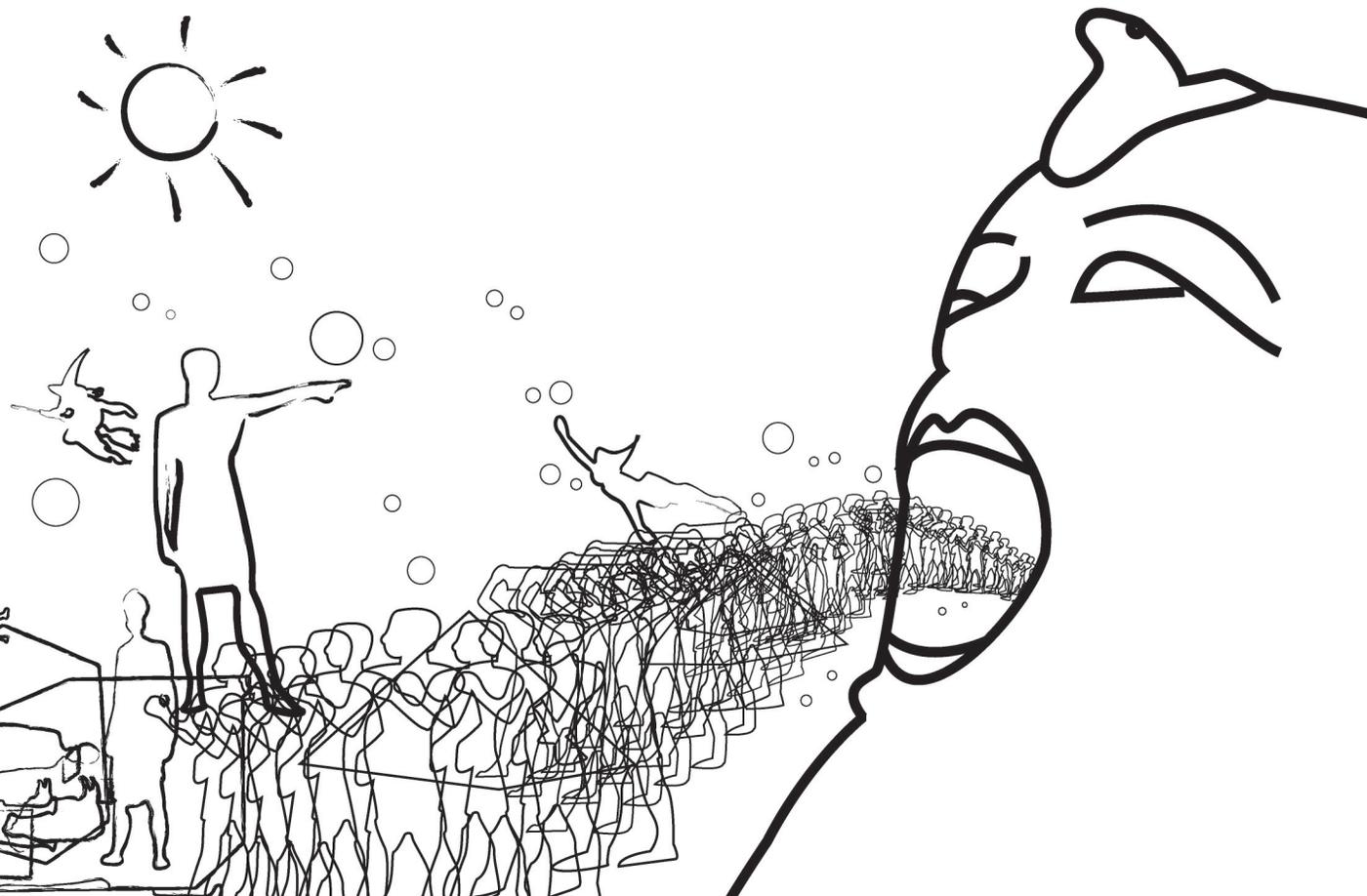


A Beer Story

Told by Dr. Youngsoo Kim

Co-authored by Yunji Kim



A Beer Story

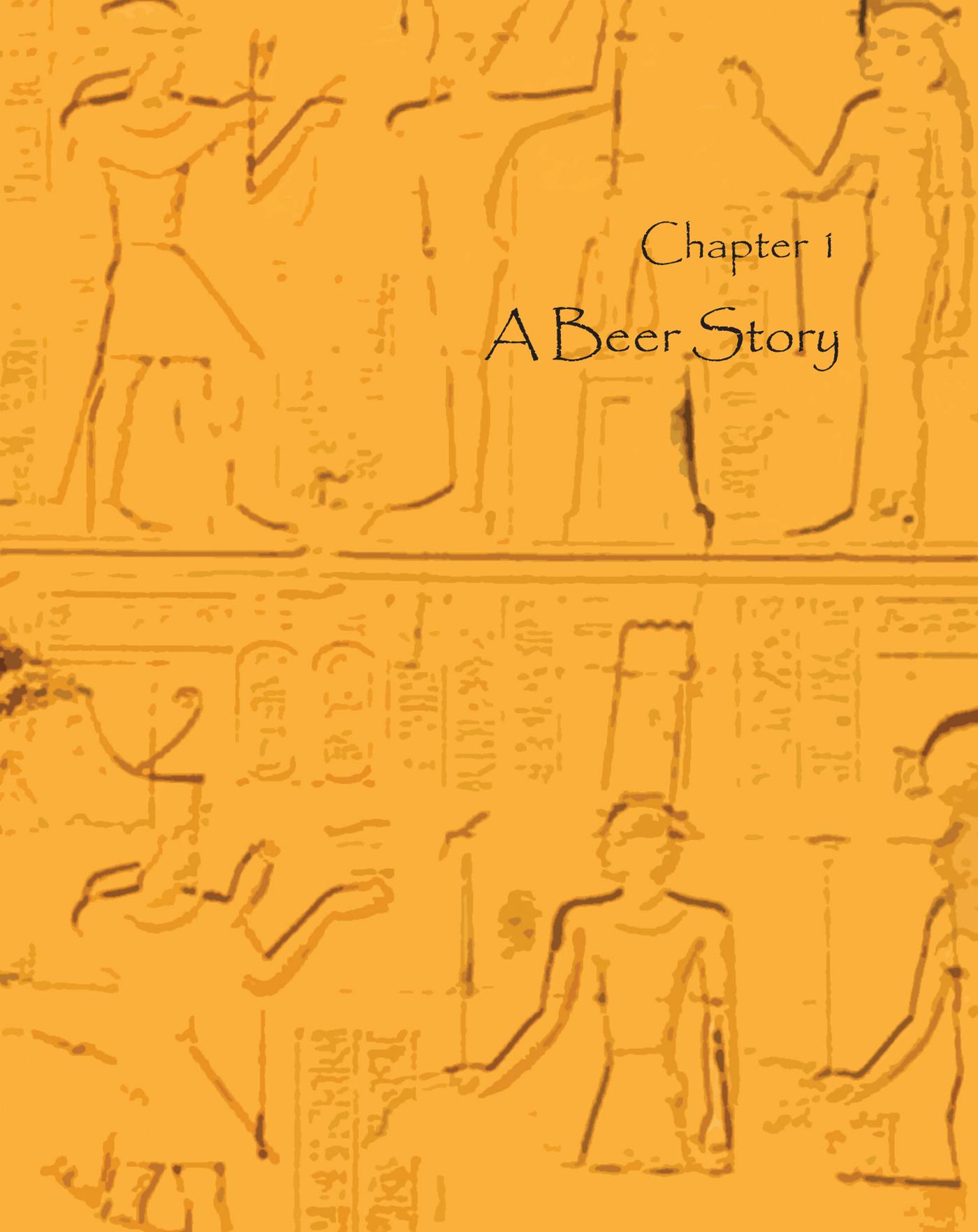
This humble book was written as a celebration; one of God's bountiful gift to us: beer. I dared to venture into writing this volume in response to the demands of, and as a thank-you note to, those many beer lovers who actually drank and loved Sphinx Beer: the beer whose ancient Egyptian recipes I claim to have discovered from anthropological studies. The following is the record of how I discovered the recipes and how I came to make those beers.

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The background of the page is a golden-yellow color with a pattern of ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs and line drawings of human figures. The figures are depicted in a traditional Egyptian style, with some holding staffs or objects. The hieroglyphs are arranged in vertical columns, typical of ancient Egyptian writing.

Chapter 1
A Beer Story

What is Beer?

Beer isn't just a "refreshing" and "fun" drink. Brewed and consumed the right way, beer can be a wondrous drink that holds within it many things, even cures for all diseases. Hard to believe? Then, let me tell you this story...

1. Beer and the Pyramids



Pyramid

Pyramids, especially those in Gaza, constitute one of the Three Wonders of the World. To build these mammoth figures, a myriad of stones weighing multiple tons needed to be moved over long distances. Moreover, these stones were accurately carved to form seamless stacks one atop the other. But, we do not know exactly how they did those tasks. We simply do not have any records on the engineering side of these remarkable projects. On the contrary, the technical records of constructions of equally famous landmarks such as China's Great Wall and the Incan Pyramids have



Great Wall

been well preserved. The Ancient Egyptian civilization was a culture that preserved its records well; but strangely, there are only diverse speculations

on how the pyramids were actually built. The records that describe the technical aspect and gigantic process of constructing the pyramids have yet to be discovered. It is highly likely that the records were not lost, but that the records did not exist in the first place. So, in a way, we can quite safely say that the mystery does not lie in the construction of the pyramids themselves. The real mystery lies in the conspicuous absence of the records that contain the knowledge that built them.



World Trade Centre 9.11.2001

Whatever the state of their records, let's compare the technology that built the pyramids to those of modern skyscrapers like the World Trade Centers. The two buildings were each tragically destroyed by a single plane crash, whereas the pyramids endured the harsh desert environment, endless thieving and looting, anthropologists (or grave diggers), and neighboring farmers in search of free building materials. Moreover, the pyramids endured the violence of generation after generation of those boyish rulers who attempted to demonstrate their Don Quixotesian greatness by

gallantly attacking the pyramids. Even in comparison to modern skyscrapers, pyramids can undoubtedly be considered technologically superior. Superior by far.

Yet, only a single group of records remains concerning pyramid construction. Surprisingly, this record is about 'beer.'¹ According to this record, the laborers that built the pyramids were fed a certain volume of beer everyday, and may even have been forced to drink a minimum amount.

Why are there no other records about pyramid construction other than

¹ The word for beer in Ancient Egypt was "BOOZA." Today, "Booze" refers to an alcoholic drink or a drinking spree, and originated from this word.

those about beer? It is very possible that beer was actually the object most highly valued by the Ancient Egyptian pyramid builders—more than the engineering know-how. Even more than the economic wisdom needed in mobilizing such vast resources. This is probably the reason why only beer was ever recorded. What made beer so special to them? Why was beer more worthwhile to record than anything else? This book tries to solve this mystery. That is what my story is all about.

2. Beer in a Time Capsule

If you think about it, a pyramid was a kind of ‘time capsule’ for the Ancient Egyptians. They used it as a vehicle for communication with generations many thousands of years later, perhaps even more. The Ancient Egyptians chose the most valuable and communication-worthy pieces of information of their lives, their beliefs, and their ideas about the universe. Then they securely sealed their treasures inside the pyramids so that they could travel safely over thousands of years toward ‘eternal future’. Such records are very carefully selected. Considering that it costs much more to build a pyramid than a time capsule, we can easily imagine that the records to be contained in the pyramids were at least



Time Capsule

as (perhaps a lot more) carefully selected than the information we choose today. Only hopelessly thoughtless thinkers and incurably careless analysts would argue that the records in the pyramids were selected thoughtlessly and carelessly. Nothing can be further from the truth. They are neither simple items of archaeology randomly preserved over time, nor common

objects of antiquity accidentally excavated from time to time. We can find records of beer in such a fashion because Ancient Egyptians carefully and intentionally created this situation. Obviously Ancient Egyptians did so because they believed and wanted to communicate to us that the greatest contributor to the pyramid construction was ‘beer’ (BOOZA). Considering the tremendous sacrificial efforts they made to communicate to us, it wouldn’t hurt at all to pay some attention to such a message.

The beer that they drank in those times, however, was quite different from the beer we drink today. They were much ‘heavier’² and according to records, they even contained an ingredient from a garlic-like plant. Scholars agree that the massively concentrated workforce, sometimes reaching the hundreds of thousands, survived gruesome labor in the tropical desert climate because they consumed this garlic-infused beer. Laborers did not succumb to any epidemics, thus completing the pyramid building project. They were envied by many contemporary civilizations. Garlic-infused beer was so important; records show that one Pharaoh spent roughly half of his nation’s budget on garlic for beer.

Furthermore, many scholars believe that the workers who built pyramids were neither forced laborers nor slaves but willing volunteers, motivated by the right to drink this beer. Many remaining records claim that this garlic beer was consumed not only to maintain one’s health and to quench thirst, but also to be used as a sacred ceremonial cure for all diseases. People who were seriously ill would participate in the construction labor to receive and consume this beer. Consequently, they were believed to become healthy. There was obviously something essential contained in the Egyptian garlic beer for public health.

² The term ‘heavy’ has a very specific meaning when describing beer. It will be discussed in more detail later on but for now it will suffice to say that the word means that the drink contains a lot of “stuff.” Also, we presume that the technique the Ancient Egyptians used to manufacture beer consisted of chewing a piece of bread and spitting it out into the water. That is, they used the enzymes in their saliva to quicken the ‘malting’ stage of the fermentation process. A long time ago, there was a drink made in a similar manner in Korea called ‘Mi-In Ju’ (the beauty’s wine.) Women would gather and chew rice as well as rice cakes, then spit them out to make the wine. Some time ago, I have seen a brand of wine in China that still uses the same name (but pronounced ‘Mei-Ren Jiu), but I could not confirm whether the same technique is still used.

Beer was ‘the’ secret behind the successful maintenance of public health during the mobilization of hundreds of thousands of laborers under tropical desert climates. It was also ‘the’ most distinguished performer in the building of the pyramids in the minds of the Ancient Egyptians. Therefore, it is no surprise that they believed that above all aspects of pyramid construction, the information regarding garlic beer was the most worthwhile to preserve.

