

MARINUS ANTHONY VAN DER SLUIJS

TRADITIONAL COSMOLOGY

**THE GLOBAL MYTHOLOGY OF
COSMIC CREATION AND DESTRUCTION**

Volume One

**Preliminaries
Formation**



All-Round Publications

London, 2011

contents

foreword by Keith Hutchison	V
editorial notes	VIII
acknowledgments	X
PRELIMINARIES	
traditional cosmology	1
the universality of cosmologies	1
traditional and scientific cosmologies	3
spherical cosmology: the turning point	6
purpose	14
a fear of the irrational	14
a new compilation of cosmological traditions	17
a global template for traditional cosmologies	18
disclaimers	20
method	23
selection of data	23
comparative analysis	27
disclaimers	32
objections forestalled	33
the <i>axis mundi</i>	47
history of the project	56
structure and style	59

PART I: FORMATION

chaos	65
1 nothing	66
2 a solitary deity	67
3 the sky close to the earth	69
4 all things mingled	71
5 primordial water	72
6 primordial darkness	74
7 primordial water and darkness	77
8 primordial light	78
9 primordial absence of time	81
10 primordial union of male and female sexes	82
11 other primordial elements	83
12 a primordial group	84
spiral	86
13 a primordial wind or spirit	86
14 a serpentine spiral	87
15 a radiant serpentine spiral	88
particle	90
16 need for a pivot	90
17 a diminutive particle	92
18 the central particle	92
19 the vital particle	93
20 the cardiac or umbilical particle	94
21 the radiant particle	96
22 the lithic particle	97
23 the flat particle	101
24 the enclosing particle	105
25 a deity enclosed in the particle	120
26 a deity enclosed in the radiant particle	123
27 the spiral and the particle	124
28 the revolving particle	129
29 the expanding particle	130
30 primordial sound	131
31 the moist particle	133
32 the unsteady particle	135

33	giant beings	137
34	hybrid beings	139
35	magical beings	143
36	astral beings	145
37	long-lived beings	147
38	malevolent beings	148
	separation	152
39	separation of the sky and the earth	152
40	the earth as the underworld	155
41	the underworld situated below the earth	157
42	a triple cosmos with sky, earth and underworld	158
43	a triple cosmos with sky, atmosphere and earth	161
44	a quadruple cosmos	162
45	separation of other types of polar opposites	163
46	separation through fissioning of the enclosure	166
47	separation at the centre of the cosmos	171
48	liberation of the protagonist from the enclosure	171
49	outflow of the sun, light or heat from the enclosure	174
50	outflow of water from the enclosure	176
51	liberation of other beings from the enclosure	179
52	confinement of malevolent beings to the lower half of the cosmos	181
	expansion	185
	<i>axial expansion:</i>	185
53	a cosmic column	185
54	the expanding column	186
55	the column expanding at creation	189
56	separation of the sky and the earth through expansion of the column	191
57	separation of the sky and the earth with an implement	197
58	outflow of water during expansion of the column	200
59	outburst of wind or breath during expansion of the column	201
60	outburst of light during expansion of the column	202
61	intermixture of tree and mountain symbolism	203
62	solidification of the column	204
63	expansion of the column at the centre of the cosmos	205
64	origination of the expanding column from the root particle	205
65	the solitary or prototypical column	207
66	sound during expansion of the column	209

<i>radial expansion:</i>	.....	210	
67	radial expansion of the earth	.....	210
68	radial expansion of the earth at the foot of the column	.....	212
69	radial expansion of the earth through accretion of particles	.....	216
 quotations in other languages		.....	220
 bibliography		.....	225
 index		.....	241

