

Five Thousand Years of “Reflections”



Constellation of Capricorn

Is it possible that everything we have forgotten about our prehistoric past is simply related to what our ancient ancestors could see in the sky and how they interpreted the patterns of stars in the night sky and the changing arcs of the Sun's movement across the sky by day throughout the year? All viewed from the perspective of our spinning rock, planet Earth, set in a universe of darkness illuminated by the shining Sun and the twinkling stars.

What if all our almost forgotten ancient mythologies, our pagan deities, our calendar and even our pre-historic religions all boiled down to our forefathers trying to make sense of their lives through the awe-inspiring stars and the life-giving Sun and their changing patterns during the annual cycle of the Earth's orbit around the Sun?

And finally, what if the slow imperceptible wobble of the earth about its axis meant that eventually after three thousand years, the position of the Celestial Pole had changed sufficiently that the original stories about the stars and the deities associated with them no longer held true? Could the entire ancient system of beliefs, the calendar and measurement system have come crashing down to be forgotten and replaced by new faith-based religions, a new date-based calendar and a new measurement system that no longer related to pendulum lengths that integrated the measurement of distance and time? New answers for a new age that didn't depend so intimately on the Earth's rotation and what could be seen in the heavens by the people which avoided the problems of having a belief system saddled with an inherent sell-by date caused by the precession of the equinoxes.

It is interesting to consider how a belief system might, for lack of a better word, be “invented”? The most essential property is that it involves something profoundly important that helps people to live their lives and also cope with mortality by offering the prospect of rebirth or life after death especially at a time when life expectancy was short. Ideally, in order for it to be believable, the truth of a belief system's promises can be seen by the people with their own eyes as long as what can be seen never changes.

The thing that sustains life on our planet Earth is our star, the Sun, that provides light and warmth to the Earth. The Sun rises and sets each day because the Earth rotates about its axis giving us day and night, however the axis of rotation through the Poles is angled so that the length of day, and azimuth of the Sun is not constant throughout the year leading to the phenomenon of seasons as the Earth orbits the Sun on its inclined axis of rotation. In summer, in the northern hemisphere, the Sun rises early and sets late and appears at its maximum height in the sky at midday producing the longest warmest days of the year whilst in the winter the Sun rises late to a much lower azimuth and sets early resulting in long dark nights and short cold daylight hours. During the winter, the land is unproductive and the cold weather is a threat to life whilst in spring and summer nature is bountiful. The effect of seasons on people living north of the equator is particularly marked at more northern latitudes where the difference between summer and winter has the greatest effect on survival and the health of the people. In winter the length of day and the lowest temperatures are experienced so that for instance in winter in northern Scotland daylight might only last for 5 hours and the ground can be covered with ice and snow for many months so that the end of winter is eagerly awaited.

It is understandable how a religion might be based on Sun worship but the Sun is only seen during the hours of daylight and the magic of the heavens at night is what inspires awe in people and a feeling that there is something "greater" out there. The stars in the night sky supply a myriad of patterns of points of light that can be interpreted as resembling the shapes of familiar creatures such as migratory birds and fish, like the goose and the salmon that are important to the lives of people. These groups of stars whose brightest stars can be joined by imaginary lines to form familiar shapes, or what we today understand to be constellations; in the case of the salmon, the constellation of Pisces and in the case of the Swan the constellation of Cygnus representing not a swan but a goose to the Picts. The positions of these star patterns change slightly every night and have a repeating annual cycle. The different star patterns were identified as a pantheon of deities that could be individually venerated depending on the needs of the people at a particular time, particularly on their festival days when they appeared due South in the night sky at the end of civil twilight, just after the Sun had set. The alignment of the brightest stars in these constellations could be used to mark festival days throughout the year dividing the year into a number of evenly spaced periods. The alignment of Deneb the brightest star in Cygnus coincided with the migration of geese in their hundreds of thousands from Iceland to over winter in the milder climate of Scotland as they still do today.

However, there is one constellation that differs from the others in that it is only visible in the night sky for a part of the year and it was regarded as having the most important role of all the stellar deities linking the importance of the Sun and the stars to their beliefs as this constellation was regarded as the protector god of the Sun during the winter months. This results simply because from around 3200BC the Sun rose and set with the constellation of Capricorn during the winter months so the stars of Capricorn were not visible in the night sky during the winter. When spring arrived, Capricorn was once again

visible in the night sky and it was considered to have performed its role as the Great Protector God of the winter Sun having safely accompanied the Sun through the dark winter months and delivered it to spring time to bring warmth and life back to the earth.

The constellation of Capricorn today is identified as a fish-tailed goat but in ancient times it was seen as a one-eyed cat, whose other missing left eye was supplied by the Sun as it rose and set during the winter months, travelling through the underworld from the western horizon to the eastern horizon during the hours of darkness to rise again in the East or rather South-East during the winter months.

Why might images of gods be not visually represented?

Aniconism in religion is the opposition to the use of icons or visual images to depict living creatures or religious figures. Such opposition is an ancient tradition and is even practised today being particularly relevant to the Islamic, Jewish and Byzantine artistic traditions. For instance, Muslims believe it is better to represent Allah through words but although Muslims do not believe it is right to draw Allah or the Prophet Muhammad, Muslims do represent Allah using special writing called calligraphy or through Islamic art. Similarly in pre-historic Scotland perhaps the images of their most important gods were hidden in their works of art; their carved Pictish symbols.

Was Capricorn depicted?

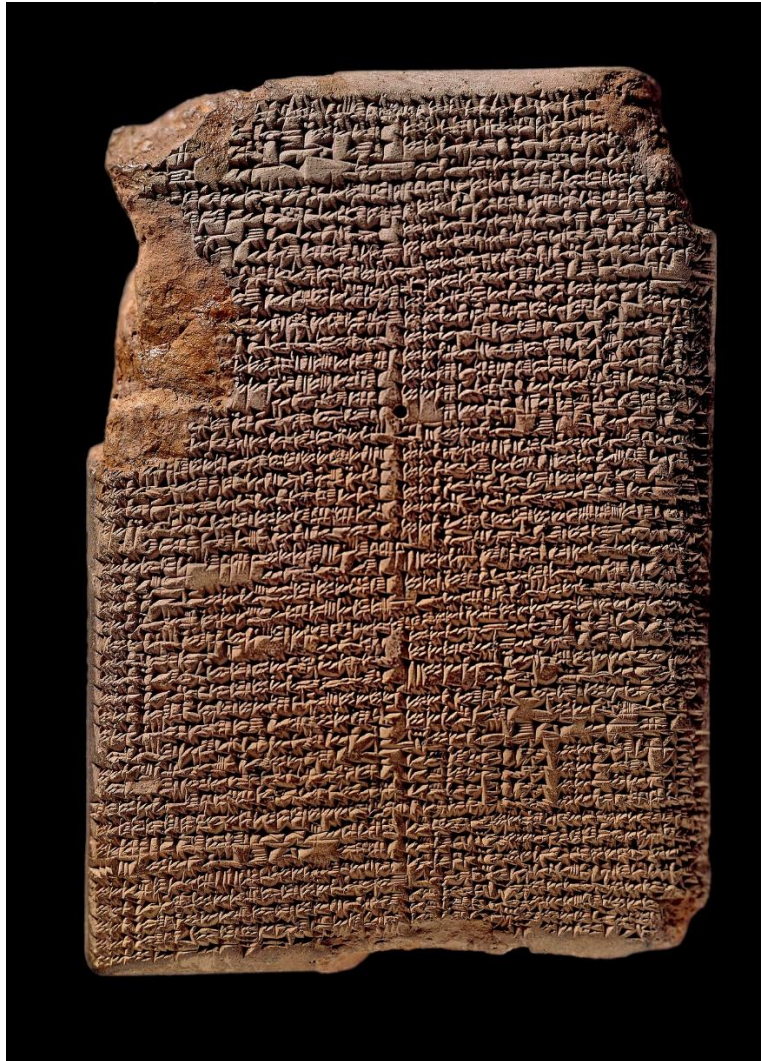
Capricorn was considered the great God from around five thousand years ago because of its role as the great protector god of the winter Sun. When we look at the Pictish Class I symbols carved in stone, although many of the important constellations are represented, the most important constellation of Capricorn is not. The question arises as to whether aniconism was the reason why it was not portrayed as a carved likeness.

Mesopotamian Tablet – Confirmation that Capricorn was the “Great One”

We have supporting evidence of the identification of Capricorn as the Great God in the form of an ancient clay tablet written in cuneiform which has been examined in previous parts.

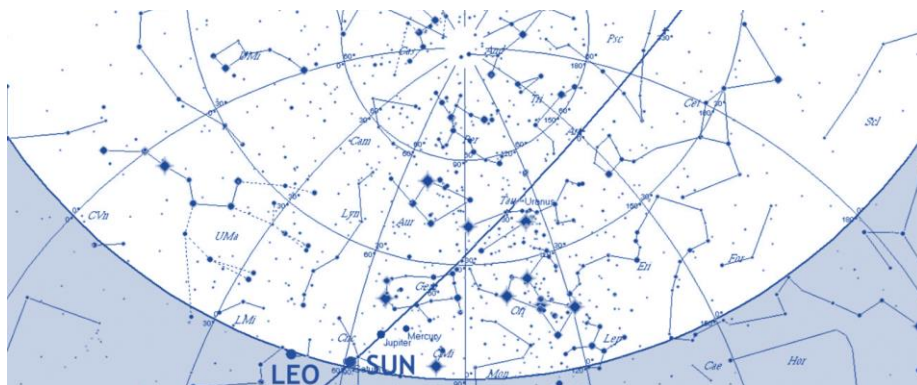
The evidence comes in the form of an ancient astronomical text from Mesopotamia (modern day Iraq) that was compiled in the first millennium BC and known as Mul-Apin.

The Sun which rose towards the North with the head of the Lion turns and keeps moving down towards the South at a rate of 40 Ninda per day. The days become shorter, the nights longer....The Sun which rose towards the South with the head of the Great One then turns and keeps coming up towards the North at a rate of 40 Ninda per day. The days become longer, the nights become shorter.'