3. Anthropology of Beer

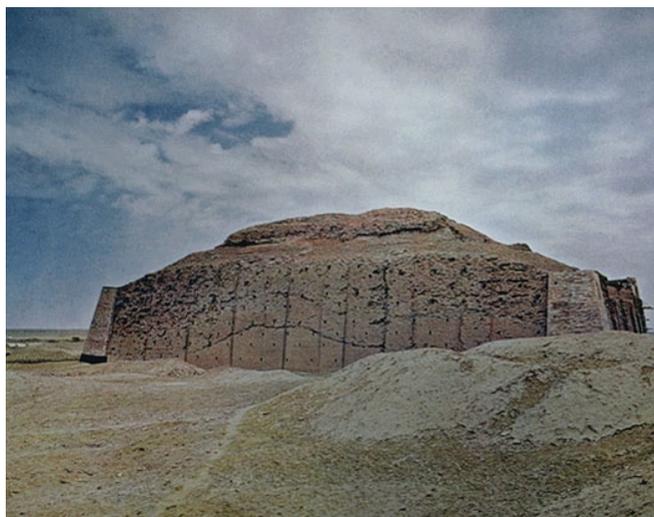
Although I received my doctorate in economics at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, I have long developed an amateurish interest in anthropology, archaeology, and especially comparative mythology. I have continually collected materials in those areas over the years, and have occasionally published my findings.

After I discovered that the possible secret behind the pyramids’ construction was garlic beer, I started to collect data on the mythology and archaeology relating to beer from nations all over the world. This was in 1996. I started to write this book in 2002, to share with readers the essence of over five years of research.

I ended up discovering a few interesting facts on the way to writing this book. For one, I found that the history of beer goes way back to at least ten thousand years.³ I also learnt that there were countless kinds of beer, and that quite a few scholars⁴ systemically conduct research in a field called

³ The oldest existing record about beer is about ten thousand years old and was made during the Sumerian Age. Although it is probably the oldest remaining record from the Sumerian age, the record does not mention beer as a contemporary modern invention, but as a feature in their mythology. This reveals that beer existed during the “mythological era” that existed long before the Sumerians’ own time. To place the Sumerian on the human timeline, one can remember that it was the Sumerians that built the Tower of Babel.

⁴ There are three or four ‘beer scholars’ within a 200km radius of Vancouver, the city I live in. We all know each other well and have maintained close relationships. One of them is a mentor to me (although I wish it could be the other way around). You can meet these beer masters in the good books on beer research I mention in the reference materials later in this book.



Sumerian Ziggurat

“Beer Anthropology.” These scholars circulate their research privately amongst themselves and most of them brew their own beer, while some own or manage their own microbreweries, others just give technical advice to giant breweries. The relationship and atmosphere among these scholars is something comparable to that of a secret society like the Freemasons.⁵ This does

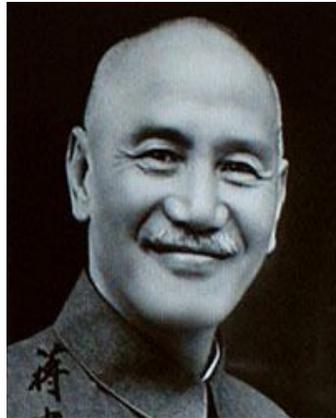
not mean that they are an exclusive group that will block outsiders from their research. Rather, they share a defeatist philosophy that no one would listen or appreciate their works anyway even if they were to expose themselves publicly. They seem to be willing to share their knowledge with anyone who asks them and certainly do not try to hide it on purpose.⁶ Personally, I prefer to call them “beer masters”, rather than “beer anthropologists’ or “beer scholars.” It just sounds friendlier.

Anyway, I star-~~ted~~ to collect data from 1996 onwards by investing quite a lot time into forming relationships with the-se “beer masters” in North America (especially in Chicago) and Europe. There’s actually a lot of information that can be collected by anyone who makes only a little bit of effort.

⁵ The Freemasons are a secret society that was established around the sixteenth or seventeenth century in England. It has spread around the world and claims many famous people as its members. Even the secret organization, ‘Hong Mun (Triads)’, that often appears in martial arts movies as the descendants of those who fight for the Ming dynasty against the Ching dynasty, claims to be the Chinese branch of the Freemasons. Various prominent figures have been exposed as members of this secret organization over the years, and none of them have denied it. Mozart, Washington, Franklin, Sun Yatzen, Mao Tsedong, Chiang Jieshih...A few more references to the relationship between the Freemasons and beer will be mentioned later in the book.



Freemason Initiation



From left: Sun Yat Sen, Chiang Kai Shek, Mao Ze Dong

⁶ The only secret they try to retain is the method they use to make their own specialty yeast. They guard the secret of the process of collecting the uncultivated yeast and domesticating it. It seems that they consider it a professional courtesy not to ask even each other about this process.

4. Beer Stories

Beer stories are always interesting. They can sometimes even be quite romantic. The first story we shall discuss is a famous Greek myth everyone is familiar with:



Pandora's Box

“In ancient times the gods entrusted Pandora with the custody of a box,⁷ warning her never to open it. However, Pandora eventually opened the box, and all kinds of evils like disease, famine, and death flew out from inside. A shocked and frightened Pandora shut the box and fell into despair. She then heard a quiet knock from inside the box, and opened it to find that a goddess was still inside. This deity was the goddess of Hope who would draw humanity out from despair. This is how diseases, famine, war and death came into being to plague mankind. But this is also how there would still be hope.”

The story of Pandora's Box contains a universal theme that is found in the creation mythologies of many cultures. It is the theme of "Taboo-Hope." Remarkably similar tales and almost identical mythological plots are widely scattered all over the world. Mankind's suffering originates from the violation of a taboo, but hope always remains. Of course, the same theme is found in the story of Adam and Eve⁸ from the book of Genesis in the Bible. There, the story progresses from a tree whose fruits God has forbidden Adam and Eve to eat. Adam and Eve, of course, violate the taboo. Thus, suffering enters the world... but what follows soon after the couple's expulsion from Paradise is a message of hope:

"He (Messiah) will crush your (Satan's) head." (Genesis 3: 15)⁹

⁷ There is always a set of 'rules' that appear repeatedly in these kinds of stories. One of them happens to be that 'you always do exactly what you are forbidden to do'. The more strict the prohibition, the more inevitable the violation. In fact, there are similar rules in the movies: if there are two fuses in a bomb, hero may nervously cut the one he randomly chooses but the 'bomb never goes off'. For some bizarre reason, 'there is always a time indicator in the bomb', and 'the hero always finds the explosives when the remaining time is nearing zero'. 'Important events always happen one or two days before a detective retires'. 'If the wife of an officer is beautiful and the couple has a good relationship, then certainly one of them will die around the end of the movie'. 'If they do not have a good relationship, then it will become better through the solving of the crime.' 'Policemen always investigate crimes while eating donuts, and detectives always discuss their investigation in a strip bar drinking beer.' And for some reason or another, 'the strippers are always dancing around a pole.' These are just rules. No one really tries to enforce these rules. But, no one really violates them either.

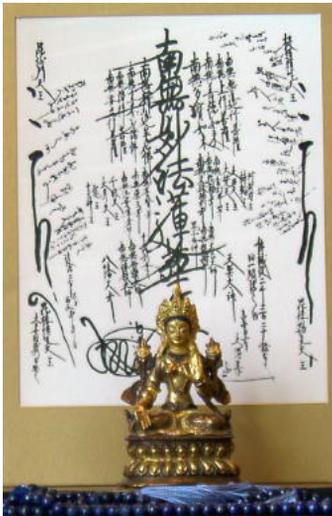
⁸ These Taboo stories always serve two purposes. First, parents use these stories to establish parental authorities. The tales reveal the usual messages of "I Told You So" and "See what happens when you don't obey me." Sooner or later, children eventually realize that these Taboo stories are just stories. Then, the stories serve as symbols of obstacles children should overcome in the process of their internal growth. I personally make it a policy not to tell my kids to obey me. The alleged reason being that they really should live wiser and fuller lives than me. I often say "you can not survive this harsh world just by being like your father. You should be a lot better. That's why I am not telling you to do something." (But then, fathers who say such things are usually harsher and definitely more manipulative on their children. Children have justifiable reasons to hate this kind of father even more.)

⁹ This is commonly called "Primitive Gospel", as opposed to Four Gospels in the New Testament and other Gnostic Gospels. Among Gospels, I want to also include Chapter 53 of the Book of

Another story that is almost identical to the one of Pandora’s Box can be found in Kenya. Fascinatingly, it is not “hope” that is discovered in the Box at the end, but “beer.” The Kenyan deity that serves the role of the Greek goddess of Hope in Pandora’s Box story is the goddess of Beer!



Hop



Tantric Scroll

This is indeed a hilarious phenomenon. What appears from the “Box” or “Coffin” at the end of these “taboo-hope” tales is usually one of these three¹⁰: Hope, Beer or Hop (a bitter grass that is one of the ingredients of beer.) The plots of these stories are so similar that even if one of the three words in these stories is substituted with another, the stories remain basically the same. The basic message and thrust of the stories remain intact. As is amusingly exemplified in the Kenyan and European versions of “Pandora’s Box,” there are definite and undeniable displays of obvious parallelism in the plot structures of these stories.

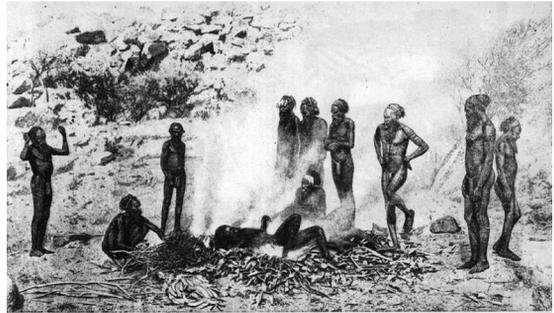
In fact, “Hop” is used only in small amounts in beer today, and it is used to create a balance and harmony between the sweetness and bitterness in beer. It was originally used in association with ‘initiation rituals.’¹¹ Hop was used there probably for the potent narcotic element found inside.¹²

Primitive traditions, such as the imbibing of a special drink during an initiation ritual for

Isaiah, which is often referred to as the Fifth Gospel... A gospel is a story/record about Jesus, an influential Jewish rabbi who started the Nazaren Sect of Judaism, which we often call ‘Christianity.’ It is well known that, about this rabbi, we have more than 20,000 authentic ancient documents, often older than 1900 years, preserved up to now.

¹⁰ Sometimes “an egg” appears as in the creation mythology of Shilla Kingdom in ancient Korea, as well as a ruby or a diamond. Rubies and diamonds appear mostly in areas under Hinduism influence. If a ruby appears in the story, Tantric Buddhists are supposed to exclaim the mantra of “Ohm Mani Baet-Mae- Hom.” This is the mantra Kungye, (a one –eyed despot in a recent Korean historical drama hit, “Wang Gun”) forced people to shout ceaselessly. On a purely functional level, “Hosanna” is the Jewish/Christian equivalent of “Ohm Mani Baet-Mae-

a deep, “spiritual” experience, are universally prevalent throughout the world. Traditionally, Muslims believed that drinking coffee was helpful for ‘spiritual’ awakening and prayer. We use them to help ‘activity’ awakening and pursuit of personal achievement, which is nothing but prayer offered toward the god of modernity. If you go to South America today, many religions determinedly “encourage” the consumption of hallucinogenic beverages. There is a plant used in some of these beverages that is seriously hallucinogenic. It is claimed that a certain amount makes you feel as if you have met God, and an even higher amount will make you feel like God yourself. Thus, the consumers of this plant formed a few organized religions. These



Initiation in Australia

Hom.” This saying literally translates into, “a ruby has blossomed inside a lotus flower.” It is a romantically figurative way of saying that “a seeker of truth finally declares the attainment of the Enlightenment.”

¹¹ These rituals were proclamations of one’s adulthood into the rest of the society. This is actually a core concept that will appear repeatedly throughout this book. One had to endure this ceremony to be considered a responsible ‘grown up’ member of society, and ready to start the personal mission given unto him by God. To test his courage, extreme pain was inflicted and sometimes a scar was purposely left on the body. One had to endure all this to be able to get married, fight in wars, and receive their consequent stakes of the glories and spoils of war. The idea of the initiation ritual still exists today in various forms like the initiation ceremonies in college fraternities and the “hanging of the bridegroom” during wedding nights in some regions of eastern Asia. One may blame the general weakness of the current population’s mental health for many difficulties society faces today. Many psychologists claim the source of this weakening is the lack of the proper initiation ritual. Simply put, life for everybody has become more difficult because too many mentally ‘immature’ people have appeared in our midst. They sneaked into the adult society without proper initiation rituals. Their memberships are false.

¹² Hop actually belongs to the same plant species as Marijuana. They have the same relationship as the one shared between the pine and fir tree: they are essentially the same plant. In British Columbia (where I live), possessing and using a certain amount of marijuana is legal. Consequently, there are many ‘unconfirmed’ stories of people using marijuana instead of hop to make their beer. One of the “beer masters” mentioned in the above told me that his own “master” was a leader of the movement for legalizing marijuana. In any way, beer is known to taste poor when hop is substituted with marijuana. About half of all the marijuana consumed in

grew into structured associations and even managed to penetrate North America. Many famous people, including Hollywood stars, subscribe to these religions. Although it is a fact that is hardly ever ‘officially’ referred to, Coca Cola, the great emblem of capitalism, originally contained a serious amount of cocaine and was marketed as a cure for hangovers. Perhaps in the far off future, the records will say that the religion called ‘Capitalism’ was spread around the globe in the 19th century and its ritual involved the narcotic drink, “Coca Cola.”



Marijuana

The hop infused into beer is supposed to lead its imbibers to a “spiritual” experience. And it actually does.¹³ It’s true! Because so many people have had “spiritual” experiences when drinking beer, the drink is called the “Elixir of Forgetfulness” in the Northern European mythology and there, a beer mug used to be called a “Cup of Song.”

As I read through so many stories, I came across many ironies that reappear again and again throughout these tales of beer: whenever beer appears in any mythology or legend, a goddess (as opposed to a god) or a priestess (as opposed to a priest) is also present.¹⁴ The ones who drink the beer these women offer, however, are always men. So it is always men who drink the beer in the ancient tales, but only after women have given

North America is grown in British Columbia. (Similarly, South America, Columbia in particular, provides half of all the cocaine consumed in North America.) Christopher Columbus, from whose name originate both ‘British Columbia’ and ‘Columbia’, is believe to have taught the native Indians to use marijuana and cocaine for recreational purposes. Columbus, through two Columbias, still provides narcotics to the inhabitants of the North American continent. Sometimes, I am forced to believe that names carry certain powers. By the way, my name, Kim, literally means “gold.” What else could be more fitting?

