

Re-Birth: a Late Neolithic Mytheme

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Abstract

6 to 4 thousands years ago, proto-languages did not yet allow
homo sapiens to express verbally his perception of cyclic time.

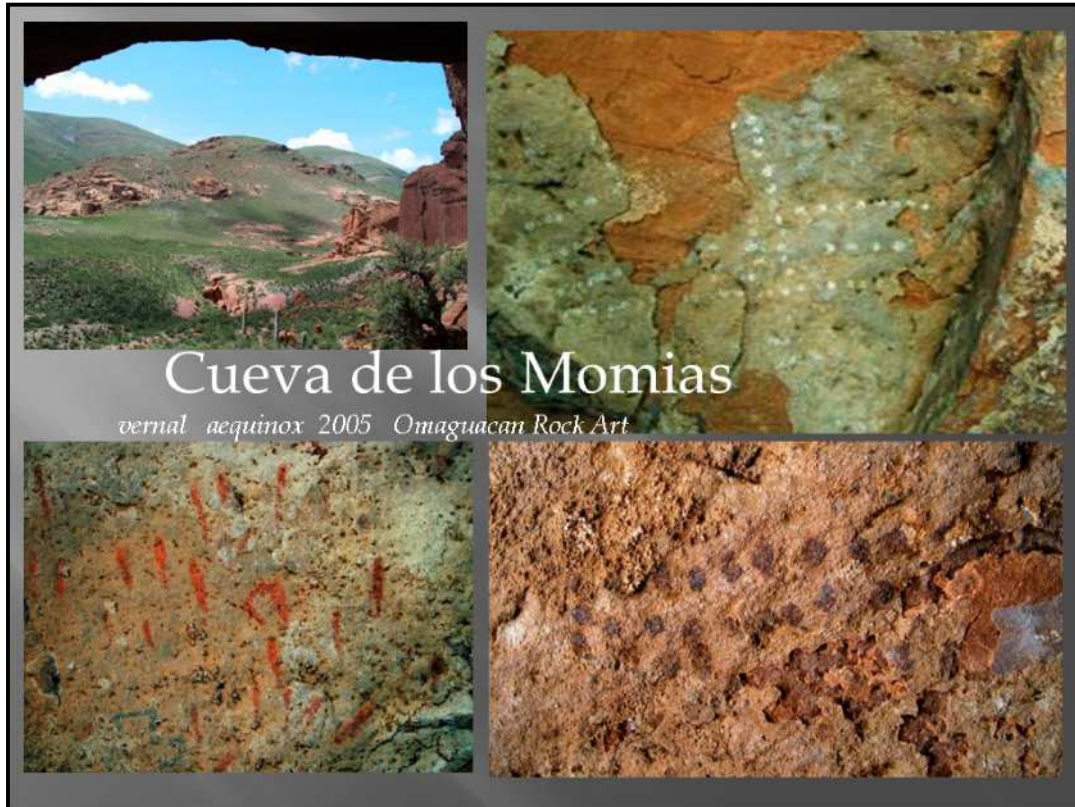
Nevertheless representations of the *Re-Birth Mytheme*
are found in his artefacts:

- 6000 Years Old Mummies in Foetal Position : Quebrada de Chulin
- Engravings @ Winter Solsticial Sunrise : S.Germano di Chisone/
- Engravings @ Retarded Summer Solstice Sunrise : Valcamonica / Mt Bego
- Artificial Landscape @ Summer Solstice Sunset : Giza
- Natural Landscape @ Aequinox – 4 weeks : Tell El-Amarna / Mogor

Do have Myths a Pre-history ?

Before *homo sapiens* speaking abilities reached
the narrative level necessary to tell a myth,
artefacts might have been used to express *mythenes*,
the embryonic expression of myths.