Mul Apin Cuneiform Tablet detailing astronomical observations believed to date from around 1000BC

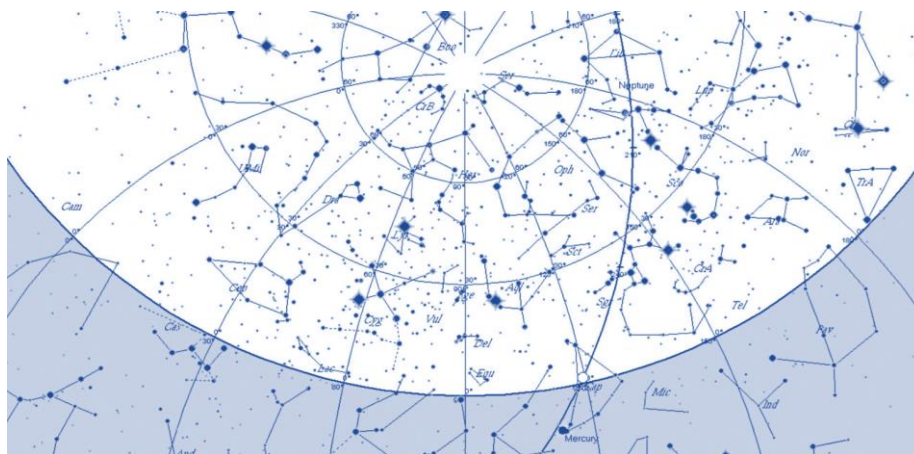
This ancient cuneiform text describes the rising Sun at the summer and winter solstices. At Sunrise when the Sun is furthest North the Sun is described as rising with the head of the Lion. When we examine the night sky for the year 1000BC for the latitude of Baghdad we see the following pattern when we look due east at sunrise - due East is on the vertical at the bottom:



Summer solstice (2nd July) Baghdad 1000BC as the Sun sits on the horizon just after first Sunrise

We can see that the Sun sitting approximately 30 degrees North of East is joined on the horizon by the head of the constellation of Leo. In other words, the description matches the pattern of the night sky perfectly, though of course no stars would have been visible after the Sun had risen, indicating that the position of the constellations appears to have been known even during daylight.

The next question is who or what was described on the Mul-Apin tablet as “the Great One”? When we examine the night sky at dawn at the winter solstice, we see the following pattern.



Winter solstice (29th December) 1000BC Baghdad. The Sun is seen rising in the constellation of Capricorn

It appears that the Great One is the Constellation of Capricorn or the Cathead as the Sun rises with this constellation. The association of the Great One with Capricorn is further supported by the association of the Great One with the God Ea (Babylonian) or Enki who is described as “leader of the Gods” and depicted by the images of a Goat and Fish which of course later became the fish-tailed goat Capricorn. The description of the Cat-head shaped constellation as the Great One suggests that this was regarded as the main God figure and we are faced with the possibility that this ancient God was venerated by a vast number of people over a wide geographic area in the Northern hemisphere. The implication being that people who today are sometimes sadly divided by their relatively new religious beliefs were once brothers and sisters joined by a common belief system. We are also reminded of the fact that there was no separate Pictish symbol for this constellation but that on many stones a Cat’s head could be revealed by the use of a mirror.

Mirrors

The first mirrors were most likely pools of water in which people could see their reflection but the first portable mirrors are likely to have been polished stone mirrors made from black obsidian. The earliest known manufactured mirrors are about 8000 years old and found in Anatolia in modern day Turkey but these mirrors were widely traded throughout the Northern hemisphere. Obsidian is a type of volcanic glass that has really good reflective optical qualities. Later, metal mirrors with much better reflective properties were manufactured using silver and bronze. Whilst we consider the primary, if not only,

importance of mirrors to be to look at our own appearance, our ancestors also used them as a means of being able to see the gods that they worshipped when the mirrors were placed at their eye and the mirror image reflection obtained from a pattern carved in rock, combined with the carved image revealed the face of one of their major deities.

The beginning of the veneration of Capricorn.

The rising of the Sun during the winter months with the constellation of Capricorn started around 3200BC. Today the Sun rises in the constellation of Sagittarius. In Neolithic Scotland the construction of the recumbent stone circles coincides with the rising and setting of Capricorn with the Sun at the winter solstice.



Recumbent Stone called "Stone head",Insch, Aberdeenshire

In Scotland there are many stone circles called recumbent stone circles that survive from around 3000BC. They are characterised by a large horizontal or recumbent stone wedged between two upright stone flankers. The appearance of the recumbent stone and flankers could be compared to the head of a cat with its ears pointing skyward and this is supported by the alignment of the recumbent stone with that of the setting Sun and Capricorn at the time of the winter solstice when viewed from the centre of the circle. As an aside it is also interesting to compare this arrangement of stones with the general appearance and etymology of the western façade of many early "cathedrals" with their twin towers or spires flanking the entrance. However, looking more closely at these recumbent megaliths that have withstood five thousand winters of weathering, sometimes it is just possible to make out a pattern on the North-East facing, inner surface of these stones; something resembling an eye. When a reflection of the pattern of the eye is made using a mirror, the face of a cat can sometimes appear as the eye is seen to be accompanied by a half a nose and half a mouth. A good example of this phenomenon is obtained when we look at the recumbent stone called "Stone Head". The ancient origin

of the circle's name was previously unknown but now that we can see the emergence of a cat's head from the stone it can be seen how appropriate the name "Stone Head" is.



Stonehead Recumbent stone circle, Inch, Aberdeenshire. Reflection of left-hand side of stone in a vertical central axis reveals a cat's head (and two setting Suns above the stone)

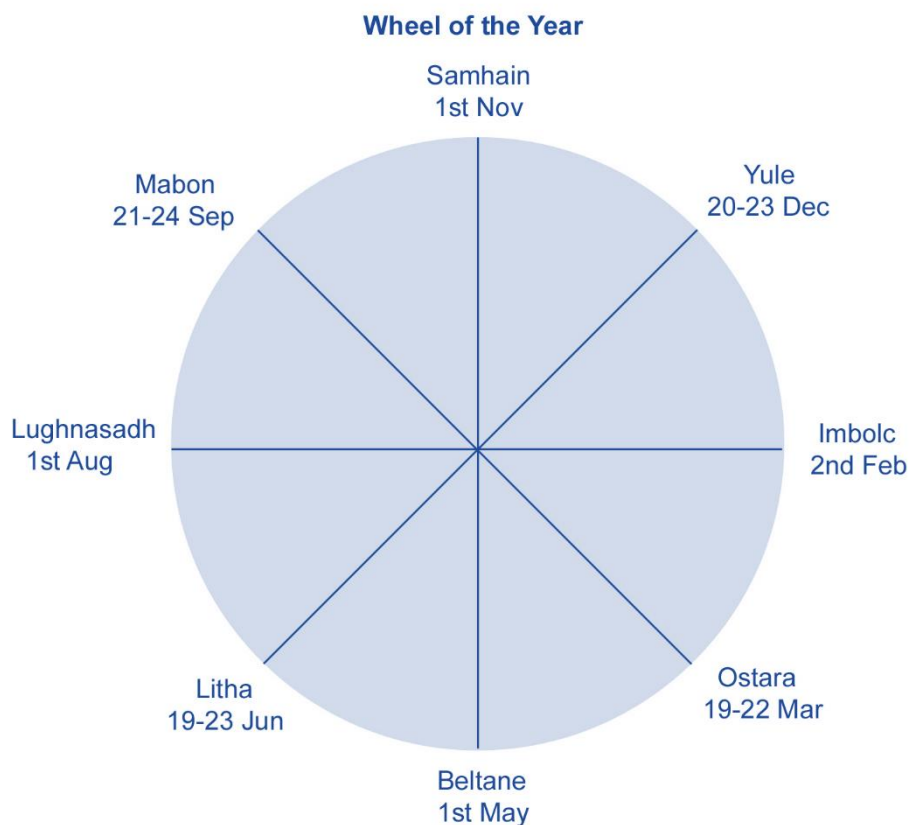
Although today the constellation of Capricorn is identified as a fish-tailed goat. In ancient times it was seen as a cat's head of triangular form. A head with one eye formed of stars and the other missing eye supplied by the Sun during the winter months as the constellation and Sun travelled together through both the day and night.

It seems that in the Neolithic age patterns were not commonly carved into stone, none of the megaliths used to construct the stone circles appear to have any carvings on them and perhaps such an act was considered as violating the stone and that the rock needed to have a naturally formed pattern in its shape and surface form in order for it to be considered as a truly special stone to be selected. It is also possible that any carved lines may have been weathered so severely that after 5000 years they have become virtually invisible however the rocks used to form stone circles and standing stones from the Neolithic Age are almost entirely free of any suggestion of carved images. In the case of the large recumbent stones of the Scottish stone circles, a pattern of what looked like an eye, a half-nose, an ear on the stone's surface may have been searched for that allowed a cat's head to be formed when reflected in a small mirror held at the eye.

The Faces of Pictish Gods revealed using a mirror

The use of half-images and a mirror appears to have been a way of enabling our Pictish forefathers to reveal the appearance of important deities by using a mirror held to the eye to complete the whole image of a deity by combining the reflected ethereal mirror image with a hidden physical half image either naturally present or carved in stone. The earliest evidence of this is found in Scotland, with the recumbent stone circles where a cathead could be revealed by reflection on the inner face of the recumbent stones whilst

almost 2000 years later the same device can be seen this time in the carved patterns of images in the Pictish Class I megaliths. The carved Pictish stone patterns can be reflected in various axes to produce the Cat head deity, Capricorn, identified as the Great God representing the festival of Lughnasadh. However, other important lesser deities but important in terms of being celebrated at the major fire festivals of the Pictish year also appear to have been hidden in the same way. Crom Dubh, the deity representing the festival of Samhain, the start of the Pictish year, the start of winter festival and identified with the constellation of Crater, the deity Brigid representing the end of winter festival Imbolc opposing the festival of Lughnasadh, associated with the constellation of Taurus, the bull and the beginning of summer festival, Beltane associated with Coma Berenices, the Nine Maidens and the Cauldron of Plenty. These are the main four fire festivals of the ancient Pictish year. The festivals shown below mark the start of winter (Samhain) and the start of the year, the end of winter (Imbolc), the start of Summer (Beltane), and the end of summer (Lughnasadh). It is likely that the early simple crosses sometimes confused with Christian crosses, pre-date Christianity and represent this division of the year and the representation of these four stellar deities whose constellations were aligned due South in the sky at civil twilight on these festival days.