¹³ Later scientists found that beer made with hop can be preserved for a much longer time. Hop actually works as a very strong and effective preservative. Also, beer was originally a very sweet type of sugar water but the mixing of this sweet flavor with hop’s bitterness is what results in that wonderful mind blowing “beer” flavor. “Harmony between enemies...” That is what ancient Chinese culinary philosophers referred to as beer. You will find out that is probably the most important theme of this book.

¹⁴ We will come back to this topic when we discuss the restoration of true feminism later in the book.

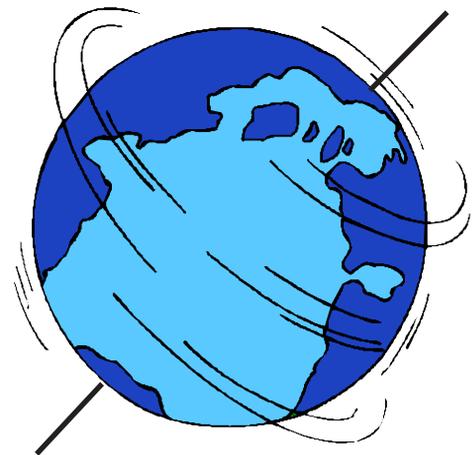
it to them. Also, the waters used to make the “Elixir of Forgetfulness”, or beer, always flows from the “Well of Remembrance,” which is why beer is often called the “Drink of Irony” and “Water of Contradiction.” From time to time, I often succumb to the temptation of the Hegelian dialectic synthesis of thesis and anti-thesis. Especially so, when I read tales about beer. Ironies and contradictions seem to be absolutely the only way to attain higher levels of wisdom. Beer stories, thus, awaken us. No. Beer itself awakens us.

The myths and legends found all over the world regarding beer were not just frivolously passed on for entertainment just for the sake of entertainment. Whether the people who passed it on knew or not, these stories lay at the heart of each tribe and nation’s elaborate system of mythology both on conscious and subconscious levels.

For example, the ‘Well of Remembrance,’ from which the ‘Waters of Forgetfulness’, flows, lies below the “World Tree” (Axis Mundi) in most ancient mythologies.

We do need, however, an explanation of this phrase, “Axis Mundi,” before we can move on any further. Therefore, readers are asked to forgive a little digression.

Almost all of the religions and mythologies throughout the world describe the “Universe” as having a specific, central point with a very special significance. This point in the Universe is called the “World’s Navel.” The universe performs a rotation, revolution, convolution, or

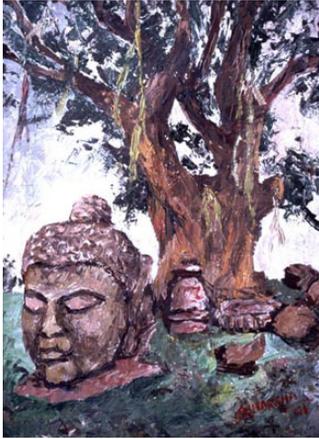


Axis Mundi

just spinning of great proportions around this Navel. The pillar that stands at this point is what supports the world. In comparative mythology, the pillar that stands at this point is called the “Axis Mundi.”

Axis (Big Pillar) Mundi (Latin adjective for the “World”- The most prestigious French newspaper is “Le Monde.” Why not?)

All of the founders of major religions came to their awesome spiritual



Bo Tree



Lee Sungye

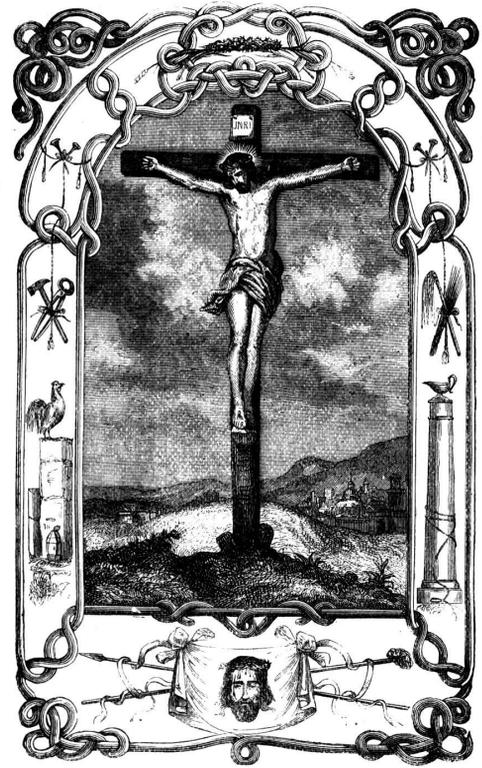
power by sitting for a long time meditating under the Axis Mundi, or by being hung on it. Buddha received his “Enlightenment” under the Bo Tree.¹⁵ Jesus washed away all of humanity’s sins, completing his “mission as the High Priest” by being hung on a wooden cross.¹⁶ Elijah was brought back from the verge of death to a complete recovery under the famous tree. Even Tan-gun, the mythological founder of Korea, began his ‘life giving’ rule under a tree with a name ‘Shin Dan Su.’¹⁷ Many years later in Korea, an eminent dragon, named Lee Sungye, flew out from a deep well underneath a tree with deep roots.¹⁸ Thus, at the turning points of their lives, the founders of all important religions and the heroes of all mythologies find themselves next to, under, or on a ‘tree’ that will connect them directly with the Ultimate Being of the Universe to realize the ultimate truths of life and the world, becoming one with the Ultimate Being of the Universe. This is the “World Tree.”

The well that lies beneath the World tree sometimes gathers its waters from the resin of the tree; or from the blood of the heroes who have

¹⁵ Herman Hesse’s “Siddhartha” is an essential book on this subject for everybody whether you are a Buddhist or not. Hesse masterfully employs his western literary skills to introduce the deep truth of the East. True accomplishment. I often think that the greatest human intellectual accomplishment is the 6th century translation of Buddhist sutras from Sanskrit, which is basically a western language, to Chinese. I also often stick to the conclusion that Hesse has fully paid back to those Chinese translators.

¹⁶ Archaeologists have recently discovered that in ancient Roman times, carpenters constructed only the horizontal part of crosses, the famous torture-execution tools reserved for the most heinous criminals. The vertical portion of a cross was actually a living tree. It is quite possible that the very tree Jesus was hung might still be alive somewhere in the Middle East, impervious to growth and decay. So when the apocalypse happens, the true “Axis Mundi” of mankind might appear in front of us. We, then, realize that all those stories are not simply mythological symbols,

realized the truths of life. At other times, it is gathered from the milk of Mother Earth for whom these heroes have made holy sacrifices of their lives. In any way, these liquids are the crystallized powers and the concentrated wisdoms of the Universe that is rotating around the World Navel.¹⁹ Even normal and non-heroic people, like you and me, will gain the truths of life when we drink from this well. To be precise, we do not gain any new truths. We simply remember the ancient truths which we already had when we were also ‘heroes.’ As we bury ourselves in daily worries and tasks, we simply have forgotten about them. The act of drinking from this well just reminds us of them. The knowledge we would recover is not the



Jesus on Cross

type that would raise SAT scores, but the type of knowledge that makes us become a part of the Supreme Knowledge. In short, we, the commoners and the drinkers from this well, would gain “spiritual enlightenment.” We gain knowledge about the beginning and end of the Universe, how our days are reflected in this eternal time line, where we are in this Universe now... A powerful kind of harmony is attained from this discovery, the new reflection

but are actual and real histories. One can even imagine that this was also the very tree that Jesus cursed before entering Jerusalem. Refer to the Gospel of Mark 11:13-14.

¹⁷ Literally, ‘the altar tree.’

¹⁸ This was the main theme of the national anthem of Korea’s Chosun dynasty which Lee founded: “The song of flying dragon.” I admit that this sounds like an ill-made title of a low budget kung-fu movie.

¹⁹ Advocates of geocentric theory, such as Copernicus and Galileo, borrowed their ideas from ancient myths and legends.

of one's self and the experiences gained from this harmony, the quiet but potent feeling of serene happiness and endless satisfaction, and the strength to go on living tomorrow that results from it all: such is the wondrous kind of knowledge and wisdom that flow underneath the tree, Axis Mundi! Just drink from it so that a river of vitality and liveliness flows from your belly. God loves such a person. I want you to become such a person... Isn't Jesus saying similar things over and over?

In fact, drinking of this water signifies our sharing of wisdom with those enlightened heroes, thus completing their tasks as "high priests." These heroes struggle through extreme difficulties, make great sacrifices, and receive mighty curses from the gods just to bequeath this water to normal beings like us. They do this because it is the only way we can reconcile with the ultimate powers, and in turn receive the great energy of the universe. Thus, such water is known as the 'Ultimate Boon' in comparative mythology. The word "Boon", of course, is heavily related to the Egyptian term "Booza," which is an Egyptian term for 'Beer.' So "the blood of heroes", "the cup of the covenant", "communion", and "beer" must all actually have the same meaning. How could they not be? ... Often in mythology, 'heroes' are defined as those who bring 'Boons.' (In some ways, this author, who runs a humble microbrewery, is a hero, in its true mythical sense.)

Wisdom may automatically mean the "remembering" of truth, but it also means the "forgetting" of useless facts. This is why what flows from the Well of Remembrance is ironically not the Water of Remembrance, but the Elixir of "Forgetfulness." After all, smart people do tend to be forgetful. I have met many great geniuses. During my Ph.D studies at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, I met many Nobel Laureates and other true geniuses. They all displayed serious symptoms of being absent-minded. (Many even pretend to be, to just look like a genius.) It seems that the disposal of petty knowledge is a necessary requirement in gaining wisdom. The process of doing so can be called "repentance" and also "forgiveness." Without any repentance come forgiveness come forgetting, it is impossible to make the power of wisdom your own. Those who say otherwise must be selling you something they do not want to keep themselves. In other words, they must

be just preaching some boring and pitiful dogma.

The mythology of northern Europe tells us how Odin, the God of Beer, drinks the Elixir of Forgetfulness from the Well of Remembrance that lies under the World Tree. The Elixir that he drinks here is precisely, ‘Beer.’²⁰

In Western paintings, “forgetfulness” is traditionally expressed through a wink: one eye is blind towards petty worldly grievances, while the other is attentive to all the ancient memories, the primitive strength, the awesome yet peaceful capabilities and restful glacial power that flow harmoniously from



Odin and Beer

the Well of Remembrance. This kind of “forgetfulness” does not mean one forgets everything completely. Such amnesia is merely a sickness. But “forgetfulness” in the religious sense means that one purposely chooses to

²⁰ Odin is the central character of North European mythology, just like Jupiter in Roman mythology and Zeus in Greek mythology. The English word, ‘Wednesday’, came from ‘the day of Odin.’ For further studies in Northern European mythology, I recommend the approach employed by Thomas Carlyle in the *Heroes* rather than the Comparative Mythological Approach. Before my daughter bought the original version for only a dollar in a used bookstore in Boston (we were so happy to find it!), I often read the Korean translation by Park Sang Ik that was published by a publishing company named Sonamu (1997). The original book is misunderstood as having provided the theoretical basis of Nazism. Before the publication of *The Hero with a Thousand Faces* by Joseph Campbell, there was no such worthy book in the field of humanities. I personally believe that this book is praiseworthy to the point of exemplifying the strength of the British Empire at its peak. I personally believe that a civilization, or an empire always demonstrates its power by way of making great wisdom available. I, a native speaker of Korean, am always amazed at the abundance of wise books of this English speaking civilization. This is one of the reasons why I disagree with those who argue that the English speaking civilization has not many days left before its final debacle. Unlike other past civilizations, this English speaking civilization has a remarkable amount of self cleansing power unprecedented in other civilizations... Personally, I am enviously amazed.

retain only certain memories already stored in the mind. This “forgetfulness” is what enables new personalities to form: the ability to choose a new view of the world and life, and to turn your back on the old views. Hypnotism can not lead to a rebirth. Rebirth is possible only through forgetfulness of a right kind. Naturally, a beer is obviously neither called, the “Water of Amnesia”, nor the “Water of Hypnotism,” but the “Water of Forgetfulness.” By drinking it, one can forget all the anguish, tension, and sicknesses that flew out from Pandora’s Box while embracing and remembering only the secrets of creation, the Shalom²¹ of absolute and perfect rest, and endless hope (or Hop). It is water that brings you the spiritual experience of being filled with the Holy Spirit. No wonder, about the experience symbolized by this drink, Jesus exclaims

“But whoever drinks the water I give, he will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” (John 4:14)

Of course such a drink goes by the name of “Hope”, “hop” and “beer”! No other names are possible. The secret liquid of ancient initiation rituals, the Elixir of Forgetfulness that enables you to remember only peace and hope, and thus the drink of Re-Genesis and Recreation²² that empowers you to start over again no matter how exhausted and beaten up you are. Such a drink is called beer. At least, that is the effect beer is supposed to create. The liquid that gives you wisdom by helping you forget from which the river of the Holy Spirit flows... So obvious that it is impossible to deny that the driving force behind the construction of the pyramids, the world’s most

²¹ “Shalom” is a Jewish greeting and an etymological variation of the names Solomon and Jerusalem as well. It describes the state where God’s will or his justice is complete.

²² ‘Recreation’ in English is translated into Oriental languages as ‘go-raku’. A truly exquisite translation. ‘Go’ is represented by a Chinese character, 娛, that is composed of a woman, a mouth, and, heaven. In my view, this shows that recreation, in ancient Chinese minds, has something to do with something we eat or drink and that is brought from heaven and by a female. I believe that readers already remember that in many mythologies, beer, which is the drink of regeneration and recreation, is always brought by priestesses and goddesses.

solid buildings was the awesome power of this regenerative drink.

In fact, the pyramids aren't the only giant structures whose builders were empowered by beer. There is an ancient Chinese tale about Emperor Woo who built the first Chinese irrigation system, an immense project, including huge canals and massive banks, which would protect his land and prevent the Yellow River from flooding. In the Chinese mind, this is the most important building project of all, far more important than the Great Wall. Emperor Woo's daughter, who plays the role of 'priestess' in this tale, brewed beer for the laborers of this immense project. But, Emperor Woo became alarmed at the (perhaps inevitable) prospect of his people becoming addicted to this beer, and ordered his people to practice strict caution when drinking.