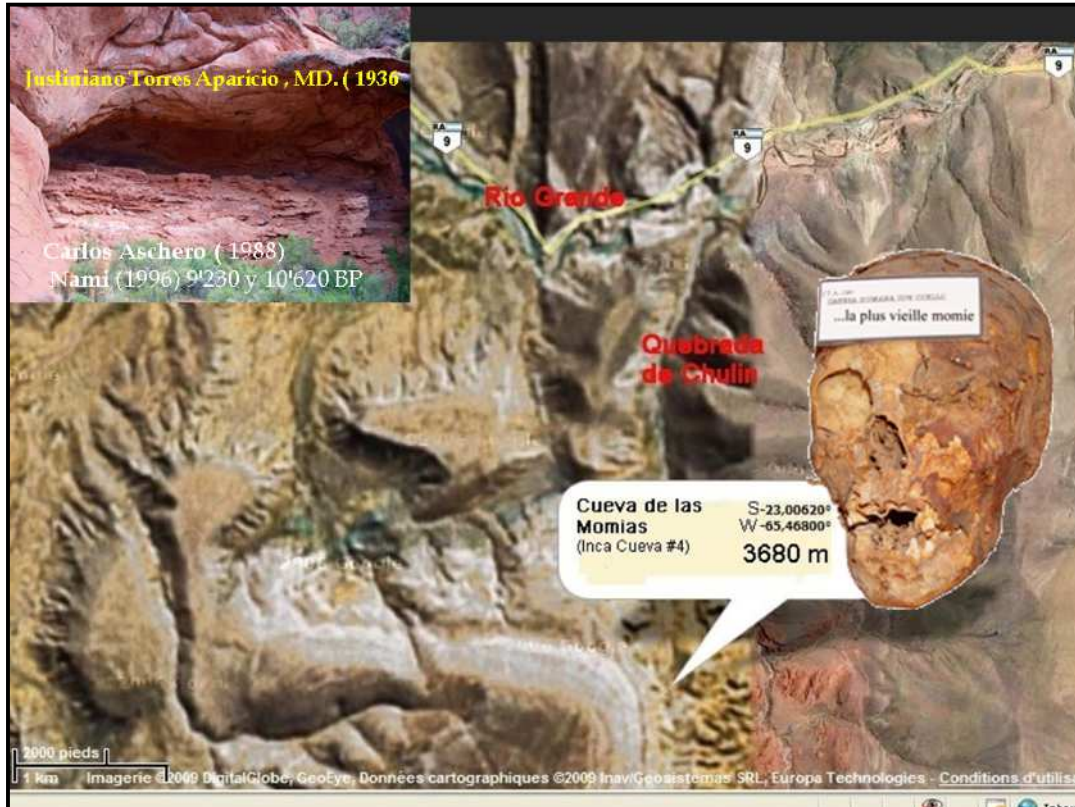
Some 6 to 4 thousands years old artefacts
will be here interpreted as *Mytheme of the Re-Birth*,
an early way to keep death at bay!



Cueva de los Momias

vernal equinox 2005 Omaguacan Rock Art

Lost in South-American Altiplano,
the Cueva de las Momias (also called Inca Cueva #4),
exhibits, on its walls, matrices of painted dots and strokes,
early testimonies of Omaguacan Rock Art.
This shelter seems to have been inhabited
between 10 & 6 ky ago.



This shelter is located at 3680 m.o.s.l., at 2 hours walk inside the Quebrada del rio Chulin, a small affluent of Rio Grande.

This cave was first visited, in 1936, by the Medical Doctor and Folk Music Composer Justiniano Torres Apparicio, who excavated there 3 naturally dessicated mummies, lying among heaps of sediments. In 1988, Carlos Aschero made a deeper excavation, over 1 m, and found charcoal, which in 1996, Nami dated as 10 ky BP.