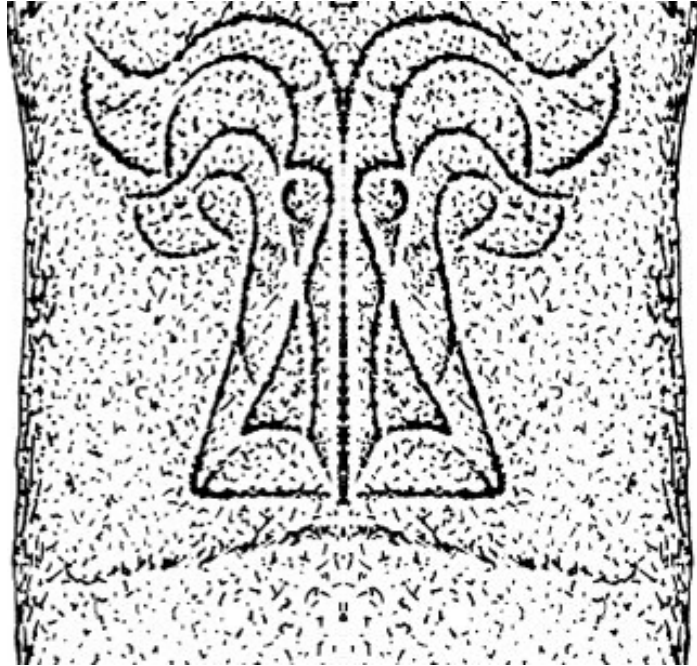




Burghead stone. The image of Brigid (right) revealed by reflection in a mirror from the pattern of a carved Pictish Bull. She has a cloak and her dogs and a single eye in keeping with the old stories about her.



Easterton of Roseisle stone The image of the Great Cathead God identified with the constellation of Capricorn and revealed from a mirror reflection in the tail of a Pictish Goose symbol (Cygnus) associated with the festival of Lughnasadh

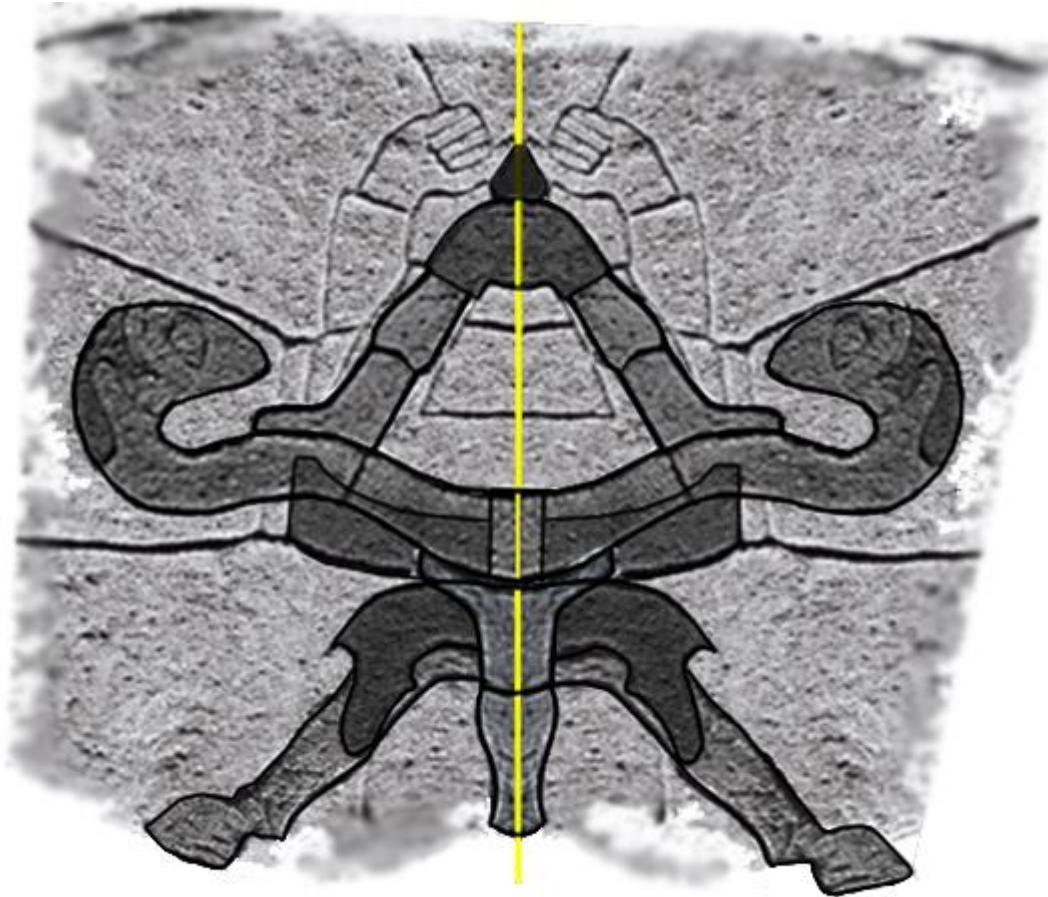


The image of the Crom Cruach or Crom Dubh associated with the festival of Samhain, revealed from a reflection in the Pictish symbol of Kelp associated with Aquarius carved on a stone in Pabbay and probably representing a stack of seaweed gathered on the shore and identified as the constellation of Crater.



The Bullion Stone, Dundee Image of the Cauldron of Plenty (Coma Berenices) associated with the festival of Beltane revealed from a reflection in the Bullion field Pictish stone carving of a man on his horse. The cauldron seems to be overflowing with the carcass of a horse.

The device of hiding images of important deities in carved patterns is however developed further to hide what must be considered our ancient ancestors' greatest technological achievement; a powerful reflector telescope.



Reflector telescope revealed by a series of reflections made in the Rhynie Man Class I Pictish Stone.

Other Cultures that may have used a Mirror to reveal Important reflected images from symbols



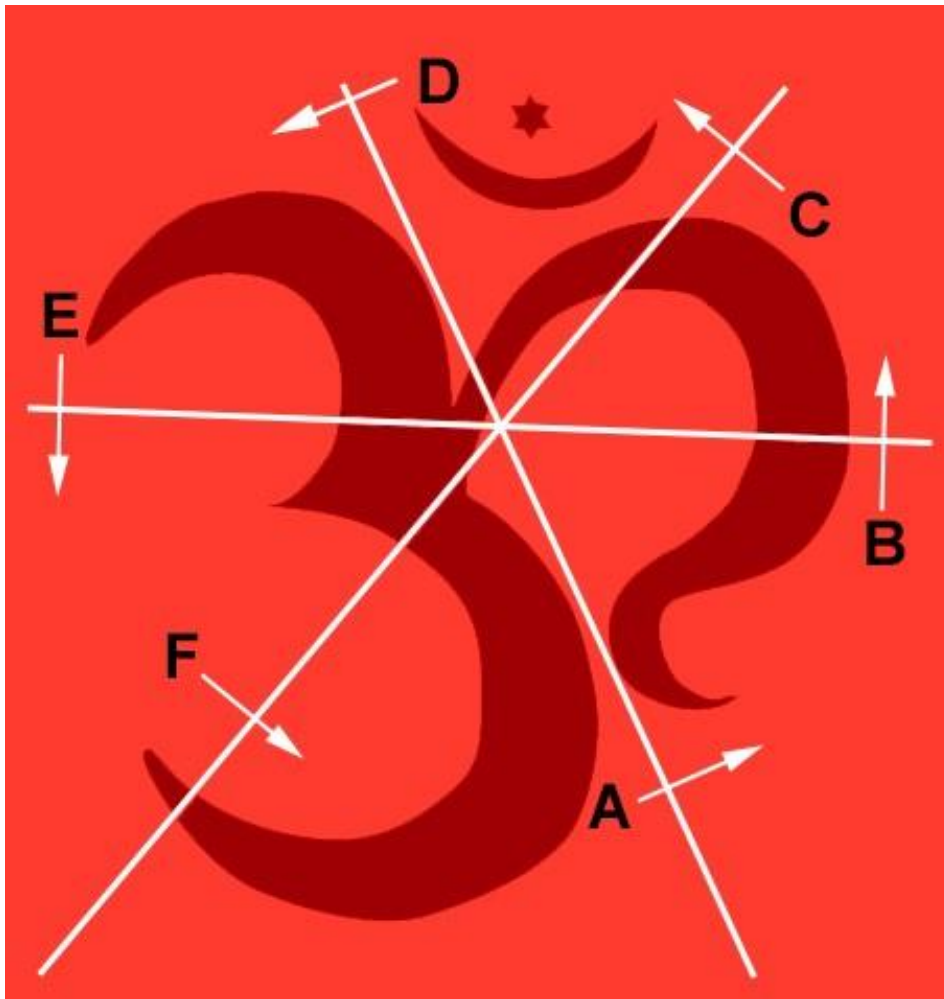
The Symbol Aum

It would be useful if supporting evidence could be found of reflections of half-images being used to conceal secret important information in other cultures apart from those found in pre-historic Scotland. Sanskrit is the oldest language in the world dating from at least 4000 years ago and Sanskrit is the sacred language of Hinduism, the language of classical Hindu philosophy and of the texts of Buddhism and Jainism. One symbol called Om or Aum is of particular importance.

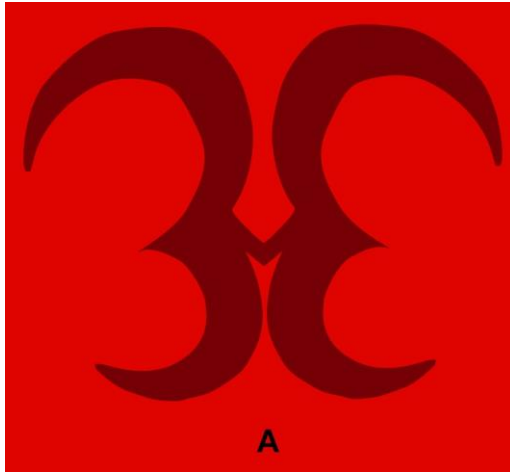
The Sanskrit symbol Om or Aum ॐ is a symbol representing a sacred sound and mantra in Hinduism and is one of the religions most important symbols. There is much academic, religious and philosophical debate about the meaning of the ancient and sacred symbol and it is not our intention to enter that debate but to offer another line of investigation about the physical pattern of the Sanskrit symbol itself and analyse the symbol in a completely objective manner to see whether the symbol, like the ancient stone carvings found on the Class I Pictish stones, could be transformed into other identifiable images by carrying out a reflection or reflections in axes drawn through the symbol.