Pub

Beer also holds an important place in the beginnings of democracy and the Industrial Revolution: in the 1830's, the British parliament introduced a law that prohibited the consumption of gin, but encouraged that of beer. British 'pub' culture became established then, and people began to gather and chat about current affairs. "Public opinion" hence started to blossom.²³ The will of the people, which is the public opinion regarding a public matter, was being reflected more peacefully and speedily. This, as any

²³ The expression, "Public Opinions," historically originates from "Pub."

economist will tell you, was a critical root of the Industrial Revolution. In terms of greatness of achievements, isn't the Industrial Revolution the British equivalent of the Egyptian Pyramids? And at the beginning of both their stories, stood beer. It is too much of a coincidence to declare it as a random act of chance.



Without a single exception, beer historians agree that drinking beer was originally a religious act that held the members together within a tribe, but also, that it was the method to start or build a friendly relationship with outsiders. Even now there still remains a tradition in the Amazons, where the only way a visiting tribe can approach its host is to say, “We would like to drink some of your beer.” If the outsiders do not say this, the host will view the outsiders as hostile invading enemies and shower them with poisonous arrows. This is because crying the phrase, “We want to drink your beer” is the equivalent of saying, “We want to praise and worship your God together with you.” (By now, observant readers might have already noticed that in the stories regarding beer, the core word is always “together.”)

Even today there are no words as, “Let’s go have a beer” that is as effective in relaxing a person’s defensiveness. Even the worst enemies begin to disarm themselves when the other side approach saying the above magic words. The word “beer” itself has a spell binding effect, as well as actually containing the magical power inside the beer, the liquid of brotherhood.

After the first gulp of beer, a slight wrinkle in the frowned eyes appears with a light friendly smile. Then the secret conspiracy to forget about ‘all those petty things’ has already begun. Even though the same beer is consumed, such a smile will never appear when you drink beer alone. Even though it is the same beer, you can not taste the curiously harmonized bitterness when you drink alone. Beer reveals raw bitterness only when

you drink alone. For the harmony and balance of higher tastes to surface from beer, it should be consumed “together” with other people.²⁴ Then, and only then, will these queer smiles appear almost simultaneously, as if you have become each other’s companion on the sacred pilgrimage to the womb of Mother Earth, or sinful accomplices to a recently accomplished secret and perfect crime: the smiles that arise from companions, conspirators, collaborators, co-travelers... in any way, we are all on the same boat floating on a sea of beer.

In a purely clear cup, I see
 Water... the color of ripe amber.
 I, Commander of the Armada
 With a heroic exhale,
 I rule and sway my domain, my sea

The foam that overflows
 The circular horizon
 I see! A billion years of man’s history is written here.

In the perfume of the fog, the sheep, that rises thickly
 “Time” flies over me like a seagull
 My seat starts to shake more than the deck itself.

Aha! Go and see!
 The sky is spinning
 It’s spinning like a windmill, I say
 That new and surprising, above the meanings of “truth”,
 the ethics of the age shines brilliantly
 like the constellations themselves

²⁴ Have a look at the Chinese character for “together”, “同” (pronounced “tong”). Upside down, it will portray a beer mug filled with a lot of foam. Obviously, the Chinese character for “together” means “Bottoms Up” with beer. ‘Togetherness’ and ‘beer drinking’ were treated as synonymous. This Chinese character is used as a prefix like ‘co’ as in co-operation.

Listen friends, I now plan to pray
to the magic of this amber colored water
and flick away this globe with my little finger...²⁵



Ocean

The human relationship that arises from drinking beer together is not a hierarchical one where one drinker becomes the ruler, and the other his subordinates. Beer drinking is never a political process of selecting a leader. It is a perfectly horizontal apolitical relationship that arises from equal partners and equal comrades, with the kind of consciousness of being the same type of guys who were initiated together, at the same place, in

²⁵ The beer song by a famous Korean poet, Kim Dong Myung that appears on page 314 in *The Story of the Glass Bottle and the Cork*, Kim Chung (Too many Kims!), PoJang Industry, 2000. Interestingly, Mr. Kim Chun wrote this book about drinking from the point of view of packaging. They say that if you master one area of knowledge, it is easy to master another. This book made me realize how true this was. There was so much to learn about beer and wine from this packaging expert, and as a master of no trades, I truthfully found myself embarrassed when I compared myself with these fine gentlemen who somehow attained the masterly position in the knowledge of an area.

the same year. Beer isn't something you drink to swear your loyalty to your superior, nor is it a drink for celebrating the discovery of such a loyal servant. It is the drink that celebrates the fact that I have found someone "just like myself." It is a confirmation that there is another creature like myself in this dark cold harsh world, and that I can survive it much better than before. Thus, through drinking beer, a few 'my selves' become one 'ourselves.' Here, and only here, the first and the second laws of dynamic physics are joyfully violated. The total energy does not stay the same. The sum of the individual components is strangely larger than the mathematical sum. Here, the laws of physics and the laws of mathematics stop governing us. Otherwise, how could anyone build pyramids, and how could any one build 10,000 mile banks? Somehow, we, the co-drinkers of beer, all become super-heroes who can move mountains, can flick away this globe with little fingers... Otherwise, how could we, just mere human beings can move three million boulders weighing three tones without internal combustion engines? We simply needed beer.

There is no competition between such co-drinkers, such co-friends. You would rather help and protect him, rather than beat him. He already constitutes an integral part of me. No, to be precise, 'I' and 'You' do not exist any more. We and higher We alone exist. No. To be even more precise, even We do not exist. We just shine together. The great challenge that stands before you is not to compete and win against your peers, but to make sure that all survive and all shine together. Here again, 'together' is the key word. Even God dances at such sights:

"The Lord your God is with you, He is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, and he will quietly dance with you with his love. He will rejoice and dance over you with singing." (Zephaniah 3:17)

There might even be a feeling that you could even give up your own life for your friends. Jesus, the influential Jewish rabbi I mentioned a few times already, made a few specific comments on that very subject:

“Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you what I command.”
(John 15: 14-15)

Simply speaking, Jesus was strenuously and tenaciously arguing that the formation of such friendship, by way of drinking beer, is a way to become a friend of God.²⁶ And furthermore, this author ventures to imagine that it is not just a way, it may be the only way, the exclusively only way.

A psychologist once surveyed veteran soldiers who fought many wars with a question, “Having fought in wars for a long time, you must share a very strong comradeship with your fellow soldiers. For how many of them would you sacrifice your life?” The average answer was eight. So if you could somehow co-ordinate a suicide squad of eight men who would all die for each other, the teamwork and camaraderie and the power thereof would be extraordinary.



Navy Seal

I read about this research a long time ago, but I couldn't find it again in the course of writing this book. Recently, however, on TV, I saw an interview of a member of the actual Navy Seal unit the movie “Black Hawk Down” is based on. He said that American soldiers in that unit are mentally trained to believe that “Your buddies are ready to die for you, as you are ready to die for them.” In Jewish and Christian theology, this kind of relationship is called a Covenant (or Testament) relationship. The Bible explains this covenant relationship:

“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who love me and gave himself for me.”²⁷
(Galatians 2:20)

²⁶ Later on in this book, we will have a few opportunities in which we will demonstrate that Jesus, himself, consumed quite a bit of beer. Just wait until then.

In any way, how fantastic a word is ‘camaraderie’! “You and I are friends, you and I are the same... no, not you and I, but ‘us.’” In this fight, I am ready to die for you, buddy, as I know that you would do the same... A hardy battalion that is ready to die is impossible to form when there is no such camaraderie. Members would automatically flee in front of a larger enemy. It is this very camaraderie that is the basis of the supernatural courage that transcends our weak individual humanity. Without it, we are just practical. We can never be transcendental. Without it, the Neanderthals would never have ventured to hunt a mammoth that weighed a stunning one hundred times more than themselves. The spears they had fashioned out of rocks wouldn’t even leave a scratch on the mammoth’s thick skin covered with thick and long hairs. The only way these “die-ready” troops could defeat a mammoth was for a suicide squad to allure it to the edge of a cliff, and drive it over. Large troops of Native Americans managed to hunt even larger numbers of buffaloes in a similar way, and it was the same kind of camaraderie that made it possible for Eskimos to hunt giant whales in such small canoes. When you are literally nose-to-nose with a mammoth, or, a giant killer whale, there can be absolutely no competition among us. Rather, all you’ll feel is the wish to be alive together. Such a wish, when it is strong, it becomes the same desire to die together. I wouldn’t mind dying, if I am “together” with these buddies.

It is for this very reason that the primitive societies did not allow their youth to participate in the hunt before the initiation ritual of drinking beer. Initiation rituals were not just meaningless entry barriers. Without having gone through such initiation rituals, a boy can not be relied upon to be a courageous hunter. Without such initiation rituals, a mere boy, will flee in front of huge beasts. (As I said before, so many social problems of the modern societies originate from the fact that so many boys become ‘eligible’ without properly going through these initiation rituals. Our modern societies do not have functioning initiation rituals. We do not even know what they are. They become fathers before becoming adults.)

²⁷ Of course, Christ and Son of God referred to here is Jesus, the same Jewish rabbi we mentioned a few times already.

Beer, us, death, life, hunt, power, adulthood, coalitions, festivals, delight, trophy, blood, brothers, sharing... Separately read, each of these words has completely different meanings, but read 'together', they, all of a sudden, sound like synonyms. That is due to the power of 'together', I mean, beer drunk together.

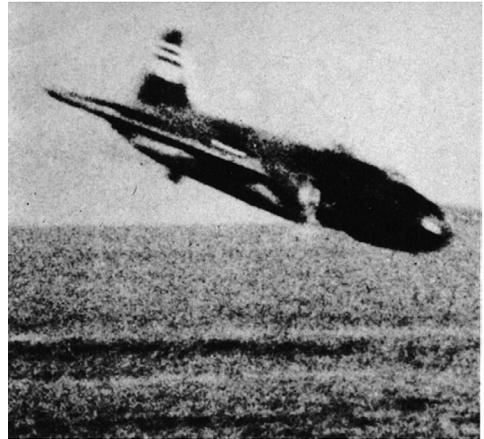
Beer breeds camaraderie and equal relations. But 'Distilled alcohols' have the strange ability to install hierarchy and inequality among its drinkers. It also spreads a queer sense of competition among drinkers. Take the Japanese drink, Sake, for example. It is often praised as a drink of loyalty, but it is in fact a drink of betrayal. Look at how Yakuza²⁸ use Sake in their Sagazeki ceremony.²⁹ Its drinkers are people who laud loyalty on the outside, but are really drinking while brewing and scheming betrayal secretly. The drink that mixes loyalty and betrayal, which is drunk together by the exploiters and the exploited, is Sake. One side of its flavor states that, "I am the one with power that rules over you right now. If you think this is sickening and unfair, then why don't you try to empower yourself too, punk." The other side states, "I am bowing down to you right now because I don't have enough power, but just wait and see!" It is a drink that symbolizes a temporary power imbalance, which is inherently unstable. Those famous Yakuza decorum and even poetic etiquettes that go with these ceremonies and these distilled drinks are nothing but counter-proofs of all those many betrayals rampantly and ubiquitously brewing among them. Simply speaking, it is not like what you see in the movies. Why would you need such an abnormal quantity of 'loyalty' gestures, if there is no possibility of betrayal? Betrayals are prevalent ways of life in that circle. That is why they need all those ceremonies. And they all drink Sake, when they first build their formal relations. That is why I call Sake, a drink of betrayal.

²⁸ Japanese Mafia. Of course, they call themselves by many different names, which is beyond the interest of this author.

²⁹ A Yakuza ceremony in which Sagazekis (small and flat porcelain wine glasses) filled with Sake are circulated. More often than not, a couple of blood droplets of the drinkers are added to Sake. Through this ceremony, an unbreakable Oyaboong-Goboong (boss-subordinate) relation is supposed to be born.

The different choices of drinks have completely different results. The troops that left for war drinking beer will somehow return alive, and even bring back trophies like mammoths, buffaloes or whales. The troops that drank Sake do not return. They either die, or for the most part, run away.

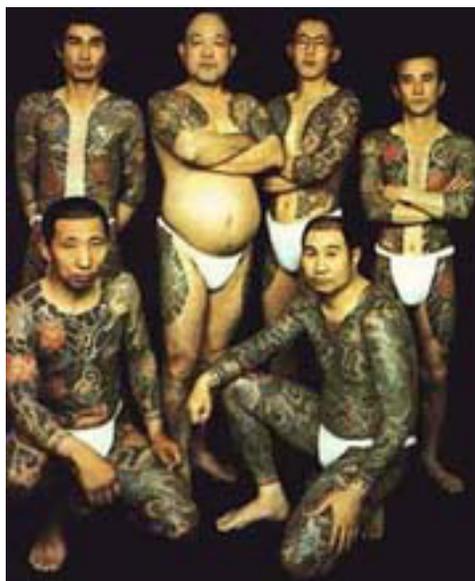
The Kamikazes that the Japanese used in the Second World War were, of course, given Sake, often, mixed with methamphetamine (a narcotic sometimes called philophon). Showing all kinds of courageous fronts, they threw down their Sake and went off flying towards American battleships crying, “Long live the Emperor!”³⁰ But as soon as they radioed, “Target found!” the naval base flicked their radios off. They knew that the last sounds of they would hear from these young boys would be their screams of “O---K---A---”, which is the Japanese equivalent of “M---O---M.” All of the wireless transmitters down at the base who heard those last screams later became anti-war pacifists.³¹



Kamikaze

It is the same with the Yakuza. They are such posers of cool who ramble on and on about matters like loyalty, and “Otokonobigaku”, the “Beauty of Manliness”, and the courage and coolness they display in their stories would surpass even those of the most valiant cowboys in Western movies by far. They emphasize their petty coolness even during normal times. Dying isn’t simply called “death.” They employ instead melodramatic expressions like “incinerating”, or “the falling of Sakura (cherry blossom).” It means

³⁰ In such situations, the Japanese mimicked Europeans by wearing long mufflers. With their shorter legs, however, the effect they had was quite comical but the gravity with which they wore their fashions prevented bystanders from suggesting any other kind of outfits. Personally, this author does not appreciate highly this Kamikaze tactics. It runs counter to the basic philosophy of martial arts, which they say these tactics are based on. They are not even original. They plagiarized this from Mussolini’s Italian Air Force. They were not effective either. I personally hate those who worship death. Especially, when they worship somebody else’s death. Nothing valiant there. They just use lies to manipulate others to die, as an ultimate form of exploitation.



