise of Atlantis”<sup>2</sup>
- “Sacred Islands and Continents in the Classics”
- “Supplement to Rise and Demise of Atlantis”
- “The Atlantean Origin of Greeks and Romans”
- “The inundation of Atlantis was preparing for ages”
- “The story of the island kingdom of Atlantis as told by the Critias of Plato”
- “The Zend Avesta is to Zoroastrianism what the Veda is to Brahmanism”
- “Ulysses was an Atlantean hero and sage,”

— *in our Atlantean Realities Series.*

- “Caucasus, Parnassus, Tomaros, ” “India is the Mother of Greece,” “Pococke’s India in Greece,”

— *in our Hellenic and Hellenistic Series.*

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<sup>1</sup> Students may consult with profit the metaphysical concepts, study notes, and learning aids set out in our Secret Doctrine’s Third Proposition Series. — ED. PHIL.

<sup>2</sup> C.A. Bartzokas (Comp. & Ed.). *Rise and Demise of Atlantis: Occult features of the Fourth Race of Humanity and its fall into matter.* Gwernymynydd: Philaletheians UK, 3<sup>rd</sup> electronic edition v. 06-65-2019. ISBN 0955040051, 9780955040054 [Click here to download.](#) — ED. PHIL.