The commonly represented version of the symbol Om, ॐ, is described as a cursive ligature in Devanagari, combining अ (*a*) with उ (*u*) and the chandrabindu (ँ, *m*). The etymological origins of *ōm* or *aum* have long been discussed and disputed, but regardless of its original meaning, the symbol *Om* is believed to evolve to mean many

abstract ideas. Scholars such as Max Muller state that the philosophical texts recommend *Om* as a means of aiding meditation, and that the syllable may evoke various thoughts in the mind of one meditating, ranging from the abstract to the highest concepts such as the cause of the Universe, essence of life, Brahman, Atman, and self-knowledge. The ancient Om or Aum symbol whose meaning has confounded experts for centuries, appears to be a much more sophisticated symbol than it first appears for when subjected to reflections in three axes gives us six different images that may all be significant to the ancient beliefs of the people of India living around 3500BC.



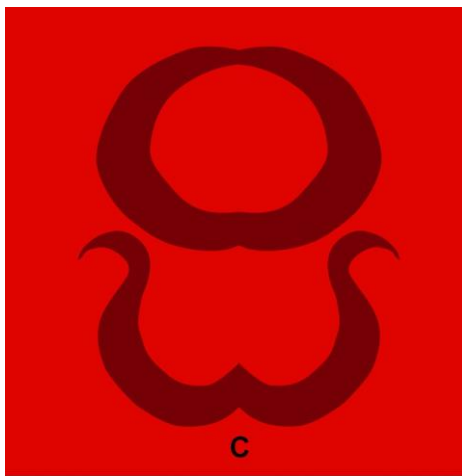
Three axes can be drawn that intersect at a single point that allow six reflections to be made, two reflections, one in each direction for each of the three axes.



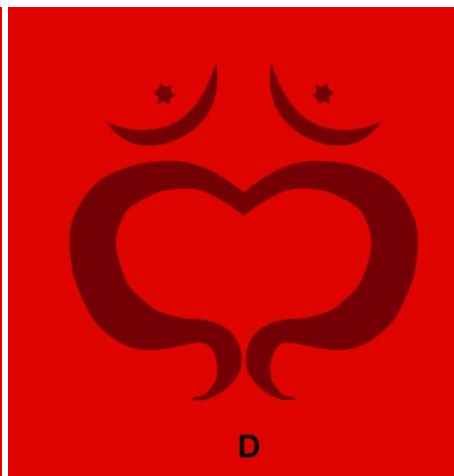
Reflection A- the lion's head



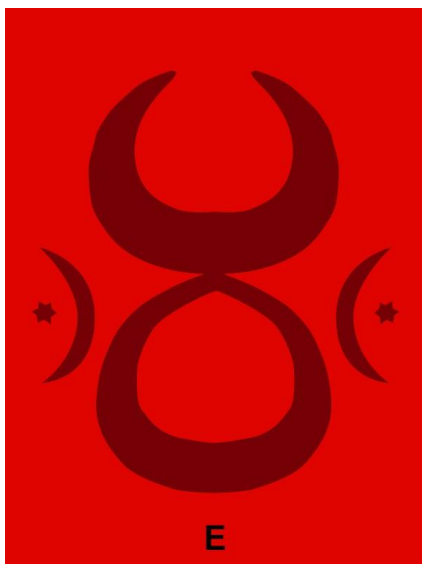
Reflection B- The unstrung bow of Shiva



Reflection C- Sun and Snakes (Uraeus)



Reflection D - The Pomegranate



Reflection E - The Bull's head



Reflection F - The Lotus flower

Reflection A has the appearance of a Lion's head. Lions form an important part of Hindu religious art, the face of the lion simha-mukha is used to decorate the doors, walls and windows in many Hindu temples. The lion representing royalty, ferocity, strength, courage and power.

Reflection B has an unusual appearance but is readily identifiable in Hindu mythology as the unstrung bow of Shiva, Pinaka; the symbol of Shiva's supreme power and strength. The bow is said to be made from divine materials, such as the horns of demons, the wood of a celestial tree and the strings made from the hair of Shiva

Reflection C has the appearance of the Sun with a rearing snake on either side; in the manner of the Uraeus symbol typically associated with Ancient Egypt, similarly in Hinduism Naga was a deity that took the form of a large snake that represented rebirth, death and mortality due to its casting of its skin and being symbolically "reborn". In this way its presence either side of the Sun is, like the Uraeus, symbolic of the cycle of the daily setting and rising Sun. The symbol of the Sun itself is associated with the highest and brightest of all gods Brahman, the first being and the light of all souls.

Reflection D looks like a pomegranate; in Hindu mythology the pomegranate is associated with Lord Ganesha, the god of wisdom and remover of obstacles. It is believed that Lord Ganesha loved eating pomegranates and that offering them to him can help one to overcome obstacles and achieve success.

Reflection E has the appearance of a Bull's head. Nandi is the sacred bull of Shiva, his name meaning giving delight or joy. When the world becomes evil, Shiva destroys it to make way for a beneficial change and Nandi is Shiva's animal form and means of transportation and most ardent worshipper

Reflection F may be the representation of a lotus flower with a distinctively shaped lotus seed pod above the flower facing downwards ready to release its seeds. The lotus is the foremost symbol of beauty, prosperity and fertility. In Hinduism it is believed that within each human is the spirit of the sacred lotus which represents eternity, purity and divinity and is widely used as the symbol of life, fertility and ever renewing youth.

It is very interesting that the symbol reveals so many reflected images that could be regarded as significant but it is for others to judge whether there is any merit in this interpretation or whether these reflected images occur by coincidence.

The Cat in Ancient Egypt

It is well known that the cat in Ancient Egypt was venerated as a god-like creature.



Cathead deity Bastet

The Egyptians from an early age, worshipped the domesticated cat and banned its export from the country. Indeed, the importance of the cat in Ancient Egypt was such that anybody, even accidentally, killing a cat, was liable to be sentenced to death and when a family cat died from natural causes it was mourned by the family who reportedly shaved off their eyebrows. Perhaps like in Northern Europe the cathead was associated with the constellation of Capricorn whose importance as the protector of the winter Sun was similarly recognised in Ancient Egypt.

It is interesting that with the passing millennia the paths of the Sun and Capricorn started to part due to the precession of the equinoxes. This parting of the ways was at odds with the teachings of the religion and this had a knock-on effect in changing the way the Egyptians treated cats. Whilst the Cat had protected status in the early days, once the paths of the rising Sun and Capricorn started to diverge around 300BC this initiated the sacrifice and mummification of hundreds of thousands of kittens and cats which were offered to Bastet at her temple in Bubastis as a way of stopping the separation of the guardian god of the winter Sun from the rising and setting Sun. However, by around 8BC, the constellation of Capricorn could be seen after the Sun had already set and the old beliefs could be seen to no longer be relevant and required an overhaul. Despite the fact that sculptures of disembodied cats' heads exist as ancient Egyptian artefacts, perhaps artefacts bearing half images also survive that may be transformed into a complete cat's head by using a mirror.

The eye of Horus has remained an enigmatic symbol amongst Egyptologists despite many different theories as to its origin. The eye is of potential interest because we are only looking for one eye because we want to make a reflection that produces a cat's head with two eyes. Furthermore, the association of the Sun god Ra with the constellation of the One-Eyed-Cat and the completion of that cat with a second eye in the story of the donation of the eye of Ra to Bastet goes some way to explaining the significance of the Eye of Horus symbol. There is a beautiful pendant with the eye of Horus at its centre,

found amongst the grave goods of Tutankhamun. When we carry out a reflection in an axis that touches the yellow jewel on the lower left-hand cobra's head, we produce the image of an exotic domestic cat. Apart from the appearance of the Cat head we also see the symbol above the cathead as a triple disc which bears a resemblance to the Saturn Nebula which sits above the constellation of Capricorn.



Pendant found in Tutankhamun's tomb



The Eye of Horus Transformed into the Cathead deity associated with Capricorn

As a foot note to the huge number of cat mummies found in Bubastis, bizarrely at the end of the nineteenth century having auctioned off a huge number of these ancient Egyptian mummified cats, a ship loaded with hundreds of thousands of these mummified cats set sail for Britain where they were ground down to a powder and sold as fertiliser.

Celtic Coins

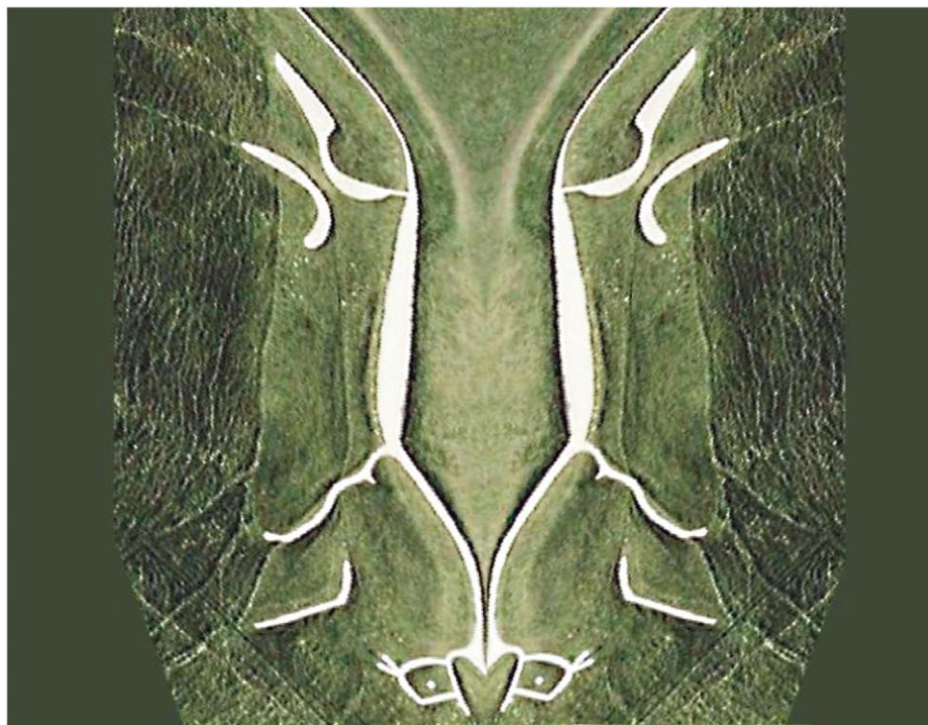
Throughout the Celtic world, coins were minted in pre-Roman times that, when reflected in a chosen axis, revealed hidden lion heads. The worship of the cat seems to have survived well into the mediaeval period when the church tried to wipe out druidism and paganism with the burning and drowning of “witches” and their black cats.