Yakuza



Yubitsume

they will die as poetically and cleanly and valiantly as the cherry blossoms that fall from the tree. They even cut their fingers off as their manly way of apologizing. But wait until a fight starts. There will be no such cheap cheaters and no such contemptible cowards in a real fight. If they are losing, they will beg imploringly for their lives, and automatically betray their own buddies, but when they are winning, they will obnoxiously flaunt their bravado. Really, it is only the true cowards who gloat in their victory. So it is not surprising that they will always hide in the dark shadows until they attack their victims from the back.

I have a few friends who fell in to the Yakuza society. I, myself, even fought with some members of Yakuza families a couple of times, and so I am qualified to make these statements. Seriously, their petty, cowardly, and cheating ways of fighting is nothing but contemptible.

They're not completely bad people, but you can't help thinking of them as utterly detestable cowards.³² A couple of my Yakuza friends have become Christian pastors later in their lives. When I discuss the cowardice of the Yakuza with them, I tease them by asking, "Don't the cherry blossoms fall very differently in Japan?" Even

³¹ A story I heard myself in Osaka while I was visiting the Peace Tower: During the Iran-Iraq War, Khomeini also used boys in their early teens as mine sweepers. They were sent running out into a minefield and were told to die crying, "Glory to Allah!" and the troops would march onwards after the boys had exploded. The boys, however, did not shout the instructed praise, but died screaming for their mothers. I also have a son in his early teens. To take such boys away to kill them...they must have been possessed by the Devil. Damn them all! What glory to what Allah?

before they cut their fingers off, they will make a big fuss about booking appointments at the hospital and acquiring anesthetics. Of course, some even have ambulances waiting outside. I can not understand why they would go to such lengths to have their fingers cut off. Compare them to the average factory worker who gets their fingers accidentally cut off while faithfully working at their jobs. Isn't he a lot manlier in every way?³³

It can't be helped if it sounds like a joke, but a few scholars even dared to suggest that the reason (here, 'one of the reasons' could have been somewhat more cautious expression), the Japanese lost the Second World War was because they drank Sake instead of beer.

When one drinks Sake, the drinker becomes a narcissist, and starts to make tremendous efforts to glorify himself in the eyes of others, as he is so impressed by himself. During a war, or even a soccer game, all he cares about is how 'he' plays, how 'he' fights, and how 'he' looks to others, instead of just kicking the ball as best as he can to win the game or fighting the battle as best as he can to win the war. How he looks to others and how much praise he gets from others takes precedence over anything

³² The same nation who sent forth suicidal kamikazes to attack Americans later produced millions, literally, millions of letters saying, "I will die for you" to General MacArthur during the American's military occupation. It is a sad historic fact not many people mention these days that a great many people actually did commit suicide for the general by disemboweling themselves. These people had been mass-manipulated to die for some higher authority. They were so manipulated to the point where they would die for any higher authority. It does not really matter whether the previous manipulators were replaced with the previous enemies. It does not matter whether the new higher authority may want them to die or not. They were so programmed to die for a higher authority—any higher authority. This is one of the reasons why Americans found Japan to be as a good as obedient puppy after the war. I do not believe that North Korea might not be that difficult for Americans to rule in case of the collapse of the Kim regime. They would obey anybody. I guarantee that North Korea will become a new darling puppet regime for Americans.

³³ The word "Yakuza" originally refers to the bottom card of a Japanese deck of poker cards named 894. The Japanese version of the game originated in Indonesia, and those who committed a "Yamashi" would have one of their fingers cut off so that they wouldn't be able to commit the crime again. "Yamashi" roughly means in English 'to cheat in an especially devious way'. It may be a reflection on the honesty of the Korean people and their culture that there is no equivalent of such a word in their language. This is the beginning of the finger-cutting culture (Yubitsume). It has nothing to do with manliness. In a sick way, they are simply a comical group of contemptible, cowardly cheap low lives.

and everything. Even winning the game and victory in the war are not so important when compared with ‘looking good to others.’ Naturally, he can not score any goal, nor accomplish his true goal because he is focusing on his appearances, rather than the goals. In the same way, a golfer should concentrate on the ball, rather than how he looks. It is the same when it comes to studying at school. If you’re curious about something, you’ll need to ask about it; and if you don’t know something, the right thing to do would be to make efforts to learn about it. Simple as that. Instead of thinking in this simple and straightforward manner, the narcissist will put his attention on “myself” and “myself who is studying so hard,” “myself who is going through so much pain,” and “myself who is so smart (but with poor grades).”

For instance, take the bar exam through which one becomes a lawyer.³⁴ You could either just study hard for the exam, or take another career path instead. Simple as that. But for the narcissist, the “self” is just too important to think this simple way. It is not the exam itself that’s important, but how “I, who is studying so hard for this exam” will look good. He’ll dramatically tell his girlfriend with whom he is not even close to “wait until I return from the temple where I go to study.” He begs so hard to all the people around to be impressed by him as much as he is impressed by himself. Of course, he fails this very exam again and again. (Then, these repeated failures would make him ‘a hero’ of a tragedy in which this vain and meaningless world persecutes unlucky geniuses.) He also loves to explain himself. He explains verbally, often repeatedly that all his actions are so wise, so full of intelligence and so cool. He never understands why he has to explain them so often. It never dawns on him that everybody is so sick and so tired of him. He soon turns to himself and frets about the injustice that fills this Universe. He soon declares that this is all God’s fault and the world is full of contradictions. He again is so impressed by himself for being the only one who finds such contradictions. He starts another attempt to impress other people with this new finding. This time, he tries to impress others as

³⁴ In those countries with Confucian traditions, these bar exams are highly competitive. On the average, 1000:1 is not abnormal. They call them ‘high exams.’ This author passed two of them, proving that those exams are just highly competitive, not really difficult.

a philosopher, a monk, or a pastor. Of course, it doesn't work this time either. So he naturally loves to conspire, betray, and use petty guiles. He bullies the weak. That is the only area he can do something. In one word he is a cad, and in two words, a worthless bloke. It is because everything revolves him and him alone. Sake drinking seems to have some serious side effects...

A beer drinking country has never lost a war against a country that drinks distilled alcohol.³⁵ It was perhaps for this reason many of the famous beers were first brewed for armies. For example, India Pale Ale, IPA, is proudly the most produced type of beer in the world, and originally it was first made for British soldiers stationed in India. Before the Suez Canal opened, ships would have to travel the Atlantic and Indian Ocean, crossing the equator twice in order to deliver the beer. While adjusting the hop and the yeast to maintain the flavor during the journey, they actually discovered a better tasting beer. During the early days of Canada, beer was also first brewed there for the British soldiers; and as the soldiers moved bases, brewers would follow, sowing the seeds of brewing culture. As the brewers covered more and more territory, the sales would expand correspondingly.

So that's the kind of power beer has. It has a mysterious way of easily forming a covenant relationship³⁶ among people.

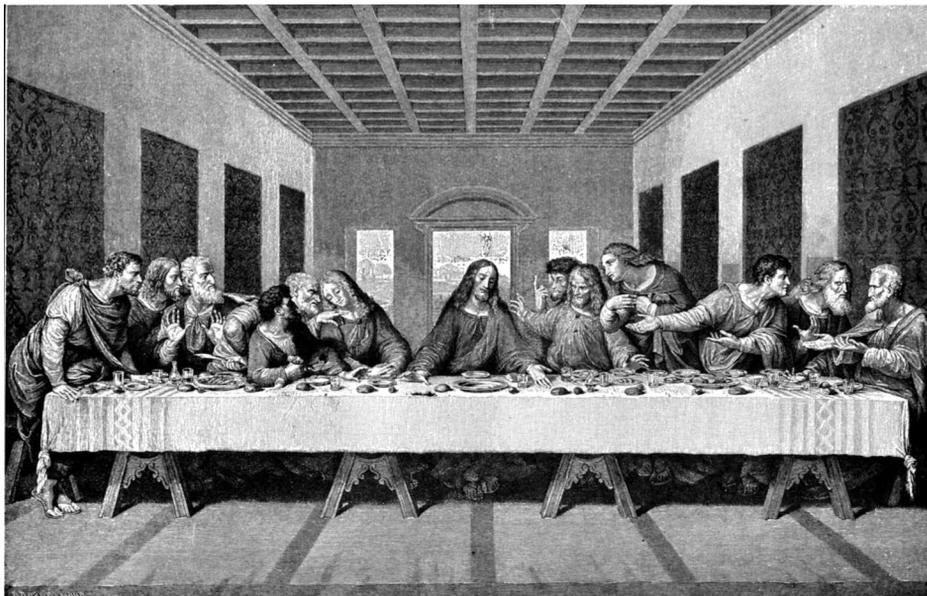
Actually, in the early developmental stages of almost all the religions in the world, priests are observed to offer a kind of special holy water to the religion's followers. Or, put more clearly, the one who administers this water is called a priest, by definition. This holy water is bound to have eternal life giving powers. Beer is such water. It is impossible to be otherwise.

There are records left here and there in the New Testament that shows Jesus drank often with his disciples, and there are even scenes where he is

³⁵ Is there? Then it is because the beer was no good.

³⁶ The same aforementioned concept. To be precise, it is more than a promise to die for each other, but really a relationship that commences at the beginning by declaring "we have already died for each other." There are hardly any relationships of this sort left today, and only a scant trace of it may be seen in the form of ceremonial vows at weddings. It is a relationship that says, "I am already dead, but if I am alive than it is for you." It is the core concept of Judeo- Christianity. Their teaching can be summarized as "There must be a vertical covenant relationship with God and a horizontal covenant relationship with you fellow humans."

criticized for drinking too much with sinners. Jesus quit drinking only a single day before his crucifixion. The fact that the Bible particularly and specifically mentions the special date when Jesus stopped drinking signifies that he had drank quite a lot before this particular point in time. Jesus uses



Last Supper

alcohol in many of his teachings, and if he hadn't enjoyed drinking very much he wouldn't have used it to deliver his teachings. Remember that the first miracle Jesus performed was to turn water into wine. He not only taught about the drinking of wine, but the making of it as well. If a person who does not drink uses wine in his teachings, then there will be no strength or authority in his words. To use stories about wine to deliver his message, then he must drink it himself, even if he has to do it secretly.

As almost everybody knows, Jesus was a Rabbi of Judaism. The customs of Judaism dictate that unless God directly orders you to abstain from wine, the one who does not drink is the one who slights God.³⁷ Suicide,

³⁷ The ones who received special orders not to drink were the Nazir. Many people seem to be shocked when I told them this, but it is common knowledge among religious Jews. Let us not judge others with our own personal pre-perceived bias. It is generally taught today in the Protestant Church that Christians should abstain from drink, but this was not always the case. This prohibitive teaching was only recently and very artificially introduced to create a blunt

to kill oneself without special supernatural commands from God to become a martyr, is the worst sin in Judeo-Christianity.³⁸ Likewise, to abstain from drinking without specific and special supernatural messages from God, and only really to make yourself seem holy by suffering, is actually a grave sin. It is spiritual suicide. According to Jewish traditions, one can not start the Sabbath on Friday without drinking.³⁹ So saying that a Jewish Rabbi such as Jesus never drank is not an accurate statement at all. It does not even border on being a blasphemy. It is a blasphemy. Also, a large amount was consumed during Communion (i.e. Eucharist) in the time of the Apostles. There were even occasions where too much wine had been drunk for the worship service to continue properly.



Rabbi

So, at that time, having drunk ‘too much’ was established as being when one could no longer recite long passages from the Bible... oh such wisdom galore! Biblical recital was the DUI test!⁴⁰ Masses and services used to be such joyful events. That is why they were earthly representations of the

opposition against the Catholic Church who had the monopoly over the manufacturing and distribution of beer. I will expand more on this later on in the book. In the mean time, bear with me that Christians may drink, perhaps should drink.

³⁸ The logic goes, “the gravest of all sins is murder, and the murders of close ones are the most evil kinds of murder. Since there is no person closer to you than yourself, suicide is the worst sin of all.” This is one of the questions Jews use to train the logical power for youth. Naturally, very powerful logical minds develop in and from their race.

³⁹ Rabbi Benjamin Blech, *The Complete Idiot’s Guide to Understanding Judaism* page 53, Alpha Books Pearson Education Company, 1999. It is a fact Protestants find shocking. I am not claiming here that it is important to drink beer at the start of Sabbath, but simply observing that Jews historically drink it a lot before Sabbath. This issue will come up later on in the book.

⁴⁰ If the American conservative religious right somehow succeeds in introducing a law under which a person will be freed if a person can recite a certain number of Bible verses, no matter how much alcohol the person had, it would be an important religious revival in America.

Messianic Banquet where the righteous are invited when all the enemies are overcome ultimately. Noise, fun, laughter, jokes, songs, and dances etc...



Laughing Jesus



Sabbath Drink

A Messianic Banquet without overflowing beer and fragrant wines is a contradiction in terms. That is why the first miracle Jesus, the Messiah, performed on earth was turning water into choice wine at a wedding banquet.⁴¹ Obviously, in his divine mind, a banquet without enough good wine was disastrously improper.

When a religion becomes just a routine activity institutionalized and managed by licensed, thus, salaried professionals, such life-giving holy water degenerates into “plain tap water” and powerful teachings become “another sadly artificial dogma.” Religion becomes a lump of complicated stories, gibberish and the strange pastime of wasted energy, which have no competitive advantage over golf as pastime. Sunday service, Wednesday service, Friday night vigils, men’s meeting, women’s meeting, choir rehearsals, elder meetings, deacon meetings, morning prayer, volunteering at Sunday school, offering committee, bulletin committee, communion committee, ushering... Sounds familiar? It is not that these, in themselves, are bad or harmful activities, but they should be pursued with the specific purpose of

achieving the original life-giving benefits of religion. Forgetting this specific original purpose while being so engulfed with such managerial routine activities is what is fundamentally wrong with modern Christianity. When there is confusion between goals and the means of achieving goals, religion becomes a corporate scam. If an established religion loses its fundamental life-giving strength and faith inspiring energy, then tragically the efforts and

⁴¹ As I said before, a wedding ceremony is an earthly representation of the establishment of “covenant relation.” It is only natural that wedding banquets are earthly representation of the Messianic Banquet.

sacrifices of innumerable well meaning believers count only as fruitless acts of mental masturbation. Such churches will preach, “Let our church grow as the body of Christ.” They preach like this when the church is still small, but as soon as the church grows large enough, they will find that the church was actually a private company whose shares are owned by the pastor personally or his children. It was not our church, but, a pastor’s private enterprise protected by constitutions of all capitalist countries. Believers were not even minor shareholders. They were just sheep for fleecing. We know of many such great success stories in many countries. Compared with these pastors, the lowest and cheapest Yakuza, on whom this author poured such a huge amount of personal insults, deserve more respect. At least, they are cool sometimes. I just hate, contempt, despise these pastors. Let me quote something from the Bible here:

“... and Levi got up, left everything and followed him. Then, Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors, and others were eating with them. But, the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belong to their sect complained to his disciples, “Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and ‘sinners’?” Jesus answered them, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but, the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but, sinners to repentance” (Luke 5:28-30)

Here, again Jesus was shown to join in the banquet of ‘sinners’ in their drinking... Lots of beer, lots of noises, and jokes for some of which may need viewer discretion and strict parental guidance...