With the most appreciated support of
 Mrs Alicia Torres Aparicio, Director of the
 Museo Justiniano Torres Aparicio in Humahuaca (Prov. Jujuy),
 two tiny samples of 100 milligrams of temporal skin of the skull
 (catalogued under J.T.A.-240)
 were collected and then analyzed at the AMS facility in Zürich.
 The deltaC13 value of those samples has been measured to be
 -19.5+/-1.1‰ (-19 ‰ is the typical value of human collagen).
 This value gives confidence of the absence of contamination,
 and comforts the measured age of 6 ky-calibrated. Chulina,
 the andean mummy, is therefore 700 years older than Ötzi.

The foetal position of her two companions:
 Chulinita (a baby in her cradle) &
 Rosalia (a young women wrapped in a vicuña skin
 and finely woven linen)
 are the oldest mummies
 testifying for the *Mytheme of Re-Birth*.



Another example of a naturally dessicated mummy
in foetal-rebirth position
is the one bought by Schaparelli in 1900
and now exhibited at the Egyptian Museum in Torino.
It assumed to be from the Naqada II period, i.e;
as old as Çetzi, but half a millenium younger than Chulina.,

Winter solstice sun rise
Peira Eicrita next to Pinerolo,
studied by Dario Seglie



In Europe, at San Germano di Chisone,
at winter solstice sunrise,
Dario Seglie took this picture of the engraving of
this strange bilobate flower
aligned towards the rising sun,
possibly another expression of the Rebirth Mytheme.

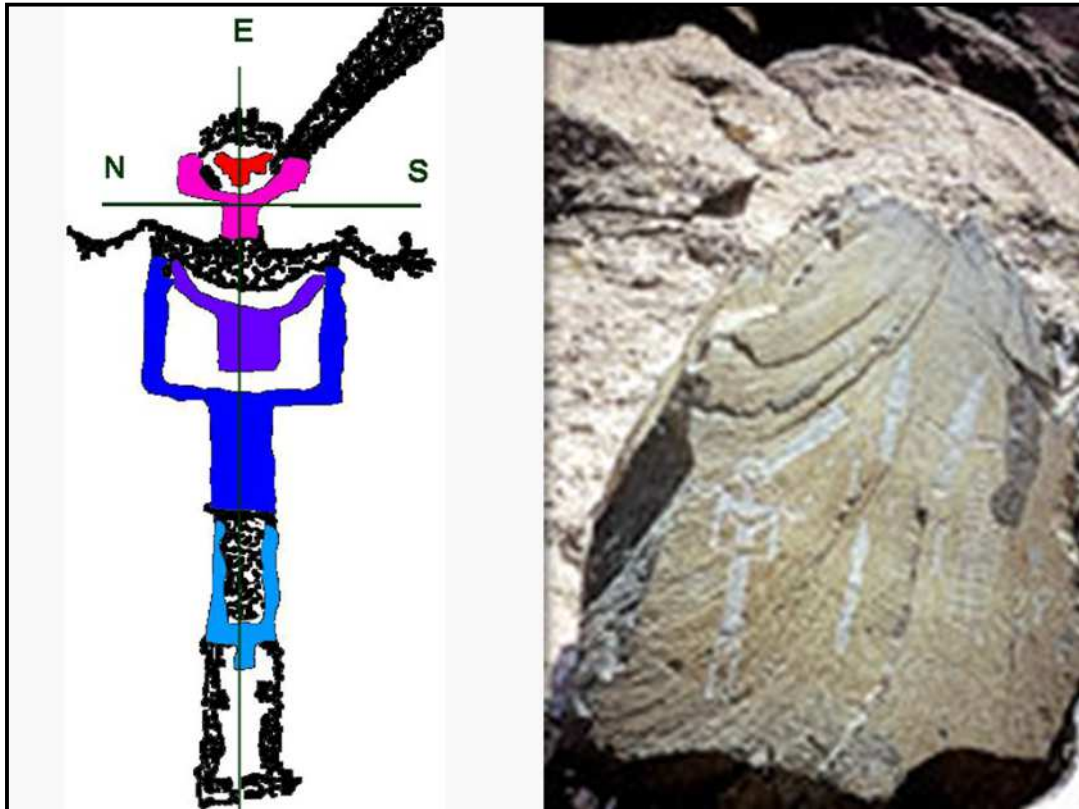


My *camunian* guide for 37 years ...
Batista Maffessoli at Dos Sulif

Sun rise at Summer Solstice
2002 / 09:30

In Valcamonica, at summer solstice at Dos Sulif,
because of the crest of the mountain,
the sun rises quite late there.