The Lion-head has three circles above it that share a resemblance to the Saturn Nebula NGC 7009 that sits just above Capricorn identified as the Cathead deity. There seems to be a common theme of converting the figure of a horse to that of a lion. The horse associated with the constellation Pegasus is likely to have been identified with a deity such as Epona.

The Uffington Horse

With respect to the idea of a celtic deity identified as a horse being converted to the image of a cat's head there is another famous example carved out of the landscape known as the Uffington horse



The Uffington White Horse (top) is a prehistoric hill figure believed to have originally been created some time between 1380 and 550bc during the late Bronze Age or early Iron Age. The figure is 110 m long, formed from deep trenches filled with crushed white chalk and is situated on the upper slopes of Whitehorse Hill in the parish of Uffington in Oxfordshire. A reflection in a mirror (below) transforms the "horse" into a big cat's head.

The New Church attempts to Demonise the Old pre-Christian Traditions

666 The Number of the Beast



As the Christian church became established, it demonised the remnants of paganism and the old ways. The use of the pendulum to measure length and time fell from use and the Great God no longer rose and set with the Sun during the winter months, but perhaps some people continued to use their pendulum lengths as measures of length and to look up at the stars and still see the pantheon of deities that their ancestors from time immemorial had worshipped. The association of the pendulum with the measurement of the movement of the heavens would have been actively discouraged by the church and at any rate a system of twelve different pendulum lengths of measure was not ideally suited for trade and soon the yard subdivided into feet and further divided into inches became the standard unit of measure. There is one particularly interesting possible example of the Church demonising the use of the pendulum and the worship of the old great god in the story of the Number of the Beast. This is a concept from the Book of Revelation of the New Testament of the Christian bible. The Number is 666 in modern biblical text, although modern studies have shown that the earliest known version of the Book of Revelation (from the 3rd century) used the number 616. One 11th century manuscript also identified 665 as the number so already we see how even an apparently simple number is suddenly three different numbers but perhaps this variability may give us a clue as to the origin of the number being associated with the Beast. Some scholars contend that the number is a code for the Roman Emperor Nero.

The Number of the Beast is described in the Book of Revelation 13:18.

The original Greek reads:

ωδέ η σοφία εστιν; ο έχων νουν ψηφισάτω τον αριθμόν του θηρίου; αριθμός γαρ ανθρώπου εστι; και ο αριθμός αυτού χξς.

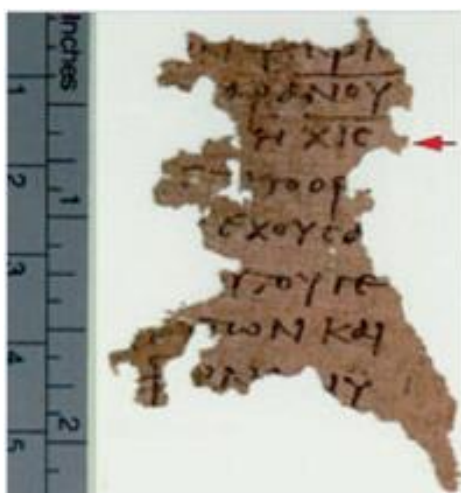
The King James bible translates:

Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred three score and six.

In the Greek manuscripts, the Number is rendered in Greek numerical form as χξς, or sometimes literally as “six hundred and sixty-six”, “εξακοσιοι εξηκοντα εξ”. [hexakosioi hexékonta hex, lit. six hundred sixty six]

Many scholars believe that 666 refers to the Roman Emperor Nero (whose name, written in Aramaic, was valued at 666, using the Hebrew numerology of gematria, a manner of speaking against the emperor without the Roman authorities knowing.

In 2005, scholars at Oxford University, using advanced imaging techniques, were able to read previously illegible portions of the earliest known record of the Book of Revelation, from the Oxyrhynchus site, Papyrus 115 dating to the mid to late third century. The fragment gives the Number of the Beast as 616 (chi, iota, stigma), rather than the majority text 666 (chi, xi, stigma). Papyrus 115 aligns with Codex Alexandrinus and Codex Ephraemi Rescriptus which are regarded as providing the best testimony to Revelation. This has led some scholars to conclude that 616 is the original number of the beast.



**Papyrus 115: Arrow points to χις(616),
as “the number of the beast”**

The difference in numbers has been explained by the fact that the Greek and Latin spellings of Nero’s name transliterate differently into Hebrew (the language used to create the coded numerology). The Greek spelling, “Neron Caesar,” transliterates into Hebrew as “nrwn qsr,” which equates numerically to 666 in Hebrew gematria. By contrast, the Latin title for Nero is spelled simply “Nero Caesar,” which transliterates to “nrw qsr” and has a value of 616. Emperor Nero lived from 37AD to 68AD and if this explanation is correct then we would have to assume that the first use of these numbers to describe Nero were perhaps 200 years before these manuscripts were written and that the numbers continued to be used or copied even though they were no longer relevant. There is yet a third number that has been associated with the devil; the number 665. The 11th century minuscule manuscript Codex 2344168 identifies the Number of the Beast as 665 (χξε´). No explanation for this has yet been proposed. The explanations involving numerology and mistakes in copying show how easy it is to make facts fit different theories and we are only too aware that this criticism applies equally to our own ideas

which are admittedly even further removed from what we thought we knew. We can however suggest a completely different reason for the association of the number 666 and the devil and explain how all three numbers (666, 665 and 616) could in fact all be equally correct.

Remembering that the Celtic peoples of Europe had invested over three millennia in star gazing and trying to make sense of their lives through the various constellations with which they associated various gods and otherworldly animals, the Christian Church demonised this early form of religious-Astronomy. The widespread use of the pendulum that connected man with the movement of the stars, the passing seasons and Wheel of the year and the use of heavenly-obtained lengths to scribe circles was probably considered an act of paganism and demon worship by the new Church and as the Church gained in power, the ancient custom of using a pendulum and counting were discouraged by the church. The 50cm pendulum gives 333 swings per Megalithic degree between the latitudes of 50-60 degrees North. We have seen how such a pendulum could be accurately calibrated by using pairs of stars within the constellation of the Serpent (Draco), the Pendulum Maker (Vela), the Kelp (Aquarius) and the Double Disc (Cetus). But we haven't considered the most important constellation that appears on many Class I stones in the form of a half-image, namely the cat head constellation of Capricorn, the Great One and "Guardian of the Winter Sun". When we examine the stars in this constellation, we see that two of the stars (Deneb Algedi and Nashira) are almost exactly two Megalithic degrees apart, those two stars representing either side of one of the ears of the cat, later to become the horn of the fish-tailed goat that the church perhaps later associated with the cloven-hoofed devil himself.

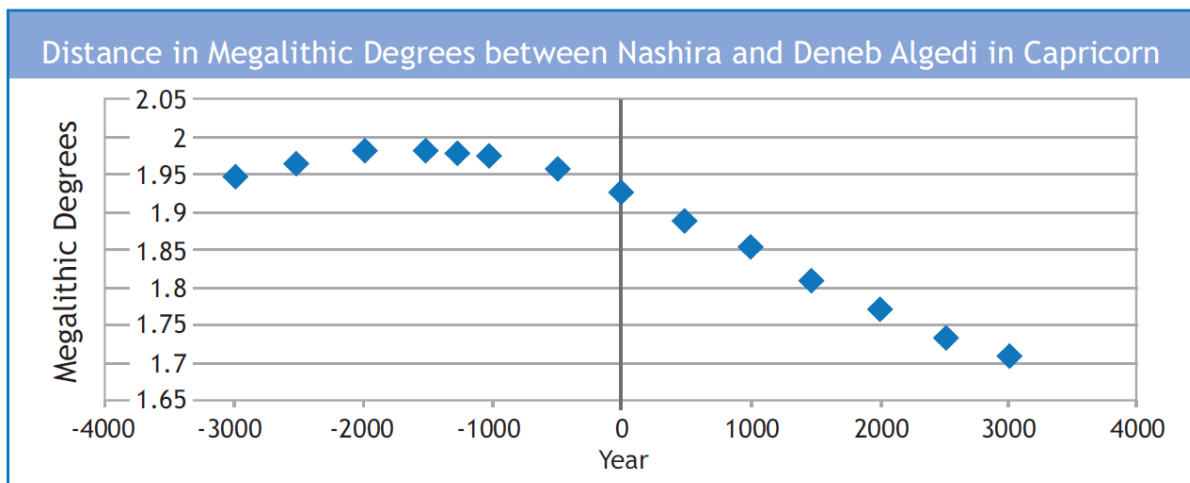
A person using these two conveniently positioned stars in this special constellation to roughly calibrate their pendulum would need to count or mark 666 swings of their 50cm pendulum. Perhaps this is the origin of the association with un-Christian practices and the "beast". We can see the relevance of the association of 666 as "the number of the Beast" but having once sat in the cinema observing fellow students watching the film "the Exorcist" from behind their knees it is a relief to know that the so-called "beast" is no more perhaps than a pussy cat in the sky like the smiling Cheshire Cat of Lewis Carroll's Alice in Wonderland maybe.



The painting by William Blake "The Number of the beast is 666"

We might ask ourselves about the other numbers that are also documented as being the “mark” of the Devil. Firstly 665 described in the Miniscule Codex 2344 in the 11th Century. It could be interpreted as the number of swings it would take a 50cm pendulum as the stars moved two megalithic degrees at the latitude of around 30-40 degrees North.

Then we are left with the apparently oldest recorded number of the Devil being 616. Strangely, again we can explain this. Instead of a 50cm pendulum we can use the 58.25cm pendulum. We have seen how this pendulum was used to mark out a circle with a circumference of 366cm (one centimetre per megalithic degree of a circle that was described as 366 megalithic degrees) and how it was used to give 4000 swings for the movement of two stars in Cetus 13 Megalithic Degrees but with a period that gives 308 swings per Megalithic degrees we see that it would give the 616 swings between the two stars of the Cat’s Right ear that again coincides precisely with this number associated with the Beast.