In any way, the act of drinking beer, and the camaraderie that it fosters is evidence of an ancient age when all these religions were still ‘alive.’ They can be viewed as remnants of the purer forms of religions still full of life giving energy. And at this point it is now necessary to move on to the discussion of “feminism.”

5. True Feminism

As I mentioned before, beer is a gift from Mother Earth or the Goddess of Hope in all the stories where the drink appears. I drew the attention of the readers to the femininity of the main divinity in all these ancient beer stories. As a rule of thumb, if male gods are pre-dominant in mythology, then we know that such myths are likely to have been created after the formation of tribal societies. In other words, they were created during “Age of Historical Mythology”. A much earlier time is called the “Pre-Historic Age.” Obviously, we know that beer stories were produced during Pre-



Gaia

Historic Age. Observing that beer mythology almost always hire a female goddess as the central character, we can safely presume that the history of beer has to be at least over ten thousand years old. If people who lived ten thousand years ago related an “ancient” tale about beer, then beer must actually be a lot older than our own records can possibly tell.⁴²

Also, I wrote that another mysterious feature shared by all beer myths is that the goddesses did not give the beer directly to men. They always bequeathed it first to specially ordained women, who then presented it to men. The roles of these ‘priestesses’ were defined by the blessings they bestowed on the people through beer. This is the reason why many European beer festivals still feature priestesses. These modern priestesses

of European beer festivals still bless the population with the gift of a good harvest (incidentally, as well as serve the tourism industry by way of exposing their naked breasts.) The same goes for the priestesses of the Sumerian,⁴³ Egyptian, Chinese and all other beer mythologies I employ throughout this book.

The production and serving of beer, through which men transmigrate into the world of forgetfulness where they only remember hope and rest, was originally the functional responsibility of priestesses. The fact that women held such crucial positions in society and in the psyche of human kind, is where one should begin to find the origin of true feminism.⁴⁴ The real power of femininity was the ability to brew beer. Their ability to lead men with beer to a world of forgetfulness, into tales of ancient times and old, wonderful visions dreamt in the mother's womb, and to help them to remember this Original Rest. Such mysterious powers were the priestly (priestessly, to be precise) and exclusive possessions of women and I see the recapture of these powers as the key to true success of the feminist movement in the future. The moment the monopoly of these powers is lost, or in other words, when women no longer have exclusive rights to produce and serve beer, then the socio-political status of women plummets endlessly. The secret ritual that uses beer must be kept within the sole property of women. And if they can not use this ritual to pull men back into Mother Nature's womb to reimpart

⁴² This present author can demonstrate scientific evidence that beer is older than 40, 000 years, at least. Enzyme studies and the minerals that accompany those enzymes can prove this quite comfortably. In any way, let us not be too technical in this book. But, enzymes seem to hold keys to many secrets.

⁴³ By consensus, this civilization was the first human civilization. The tower of Babel is believed to be constructed during this civilization. Saddam Hussein, (yes that Saddam!) used to claim that he is the true successor of Nebuchadnezzar who often appears in the Bible, especially in the book of Daniel. Nebuchadnezzar, in his turn, claimed to be the true successor of Nimrod, who built the Tower of Babel, and who also appears in the book of Genesis from the Bible, and who is believed to be the first Anti-Christ. Of course, Freemasons are believed to have helped Nimrod. Myths, folklores, and legends are a lot closer to us than we routinely think. Especially so when you drink good beer. Otherwise, these are just stories vacuous of meanings, effects, and powers, which nobody really cares.

⁴⁴ This is my position on feminism, the most controversial theological issue of the 20th century. Unless the recovery of this very important original position is re-emphasized as the focal point

to them the dreams they had while sleeping in fetal positions during their pre-natal period—if they can not bequeath such experiences unto men, then women immediately and miserably become mere dependent variables in the face of the absolute physical advantages men have over women.



Priestess

The time women lost their monopoly on beer, and thus their own personal rights, was between 1300 and 1600. Judith M. Bennett describes this social plunge in great historical detail. She is, of course, a woman.⁴⁵ (“The Clash of Civilization”, “The Challenge of the 21st Century”, “The Right Road map to the Future”... I do suppose that books need to contain these gigantic themes and grand titles to look impressive, and so a book like that of Ms. Bennett’s with a humble title might easily be ignored and overlooked. Personally, I prefer those scholars who have become authoritative

experts in their own specific fields. They are the ones with the basic “feeling” and “tastes” for the truth. They usually are quite knowledgeable even in areas outside their own expertise. This is a small book with a small title, but an extraordinarily informative one to the readers who truly appreciate it. Knowledge, after all, only glows properly when it has met its rightful owner. I hope that the knowledge in this humble book of mine will find its true owner).

of the movement, feminism cannot be taken any more seriously than the vindictive venting of sexually frustrated women. It really should not need saying that feminism is deeper than spitting out insults at men, and pointlessly attacking fellow women who happen to be prettier. Of course equal wages are important, but the real meaning of feminism is a lot deeper than even that. I often tell my own daughters to “Hold the control of the money, cooking and beer in the relationship with your future husbands. Then, you will be free and in your freedom remember God.” After giving this lecture I have to face one myself from my wife who complains for a full half hour that I never tell my children anything that helps them in school work. Those who can defy my wife, carry the key to the heavens. At least, not me.

⁴⁵ *Ale, Beer, and Brewsters in England: Women’s Work in the Changing World 1300-1600*

6. A Mystery Pub: “Axis Mundi”

Even today, when men end a weary stressful workday, they go looking for a pub, exhausted to the point of being half dead. They look for somewhere ‘unreal’ all the more because ‘reality’ is harsh and challenging. If I were to open a pub that welcomed such customers, I would undoubtedly christen it “Axis Mundi.” Obviously, a large and ancient tree should stand in the entrance of this “Axis Mundi”, and a part of the trunk's bottom has rotted away to form a large hole. This hole, of course, leads to a small cave. The cave is long. And traversing this dark and cramped cave instills a basic and instinctive kind of mild primitive fear. No decorations adorn the cave's walls. But then, it is so dark that no decorations are needed. All you can sense is the smell of moist decay, and nothing can be seen. Past such a cave, would be an explosion of space and scenes that you have witnessed only in your dreams would visually materialize in reality. Put more accurately, the lighting would be set up to create these hallucinations. The music flows to a



Cave

simple beat, and although it is not loud enough hurt your ears, it is not quiet enough either to have a conversation very easily. This is a typical temple structure.

Actually, the lighting of this temple is not meant to enlighten something in you, but rather to hide something and create a kind of illusion. Lights in

the temple are not for brightness, but for the contrast with darkness. This is exactly the same goal stained glass has. The colorful glass filters all the bright light that enters the place of worship, and throws selected mystical images with dark backdrops on the temple floor, which is again very dark. Therefore, all windows, lamps, and torches in legitimate temples were not supposed to enhance the brightness of the room, but to bring us closer to these mystical images. Etched on the stain glass are symbols of what we want but can never secure in our life time on this earth. This is precisely a pie in the sky. You can not see these shapes immediately but if you drink some beer and gaze for some time, the pictures that you wish to see start to slowly float to tell you many mythical stories. This is attainable only by natural lights such as filtered sun lights, moon lights, bon fires, and firewood flames. These fires would be placed at the center of the pubs. The customers of pubs would be gathered around these very fires, because the proper way to drink beer is to do it while watching something burning with flames.⁴⁶ Watching something burn, together with other fellow human beings, always creates some spiritual awakenings.

Actually, these are all common features found in every properly built religious temple. And of course, if these effects were really used in a pub, it would be impossible to go on operating it as these structures violate numerous health and fire codes. But such effects are used in religious structures all around the world: the Neanderthal caves, the Taj Mahal, the Sukgulam Temple in Korea, the Tun Huang Caves, and famous European cathedrals like the Notre Dame. Temples that do not contain these features will not last long. The long and narrow cave that symbolizes the birth canal, or the route back to the womb; the large space that represents the womb; and little spaces where you can comfortably perch—the temple must contain all these to be significant at all as a holy building. Otherwise, it is difficult to function in any meaningful way. Furthermore, even opera houses and theatres require these structures. They are probably the only modern building structures that still maintain the temple structure of the past.

⁴⁶Later, I will elaborate on the profound reasons for this. In any way, breweries and pubs catch fire a lot more frequently than other buildings. This is a statistical observation widely agreed among firefighters across the world.

No matter how developed televisions and home entertainment systems may become, crowds will continue to troop to theatres for movies that they can see for free at home precisely because they want to go through this spiritual rite through these visual images. In fact, a lot more than ‘entertainment’ is going on there. Gods fly over there, and the Holy Spirit descends there. So neither theatres nor cinemas can exclude the structures of the narrow birth canal and the sudden wide womb after the canal. Gods will otherwise not fly over; the Holy Spirit will not descend there. In so many



Cave Temple

ways, those pastors struggling with their ministries should at least listen to what I say here. Their building structures may have serious problems. More than that, their insensitivity toward these deeply spiritual matters may be the root cause of their struggles.⁴⁷

Thus, not unlike the lights in the temple, the music in the temple is not played to tell you something, but to conceal the sounds of something else. The melodies and beats of the temple music work to block out our own petty, competitive, and energy draining conversations; as well as the insignificant worries that plague our minds on a daily basis. The inside of a

⁴⁷ All those Feng-Shui (Chinese Geomancy) theorists ardently support the above opinions of mine.

temple was originally not a solemn place where everybody should always wear a long face. There must be a joy and a special awareness of something exceptionally happy and glad that prevents the temple from becoming too solemn. Jesus, the Jewish rabbi we quote repeatedly in this book, also expressed his views on this issue:

“How can there be mourning when the bridegroom is still with us?” (Luke 5:34)

Well said. Most of the serious structural problems of most modern religions originate from the confusion between funerals and weddings. (Likewise, the confusion between weddings and night club raves also leads to the breakdown of families as functioning social units.) Expressed more accurately, the solemnity should reflect the high majesty of God, and not the distance between God and us. So the temple must first be a place that makes it a joy to approach God. It must be a place where it is comfortable for friends to chatter and for children to run around, a place that makes you smile right when you enter; that is what a good temple should be like. There must be an atmosphere where you can talk freely, but not infinitely. This is so because if allowed to talk freely and infinitely, a hierarchy will form between those who are articulate talkers and those who are not. Also, when God talks, everyone is supposed to shut up, which summarizes the whole teaching of Judeo-Christianity:

“Shema (Hear), O Israel” (Deuteronomy 6:4)

Thus conversations must be interrupted by the easy, catchy beat of the music. This rhythm must make it very difficult for conversations to continue, while it should allow chattering to happen. The beats must draw a person in, so that he'll stop talking in the middle of a conversation and gradually become discouraged from talking. Also, the music should create an atmosphere where it won't be considered rude to just stop listening to those who are talking. Under this atmosphere, the simple rhythms of the temple's music... they always carry the image of a flowing river with them and seem to knock

on the doors to our sub-conscious.

The beats must always be played on a percussion instrument made of the leather from an animal's abdominal skin. Otherwise, you will not feel the sense of the "water of life exploding out" from your belly. It is why a jazz percussionist should play drums as if he is immersed in foreplay with his lover. There is nothing so important as this point. But, at the same time, nothing is ignored more often as this point. It is also the reason why the percussionist must be the leading priest, the lead worship leader of all legitimate sermons, praises, and worship ceremonies. Here, don't get me wrong. He can not be any percussionist. He must be, of course, a good percussionist, able to carry the congregation to ecstasy within one or two minutes at the latest. Many idiots, however, misunderstand that a loud message is a powerful message. Such idiots only punch the drums as hard as he can, upset Gods, and seriously dampen the flow of Spirits. Those fools, those idiots—no, those imbeciles—play the drums without inviting Gods and Spirits at all. They even display an arrogant smile their face while people, not able to stand the torture, run out of the temple screaming. This is familiar to all of us. This is exactly how those incompetent pastors keep on preaching their silly sermons with haughty pride written on all over their faces while in reality they are truly suffocating the congregation.⁴⁸

Even though it would be a little expensive, the tables I would buy for my Axis Mundi would be made of thick wood. Not only would the tables be places for food and beer to be taken from, but also comfortable and easy targets that can safely sustain numerous and substantial knocks. The tables at my Axis Mundi must give off that pleasant knocking sound when a multiple of beer mugs is mercilessly slammed down onto them. These tables would not have to be made from an expensive log piece. But well-glued assemblies of different pieces of cheap wood will do, too. The tables at my Axis Mundi would respond pleasantly to the most violent knocks, and create slight, short and amusing echoes around the room. The echoes would be a joy to hear, and a joy to make.

⁴⁸ It is always these same pastors who declare, "I will end my sermon by discussing seven more things!" When this happens, this author seriously considers conversion to Judaism in which 'six' is an auspicious number. At least, one less torture there.



Wood Table

I often imagine that small coal stoves would be installed at the center of each table where you can burn meat, as well as the big fire at the center of the hall. The meat cooked there are common properties for those around the tables. (Western table manners in which each person is given his or her own portion, and anything

other than that should be preceded by “Would you please pass... ?” can not impart the spirit of commonality as easily as Chinese ways or Korean ways in which every body at the table eats from the common dishes. At Western tables, each partaker is even given weapons to guard his or her own portion. Western tables are declarations of individual properties, while Eastern tables are celebration of tribal successes. That is why modern Western readers of the Bible find it very difficult to understand why Pharisees hated Jesus for dining with sinners. In Eastern tradition, a person having dinner together with another is a declaration of one’s identity with the other. Of course, there was no such thing like Dutch pay then.)

