

Shambhala, the Happy Land



Abode of the Himalayan Brotherhood, “The great professors of the higher order, who live in mountain depths remote from men.”

— SAMUEL BEAL

From *Blavatsky Collected Writings*, (EDITORIAL APPENDIX TO “THE ARYAN-ARHAT ESOTERIC TENETS ON THE SEVENFOLD PRINCIPLE IN MAN”) III pp. 421-22; [responding to T. Subba Row, Note III.] Frontispiece by RedreevGeorge.

SO, WITH RESPECT TO THE TRADITIONS CONCERNING THIS ISLAND, and apart from the (to them) *historical* records of this preserved in the Chinese and Tibetan Sacred Books: the legend is alive to this day among the people of Tibet. The fair Island is no more, but the country where it once bloomed remains there still, and the spot is well known to some of the “great teachers of the snowy mountains,” however much convulsed and changed its topography by the awful cataclysm. Every *seventh* year, these teachers are believed to assemble in *Śambhala*, the “happy land.” According to the general belief it is situated in the North-West of Tibet. Some place it within the unexplored central regions, inaccessible even to the fearless nomadic tribes; others hem it in between the range of the Gangdisri Mountains and the northern edge of the Gobi Desert, South and North, and the more populated regions of Kunduz and Kashmir, of the *Gya-Pheling* (British India), and China, West and East, which affords to the curious mind a pretty large latitude to locate it in. Others still place it between Namur-Nor and the Kuen-Lun Mountains — but one and all firmly believe in *Śambhala*, and speak of it as a fertile, fairylike land, once an island, now an oasis of incomparable beauty, the place of meeting of the inheritors of the [422] esoteric wisdom of the godlike inhabitants of the legendary Island.¹

In connection with the archaic legend of the Asian Sea and the Atlantic Continent, is it not profitable to note a fact known to all modern geologists — that the Himalayan slopes afford geological proof, that the substance of those lofty peaks was once a part of an ocean floor?



¹ [The Gangdisri Range is also known as Tisse-Gangri and Kailas Range. It runs parallel to, and to the North of, the Himālayas, and in its Eastern part blends into the Nyenchentanglha Range. Towards its Western portion, not far from the sources of the Indus River, rises the majestic pyramidal massif of Kailas (22,000 feet), called by the Tibetans Tisse. Some geographers consider this range to be merely the prolongation of the Karakorum Mountains. Kailas is not far from the sacred Lake of Manasa-sarovara.

Namur-Nor is a lake in the Northern part of the province of Gnari-Khorsum, at approximately the 34th degree of Northern Latitude.

It is obvious that H.P. Blavatsky, in speaking of the geographical location of the land of Śambhala, hides more than she reveals, as the area which she mentions extends over enormous distances in all directions. — *Boris de Zirkoff*.]