

JESUS IN Kashmir: The Lost Tomb
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Christians, over two billion of them, have no independent corroboration of the biographical facts about the Jesus on whom their faith is based. They have only a set of uncertain books, written and re-written by a self-selected few long after his three-year ministry in Palestine. This lack of a biography is particularly striking when considerable information exists about pre-Jesus personalities among Hindus, Buddhists, Sumerians and other Middle Eastern groups, including Hebrews, Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans. For an individual whose life is so important to one-third of the Earth's population, why has there been so-little, non-Christian authentication of Jesus' life and family?

In my view, there are two parts in the answer to this question. Western leaders of the early Christian churches seeking to control their followers ignored facts that contradicted theology created to engender a psychology of dependence based on illusion. Subsequently, Western scholars, themselves products of the Roman-created theology, limit their analysis to a few scraps of Western accounts of the Jesus personality and legacy.

Author's Contribution. Suzanne Olsson has written a plausible, more robust picture of that 1st-Century personality which deserves the attention of both serious scholars and believers who wonder about the veracity of all they've been taught by priests and officials.

Not an arm-chair scholar, Suzanne has spent years with Persian, Afghani, Pakistani, Kashmiri, Indian, and Sri Lankan professionals and ordinary people in a search for the Jesus beyond the Gospels. She was caught up in the aftermath of "9/11" on the other side of the Kyber Pass. She often traveled by foot and animal power to identify the legendary sites associated with the major figures of Hebrew history and the Eastern ministry of Jesus and some of his disciples beyond the Tigris and Euphrates and down through India to Sri Lanka.

Old documents and artifacts accessed by Suzanne, with the assistance of indigenous scholars, reveal numerous corroborations of the life of Jesus and his family before and after his crucifixion. Material written in ancient Persian, Pali-Prakit (ancient Indian languages), Sanskrit, Vedic, Hebrew and other regional scripts fleshes out (literally) the saga of Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Solomon, David, and Joseph and Jesus. This historical evidence, unknown to all but a few Western scholars, place these legendary archetypes, along with their female partners like Sarah, Mary, and Marjan, in real time and actual places. These mystical figures are grounded in history by their actual homes, temples, and tombs whose existence has been lost to the Western mind for almost two millennia.

A Timely Book. The recent plethora of sensational books in Europe and America about Jesus and Mary Magdalene, their bloodlines, the Mother Mary and Jesus' siblings, the angel Gabriel, and a virgin birth demonstrates that millions now question the unsubstantiated assumptions of the supernatural theology of Western religions. However, such speculative books would have a small market of credulous readers if the public had general access to the more authentic Hebrew and Buddhist literature and artifacts of the East in Olsson's book.

This review provides only a sample of Olsson's well-documented answers to the questions unanswered by Western historiography. The questions include: *Who was the angel Gabriel who announced to Mary her conception of Jesus? Who were the magi who visited Jesus at the time of his birth? Why would the birth of an "illegitimate" son of a "poor" carpenter attract the attention of magi from afar and from Herod the local Roman governor?*

Gabriel was likely one of the beings described in the Bible as the "gods who had intercourse with the daughters of men." The magi who visited Jesus appear to have been Hebrew kings or kings-in-waiting who were members of Jesus' own royal family tree descended from Noah. They acted as if Jesus was a son of one of the Biblical gods who was destined to become a magi-priest-king.

Why was Jesus described as physically different from others? Where did he spend the years between age 12 and 30? What was his Egyptian connection?

Jesus, described as one with unique physical features, and light hair and eyes, was associated with the beings responsible for Adam and others considered progeny of "miraculous" conceptions. As a member of the ruling elite he was reportedly educated in Egypt in preparation for assuming his birthright as the king of the area known as Kashmir.

What did the title "King of the Jews" mean as it was reportedly inscribed above Jesus' head on the cross? Why was Jesus missing from the tomb provided by Joseph of Arimathea after the crucifixion? And why could his disciples see and touch him later? What happened that led to the myth of resurrection?