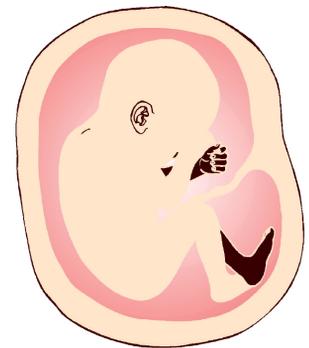
Many people need that process of knocking and banging on a dull sounding piece of wood, because it is the most basic way of invoking Spirits and calling up on Gods. There is a scene in the movie, “The Emperor’s First Love,” where the emperor is drinking beer at Heidelberg University with a crowd of people around him. Everyone is holding large, metallic mugs brimming over with beer and beating them on the tables, providing the rhythm for the famous beer song “Drink! Drink!” Personally, I would use wooden or horn cups for the beer even though it would make washing up more tedious.⁴⁹ Each customer would have his own specific cup, and the cup would have the customer’s name engraved onto the cup once he has paid for his drink. I would also hang a few signs all over the pub toilet, one

⁴⁹ There is a famous actual bar in Japan that serves beer in wooden mugs in the suburbs of Tokyo area. I am not so sure whether they serve beer in wooden mugs in the same spirit that is being explained here.

of which would proclaim, “I came, I drank, and I pissed!” in impressive Latin calligraphy. (VENIO, BIBO, URINO)⁵⁰

So these features are the basic and mandatory requirements to fulfill the original spiritual needs of human beings. In my Axis Mundi pub, crouched into fetus position on small but comfortable chairs scattered around the room, some men will re-experience their pre-natal rest by going through these kinds of initiation rituals.

Whether they are aware of it or not, the pub of my imagination, my Axis Mundi, will still feature priestesses who will use the potent method of using rich and mirthful dreams to make the men forget. “It is fine not to return home, and you don’t have to go to work tomorrow...⁵¹ In fact, you may still have to go to work tomorrow, but, at least, you should be able to feel that you do not have to.” Such is the place where beer drinking should be done. The priestesses here do not have to be pretty or attractive, but the pub had better have the gratifying atmosphere in which you could meet a pretty woman. There is no need for the priestesses to be pretty themselves. Describing a woman you’ve met in a pub as “pretty” implies that she is a kind of plaything and it really doesn’t fit well with the basic spirit of drinking beer. We are talking about colleagues and fellow pilgrims. We are not talking about toys that satisfy our sexual cravings. “Big Sisters,” “Mama San”... “Fanny Mae”... Something of these sorts may be a more proper title for those priestesses. Slightly “elderly” women, mature and mellow kind that would be glad to



Fetus Position

⁵⁰ I haven’t learnt Latin. Therefore, this is a pure guesswork. I have no intention of correcting it even though somebody corrects it. Ego Sum Foolo! The reader with English as his mother tongue should feel relieved that English is not the only language this Korean author inflicts unrepentant violence on.

⁵¹ I might come across as telling you here to drink only on Fridays and Saturdays, at the end of your workweek, but I think Wednesday is a good day to drink. As I said before, Wednesday is the day of Odin, and also the designated day for drinking in Korea, and Japan (Day of Waters: 水) If this weren’t the reason, there is no reason for the days to be ordered by the five elements of the yin and yang (Monday is the day of the moon, Tuesday fire, Wednesday water, Thursday wood,

be even called “auntie.” These mature “Big Sisters” are the ones with the qualifications to be true priestesses. This is the reason why women who would be more appropriately called “granny” serve the drinks in the most expensive and exclusive salons in Japan. It really is no fun drinking with vapid young girls. They do not get the jokes. Therefore, do not even wish that they nicely return your jokes with better jokes of their own. They are just too obsessed about whether or not they will be asked to go for a round 2, or the 19th hole. In that sense, they are simple hookers.

It is best that these priestesses be comfortably intellectual. It does not hurt that a priestess there has attended a top-tier university and thus a former member of elite society: she had a good husband, a good background, family, property and education; the subject of envy of everyone around her until she gave it all up. Rumor is that she discovered a secret surrounding her birth, or the man she loved tragically died... but this Big Sister never really confirms to anyone what exactly happened. When asked, she just smiles. Slightly mysterious but not too mysterious, is the kind of Big Sister who would belong snugly at my Axis Mundi.

In the 21st century where universities and colleges are scattered all over the country and the great majority of citizens have public health insurance, the whiny tales of “my little brother’s college tuition,” or “my grandmother’s medical bills” have already lost their aura of mystery and romanticism as a legitimate reason for my priestesses to work in my Axis Mundi. Each era of time has its own tune to sing to. Whatever age these sisters live in, it is best that their level of mysteriousness match up with the trend of the times, and be no more but no less mysterious. If the origins and natures of a sister are too baffling or too common, then she automatically loses her priestesshood. She becomes a mere dependant variable in the equation of beer drinking. In easier terms, she becomes just an annoying and repulsive creature.

Of course there is no such alehouse in reality. That is why it is more

Friday gold, Saturday earth, and Sunday the sun.) As Western and Eastern civilizations collided in the 18th century, the seven day week became standardized globally; that is when Wednesday, which is the day of Odin, Beer God of Northern Europe, was designated as the day of waters, or the day for drinking. Incidentally, Friday is the day of Odin’s fiancé. Perhaps this is why Friday is the best day to go on dates.

fun to imagine it. How many people are there in reality who don't have to go to work on Thursdays? I myself actually don't even go to alehouses very much. Either the beer there is not that great, it is not very fun, or sometimes it just seems like a waste of money. So it is the more delightful to imagine such a place, than actually try to go to such a place. It does not exist anyhow.

People can not be born again unless they drink Hope in special places like my Axis Mundi. Those wretches who can not be reborn do not have other choices but to waste their lives. There is no spiritual blessing present in such foolish lives, and it is totally impossible to lead an exciting meaningful life. These losers will go trudging along with lives always worrying for the most parts of their lives. If they still have some time left, they use it for plotting, complaining and wallowing in despair. Always trying to insult somebody, and always spreading rumors about somebody else: Yes, that's the way they'll spend their entire lives. They do not dare to come up with big conspiracies. Their lives are just a continuum of aborted petty conspiracies. They usually start their conversation by "Have you heard a rumor..." Many of them even start their conversation by "I have a prayer request regarding brother ABC because of the rumor that..." Don't these sound awfully familiar? This is the only way they know to connect with other people. They will only end their lives as an insignificant worm in the grand scheme of things. It is because they can not find a moment for a deep rest, and thus can never be reborn. It is really the story of me, and the story of you also. We must be able to rest. Otherwise, we do not have a chance to be meaningful in any meaningful way.

At the entrance to Dante's Hell from his book Divine Comedy, there hangs a sign that commands its readers to "leave all your Hopes behind." A sign that tells us to give up Hope, the goddess that remained in Pandora's Box until the very end... it is a terrifying sign indeed. Hell is defined as the designated place that contains no Hope. It is the place that takes away everything that God has given unto you. Actually, it would be simpler if everything were to be taken. But it is actually a graver problem when everything else is left and only Hope is taken. So a place without beer, undoubtedly the symbol of Hope, would signify Hell. On the flip side, a

place overflowing with beer, symbolizing that God is still talking to us, would be called Heaven. Interestingly, in Bible, such a ‘location’ is referred to as ‘Today’, a time unit.



Dante In Front of Inferno

“Today, if you hear his voice” (Hebrew 4:7)

“Today, I have become your Father” (Hebrew 5:5)

It would be more accurate to call Dante’s Hell, “Practicality.” My Axis Mundi, the imaginary alehouse I have constructed, signifies the cosmic channel through which drinkers can travel out of this universe of “Practicality” and into a higher dimensional universe. In such transcendental

travel, the only vehicle available is “Hope.” So, even though it can only exist shabbily in my imagination, I will fill my Axis Mundi with the aroma of “Hop.” By doing so, I can expect that gracious Gods would shower our humble Axis Mundi with blessings of ‘togetherness’. Gods who give us beer are ones who try to be near us, together with us, not the ones who enjoy frightening us. Emmanuel,⁵² who wanted to be with us in the lowly human body form; Buddha, who wished to remain with us through endless cycles of life which is filled with endless births, aging, sickness, and death; Bodhisattva,⁵³ who couldn’t bear to leave her people behind even though Buddha was to depart... it was all because they were deities who made beer. The gift they bequeath unto normal people like us is neither a grand dogma, nor a complex system of theological propositions. It is really just a drink that gives you a feeling of becoming better friends when you drink it, and makes you forget at least some of the practical worries from the struggles of today. Nothing more than a small bit of a normal, simple ordinary happiness. Actually, such little pieces of common happiness within beer holds the key to the cure of all diseases, the way to the Western Elysium,⁵⁴ and the secret to eternal life. Of course, beer also holds the key to building the Pyramids, as well as the dams and banks that prevented the Yellow River from flooding



Jizo Bodhisattva

⁵² Literally, ‘Emmanuel’ means ‘God among us.’ It happens to be another title of Jesus, the Jewish rabbi, whom we often mention in this book. We can transliterate ‘Emmanuel’ as ‘Mr. Together with Us.’

⁵³ A deity in Buddhist mythology, who plays a similar role to that of the Holy Spirit in Christian theology. There is actually a convincing body of evidence that this portion of Buddhist mythology was an adaptation of Gnostic Christian theology brought to India by Thomas during the first century. This author can not really confirm that as this author was not there when it allegedly happened.

⁵⁴ Buddhist equivalent of Christian Paradise.

in China, and the Industrial Revolution and Capitalism that led to the establishment of British Parliamentary democracy.

There is the complex theological doctrine of the Trinity, the esoteric doctrines of Gnosticism and those of anti-Gnosticism, the principles of liberal theology, and the conservative theology that, in turn, opposes liberal theology... Then, there is liberation theology. Such grand, abstract ideas do not go well with beer. I don't mean to say that these metaphysical dogmas are harmful, but that dogmas are only filters that separate the pagan and heretic elements from the central teaching of a religion, and should not be thought of as religion itself. In any way, a filter for a coffee maker is different from the coffee itself, isn't it? In short, the core and the shell must not be confused. The pope, the priests, the pastors, the building committees, or the non-building committees, the men's meeting, women's meeting, Sunday offerings, special offerings, thanksgiving offerings, men's Thanksgiving offerings, anonymous offerings, signed offerings, king's of offering... these words are not consonant with beer either. It is because these dogmas, doctrines and these organizational phrases contain neither the cure to all diseases, the key to the Western Elysium, nor the secret of eternal life. They are the shells, not the cores. They are the containers, not the contents. They are bottles, not beer. And so they, themselves, can not inspire grand constructions like the Pyramids, but can only instigate wars of flesh and blood, factional conflicts, betrayals, ostracism, political struggles for leadership positions, partisan infightings, divisions between pastors and elders, and, divisions among congregations. The reason why drinking beer forms a ceremony that releases a wonderful life giving energy is precisely because the beer story contains neither such dogmatic words nor such organizational phrases.

7. Then What is Beer?

In the Hindu world of mythology, the phenomenon of life is understood as the phenomenon of ‘fire’. “My flesh,” is the famous phrase often used by Jesus to mean God’s life giving blessing through Jesus.⁵⁵ If he were a Hindu guru, he would have said, “my fire” to mean the same thing. Therefore, instead of saying “This is my flesh, which is for you,” (1 Corinthians 11:24) He would have said, “This is my fire, which will start your fire.” Naturally, in Hindu mythology, drinking beer, the “Water of Fire,” from the same cup, must be a secretive proposal of “sharing and drinking each other’s life, and each other’s flesh.” The Eucharist of Catholicism, the Communion of Protestantism, the Last Supper of Christ, the tribal cannibalism in Papua New Guinea, the ceremonial cannibalism in Incan empire...⁵⁶ are really all different expressions of drinking beer.⁵⁷ Taking this into mind, it would be a good idea for at least one fire to be always burning in the Axis Mundi, my alehouse of wonders. They also call this kind of fire the “Pilot Flame.”

Wherever you travel and whatever cultures you come across, there is bound to be an “eternal fire” that symbolizes the spirit of the place. It represents the sun that never sets, the life that never ends, and transcendence of death through benevolence. And so there was a Heliopolis in Ancient Egypt (the city where the sun never sets. ‘Helio’ means ‘Sun’. ‘Polis’ means ‘City’), and an everlasting flame at John F. Kennedy’s grave. The Buddhist temple atop Mount Hiei in Japan, the base camp of all Japanese

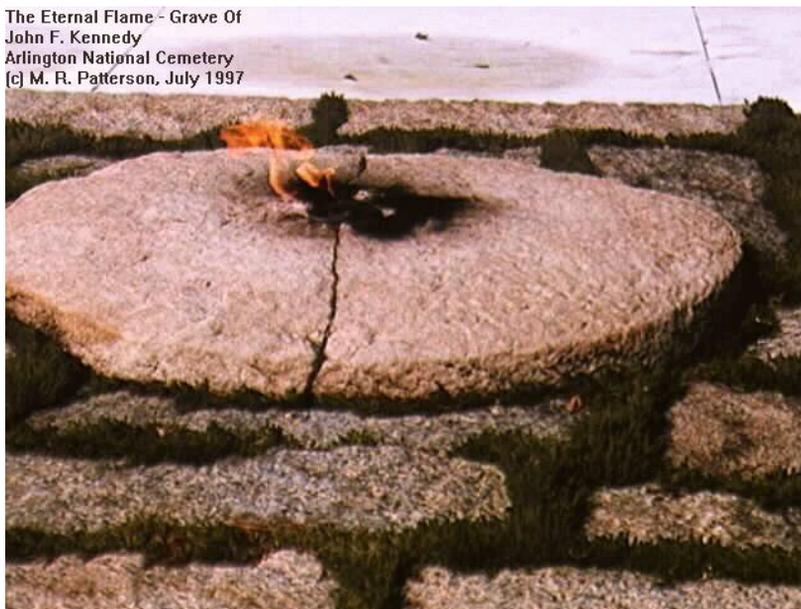
⁵⁵ Yes. The same rabbi.