MARINUS ANTHONY VAN DER SLUIJS

TRADITIONAL COSMOLOGY

**THE GLOBAL MYTHOLOGY OF
COSMIC CREATION AND DESTRUCTION**

Volume Two

Functions



All-Round Publications

London, 2011

contents

editorial notes	V
-----------------------	---

PART II: FUNCTIONS

connectivity	1
--------------------	---

70 the column exceedingly high	2
71 the column as the highest point on the earth	3
72 the column's summit beyond the range of vision	4
73 the column touching the sky	4
74 the column representative of the sky	7
75 the column supporting the sky	7
76 the column pressing down on the earth	11
77 the column separating or connecting the sky and the earth	11
78 the column separating or connecting the sky and the underworld	14
79 the column separating or connecting the sky, the earth and the underworld	16
80 the column separating or connecting the sky, the atmosphere and the earth	18
81 a tiered morphology of the column connecting the sky, the atmosphere, the earth and the underworld	20
82 the column duplicated for the sky and the earth or underworld	21
83 the column stabilising the cosmos	22
84 the column supporting the earth	23

contiguity	25
------------------	----

<i>the upper extremity of the column:</i>	26
85 a deity at the summit of the column	26
86 a radiant entity at the summit of the column	29
87 the sun and the moon at the summit of the column	30
88 a group of beings or stars at the summit of the column	31
89 paradise at the summit of the column	34
90 filaments at the summit of the column	36
91 radiant filaments at the summit of the column	38
92 a spoked ring or wheel at the summit of the column	39

<i>the lower extremity of the column:</i>	41
93 the centre of the earth	41
94 the heart or navel of the earth	42
95 a seed or stone at the bottom of the column	48
96 a mountain at the bottom of the column	49
97 a benevolent being at the bottom of the column	51
98 a female being at the bottom of the column	53
99 the underworld, a tomb or a dead being at the bottom of the column	56
100 a rounded object at the bottom of the column	58
101 a group of beings at the bottom of the column	59
102 water at the bottom of the column	59
103 a circular ocean	62
104 a snake at the bottom of the column	67
105 a group of snakes at the bottom of the column	69
106 a circular snake at the bottom of the column	70
107 a circular snake associated with the underworld at the bottom of the column	71
108 a snake and a rounded object at the bottom of the column	74
109 the supportive function of the snake at the bottom of the column	74
110 the circular snake and the ocean	77
111 the enclosing band variegated and radiant	79
112 the enclosing band revolving	83
113 the enclosing band expanding	85
conicity	87
114 the conical shape of the column	87
115 the conical column surmounted by a deity or a radiant entity	88
116 the conical sky	89
117 the conical shape of the bottom of the column	89
118 the conical part of the column as the underworld or a tomb	90
liminality and centrality	91
119 the column encompassing the earth	91
120 the column at the boundary of the earth or sky	94
121 the column at the centre of the earth	97
122 the column at the centre of the sky	100
123 the column at the centre of paradise or a garden	102
124 the column at the centre of a body of water	102
125 premature interpretations of the column as being situated at the centre of the cosmos	104

126	the column at the navel or the heart of the earth or sky	106
127	the column at the navel or the heart of a body of water	110
128	the radiant entity at the summit of the column as a central sun	112
129	the zenith and the pole as cosmic centres	113
130	the column situated at the pole	116
131	the radiant entity at the summit of the column as a polar sun	120
132	revolution of celestial bodies around the column	122
133	the column situated in the far north or south	123
134	the polar column localised	125
135	premature interpretations of the column as being situated at the pole	127
vitality	.....	130
136	the column as an umbilical cord	130
137	the column as a place of birth	132
138	the column as a source of nutrition	134
139	the column as a repository of beings or stars	138
140	the column as a place of refuge	145
141	the column as an abode of souls	148
142	the vitalising property of the column	153
143	the vitalising liquid at the bottom of the column	156
144	the vitalising liquid pervading the column	158
145	the durability of the column	158
146	personification of the column	159
147	the column as an ancestor	161
luminosity	.....	164
148	the column as radiant	164
149	the column as variegated	167
150	the column of fire or smoke	168
151	the column of lightning	171
152	the column of perpetual light	172
153	the column as a sun	175
154	the column made of a shining metal or mineral	178
155	the column as transparent	182
156	the column studded with radiant objects	183
conductivity	.....	186
157	the column traversed by a deity, ancestor or hero	187
158	the column traversed by an animal	190
159	the column traversed by a celestial body	191

