

A Study on the Possibility of Jeju Mythology as World Mythology

— Focusing on the Atlantis Myth —

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Background and Purpose

- Recent research trends on Jeju mythology (Jeju Shinhwa World, Seolmundae Halmang Exhibition Hall, etc.)
- Raising the need for a world-mythological approach beyond regional myth
- Exploring the origins and meaning of Jeju mythology with attention to Sundaland and the Atlantis myth
- Attempting an integrated analysis of geographical, historical, and mythological contexts
- Expanding mythological significance through the link between Jeju and world mythology

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II. Jeju as the Center of Sundaland

- Sundaland: a continent that existed during the last Ice Age (12,000–8,000 BC), when sea levels were 150 m lower than today
- Mt. Halla: the highest mountain in the Sundaland region, serving as a strategic center
- Archaeological evidence: Jeju Gosan-ri pottery (10,000 years ago), Yonaguni undersea ruins (before 8,000 BC)
- Civilizational continuity: cultural links extending from Indonesian pyramids to Jeju dolhareubang to South American pyramids
- Stephen Oppenheimer: proposing Sundaland as the 'Eden in the East' from genetic and geological evidence

Comparative Analysis of the Atlantis Myth and Jeju Mythology

- The single-archetype myth theory (Joseph Campbell et al.) — the world's diverse myths share the same deep structure
- A mythic structure originating in Sundaland civilization — approached from a diffusionist perspective
- Comparing the submergence motif in the Atlantis myth (Plato's dialogues) and Jeju's Seolmundae Halmang myth
- The connection between Jeju's Seolmundae Halmang and the Mago Kingdom era recorded on Sumerian clay tablets
- Linguistic and mythological grounds (Kinyarwanda, Sesotho, Budoji) — the Garden of Eden and the Ice Age migration theory
- The significance of Jeju mythology as an archetype of world mythology — linking the Garden of Eden, Armageddon, and Atlantis

IV. A Comparison of the Land of the Gentlemen and Jeju Mythology

- Records of the Land of the Gentlemen, the Three Divine Mountains, and the Mago people in ancient Chinese texts (Shanhaijing, Huainanzi, Yiwen Leiju)
- The territorial extent of the Land of the Gentlemen and its link to Dangun Joseon as seen in sources such as the Samguk Yusa
- The ancient statehood origins of Jeju mythology — the link between the Budoji's Mago Kingdom and Dangun Joseon
- A geographical reading of the submergence of the Three Divine Mountains and the 'seas-into-mulberry-fields' legend, and its link to Jeju folklore
- The mythological meaning and role of Jeju as a center of ancient East Asian civilization

Synthesis of Findings

- Confirming structural similarities between Jeju's Seolmundae Halmang myth and the Atlantis and Garden of Eden myths
- Demonstrating the geological and geopolitical importance of Mt. Halla as the center of Sundaland
- An integrated reading of evidence from mythology (Seolmundae Halmang–Mago), linguistics (Kinyarwanda–Korean), and archaeology (Gosan–ri pottery, Yonaguni ruins)
- Tracing the diffusion and transformation of myth through human migration in the glacial and post-glacial ages
- Proposing that Jeju mythology may have acted not as a mere regional myth but as one of the archetypes of world mythology

Conclusion and Future Research Tasks

- Drawing new implications for the distinctiveness and universality of Jeju mythology
- The scholarly value of an integrated reading of Plato, the Budoji, and Eastern and Western sources
- Synthesizing the mythological and geological evidence for Jeju as the center of Sundaland
- The need for further study of undeciphered ancient texts and the Yonaguni undersea ruins
- New directions for comparative East–West mythology and a reevaluation of Jeju mythology

References

Domestic and international books and studies

- Oppenheimer, Stephen, Eden in the East, Bada Publishing, 2020.
- Im Hwan-yeong, A World-Mythological Analysis of Jeju Mythology, Jeju Studies Series, 2018.
- Kim Sang-il, A Study of Korean Mythology and Calendrical Systems, Minsokwon, 2015.

Classical texts and mythological sources

- Plato, Timaeus and Critias (dialogues concerning Atlantis)
- Shanhaijing, Huainanzi, and Yiwèn Leijù — records concerning the Land of the Gentlemen
- Budoji — records concerning Mago
- Tamnaji — records concerning Seolmundae Halmang

Research papers and academic materials

- Teruaki Ishii, "A Geological Analysis of the Yonaguni Undersea Ruins," Dept. of Geology, University of Tokyo, 2016.
- Nik Hassan Shuhaimi, "A Study of Early Human Civilization in Southeast Asia," Malaysian Anthropological Society, 2017.