⁵⁶ Please remember that the first persecution of Christianity started in the Roman Empire because of the fear of cannibalism allegedly taught by churches. Some people just don’t distinguish figurative expressions from literal arguments. I often smile disapprovingly at the Fundamentalist Christians who forcefully declare that the all Bible verses are literal truths. Are they really?

⁵⁷ I have received harsh rebukes and criticism from my fellow Christians about this point, “How can you possibly compare the cannibalism in Papua New Guinea with the Last Supper of Christ?” It is true: as a Christian, I might have erred. I have proposed something that, if not treated carefully, could be understood as religious pluralism or a heretic philosophy. I hope you understand that I only mean to show the obvious patterns and functional similarities that are shared by many religions all over the spiritual spectrum. Pointing our similarities is not identical

Shinto deities, always has a fire permanently burning, and each famous restaurant in China has one constant flame that warms their soup. In Korea, old people with long memories will remember how weak and poor a nation Korea had been before the furnaces in the steel manufacturing plants in the

The Eternal Flame - Grave Of
John F. Kennedy
Arlington National Cemetery
[c] M. R. Patterson, July 1997



The Eternal Flame at the Grave of John F. Kennedy

city of Pohang lit those blazing fires that were never to be put out.⁵⁸ Islam actually started out as fire worship, which is called Zoroastrianism,⁵⁹ and the fact that Buddhism was a sect of Hinduism hardly needs mentioning. There was an everlasting fire also in Solomon's temple, and following this tradition, there is an eternal light called the "Ner Tamid" in all Jewish synagogues. Originally, in the households of Korean nobility, the fire in the brazier was never put out. They say that single fire burned in the house of the Shin family of Yongwul in Korea for five hundred years. The handling

with saying that they are the same. As a Christian, I personally believe that the Gospel we believe is powerful enough to withstand such comparison.

⁵⁸ In fact, this author's father, the late Hon. Dr. HakYul Kim financed the building of this furnace. His picture is still displayed at the central gate of this mill in recognition of his contribution. He is respected as the founding father of Korean economic miracle. He also liked beer.

⁵⁹ Nietzsche's famous "Thus Spoke Zarathustra" is about this religion.

of this fire was a symbol of the female authority in the Korean households. When the duty of maintaining the fire was handed over, the keys to the family's warehouse were also handed over.

As beer making was a responsibility of a priestess, so was the maintaining of the fire. They were always treated in combination with each other. Fire and beer were regarded as the same thing in two different forms. The putting out of this fire signified the total disrespect for the ancestor, as the incense of the ancestral worship rites could be lit only with the household's fire kept from the ancestral times. Also, only members of the house could eat the meals cooked with this fire. It was forbidden to use this fire to even cook for guests, as it was believed that the source of the family's luck was inside this fire. (In some ways, "Heliopolis" would also be another suitable name for my imaginary alehouse, but somehow it seems too intellectual.⁶⁰ So the "Axis Mundi" is definitely the best name by far. Sometimes it sounds like the name of a heavy metal band, and other times like "ask moody," but nevertheless, it is a good name.)

Thus, to classify beer as anything else besides the "fire" of the five basic elements would be blasphemy in Eastern medicine. To put beer into the same class as water (水) because it is best to drink it cold, or as wood (木) because it comes from barley, actually exceeds debasing Eastern medical thinking and is actually treason against the Eastern philosophy.⁶¹ Beer is



⁶⁰ To elaborate further on Heliopolis, it was built by the Pharaoh Akhenaten as a tribute to the sun. Akhenaten was attempting to establish a monotheistic religion (that worshipped the sun god) in polytheistic Egypt. (They say a hormonal disease made his fingers extremely long. Abraham Lincoln was said to have this same disease.) Some very imaginative scholars of religions speculated that Moses received the hint to worship a single god, Jehovah, from Heliopolis.

⁶¹ If a person endures the blasphemy thrown against him, and leaves the blasphemer unpunished, little damage is done to society as a whole. But acts of treason must absolutely be punished even though the victims may not want to.

definitely made of fire.⁶² Perhaps this is the reason beer factories tend to catch on fire more often than other types of factories. Studying the history of the beer industry, one learns that beer factories during the early part of the Industrial Revolution experienced large fires about every five years. These factories that survive these great blazes expanded their operations as rapidly as the very flames they had overcome, while the others simply disappeared along with their ashes. As I am running a beer company, I am telling my employees to expect fire, and to take caution as well.

Beer isn't simply "fire," but actually a fire that contains "water" within it; and so achieving perfect harmony within the yin and yang system of Eastern philosophy. According to the theory of the five basic elements, a food that achieves such harmony must come very near to being the perfect food. It is for these same reasons that tofu is also considered an almost perfect food. This is, of course, only if it is ingested with other foods in a harmonious way. I will discuss later in depth what foods are best to eat with beer.

The Five Element philosophy is a fine subject to discuss, and so is Zoroastrianism. But let us discuss now in a more practical way: after all, what the hell is beer? It is actually difficult to find words used so confusingly as the word "beer." It is overly simple to think of it as an alcoholic drink distilled from barley, but really, there is hardly any other word that sounds so simple but has such a complicated concept behind it.

Let us first start in Bavaria, Germany where a law called "Reinheitsgebot" was passed in 1516.⁶³ It barred the people from putting anything in beer other than the basic four elements: barley, hop, yeast and water. Germans still follow this tradition, and the Japanese inherited this tradition. Korea learned about beer from Japan, and also calls the drink made from barley, beer. But considering the installation of the law itself,

⁶² I think that describing beer as light is even more accurate than seeing it as fire. Through photosynthesis, light becomes sugar in plants, and it is this sugar that eventually becomes the alcohol in beer. And so consuming beer is really an act of emitting the sun's rays into our bodies.

⁶³ It is also translated into "The Pure Beer Law", but the word "Reinheitsgebot" is so famous that it is better to leave it untranslated.

many other ingredients other than barley must have been used before. Otherwise there would have been no use for the Reinheitsgebot. Obviously, there are still many types of beer that use ingredients other than barley, and this is where our story begins to get complicated. Although beer is translated into “barley water” in Korean, there are many firms that brew beer using corn, rice and wheat. The beer made from rice is especially popular in the United States. So, great misconceptions can start just by thinking beer as a drink made from barley.⁶⁴ In the book, *The Netherlands Dialogues* that first introduced Western culture to Japan, called beer “bee-a sake.” The secrets to brewing world famous beer are featured in *Clonebrews: Homebrew Recipes for 150 Commercial Beers* (Mark and Tess Szamatulski, Storey Books, Oct.1998; ISBN: 1580170773), and reading the book makes one realize that there are truly many beers are made from ingredients other than barley.

It is the same tale of confusion for wine as well. “Wine” translates into “grape water” in Korean, but besides the ones made from grapes, those drinks made from things such as apples are still called “wine”.

Basically, beer can be conveniently defined as something that comes from the fermentation of the foods we eat, but, fermented only, not distilled. But even this definition should not be carved on stone either. So we will categorize beer as a non-distilled alcoholic drink fermented from barley, or, as a non-distilled drink fermented from grain. In any way, as we go along, if we need new definitions, we will introduce new definitions freely.

Whatever the exact definition of beer is, those big brand beers inside aluminum cans can not be considered ‘real beer.’ It is impossible to officiate those secret ceremonies of true beers with these pseudo beers. The first sip from these cans already have a “metallic acid” taste. In other words, one can taste the “sour rust” of the metal in the drink. In 21st century medical

⁶⁴ Charlie Papazian, *The Home Brewer's Companion*, Avon Books, New York, 1994: a book you can read to gain quite a bit of expertise in the production of beer. Papazian is actually a very famous figure. He shares with the readers the wisdom he has gained from personal experiences, and his book is probably what helped me the most in brewing my own beer. His list of almost everything that could go wrong, the explanations for these mistakes, and the diagrams that accompanied them were critically helpful. Even though it is titled *The Home Brewer's Companion*, many brew-masters of major beer companies read this book also.

terms, Free Radicals have already been released to destroy the somatic cells in the body. Not only are these drinks not true beers, but potentially poisonous as well. In other words it is the very diametric opposite of the drink that is supposed to be the fire and water of life; a useless, unidentifiable, death inducing drink.

If the botanical characteristics of the base plants from which beers are made are preserved in the beer, it is absolutely impossible for the beer to cause any harm to the liver, or the drinker to become addicted. This is because the spirit of the “living Earth”⁶⁵ is crystallized into living plants; the spirit of these plants is consolidated into sugar through photosynthesis. Through the earnestness of “living” yeast,⁶⁶ these sugars are personified, enlivened into “living beer.” Of course, there are a few exceptions. Those beers are called, of course, ‘exceptional beers.’ Fortunately, if we make some efforts, and if we keep our minds open, we can meet these exceptional beers.

In any way, when the spirit of the Earth enters our bodies in an intensified form, which is beer, it ignites the fire of life within us. It is a catalyst that induces such an explosion of life, and, burning of vitality. In many big brand beers, such spiritual vitality and energetic liveliness are conspicuously absent. The drink just contains commercially mass produced ether alcohol diluted to meet the regulations of the FDA. This lifeless chemical solvent will cause its drinker to become addicted over time, causing many social and health problems. Most of the beers that are mass-produced in North America are like this. These chemical beers are engineered to be a habit forming substance. All the spiritual powers are purged from them intentionally for that purpose. When such a drink is consumed over a long period of time, “addiction” is bound to take place. Then, the brain is programmed to secrete an important hormone—Dopamine—when the

⁶⁵ This is referring to “Gaia.” Gaia is a term used by James Lovelock, the founding father of ecology. In Greek mythology Gaia was the goddess of earth. She would amply reward those who respected the order of nature, while mercilessly punishing those who violated her realm. In ecology, the term Gaia refers to the earth that moves like a conscious living being. She has already been introduced through an illustration earlier in the book.

⁶⁶ “Earnestness” was originally a term etymologically associated with yeast.

chemicals in these liquids are injected into the bloodstream. The brain's own natural ability to secrete Dopamine according to natural needs is lost for good. If you can control the secretion pattern of Dopamine in a person, you can control the entire person. The secretion of Dopamine gives the person a sense of fulfillment, a feeling of achievement. If you control a person's pattern of feeling fulfilled, you can basically make him a robot you can manipulate as you wish.

The tobacco and beer companies in the United States spend an immense amount of money on advertising to repeatedly plant the images of such satisfaction inside people's brains. Such satisfaction used to be possible only through healthy secretion of Dopamine after a period of rigorous labor. But, now, such satisfaction is inserted visually into our brain with a repeated association with a certain brand. Residents of North America such as myself are subject to numberless amounts of subliminal messages on an hourly basis.⁶⁷ These messages all declare, "Life is a beach party." That the true message of beer is "Life is a dark and toilsome journey, but at last there is some hope today". However, these monstrous commercial beers advertise that "Life is just a beach party, and all you need to do is have fun and shake around." It is clearly not possible for a "living spirit" to reside in that kind of drink. The problems don't stop there either. Once one gets used to a certain brand of commercial beer, Dopamine will be secreted into the brain only when the chemicals of that beer are consumed. Association is a powerful mechanism.

In short, these drinks enslave us. They slowly murder us. Such slaves will then begin to display symptoms of alcoholism. If the rice we eat everyday in Asia were to be refined and mass-produced like these beers are, then rice would become addictive too. But, the spirit of living plants still remains in normal grains of rice. So, no matter for how long and how much we eat rice, we never get addicted to it. It is the same with beer. A remnant

⁶⁷ A method in advertising that controls the subconscious by placing messages the eye cannot clearly see in the background. Obviously, it is completely illegal, if caught. President George W. Bush used it during the election. (The Democrats most probably used the same methods also. Otherwise, Bush being caught in this crime could have flamed up seriously.) As a tool for manipulation of public opinion, it is equivalent to Weapons of Mass Destruction. It is there, but, you can not find it.

of nature's spirit needs to be in the beer. The distinct botanical identity of the base material should remain in beer. But there is a complete absence of this botanical identity in most of the mega-beers sold in North America. If one actually knows about the chemicals used in the filtering process of



Beer Making

beer making at these mega breweries (done to produce the desired clear color of beer), there will be no appetite left for it whatsoever. Nobody would want to drink these beers ever again.

None of this applies to decently brewed real beer. Drinking beer that is properly infused with the living spirit of Nature can even treat alcoholism quite effectively. Furthermore, there is not a treatment for anorexia that is more

effective than drinking beer.⁶⁸

⁶⁸ This is a statement made by a famous doctor I know and revere. He has dedicated his entire life to curing drug addictions, especially opium addictions in Vietnam. He even became a drug addict to use himself as a test subject, and has since tested plants from all over the world on his own body. His work has been highly recognized and given prestigious awards by the United Nations. Taking a natural form of the narcotic drug of a good quality can cure the addiction contracted from using the chemically refined version of the drug. For example, heroin (chemical opium) addiction can be cured with high quality natural opium. Although this method is never used because it is illegal, it is actually a basic commonsensical treatment any practitioner of Eastern medicine will know about. If this kind of treatment works with heroin addiction, the effect it will have on the alcohol addiction needs no further explanation. There is actually a hint of the special effect beer can have on anorexia on the Bible. (See Luke 5:33-35 Having already made enough of controversial statements about Bible, this author would not venture into making any further non-conventional statements about Bible, trusting fully that the wise readers can figure them out on their own.)

8. A Small Conclusion and a Big Question

This book opened by declaring, “beer is a wondrous drink that holds within it many things, even cures for all diseases.” I do believe that those who have read this book up to this point will at least relate to the feeling behind such an audacious declaration.

Let us have one more joke before we move on to the next chapter. The Bible has said that beer can bring the dead back to life. Really? Here’s the proof:

“Give beer to those who are perishing.” (Proverbs 31:6)

Right after it, you read,

“[and give] wine to those who are in anguish.”

These verses have the typical parallel logical structure of “Give Solution A to those with Problem 1, and give solution B to those with Problem 2.” Consequently, if wine gives a solution to those with troubled hearts, then, according to these verses, it must be understood that beer provides a solution to those who are dying. Beer brings back the dead to life. Q.E.D.⁶⁹

Of course, this is all a joke. But, the problem is that it is written in Bible which some of us believe is inbreathed by the Holy Spirit of God Himself. Feel free to laugh at this author, but, not at God. About that, Bible also says,

“It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hand of the living God.” (Hebrews 10:31)⁷⁰

⁶⁹ In mathematics, “Q.E.D” means “Proof accomplished.”

⁷⁰ We are going to quote this verse very often in this book. Please be prepared.