His expected future as the king of the Jewish colony in Kashmir merited the title used in irony by his Sanhedrin opponents who wanted him killed. Taken from the cross before dusk by Pontius Pilate's soldiers who had been ordered to go easy on him, Jesus survived the crucifixion. When he was well enough, he presented himself to some of his followers. His survival with assistance from "heavenly beings" and subsequent departure from Israel demanded an explanation for his followers. Legends of earlier Hebrew leaders being taken into the heavens (ascending) in the gods flying vessels added fuel to the supernatural concept of resurrection invented in the New Testament.

Can evidence be found for the descendants of Jesus? How did Jesus fit into the Hebrew genealogy of royal (from the gods) blood? What did he do after leaving Jerusalem?

Olsson reports both the historical accounts of Jesus' family in Kashmir and the family traditions maintained by his alleged descendants. They describe his extended family as the lineage of Noah and the major Hebrew patriarchs. Jesus was reportedly still working with Thomas and other disciples in the East eleven years after the crucifixion. Texts refer to his coronation as the king of Kashmir and his participation in the 4th Buddhist Council circa 90 C.E. Some allege his death at age 100 or over. A case can be made for his progeny.

Why do Christians in the West have so little knowledge of the influence of Jesus in the East? Where was the physical body entombed?

When I was in Kashmir in 1988, embedded in my Western heritage, I had no knowledge of the region's history that lay beneath the surface or recorded in scattered documents. Suzanne Olsson has now made it possible for others to re-discover the lost half of the Indo-European traditions that gave birth to Western civilization. Tradition and artifacts point to Jesus' burial in Jewish fashion (east/west alignment) in the tomb known as Roza Bal, where also lies a 12th-century Muslim on a north/south axis.

Caveats. Olsson is not unique in her interpretations of the many sources discussed in her book. Several intrepid scholars (referenced in the book) have begun to revise the Western traditional accounts of Jesus and his legacy. Obviously, in this period of new discoveries, there will be varying tentative conclusions. However, it is clear that considerable evidence points to the need for a complete re-examination of the New Testament and the theology based on it. Theologians obviously created delusions devoid of self-evident facts.

The Book's Importance. Cross-cultural discussion of this book's persuasive evidence for a real Jesus (similar to the real person now known as Buddha), who survived crucifixion and continued his teaching in the East, is necessary for the human species to achieve intellectual and psychological adulthood. In the current state of adolescence, humans have not learned of their mixed heritage and the skeletons still in our closet. Such a discussion is essential if the world is to transcend the unprovable supernatural religious blinders that still wreak violent levels of military, political, economic, social, and psychological conflict today.*

Of equal importance for the maturation of *Homo sapiens'* society is the global discussion of the evidence that the gods of Hebrew, Hindu, and other traditions were actual beings (ABs), just more advanced than the humans of the time.* The down-to-Earth story of Jesus and his Hebrew forebears (as in the biographies of Buddha and similar teachers) makes it clear that the Biblical accounts of intercourse between human females and the Elohim resulted in children with special features and talents. Likewise, the accounts of sightings of flying objects, ascension in them by humans (Enoch and Ezekiel are two examples), and direct encounters with the ABs traveling from the skies suggest that humans must come to terms with their naivete in a larger community of more advanced beings.

Olsson's book gives the world a starting point for public inter-faith/non-faith dialogue that holds the promise of triggering the next great leap forward in the evolution of human consciousness. The intellectual and psychological divisions of the past cannot be healed until all groups realize their deep-held worldviews are rooted in serious misperceptions of human history.

*[Paul Von Ward's book *Gods, Genes & Consciousness* calls for such open-ended discussions and provides the psychological benefits from such a species-healing process. Descriptions of his work as an interdisciplinary cosmologist and various books and many articles can be found at www.vonward.com. His most recent book is *The Soul Genome: Science and Reincarnation*.]