We can see from the graph that the use of these two stars to calibrate a pendulum would have been a very ancient and redundant practise by the time Christianity arrived in Scotland, because the two stars were no longer separated by two megalithic degrees. However, as Nashira and Deneb Algedi moved ever closer, another pendulum could be calibrated, namely the 52.36cm “Royal Cubit” pendulum as it had a period of 324.5 swings per megalithic degree in Northern Scotland and just before 500BC the two stars were separated by 1.9 megalithic degrees which would have represented 666 swings of the 52.36cm pendulum. However, the relationship between these numbers, the two stars and the Pictish pendulums for calibration purposes were irrevocably slipping away and soon were completely lost. The movement of the two stars closer together was perhaps just another reason for the fall of the old ways as the church could now unequivocally show that the old ways were “wrong” just as the phenomenon of Capricorn, “the Great One” rising and setting with Sun no longer held true.

This explanation of the numbers of the beast offers us an unusual alternative explanation as to the association of the number 666 and its variations with the beast. It is another example of how the alternative pre-historic world that we have proposed seems to always come up with a plausible explanation that is consistent with the other explanations that equally on their own may seem implausible but taken together are difficult to refute out of hand.

We can understand why these numbers and the use of the pendulum were considered a threat to the omnipotence of the Church and why it tried, successfully, to suppress this practise as it represented an understanding of the Sun-Centred Solar system and a knowledge of the Universe that was at odds with the Geocentric Christian Doctrine. It also showed that the holy days of the new church were none other than the same festival days on which their ancient ancestors had celebrated their pagan gods.

Remarkably the difficulties between the Christian church and astronomers were brought again into sharp focus with the "reinvention" of a simple refractor telescope by Galileo in the seventeenth century that resulted in the Roman Catholic church forcing Galileo to recant his Copernican heliocentric views that were contrary to the literal meaning of scripture. Under the orders of the inquisition, Galileo spent the last years of his life under house arrest. On 31 October 1992, some might say rather belatedly, Pope John Paul II expressed regret for how the Galileo affair had been handled, and finally officially conceded that the Earth was not stationary, as the result of a study conducted by the Pontifical Council for Culture.

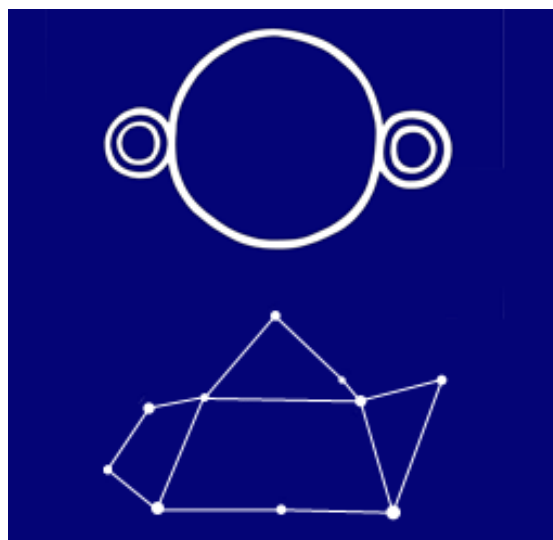
Did some people continue to follow the Cathead God in secret after the acceptance of Christianity?

The parting of the Sun and Capricorn due to precession of the equinoxes meant that the constellation previously identified as the Great God and protector of the winter Sun no longer fulfilled its role. During the winter months Capricorn could be seen in the night sky at the beginning and end of civil twilight. Also, the two stars forming the right ear of the cathead god which were separated by 2 megalithic degrees and could be used to calibrate pendulum lengths now were closer to each other and of no use for calibration purposes using the old pendulum system of measuring time and distance. The advantage of a belief system based on the pattern of stars and their movements and alignments that could be seen, was now its Achilles heel because after three millennia the night sky had changed and the stories no longer reflected the position of the stars in the sky and anyone who looked at the stars could see this for themselves. Perhaps this was the catalyst for a change of religion and we have seen how the parting of the ways of the Sun and Capricorn was finally completed in Egypt shortly before the birth of Christ but at more northerly latitudes in Scotland for instance, the parting of the Sun and Capricorn took another 600 years. Whilst it is understandable why conversion to Christianity took much longer at northern latitudes because there was no reason for people to change a religion that had served them and very many generations of their family so well, is it possible that some people continued to venerate the Cathead god even after the general popular acceptance

of the new religion? It can also be understood that the new religion wanted to erase the last vestiges of the old pagan beliefs and that they may have demonised the old religion and threatened anyone practising the old pagan ways with the prospect of hell and damnation if not being burned at the stake. Any association of the Holy days with the Old Pagan festival days that initially shared the same days of celebration were gradually lost due to precession over the centuries as the days of the stellar alignments drifted from the date fixed in the new date-based calendar. Therefore, although the festival days remained at the same time of year, having been syncretised into the new religion, the association with star alignments and the pantheon of stellar deities was forgotten and lost. But is there any way that there could be evidence that some societies continued the practise of worshipping the ancient Cathead god in secret? There is an interesting further consideration in that, above the constellation of Capricorn sits the deep space object known as the Saturn Nebula. It is called that because in the early days of astronomy using the first low powered telescopes, the rings of Saturn appeared as round "ears" either side of Saturn which is similar in appearance to NGC 7009, the Saturn Nebula.



NGC 7009, the Saturn Nebula



Pictish Symbol above for the constellation of Sagittarius below.



Image of Saturn through a small telescope

Therefore, we have a situation where the constellation of Sagittarius shares its representation as a Pictish Symbol with the appearance of the planet Saturn which in turn shares its appearance with the Saturn Nebula, NGC7009 in Capricorn. This might have been significant to the people who had believed that Capricorn was the Great God because whilst the constellation of Capricorn no longer performed the role of protector god of the winter Sun, the constellation that took over this role was that of Sagittarius which had been represented as a triple disc Pictish Symbol and which had the same shape as the Saturn Nebula sitting directly on the head of Capricorn. In other words, the Cathead god could be argued to still have had an intimate association with the rising and setting Sun through the appearance of the Saturn nebula. In other words as is common with religious practise, as some of the old beliefs become redundant or proved to be wrong new interpretations are made of what was professed or written that are more applicable to the new age allowing the old beliefs to get an extra stay of execution.

Having seen that in pre-historic times the image of the great god and images of other powerful, but less important gods were not portrayed in full but rather hidden as half images in patterns of other recognisable images, perhaps this device of portraying half images may have continued long after the acceptance of Christianity. Whereas in pre-historic times aniconism was just a way of showing respect for the gods, in Christian times the open worship of the old deities from pagan times was dangerous and so hiding the images of these old gods now became necessarily secretive and the method of using a mirror to reveal the faces of the old gods, particularly the Great Cathead god would have been a useful device to allow other believers to know whilst keeping the Church in the dark.

The Knights Templar

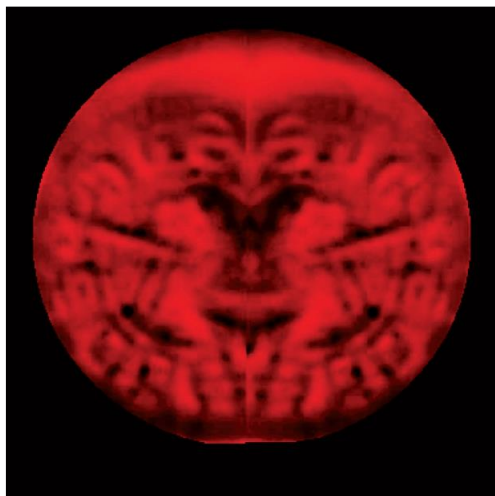
Long considered as the Knights of God, a Christian fellowship, the knights templar became an extremely powerful and wealthy organisation and acted as a bank for the rich and powerful. The Templars, formed what on the face of it appeared to be a military order of the Catholic faith, and became one of the wealthiest and most popular military orders in western Christianity. They were formed around 1119, with their headquarters on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, and existed for nearly two centuries during the Middle Ages. King Philip IV of France borrowed immense amounts of money from the Knights Templar. The Templars were an international organization with both military and economic power, giving them significant independence from royal authority and were therefore a potential threat to the king's power and sovereignty but more significantly the king was heavily in debt to them. The king saw an opportunity to erase his debt by seizing their assets. There were rumours and accusations of heresy and immoral practices within the Templar organization, which King Philip IV used to justify his actions against them. He pressured Pope Clement V to investigate the charges and ultimately succeeded in having the Templars disbanded and many of their members arrested and executed including their leader Jacques Molay who was burned at the stake on the island in the river Seine in Paris. During torture some of the knights confessed to worshipping a "head", but this was dismissed by the inquisitors and yet, knowing what we know of the Cathed Great God, it may have had some foundation if the knights were following a long tradition of worshipping a god whose stellar embodiment appeared in the sky as a Cat's Head. If we are correct, perhaps we can find some Templar artefacts that support this idea. Of course, the symbolism will have to be secretly depicted because of both the nature of the God and the pressures of the times with respect to the church and we might therefore expect to find important secret images revealed through reflections using a mirror on objects that were owned by Templar Knights.



Personal seal of a Knight apparently showing the Lamb of Christ. Mirror image (right)

In Christian iconography, an Agnus Dei is a visual representation of Jesus as a lamb, usually holding a standard or banner with a cross which normally rests on the lamb's shoulder held in its right foreleg. Often the cross has a white banner suspended from it

decorated with a red cross (similar to St George's Cross), though the cross may also be rendered in different colours. On the Knights templar seal shown, the Latin text is believed to read ECCE AGNUS DEI or "Behold the Lamb of God". At first sight we might take this symbolism as proof that the Knights Templar were in fact devout Christian Knights involved in religious crusades. However, on closer inspection the carving of the lamb appears somewhat crude and some of the lettering is slightly ambiguous which may in part be due to the medieval style of the letters or perhaps the letters are purposefully carved in this way so that they can be interpreted in another way but their true meaning hidden from the uninitiated. When we carry out a reflection of the wax seal using the upside-down U in "AGNUS" as a marker for the axis of reflection, we see a remarkable transformation of the crudely carved lamb into the impressive and detailed form of a lion's head. Furthermore the letters around the reflected lion appear to read as S J C + ECCE or perhaps "Behold J C" whether J C stands for Jesus Christ or some other person we do not know, the mirrored "S" may replicate the uraeus seen on the crowns of the Egyptian gods, that now appear on the head of a reflected cat's head, however, what is in little doubt is that once again following the reflection we obtain a cat's head in common with the recumbent stones and the Pictish Class I stones from the north east of Scotland dating from 3000BC and 1200BC respectively so perhaps the confession of the poor tortured knight Templar was indeed a true one.



