

*Helena Petrovna Blavatsky*  
**Caucasus, Parnassus, Tomaros**

**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 kabalistic, 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 4<sup>th</sup> race was generated and developed on the Atlantean continent — our Antipodes in a certain sense — the 5<sup>th</sup> 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 Paropamisos<sup>32</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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.”<sup>1</sup>

**Parnassus is the Paropamisus of the Hindu Kush**

<sup>32</sup>From old Persian *paru* — mountain. Mountain chain running from West to East through the center 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 (mnts. 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*.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Blavatsky Collected Writings*, (ESOTERIC HISTORY), V pp. 219-20

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.* (COMPILER'S NOTES), V p. 273; [by Boris de Zirkoff.]



### Parnassus and Tomaros originated from Sumeru

From these regions [around the Garden of Eden] the Greeks obtained their Parnassus;<sup>3</sup> 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.<sup>4</sup>

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, Vāgīśa<sup>5</sup> 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.<sup>6</sup>

### 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.<sup>7</sup> The Macedonians who served with Alexander called the mountain Kaukasos,<sup>8</sup> 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.<sup>9</sup> Skanda is referred to as '*Kraunca dārana*,' and Kraunca is admitted on all hands to be the name of a mountain pierced through

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<sup>3</sup> 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 Devanīka, 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*)."

<sup>4</sup> *Blavatsky Collected Writings*, (HERMETIC AND KABALISTIC DOCTRINES) XIV p. 90 & *fn.*

<sup>5</sup> *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.

<sup>6</sup> *Caves and Jungles*, pp. 609-10

<sup>7</sup> *The Cambridge Ancient History*. Vol. VI, pp. 391 & 403

<sup>8</sup> M. Crindles' *Ancient India*, p. 187

<sup>9</sup> Rawlinson's *Herodotus*, Vol. III p. 161



by Skanda. Kalidasa refers to this mountain pass as a passage through which swans make their seasonal flights.<sup>10</sup>



Parnassus (1626) Poussin, Madrid

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<sup>10</sup> Hamsadvaram . . . Krauncarandhram . . . Meghaduta. — Excerpted from N. Gopala Pillai's *The Alexander Romance in India*. — <http://www.murugan.org/research/gopalapillai.htm>