160	the column traversed by multiple beings	194
161	the column traversed by souls	198
162	the column traversed in rituals and festivals	202
163	intermezzo: traversing the column in ancient Egyptian traditions	205
164	vertical transportation as birth, recovery or revival	211
165	vertical transportation as rebellion and repulsion	214
166	vertical transportation as the arrival and departure of a culture hero	217
167	vertical transportation in association with theft	219
168	vertical transportation as a means to procure fire	220
169	vertical transportation as flight and pursuit	221
170	vertical transportation as a means to reunite with a missing relative	224
171	vertical transportation in connection with expansion and separation	225
172	vertical transportation under turbulent conditions	228
173	vertical transportation at the centre of the cosmos	229
174	vertical transportation along a radiant column	230
175	travel towards the column	231
176	insufficient length of the column	232
177	vertical transportation of the lowest participant obstructed	233
	quotations in other languages	236
	bibliography	246
	index	270

MARINUS ANTHONY VAN DER SLUIJS

TRADITIONAL COSMOLOGY

**THE GLOBAL MYTHOLOGY OF
COSMIC CREATION AND DESTRUCTION**

Volume Three

Differentiation



All-Round Publications

London, 2011

contents

editorial notes	VI
------------------------------	-----------

PART III: DIFFERENTIATION

concentricity and helicity	1
---	----------

178 concentric windings of a snake or water	1
179 the column as a helix	5
180 a helical snake twined around the column	6
181 a helical plant twined around the column	9
182 the column as a double helix	10
183 the double helix interpreted as a pair of polar opposites	11
184 two helical snakes twined around the column	12
185 two helical plants twined around the column	13
186 vertical transportation along the helical column	13

vertical segmentation	16
------------------------------------	-----------

187 multiple heavens	17
188 numbered multiple heavens	17
189 numbered multiple heavens and earths or underworlds	20
190 the layered worlds connected by the column	27
191 the layered heavens and underworlds as striated cosmic lobes	29
192 the pliable form of the segmented column	31
193 the rigid form of the segmented column	34
194 the layered worlds connected by the segmented column	42
195 a deity or radiant entity at the summit of the segmented column	45
196 lateral displacement of the deity or radiant entity at the summit of the column	48
197 the layers of the world and of the column associated with sentient beings	49
198 the layers of the world and of the column associated with classes of sentient beings	54
199 the layers of the world associated with atmospheric and celestial phenomena	55
200 the layers of the world and of the column associated with colours	60
201 a group of beings at the bottom of the segmented column re-	

	sponsible for its formation	63
202	vertical transportation of a deity, ancestor or hero along the layers of the world and of the column	65
203	vertical transportation of an animal along the layers of the world and of the column	69
204	vertical transportation of a celestial body along the layers of the world and of the column	70
205	vertical transportation of multiple beings along the layers of the world and of the column	72
206	vertical transportation of souls along the layers of the world and of the column	75
207	vertical transportation along the layers of the world and of the column in rituals and festivals	78
208	vertical transportation along the layers of the world and of the column as birth, recovery or revival	80
209	vertical transportation along the layers of the world and of the column as rebellion and repulsion	81
210	vertical transportation along the layers of the world and of the column as flight and pursuit	82
211	vertical transportation along the layers of the world and of the column as a means to reunite with a missing relative	85
212	segmentation associated with expansion and separation	87
213	segmentation associated with divisions of time	91
214	downward projection of the segmented column	94
	radial segmentation	97
215	four sectors of the world	98
216	four sectors of the local 'land'	100
217	four groups of people associated with the cardinal directions	102
218	a quadrangular shape of the cosmos, the sky or the earth	102
219	the centre, above and below as additional directions to the four cardinal directions	103
220	four winds or breaths associated with the cardinal directions	104
221	four trees, pillars or mountains associated with the cardinal directions	105
222	different definitions of the cardinal directions	106
223	the cardinal directions centred on the column	108
224	four roots, branches or sides surrounding the column	109
225	four mountains or trees surrounding the column	112
226	four pathways surrounding the column	112
227	four winds, rivers or rays moving towards the column	113
228	four winds, rivers or rays moving away from the column	114
229	the life-giving properties of the radial extensions surrounding the column	116
230	the cardinal directions associated with body parts surrounding	

