

Caucasus, Parnassus, Tomaros



Caucasus, Parnassus, Tomaros

From Captain Francis Wilford's¹ essay "On Mount Caucasus," in: *Asiatick Researches*, Calcutta, 1801; Vol. VI (xii), pp. 455-69.

Frontispiece: Caucasus by Ruzanna Teterina.

Illustration on page 4: Himalayas, Pamir, Karakoram, Tian Shan and Hindu Kush from an altitude of about 750 km. It has been rendered as part of the Views of the Earth in a size of more than 1 gigapixel (2nd July 2007).

Casus or Cas The real name.

Cau or Coh Mountain in Persian.

Coh-cas In Sanskrit becomes Cas-giri (Cas-ghar, Cas-car).²

C'hasa-giri The true Sanskrit name, *i.e.*, Mountain of the C'hasas.

C'hasas A most ancient and powerful tribe, who inhabited this immense range from the eastern limits of India to the confines of Persia; and most probably as far as the Euxine and the Mediterranean seas. The original country of the C'hasas seems to have been the present (1798) country of Cash-gar, to the north east of Cabul.

Their descendants are called, in some places, C'hasyas and Cossais. They belonged to the class of warriors or Cshettris. Their country was called Cassia by Ptolemy.

Jupiter Cassius Was worshipped

(a) In the mountains of Syria and on the borders of Egypt, like Jupiter Peninus in the Alps, and

(b) In Epirus, as Jupiter Cassius or Cassiopæus.

Caucasus Was also called Graucasus.³ In Sanskrit Grava, invariably pronounced Grau, signifies a mountain, hence Grava-C'hasa or Grau-C'hasa. In eastern languages, Caucasus signifies white. A mountain, close to it, is called Casis by the Scythians, in whose language it signifies snow and whiteness.⁴

¹ [Francis Wilford, 1761–1822, Indologist, Orientalist, fellow member of the Asiatic Society of Bengal.]

² Not to be confounded with the famous country of Cash-ghar, or Cash-car to the eastward of Samarcand; though the appellation, and its etymological derivations be the same.

³ Pliny, B.6, C.20

⁴ Isidorus, *Origines*, B.14, C.28

Parapamisus and link with Prometheus Part of a mountainous region called Devanica in the Purānas. Known as Sheybar-Tag or Sheybar-Tau, or the mountains of Sheybar or Shabar, under which appellation Prometheus is generally known in the sacred books of the Hindus.

Also called Hindu-Cash or Hindy-kesh; the latter has been distorted by Persian authors and travellers into Hindu-Coh. It lies between Cabul, Bamiyan, and Anderab.

Variants and link with Bamiyan Parapamisus is obviously derived from the Sanskrit Para-Vami, or the pure and excellent city of Vami, commonly called Bamiyan. Vamiyan is a derivative from of Sanskrit Vami nagari or Vami-gram. Para, which signifies pure and holy, is also one of the thousand names of Vishnu. Obviously the same with the Latin purus. For the letter *a* here sounds exactly like *u* in murmur in English.

Papameus
Parapanisus
Paro Famisus
Paro Fanisus
Paropamisus¹
Paropanisus
Parpamisus
Parpaneus
Parpanisus

A place of great antiquity, was considered at a very early period as the metropolis of a sect of Buddha; hence it was called Buddha-Bamiyan; but the Mussulmans have maliciously distorted this venerable title, into But-Bamiyan or Bamian of the evil spirit, or of the idols.

According to the Greeks, an extensive branch of the Caucasus. They called it Parapanisus, in the same manner that they called the river Pamisus (in the Peloponnesus) Panisus.

It's inhabitants say that this name was given to them from a certain giant, who used to lie there in wait to catch (cash) or to kill (kesh) all Hindus who passed that way.

Thebes of the East Description follows on pages 463-469.

¹ [Topology and exoteric etymology of term excerpted from Hamid Wahed Alikuzai's *Concise History of Afghanistan in 25 Volumes*. (2013) Vol. I, p. 702:

One of three divisions of a mountain range that dominate the landscape of Afghanistan, *i.e.*, the Hindu Kush system, which is the westernmost extension of the Pamir Mountains. The other two divisions are the Karakorum Mountains, and the Himalayas. The origin of the term Hindu Kush (which translates as Hindu Killer) is also a point of contention. Three possibilities have been put forward: that the mountains memorialize the Indian slaves who perished in the mountains while being transported to Central Asian slave markets; that the name is merely a corruption of Hindu Koh, the pre-Islamic name of the mountains that divided Hindu southern Afghanistan from non-Hindu northern Afghanistan; or, that the name is a posited Avestan appellation meaning "water mountains." The mountain peaks in the eastern part of the country reach more than 7,000 meters. The highest of these is Nowshak at 7,485 meters. Mount Everest in Nepal stands 8,796 meters high. The Pamir mountains, which Afghans refer to as the "Roof of the World," extend into Tajikistan, China and Kashmir. The mountains of the Hindu Kush system diminish in height as they stretch westward: toward the middle, near Kabul, they extend from 4,500 to 6,000 meters; in the west, they attain heights of 3,500 to 4,000 meters. The average altitude of the Hindu Kush is 4,500 meters. The Hindu Kush system stretches about 966 kilometers laterally, and its median north-south measurement is about 240 kilometers. Only about 600 kilometers of the Hindu Kush system is called the Hindu Kush Mountains. The rest of the system consists of numerous smaller mountain ranges. The western *Safid Koh*, the *Siah Band* and *Doshakh* are commonly referred to as the Paropamisus by western scholars.