The surprising consequence is that
the shadow of the plumb-line covering
the main axis of the engraving of the camunian rose,
is there pointing toward East,
a typical equinoxial sun rise feature.



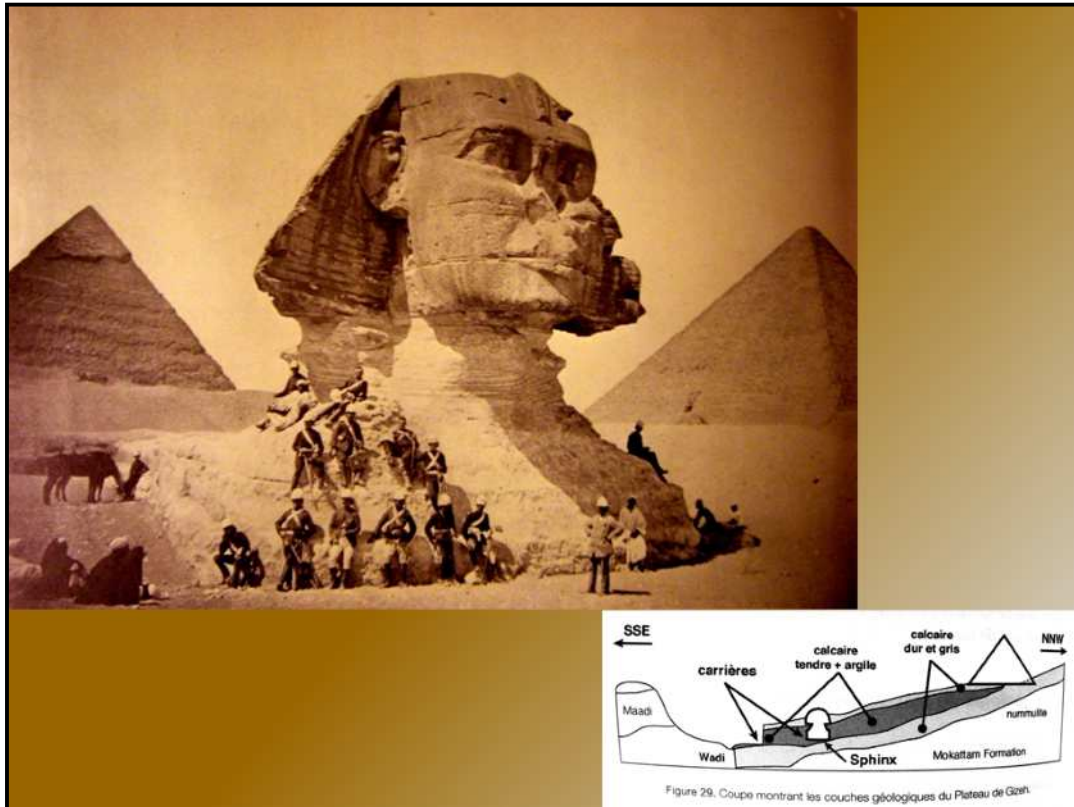
In Mont Bégo, one has exactly the same feature.
As demonstrated by Chantal WOLKIEWIEZ,
the summer solstice rising sun is hidden
behind Mt BEGO and first appears in the East.



It is worth taking a look at the perception of
the mythical Sphinx of Giza.

Even its very 1st photographical recording
by Armand de Banville

Is misleading: it looks as if it is
a decorative piece in front of the Chephren's pyramid....

