

(Pre-print edition)
© Risto Isomäki 2022

into

Into Kustannus Oy
Kalevankatu 43, 00180 Helsinki

www.intokustannus.fi

facebook.com/intokustannus

twitter.com/intokustannus

instagram.com/intokustannus

Cover: Klaus Welp

THE SANDS OF SARASVATI

RISTO ISOMÄKI

TRANSLATED BY OWEN F. WITESMAN

ALSO BY RISTO ISOMÄKI

Crystal Rose [*Kristalliruusu*], 1991

The Defeat of Gilgamesh [*Gilgamesin tappio*], 1994

Knights of the Dark Cloud [*Pimeään pilven ritarit*], 1997

The Awakening [*Herääminen*], 2000

The Sands of Sarasvati graphic novel, 2008

Lithium 6 [*Litium 6*], 2007

God's Little Finger [*Jumalan pikkusormi*], 2009

Con Rit, 2011

Translation of Plato's *Timaeus* by Donald J. Zeyl and translation of Plato's *Laws* by Trevor J. Saunders, both in *Plato: Complete Works*, ed. John M. Cooper, 1997, Hackett Publishing.

ORIGINAL TITLE: *Sarasvatin hiekkaa*

© 2005 RISTO ISOMÄKI

VASUDHAIVA KUTUMBAKAM – INDIA

A 401, Plot No: 1

Jansatta Apartments

Sector-9, Vasundhara

Ghaziabad, India

In co-operation with:

INTO PUBLISHING

Töölönkatu 9, 00100 Helsinki, Finland

www.intokustannus.fi

ISBN: 9789523933514 (Epub)

Cover: Jussi Karjalainen

Twelve thousand years ago, two mighty rivers, the Sarasvati and the Indus, still flowed across the coastal plain between the Hindu Kush Mountains and the Deccan Plateau.

Today, only the Indus remains. In Indian mythology, Sarasvati is the goddess of literature, wisdom and learning. The symbol of Sarasvati is a white swan, which is also the sacred bird of many northern peoples.

PROLOGUE

Gulf of Cambay – West Coast of India

THE MYTH OF ATLANTIS, the lost continent, had fascinated human minds for so long that you would have expected its discovery to be more newsworthy. In one survey, British journalists ranked the discovery of Atlantis as the fourth biggest possible news story. Even the Second Coming of Jesus Christ came in lower.

But when Atlantis was finally found, hardly anyone paid any attention. You see, the ancient civilization and the submerged ruins of its cities were found in entirely the wrong place.

In May, 2001, researchers at the Indian National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) announced the discovery of “precise geometric shapes” on the bottom of the Gulf of Cambay on the Western Coast of India. The shapes found on the seabed closely resembled the ruins of Mohenjo-daro, Harappa, and the other ancient cities left behind by the Indus-Sarasvati culture. But these ruins were forty metres underwater and forty kilometres from shore.

The pictures obtained by the side scan sonar of the research vessel M.V. *Sagar Paschimi* showed building foundations half buried under sand dunes and long, straight lines resembling irrigation canals and open sewers. The underwater ruined city was nine kilometres long and two kilometres wide.

Archaeologists and historians working all over the world responded to the find with complete silence. Because the characteristics of the site fit so poorly with previous beliefs and discoveries, the easiest thing to do was to say nothing. Some reactions were downright hostile. Even certain prominent experts in Indus-Sarasvati civilization called the find a hallucination. A few months later the world’s attention was captured by entirely different concerns when a group of fanatics decided to shift world history into high gear by crashing three hijacked passenger planes into the tallest skyscrapers in New York City and the headquarters of the United States Defence Department.

However, the researchers working aboard the M.V. *Sagar Paschimi*

continued their work, undeterred by the icy reception. New images revealed masonry walls, some of which rose up to three metres above the seabed and continued down several metres under the sand.

A little farther out to sea they also found another sunken city approximately the same size as the first. Both cities appeared to be located along the banks of an ancient river which had long since run dry.

Scuba-diving in the Gulf was next to impossible due to dangerous currents and tidal variations of up to eleven metres. The researchers sent a small radio-controlled robot outfitted with a camera to photograph the ruins, but the water was so murky that it was impossible to see anything in the pictures. The only way to proceed was to bring up soil samples from the seabed.

During the first day, dredge hauls and buckets of the M.V. *Sagar Paschmi* brought over two thousand human-made artefacts to the surface. Jewellery, stone tools, pots, broken pottery fragments, and small statues depicting animals, humans, and gods. There were also human teeth and other objects and materials whose age could be determined using radiocarbon dating.

In January of 2002, the Indian Minister for Science and Technology, Murli Manohar Joshi, announced that according to the radiocarbon dating the artefacts and human teeth recovered from the topmost layers of sea floor sediment were 9,500 years old.

WATER AND SAND

*And then one of the priests, a very old man, said,
“Ah, Solon, Solon, you Greeks are ever children.
There isn’t an old man among you.”*

On hearing this, Solon said, “What? What do you mean?”

*“You are young,” the old priest replied, “young in soul, every one of you.
Your souls are devoid of beliefs about antiquity handed down by ancient
tradition. Your souls lack any learning made hoary by time.”*

Plato (427–348 BC): Timaeus