Caucasus is far away from Olympus!

Let the student of Occultism bear in mind that the Greek Noah, Deukalion, the husband of Pyrrha, was the reputed son of Prometheus who robbed Heaven of its *fire* (i.e., of secret Wisdom “of the right hand” or occult knowledge); that Prometheus is the brother of Atlas; that he is also the son of Asia and of the Titan Iapetus — the antitype from which the Jews *borrowed* their Japhet for the exigencies of their own popular legend to mask its Kabbalistic, Chaldean, meaning; and that he is also the antitype of Deukalion. Prometheus is the creator of man out of earth and water, who after stealing *fire* from Olympus — *a mountain in Greece* — *is chained on a mount in the far off Caucasus*. From Olympus to Mount Kazbek there is a considerable distance. The occultists say that while the 4th race was generated and developed on the Atlantean continent — our Antipodes in a certain sense — the 5th was generated and developed in Asia. [The ancient Greek geographer Strabo, for one, calls by the name of Ariana, the land of the Aryans, the whole country between the Indian ocean in the south, the Hindu Kush and Paropamisos¹ in the north, the Indus on the east, and the Caspian gates, Karmania and the mouth of the Persian gulf, on the west.] The *fable* of Prometheus relates to the extinction of the civilized portions of the 4th race, whom Zeus, in order to create *a new race*, would destroy entirely, and Prometheus (who had the sacred fire of knowledge) saved partially “for future seed.”²



¹ Boris de Zirkoff's endnote on Parnassus, being the Paropanisus of the Hindu Kush:

“Parnassus is the Paropanisus of the Hindu Kush “From old Persian *paru* — mountain. Mountain chain running from West to East through the centre of the Southern portion of the Central Asian highlands. It is a prolongation of the chain of Anti-Taurus. The ancients applied this name to that part of the chain which lies between the Sariphi Mountains (mtns. of Kohistan) on the West, and the Imaus Mountains (Himālayas) on the East, or from about the sources of the river Margus in the West, to the point where the Indus breaks through the chain in the East. It divides that part of the continent which slopes towards the Indian Ocean from the great central table-land of Tartary and Tibet. In the time of Alexander, it was known as *Caucasus Indicus*, whence the name *Hindu-Kush*.” — *Blavatsky Collected Writings*, (COMPILER'S NOTES), V p. 273

² *Blavatsky Collected Writings*, (ESOTERIC HISTORY), V pp. 219-20

Parnassus and Tomaros originated from Sumeru.

From these regions [around the Garden of Eden] the Greeks obtained their Parnassus;¹ and thence proceeded most of the biblical personages, some of them in their day men, some demi-gods and heroes, some — though very few — myths, the astronomical double of the former.²

In Mathurā, we became convinced of the fact that the inhabitants of the Greek Olympus were born nearer to the Himālayas than to the country of Homer, that Parnassus must be sought near the Bāmiān, and that Apollo, Hercules, Bacchus and Orpheus are *Avatāras* of Krishna, Baladeva, Vāgīśa³ and Arjuna, the friend of Krishna, one of the Pāndavas. It is not in vain that enthusiasts like Pococke, the author of *India in Greece*, tried to prove, *not having seen what we saw in the inner sanctum of the temples of Mathurā*, that all Greece with her gods, as well as Egypt with its *zoolatria*, came wholesale from India, not modern India of course, which is locked in by its Himālayan frontier, but the prehistoric land.⁴

Parnassus, Alexander's Indicus Caucasus, and Hindu Kush are one the same.

On his march into India, Alexander crossed the Hindu Kush mountain through the Koashan pass.⁵ The Macedonians who served with Alexander called the mountain Kaukasos,⁶ perhaps to flatter Alexander attributing to him the highest geographical adventure, the passage of the Caucasus. The name Hindu Kush is but a corrupted form of "Indicus Caucasus." "*Grancasus*" which means "white with snow" is the original Scythic form of the word Caucasus.⁷ Skanda is referred to as "*Krauñcha dāra-*

¹ See Pococke's *India in Greece* (p. 302) and his derivation of Mount Parnassus from *Parnasi*, the leaf and branch huts of the Hindu ascetics, half-shrine and half-habitation.

"Part of the Paropamisus (the hill of Bāmiān), is called Parnassus. These mountains are called Devanika, because they are full of Devas or Gods, called 'Gods of the Earth', Bhū-Devas. They lived, according to the *Purānas*, in bowers or huts, called *parnasi*, because they were made of leaves (*parnas*)." [Searchable PDF of Professor Pococke's thesis, in our Hellenic and Hellenistic Papers Series. — ED. PHIL.]