	the personified column	118
231	the cardinal directions associated with sentient beings	120
232	the sentient beings of the cardinal directions associated with atmospheric phenomena	122
233	the sentient beings of the cardinal directions as body parts of the personified column	123
234	the sentient beings of the cardinal directions associated with celestial bodies	124
235	the cardinal directions associated with colours	125
236	the supportive function of the cardinal directions and their sentient beings	133
237	the cardinal directions surrounding a radiant entity	136
238	the cardinal directions combined with the concentric circles	140
239	the cardinal directions formed at creation	141
240	the cardinal directions associated with expansion and separation	142
241	the cardinal directions instrumental in vertical transportation	147
242	circumambulatory visitation of the cardinal directions	148
243	the cardinal directions as a succession of eras	151
244	eight cardinal directions	154
245	twelve cardinal directions	156
246	seven or nine sectors of horizontal space	157
spin	.....	159
247	spinning movement of the column	159
248	spinning movement of a disc surrounding the column	159
bifurcation	.....	161
249	bifurcation of the summit of the column	161
250	the column as a cross	164
251	the two extensions at the summit of the column as birds, snakes or lions	165
252	the two extensions at the summit of the column interpreted as polar opposites	166
253	the two extensions flanking a radiant entity at the summit of the column	170
254	the two extensions flanking a head at the summit of the column	173
255	the two extensions as the wings of a bird at the summit of the column	174
256	the bird at the summit and the snake at the bottom of the column	179

257	three extensions at the summit of the column	181
258	bifurcation of the column at creation	183
259	the supportive function of the bifurcated column	184
260	bifurcation of the extensions of the column at the cardinal directions	185
261	bifurcation of the bottom of the column	186
262	the inverted tree	188
 duplication and triplication		191
263	lateral division of the column	191
264	two juxtaposed columns	192
265	the two juxtaposed columns interpreted as polar opposites	193
266	three juxtaposed columns	195
267	association of the juxtaposed columns with creation, expansion and separation	196
268	the supportive function of the juxtaposed columns	198
269	the supportive function of an unspecified number of columns	199
270	the bottoms of the juxtaposed columns associated with the underworld, a tomb or death	201
271	radiance of the juxtaposed columns	201
272	the juxtaposed columns, the centre and the boundaries of the cosmos	204
273	the life-giving properties of the juxtaposed columns	206
274	one or two helices twined round the juxtaposed columns	207
275	vertical transportation along or between the juxtaposed columns	207
 solidity and perforation		211
276	solid sky	211
277	the sky made of ice	212
278	the sky made of bone tissue	213
279	the sky made of stone	214
280	the sky made of precious stone	216
281	the sky made of metal	217
282	a hole in the sky, typically at the centre or the pole	219
283	a hole in the earth, typically at the centre	222
284	the holes of the sky and the earth joined to the column	224
285	holes associated with the layers of the world	225
286	vertical transportation of a deity, ancestor or hero through the cosmic holes	226
287	vertical transportation of an animal through the cosmic holes	227
288	vertical transportation of a celestial or atmospheric body	227

289	through the cosmic holes	229
290	vertical transportation of multiple beings through the cosmic holes	230
291	vertical transportation of souls through the cosmic holes	232
292	vertical transportation through the cosmic holes in rituals and festivals	234
293	vertical transportation of a liquid through the cosmic holes	236
294	formation of the cosmic holes	236
295	vertical transportation through the cosmic holes associated with expansion and separation	242
296	obstruction of the cosmic holes	245
297	vertical transportation enabled by opening of the cosmic holes	247
298	repetitive opening and closing of the cosmic holes	251
299	a radiant entity at the cosmic holes	253
	cosmic holes at the cardinal directions	255
	quotations in other languages	260
	bibliography	267
	index	289

