

"The Buddhist traditions of China and Japan contain no mention of a universal flood. There is a Chinese legend which concerns the flooding of one particular river. . .the Hwang Ho (Yellow River).

"Flood traditions are lacking in semi-arid Central Asia which is hardly surprising. Southeast Asia does have flood traditions, many of them showing biblical influences. One of the more interesting is that of the Lobos, an independent, literate, aboriginal race living in southwestern China. . . .

"Very conspicuous by its absence is an Egyptian flood legend; but likewise conspicuous by their absence in Egypt are disastrous floods. Every year the Nile overflowed its banks gently and predictably

"The only legend from southern Africa involving any sort of inundation is not a typical deluge tradition at all, but one which seeks to explain the origin of a particular lake, lake Dilolo on the boundary between Angola and Zaire. . . According to this tale, a chieftainess named Moena Monenga once sought food and shelter in a certain village. Not only was she refused, but when she reproached the villagers for their selfishness they mocked her and said, in effect, 'What can you do about it?' So she showed them; she began a slow incantation, and on the last long-drawn-out note the whole village sank into the ground, and water flowed in to fill the depression. When the chieftain of the village returned from the hunt and saw what had happened to his family, he drowned himself in the lake in despair. This tale was collected by Livingstone, and was the only one he encountered in all his years of missionary work which had any resemblance to a flood tradition.

"The lack of flood traditions in Egypt and the rest of Africa has been a definite stumbling block to theories requiring tremendous volumes of water sloshing over the whole face of the globe as a result of cosmic collisions In his well-known *Worlds in Collision* Immanuel Velikovsky gets around the lack of African flood traditions with an ingenuity that must be admired: he invokes a 'collective amnesia' which very conveniently blotted the disaster out of the memory of certain whole societies.

"Turning to the other side of the world, Australia has several different flood traditions which have little in common with each other and nothing in common with the Bible story; these could be independent recollections of local floods.

"The South Seas also provide abundant flood traditions in very diverse forms. Aside from some biblical parallels, which can easily be attributed to missionary influence, many of these traditions are remarkably consistent with the local geologic setting. Very often the flood is said to have come from the sea, as would be expected in islands frequently subjected to earthquake-generated tsunamis or typhoon-lashed waves.

". . .The general resemblance of many of the American Indian flood traditions to each other can readily be explained in terms of migration and contacts between tribes, and frequent resemblances to the Bible story are not at all difficult to attribute to the efforts of missionaries. . . .

"Flood traditions are prolific throughout Latin America. There are numerous legends in which the survivors of the deluge, either