² *Blavatsky Collected Writings*, (HERMETIC AND KABBALISTIC DOCTRINES) XIV p. 90 & fn.

³ *Vāgīśa* is the god of the Word; dressed in the skin of a leopard or a tiger, he is sitting with his feet under him like a *yogin*. *Vāgīśa* is one of the *aspects* of Siva, as well as of Vishnu; such a role belongs to many gods, all of whom were at first *brahmachārins* or "celibate ascetics." The head of this god, as well as his neck, are covered with garlands of *bilva*, a plant similar to grapevine from which a strongly intoxicating drink is made and the dry leaves of which are constantly chewed by the hatha-yogins. The fact that the Greek Bacchus was born as Siva-Vāgīśa is proved by the following: The first appearance of Vāgīśa (dressed like Bacchus and crowned with a grapevine) occurred on Mount *Su-Meru* (*su*, saintly, and *meru*, mountain), near Bāmiān in the Paropamisos. "He there taught humanity the art of agriculture and civilization." The historians of Alexander called this mountain *Su-Meros*, with the usual ending, and insisted even in those days that it was the abode of Bacchus. According to the tradition of the Brāhmanas and on the word of Arrian, it was here that the Macedonian held a Bacchanalia with his generals; crowned with *bilva*, they drank heavily. This mountain, like many others, is covered with wild grapevines. According to the mythology of the Greeks, Bacchus was born from the thigh of Jupiter. In Greek *mēros* means *thigh*. Is it not evident that the Greeks either confused this word with *meru*, mountain in Sanskrit (pronounced by the Greeks as *mēros*), or simply forgot their place of origin, as the centuries and millennia passed between the autochthone of Attica and the Macedonian? Their mountain "Tomaros" must also have originated in the Paropamisos. As the letter *d* changes in Greek into *z*, *Deus*, *Zeus*, in the same way the letter *s* often becomes a *t*. *Sumeru* became first *Sumēros*, and later "Tomaros" in Greece.

⁴ *Caves and Jungles*, pp. 609-10

⁵ *The Cambridge Ancient History*. Vol. VI, pp. 391 & 403

⁶ M. Crindles' *Ancient India*, p. 187

⁷ Rawlinson's *Herodotus*, Vol. III, p. 161

na,” and Krauñcha is admitted on all hands to be the name of a mountain pierced through by Skanda. Kailāsa refers to this mountain pass as a passage through which swans make their seasonal flights.¹



Caucasian gorge (Кавказское ущелье) Lev Lagorio, 1893



¹ Hamsadvaram . . . Krauncarandhram . . . Meghaduta. Excerpted from N. Gopala Pillai's *The Alexander Romance in India*. — <http://www.murugan.org/research/gopalapillai.htm>

Suggested reading for students.



From our Hellenic and Hellenistic Papers Series.

- ARISTOTLE ON THE GREAT SOULS
- BLAVATSKY ON GREEK PHILOSOPHY
- COMPENDIUM OF SACRED AND BARBARIC NAMES
- HERACLITUS' FRAGMENTS
- INDIA IS THE MOTHER OF GREECE
- KEATS' ODE ON A GRECIAN URN
- KING'S Gnostics and their remains (1887)
- KINGSLEY ON ALEXANDRIA AND HER SCHOOLS
- LUCIAN'S PHILOSOPHICAL FINESSE AND IRREVERENT WIT
- NICOMACHUS' INTRODUCTION TO ARITHMETIC
- ORPHEUS' HYMN TO THE MUSES
- ORPHEUS' LEGEND AND WORKS
- ORPHEUS' HYMN TO APOLLO
- PLATONIC PHILOSOPHY IS THE MOST ELABORATE COMPENDIUM OF INDIAN PHILOSOPHY
- PLATO'S SEVENTH EPISTLE - TR. HARWARD
- PLOTINUS' ENNEADS - TR. MACKENNA AND PAGE
- PLOTINUS ON FOUR APPROACHES TO ENLIGHTENMENT
- PLOTINUS ON THE INTELLIGIBLE BEAUTY - TR. TAYLOR
- PLUTARCH ON APOPHTHEGMS OF KINGS AND GREAT COMMANDERS
- PLUTARCH ON LACONIC APOPHTHEGMS
- PLUTARCH ON THE PYTHIAN PRIESTESS
- POCOCKE'S INDIA IN GREECE (1852)
- PORPHYRY ON THE CAVE OF THE NYMPHS - TR. TAYLOR
- PROCLUS ON AMBROSIA AND NECTAR
- SAMOTHRACE WAS SUBMERGED BY THE EUXINE

HELLENIC AND HELLENISTIC PAPERS
SUGGESTED READING FOR STUDENTS

- TAYLOR ON THE HYMNS OF ORPHEUS
- TAYLOR ON THE WANDERINGS OF ULYSSES
- THE ELECTRA OF SOPHOCLES AND EURIPIDES
- THE VALUE OF GREECE TO THE FUTURE OF THE WORLD
- WAS WRITING KNOWN BEFORE PANINI?
- WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH OUR VICTORY?
- ZEUS TRIOPHTHALMOS