Reflected lion revealed through a reflection in the wax seal made using the seal

Other templar seals can be treated in the same way such as the seal that appears to represent a dove (below), to reveal once again the head of the cat or lion complete with three dots above the head in the same pattern as the Saturn nebula NGC7009 that appears above Capricorn.



Wax seal produced by Templar seal showing a dove carrying an olive branch and its reflected image transformed into a cathead.

Again, a biblical symbol, this time the dove who returned to Noah in his ark, carrying an olive branch in its beak following the flood, is transformed into a cathead, with the three dots lying centrally above the head representing the Saturn nebula NGC7009 in Capricorn.

The “Da Vinci Code”

It is a well-known fact that Leonardo da Vinci the great artist and inventor himself wrote letters backwards so that his writing could only be read using a mirror.



Leonardo da Vinci's idea for what we know as a parachute together with da Vinci's mirror written shorthand description

In the light of our findings regarding the ancient use of a mirror to reveal secret images of a God it seems obvious that a man that should adopt this device in his writing may also have done something similar with his drawings and paintings if he wanted to hide images within his masterpieces. When we examine Leonardo's paintings to test whether he used the same trick to hide secret images in his drawings and paintings we discover the same pattern that we observed with the ancient stone carvings in Scotland. Cats' heads are hidden in many of Leonardo's paintings. We have to be careful though knowing the upsurge of popular interest and controversy that these suggestions spawn and again ask whether these reflected images occur by design or by chance, whether they are purposefully formed mirror images or just “smoke and mirrors”.

Is it intentional for instance that the baby Christ portrayed by Da Vinci in his painting of “The Virgin and Child with St Anne and St John the Baptist” is transformed into something that looks like a baby lion-headed prince? Later to become “The lion of Judah”

Often there are devices that Leonardo uses to announce that one of these Pagan images has been hidden in his painting. One is the inclusion of a hand with its forefinger pointing skywards to the heavens. The observer is sometimes directed to the cat-head by the presence of a rod or stick which acts as an axis for reflection allowing the cathead to be revealed. Leonardo has long been suspected of not being a Christian in the traditional sense and perhaps these hidden images are confirmation that he was a late member of a long line of an ancient Cat head worshippers that stretched back to the misty dawn of civilisation in the new stone age but that he was too clever and respected to have been caught.



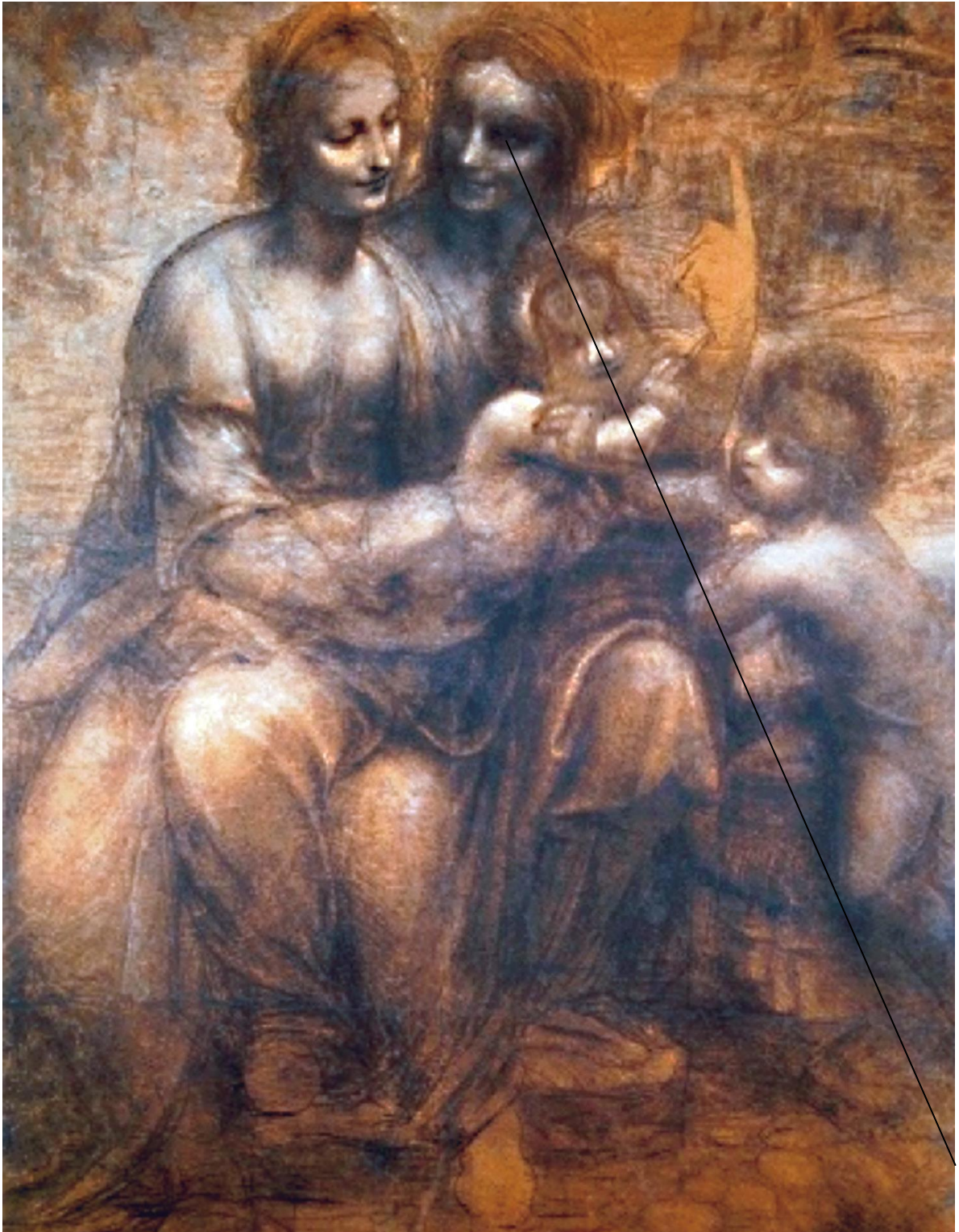
"La Scapigliata" (left) and the axis of reflection (right)



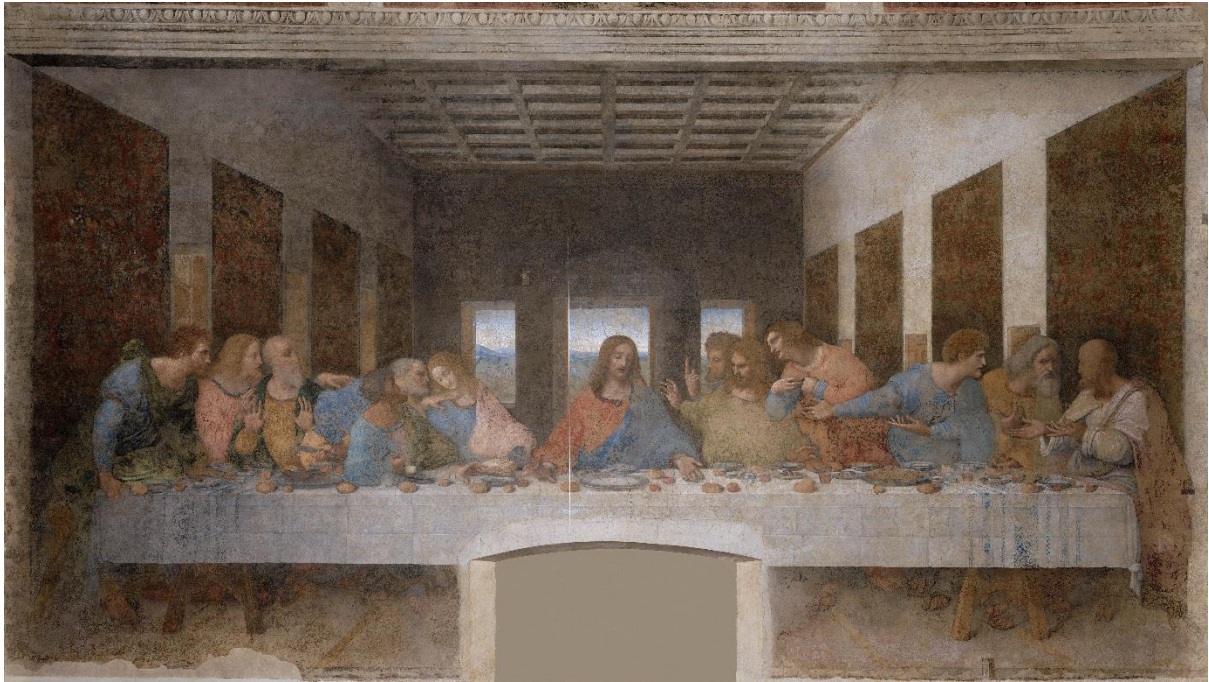
Quite a spectacular and ferocious image of a cat appears between the two heads in this image. An image whose cat-like appearance is hard to imagine was created by chance.