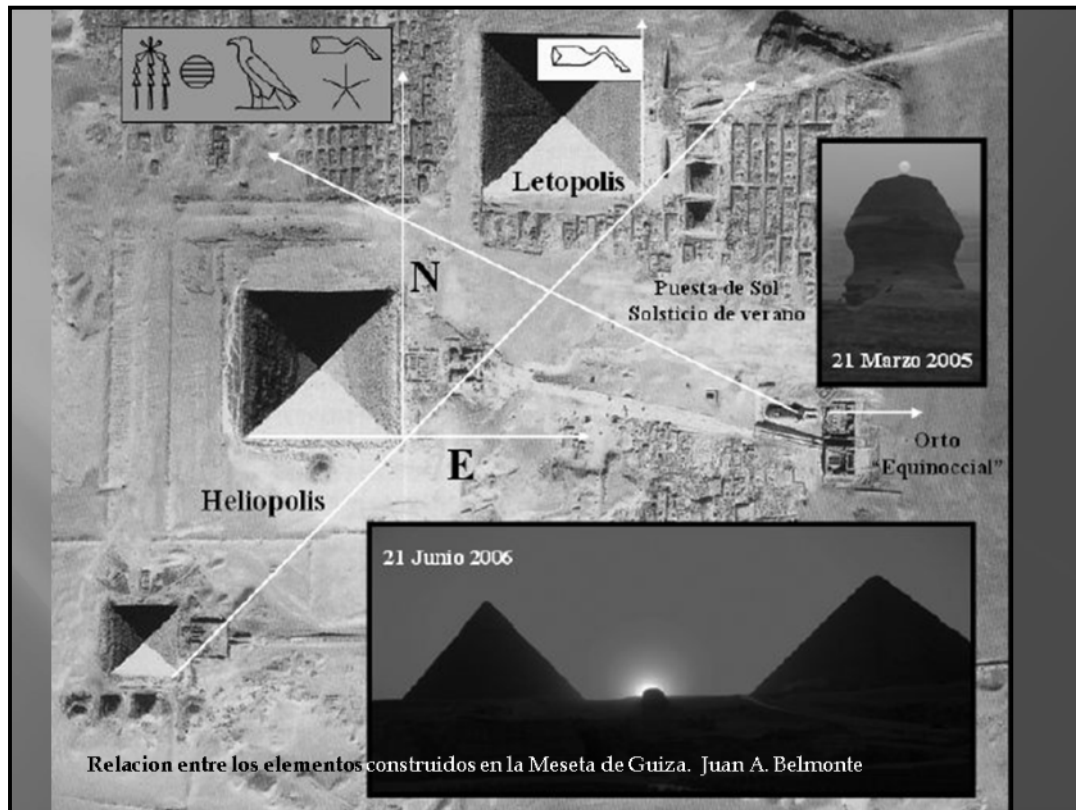


The next picture is fairer.
 The Sphinx "rules" the 2 largest pyramids of Giza.
 Probably during pyramids time,
 the head of the Sphinx has been carved
 out of an hard limestone of the Mokkattam formation.
 Earlier, it probably has been a pre-pharaonic holy stone,
 erroded by the Nile.



Thanks to GoogleEarth one sees that this holy stone has actually been taken as a pivot point for the erection of the pyramids.

This "pharaonic" project dealt with the creation of an artificial landscape which would mimic, at summer solstice sunset, the hieroglyph AKHET.



Juan Antonio Belmonte of the spanish-egyptian mission took this picture 3 years ago at summer solstice sunset.