MARINUS ANTHONY VAN DER SLUIJS

TRADITIONAL COSMOLOGY

**THE GLOBAL MYTHOLOGY OF
COSMIC CREATION AND DESTRUCTION**

Volume Four

Disintegration



All-Round Publications

London, 2011

contents

editorial notes	V
-----------------------	---

PART IV: DISINTEGRATION

disruption	1
------------------	---

300 collapse of the sky	1
301 wind	2
302 fire or lightning	2
303 flood	10
304 concurrent forms of disruption	11
305 sequential forms of disruption	15
306 a dragon	20
307 wind as punishment	21
308 flood as punishment	21
309 fire as punishment	24
310 flood and fire as punishment	25
311 flood, fire and battle	27
312 flood, fire, a dragon and battle	31
313 a sanguine flood	35
314 mountains formed during the disruption	35
315 islands formed during the disruption	36
316 rivers and lakes formed during the disruption	37
317 a snake or dragon sculpting the earth	38

disconnection	40
---------------------	----

318 the column disrupted	40
319 the column disrupted by a deity, ancestor or hero	41
320 the column disrupted by an animal	43
321 the column disrupted by a celestial body	45
322 the column disrupted by multiple beings	45
323 the column disrupted by souls	46
vertical transportation along the column disrupted:	
324 because of misfortune or clumsiness	47
325 by a bulky entity	48
326 with intent	50
327 the column disrupted as punishment	53
328 the column disrupted during flight and pursuit	56

329	the column disrupted during battle	57
330	disruption of the column exposing cosmic holes	60
331	the column disrupted under turbulent conditions:	63
332	earthquake	64
333	darkness	65
334	wind	67
335	lightning, fire and thunder	70
336	flood	72
337	disruption of the columns at the cardinal directions	75
338	disruption of the juxtaposed columns	78
339	disruption of the column as separation	79
340	disruption of the column marking the introduction of death	86
341	restoration of the column	88
342	disappearance of the column	89
343	deformation of the column	90
344	fading of the column	92
345	displacement of the column	93
 dispersion		98
346	dispersion of celestial bodies	99
347	dispersion of seeds or fruits	101
348	dispersion of people	102
349	dispersion of heterogeneous entities	104
350	dispersion of entities at separation or disruption	105
351	dispersion of constituent parts of the column	111
352	dispersion of entities under turbulent conditions:	113
353	collapse of the sky	113
354	darkness	115
355	wind	115
356	flood	116
357	a dragon	117
358	dispersion of entities during battle:	118
359	displacement of celestial bodies	119
360	missiles	122
361	retreat	124
362	transformation of dispersed entities	125
363	segregation of dispersed entities	135
364	dismemberment	145
365	dismembered body parts as stones or bones	147
366	dismembered body parts as celestial bodies	148
367	dismembered body parts as sentient beings	150
368	dismembered body parts as seeds or plants	151
369	dismembered body parts as miscellaneous entities	153
370	an outflow of liquid from the dismembered body	155
371	reconstitution of the dismembered body	157

inversion **159**

372	inversion of the earth	159
373	reversal of west and east	159
374	reversal at the time of separation, disruption or dispersion	163

departure **166**

375	the inaccessible deity	166
376	departure to the abode of souls	168
377	departure to one of the cardinal directions	169
378	departure to the sky	169
379	departure of a creator or culture hero	170
380	departure of an animal	175
381	departure of multiple beings	176
382	departure along the column	177
383	appointment of a successor upon departure	178
384	departure in frustration	182
385	departure in fear or flight	183
386	departure as death, apotheosis or resurrection	185
387	departure as a means to reunite with a missing relative	186
388	transformation of the departing deity into a celestial body	188
389	transformation of the departing deity into the sun or the moon	193
390	transformation of a pair of departing deities into the sun and the moon	195
391	competition between the sun and the moon	197
392	transformation of the departing deity into the morning star or the evening star	199
393	beautification of the departing deity upon transformation into a celestial body	201
394	departure along a meteor or a comet	204
395	departure under turbulent conditions:	206
396	fire and lightning	208
397	flood	219
398	a dragon or bird	223
399	departure along a body of water:	229
400	drowning	230
401	sea voyage	231
402	settlement on an island	232
403	departure during expansion	234
404	departure during separation	236
405	departure during disruption	241
406	departure during dispersion	248