The Virgin and Child with St Anne and St John the Baptist

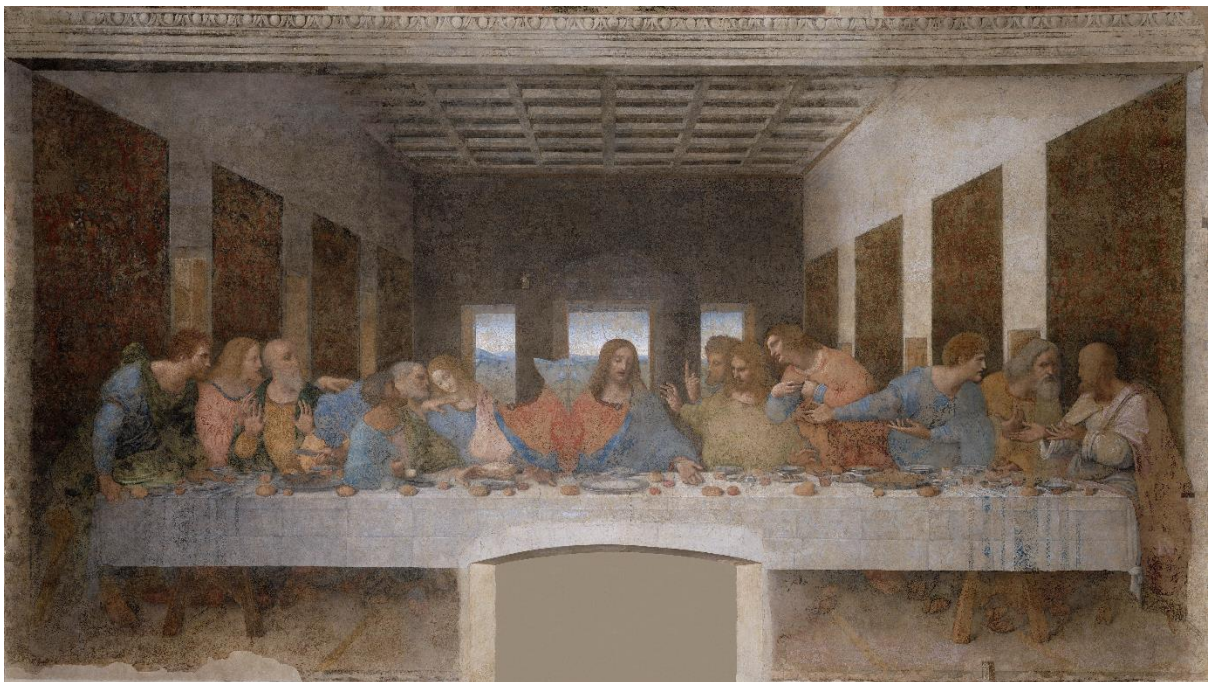


Reflection in an axis that goes from John the Baptist's eye bisecting the child's nose transforms the child's head into that of a baby lion, "the lion of Judah" perhaps.



The Last Supper showing a possible axis of reflection between Jesus and what may be John or Mary.

When the right-hand side of the axis corresponding to the window opening, behind Jesus, is reflected in the axis, the distant landscape is transformed into a cat-like head. Furthermore, when the red coloured part of Jesus's shirt is also reflected in the same axis, the Cat-head figure gets a body with outstretched arms that fill the triangular empty space between the figure of Jesus and that of the figure contested as being John or Mary.

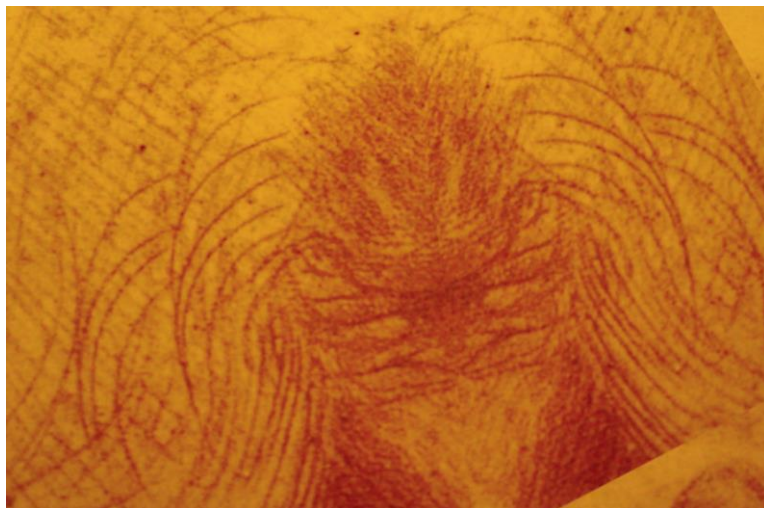




Close-up of the reflected figure of the wizened face of the Cat shares a certain amusing resemblance with that of Yoda in Star Wars.



Self-portrait sketch of Leonardo



Lion head? obtained by reflecting Leonardo's temple in a mirror going through the corner of his right eye.

Modern Catheads

Having seen both the object of veneration and the manner in which it was concealed opens up the possibility of examining any number of artefacts throughout the ages and in different cultures to determine whether they also conceal cathead images after carrying out a reflection. We can bring the study up to the nineteenth century by examining an obvious depiction of a disembodied cat head, one with a famous grin, namely the Cheshire Cat as described by Lewis Carroll in his popular books of *Alice in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking glass*, the latter being an interesting choice of title as it mentions a looking glass or mirror.



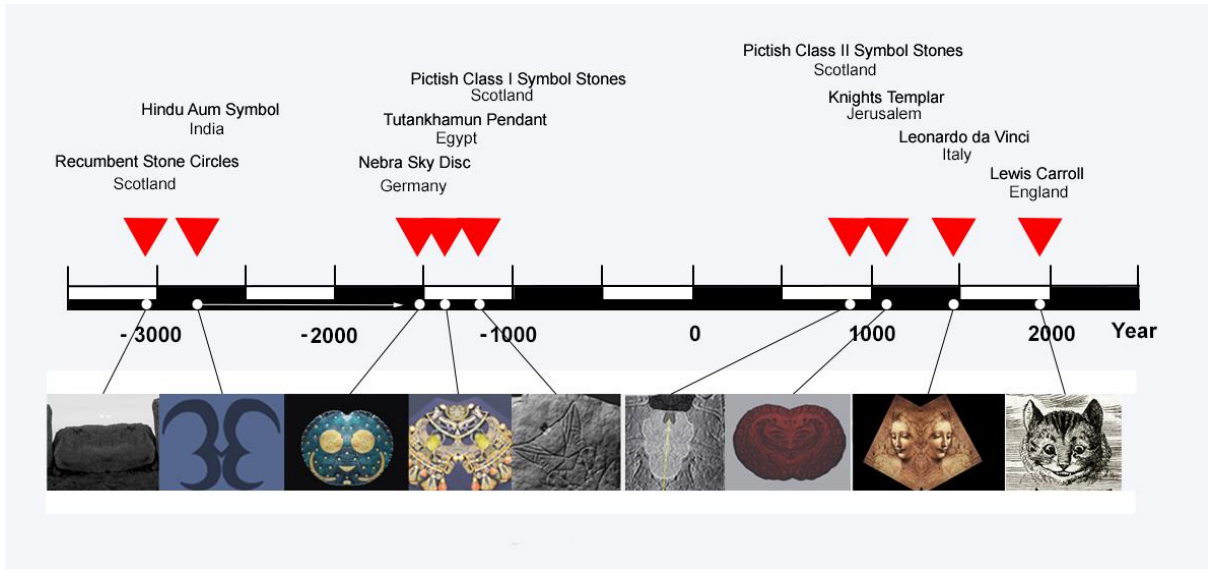
The Cheshire Cat is sometimes interpreted as a guiding spirit for Alice as it is he who directs her towards the March Hare's house and the mad tea party, which eventually leads her to her final destination, the garden

Whether Lewis Carroll, which was the pen name of the author christened Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, knew of the association of the Cathead with the Great God of ancient times associated with the stars of Capricorn we do not know. However, it is interesting that apart from being an author, Dodgson was a mathematician and philosopher and was a Professor at Christ Church at Oxford University.

It is interesting that although Dodgson had been prepared for the ordained ministry in the Church of England from a very early age, and was expected to be ordained within four years of obtaining his master's degree, as a condition of his residency at Christ Church that this did not occur. Although he eventually ordained as a deacon, when the time came a year later to be ordained as a priest, Dodgson appealed to Liddell, the dean for permission not to proceed. This was against college rules but for unknown reasons, Liddell changed his mind overnight and permitted him to remain at the college in defiance of the rules. Dodgson never became a priest, unique amongst senior students of his time.

In Conclusion

We must of course continue to question whether these reflected images occur by design and indeed whether our interpretations of these reflected images are credible or just flights of fancy that happen to support each other. We might consider the chances of choosing an axis that produces cat's heads through the ages and of drawing three axes of symmetry positioned at 60 degrees to each other through the symbol Aum and obtaining six reflected images that can be interpreted in a way that seems to have a connection with known Hindu beliefs and stories. We might also consider the sheer number of cat head images that are formed by reflections but also how faithful they are in their resemblance to cat heads. It is also interesting that images of cat reflections occur over such a large geographical area in the northern hemisphere and in so many different cultures. Perhaps there is a connection between the prehistoric peoples of the ancient world, a common belief system and technology in the Northern hemisphere, based to a large extent on a common interpretation of the pattern of stars and the association of the stars of Capricorn with the rising and setting of the Sun during the winter months. All we have from prehistoric times are artefacts normally in the form of everyday utensils and weapons and personnel grave goods that normally only tell us a very limited amount about who the people were who made them and the simplicity of these surviving everyday artefacts only reinforces the idea that our ancient ancestors were a simple people and that perhaps there is nothing of any great interest to learn about their beliefs and intellect. However, in deciphering these carefully carved Pictish symbol stones we have opened up a Pandora's box of treasures which paints a very different and colourful picture of the lives and beliefs of a previously enigmatic prehistoric people. These findings have unravelled many of the mysteries about our ancestors living five thousand years ago and how they used their mathematical and astronomical abilities to build monuments, calendars and even perhaps telescopes to connect them with their stellar gods. The world as they interpreted it was very different to ours but only because they came up with a different set of solutions to the same problems that confront us today, but their solutions not only had an elegant logic and beautiful mystery to them but the truth of the stories could also be seen in the pattern of stars in the night sky. We can now at last begin to understand where we came from and perhaps open our minds to other ways of thinking because these were our ancestors and their beliefs lasted for over three thousand years before that history was finally forgotten or destroyed. We might also ask whether their beliefs and technology went even further back in time but this is a good start.



Five thousand years of forgotten or secret Cathead worship

Finally, it's maybe worth considering that but for the slight wobble of the Earth's spin all the peoples on Earth may have continued to believe in a pantheon of deities associated with star patterns. The "new" religions which are sometimes used by some to divide us would not have existed, for there would have been no reason to look for different belief systems and we, like our ancient ancestors would have shared in the belief of the Great Cathead God, not the devil or beast as portrayed by the Church but the constellation of Capricorn that shared its appearance with the head of a cat.