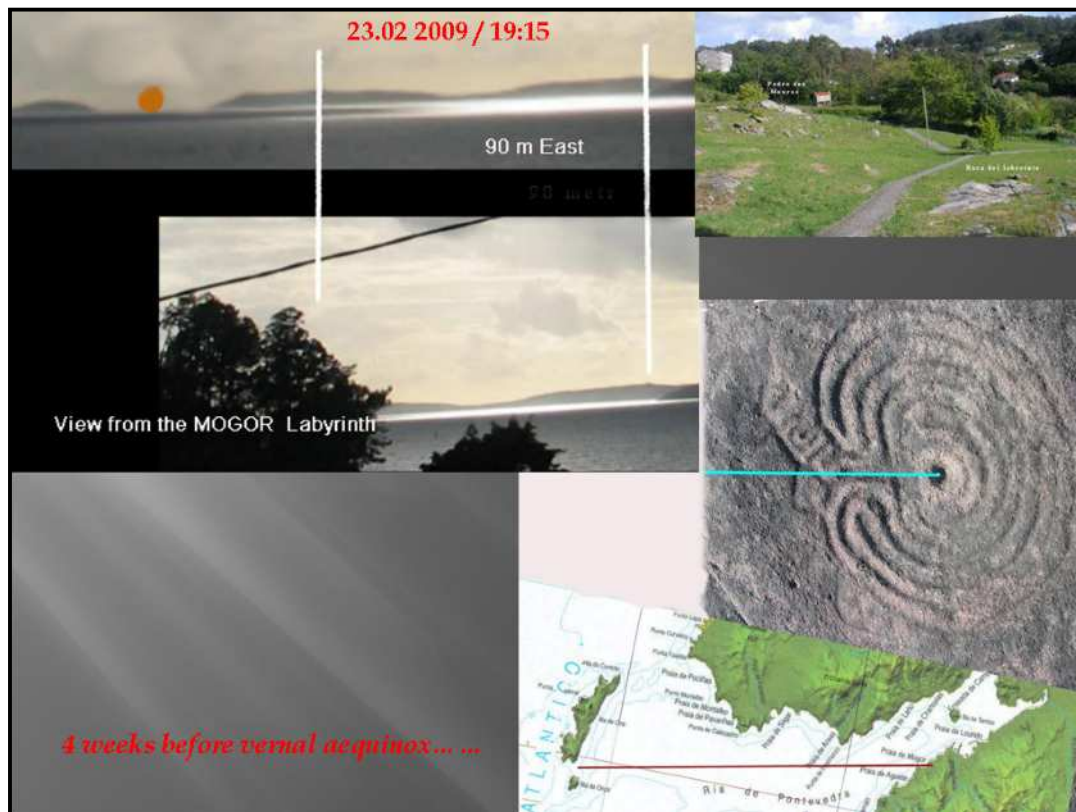
It illustrates beautifully
the Re-Birth Mytheme under its "Akhet" avatar.



13 centuries later, the paradigms changed.
 Narrative abilities were already such that Akhenaton and Nefertiti
 while building their new capital AKHET-ATON,
 did not have to build pyramids
 to mimic the hieroglyph AKHET in the landscape
 of the East bank of the Nile river !
 The local wadi and correct siting of the first temple
 did just that,
 4 weeks before vernal equinox.
 10 New Moons after the total solar eclipse of -1337.05.14,
 there was NO Moon visible in the sky.
 Therefore the solar orb might have appeared
 as a reminder of the Rebirth Mytheme.



Another avatar of the Rebirth Mytheme' artefact is the labyrinth ic design.
 In Galicia, in Mogor, while the sun is setting at vernal equinox, the labyrinth opens up towards the sea.
 Unfortunately the presence of trees in front of the engraving blurs the overall picture ...



The channel between the island of Ons and the islet of Onza
is a natural opening toward the sea,
the metaphor for a labyrinthic journey towards
the rebirth of the sun.

Apparently, the Onza-Ons channel, 18 km away,
even in the absence of vegetation,
cannot be seen directly from the labyrinth.

Nevertheless, it is easy with a pole in the cupmark of the labyrinth,
and climbing up the hill a little bit, to determine
the direction of the opening to be given to the labyrinth.

And 4 weeks before vernal equinox,
the sun setting over the channel has a taste of déjà vu, hasn't it ?