periodisation	252	
407	a mythical era	252
408	a mythical era concluded by separation, disruption or dispersion	255
409	a mythical era concluded by the departure of deities, heroes or ancestors	256
410	a succession of eras	260
411	eras separated by destruction and renewal	261
412	divine rulers presiding over eras	264
413	degenerative eras	269
eschaton	273	
414	the future return of a departed deity	273
415	a future repetition of the past	275
416	future ascent	277
417	future disruption	277
418	a future saviour	288
419	future battle	289
420	future rule	294
421	future judgment	295
422	future restoration	296
423	the departure and return of a deity regulated by a short astronomical cycle	300
424	the return of a deity fulfilled in history	303
425	the return of a deity fulfilled with the arrival of colonists	306
quotations in other languages	311	
bibliography	317	
index	335	

MARINUS ANTHONY VAN DER SLUIJS

TRADITIONAL COSMOLOGY

**THE GLOBAL MYTHOLOGY OF
COSMIC CREATION AND DESTRUCTION**

Volume Five

Solar and Lunar Anomalies



All-Round Publications

Vancouver, 2018

contents

editorial notes	II
-----------------------	----

acknowledgments	VIII
-----------------------	------

PART V: SOLAR AND LUNAR ANOMALIES

87* pillared sun	1
426 crossed sun	2
427 blue-green sun or moon	2
428 former sun or moon	3
429 strong sun	9
430 low sun or moon	22
431 anthropomorphic sun or moon	38
432 fast sun	41
433 slow sun	46
434 arrested sun or moon	47
435 primordially fixed sun or moon	51
436 sun or moon on a different path	62
437 descending sun or moon	72
373* reversed sun or moon	81
438 central sun or moon	96
439 weak or invisible sun	97
440 enclosed sun or moon	119
441 small sun	144
442 winged sun	145
391* competition between sun and moon	146
443 multiple concurrent suns or moons	178
444 shot sun or moon	205
445 tied sun or moon	233
446 eaten sun	244
447 fragmentated sun or moon	249
quotations in other languages	269
bibliography	297
index	324

MARINUS ANTHONY VAN DER SLUIJS

TRADITIONAL COSMOLOGY

**THE GLOBAL MYTHOLOGY OF
COSMIC CREATION AND DESTRUCTION**

Volume Six

Miscellaneous Themes



All-Round Publications

Vancouver, 2018

contents

editorial notes	III
-----------------------	-----

acknowledgments	VIII
-----------------------	------

PART VI: MISCELLANEOUS THEMES

33*, 38*	giant or malevolent beings	1
34*	union and shared language with animals	3
300*	collapse of the sky	5
312*	flood, fire, a dragon and battle	9
332*	the column disrupted amid earthquakes	12
339*	disruption of the column as separation	13
343*	celestial arc	14
359*	altered motion of stars and planets	19
369*	dismembered body parts as miscellaneous entities	26
372*	inversion of the earth	27
407*	abundant vegetation	30
448	absence of regular seasons	33
449	cold period	38
450	the morning or evening star as a comet	50
451	hot flood	72
452	humans placed above other animals	75
453	a long object, flood and fire	78
454	a comet, flood and fire	78
455	cosmic impact	83
456	rock art produced by mythical beings	99
457	inversion of sky and earth	110
458	rain of flammable materials	117
459	fossils as mythical beings	121
	Europe	121
	Asia	123
	Australia	124
	America	127
460	volcanic eruption	131
461	abstract concepts acquired in containers	136
462	drowned land	139
	Europe	139
	Asia	141
	Australia	142

	Africa	144
	South America	144
463	anthropomorphic creator or culture hero	146
464	edible sky	146
465	ugly male	148
466	appearance of the sun, light or heat at elevation or dissipation of low or collapsed sky	149
	quotations in other languages	153
	bibliography	162
	index	185