

# Astounding Revelations on the Road to Gondar, Ethiopia the Garden of Eden

By Bernard Anderson, MD, FACS, FICS.

It was April, 2008, a bleak 5 A.M. in Meskel Square, Addis Ababa that we set out for Gondar, 740 kilometers away on the Sky Bus. It was my third time to make the trip, and I was no longer glued to the vistas on the other side of the window as the bus speedily but steadily made its way through the mountains and villages of the Ethiopian northern highlands. I soon fell asleep, hypnotized by the cold and dark of an Ethiopian morning 2,200 meters above sea level, as well as by the rolling neon sign in big red characters above the driver's head declaring to all: "Young Entrepreneur, German Engineering, Chinese Price...Young Entrepreneur, German Engineering, Chinese...".

First stop at Dejen marked a successful passage through "The Gorge"- a deep valley cut by the Ghion of the bible, or the Abbay of the Ethiopians, themselves the children of Kis (later the Cush/Kush of the Hebrew), recorded first in the hieroglyphs of Kmt in 1970 BCE. There we got a chance to stretch our legs, use the bathroom and to have lunch in any of several small hotels. All aboard again, we set off to Gondar passing through the towns of Debre Markos, Dembecha, Finote Selam, Injibara, Dangla and finally Bahirdar, at the southern point of lake Tana, (Ethiopia's largest lake and Africa's 2<sup>nd</sup> largest), from where it pours its waters into the head of the Abbay to become the Blue Nile in the Sudan. In Sudan it joins the White Nile at Khartoum, from where it runs for 200 hundred miles north to the city of Saba (Merowe since about 500 BCE), This Saba, was a place where many Ethiopian kings and queens ruled from. There at Saba/Merowe the Nile is joined by the fabled Atbara, "From there the Nile runs for 1700 more miles to the Mediterranean sea as the longest river on the planet Earth giving the gifts of life, high culture, and civilization from the Anu, or the Anu/Agü. The first gifts were to Kmt, meaning Black Land. Kmt, later named Egypt by the Greeks, passed them on to the world. Yes, this same Kmt made us know Osiris, Thoth, Isis, Horus and Maat; gave us Imhotep, the architect of Sacara's Step Pyramid in 2,700 BCE and according to Breasted, was the author of the Smith papyrus. This African Imhotep, was deified posthumously as God of Medicine 2000 years before Hippocrates swore in his "Oath" to him in the name of Asclepius; the same Kmt gave us the city Akhetaten that made us know one God, the primary creative force of nature, whose emblem was the solar disc and also gave us Moses, who tamed the Apiru/Habiru, gave them the law and even the name of their God Jehovah. This generous Kmt, also gave the world the art of writing. These are just a few of the gifts of Kmt and the Nile, the child of Tana and Atbara. How sad now to see Kmt embroiled in conflict and totally disconnected from its glorious and special past.

The next stop on the way to Gondar, an historic and ancient former capital of Ethiopia, was at the foot of a rock that ascended vertically to the clouds (Fig 1) just a few miles north from the town of Addis Zemen, itself about 85 kilometers from Gondar. On the command of the conductor, the passengers alighted to

exercise, or just to gawk at or photograph this natural wonder of the world. After 10 minutes or so a Japanese fellow traveler of about 20 years old, the only other “Ferenj” on the bus approached me and enquired “where are you from?” This was a frequent question for me from curious Ethiopians and I responded with my well-rehearsed answer: “I am from Ethiopia, 400 years separated by way of Jamaica and America”. To my surprise he was neither humored nor perplexed but quickly retorted: “Me too, I am also Ethiopian of 40 thousand years of separation by way of Japan”. We both smiled. Touché, as the French would say. My quip was simple enough to understand when one considers the African Slave Trade, the Middle Passage, heavy toil and sojourn in the West Indies, economic migration to North America after emancipation and finally, Garvey-ite impulsive return “Back to Africa”. But what could have been his story? I was too embarrassed to ask this 20 year old to explain. After all I was approaching 70, an Associate Professor of Surgery at Gondar University and a part time student of antiquities. The least I could do was to remain silent and not confirm for him, that “Gotcha” look on his face.

We re-boarded the bus and finally reached our destination in Gondar about 12 hours after our trip began. My wife Emawayish and the love of her life Mineot, were there (this time on time) to pick me up to resume my activities at “home”.

Several years later, in November of 2012, we made our annual trek to North America and Jamaica for vacation and meetings with our accountant of many years, Steve, as well as the ubiquitous IRS. While on the trip I read with interest the latest book written by our long-time friend, Hagos Alemayehu self-styled “Happy”. He was a driven seeker of truth, a prolific writer, a super nationalist “Diaspora” and a worthy son of Kis, In it I made a much belated but never the less astounding discovery confirming the biblical and archaeological evidence that Ethiopia was indeed the Garden of Eden and that the proverbial couple, Adam and Eve, the first Homo sapiens, were Ethiopians who replicated, and whose progeny later migrated and peopled the entire planet earth.

### **First,**

**The archaeological evidence:** The most ancient fossils of hominids, the antecedents of man as we now know him, *Homo sapiens*, have been found in Ethiopia. These include Ardi of 4.4 million years; Selam of 3.3 million years and Dinkeneshe (also known as Lucy) of 3.2 million years. It stands to reason that the final product, *Homo sapiens* should evolve in the same place as the “build-up” to modern man.

### **Second,**

**The biblical evidence:** In the Creation story of the Christian bible “God said, let us make man in our own image” and “male and female he created them”, Genesis 1:27. Next, “God blest them, and said unto them be fruitful and multiply and replenish the Earth and subdue it”, Genesis 1:28. Next, “God planted a garden eastward in Eden and there he put the man (and woman) he had formed”, Genesis 2:8. Next the story goes on to state that the garden, Eden was watered by 4 rivers “and the name of the second river is Ghion: the same that compasseth the whole land of Ethiopia” Genesis 2:13. Regarding the Mesopotamian location of the other 3 rivers: this may have reflected a preferred identity for the writers or revisionists of Genesis at the time, as any look at the watershed of the Atbara and its tributaries (the Merab, the Gallabat and Takezie), to the North of Eden; the Blue Nile and the Gihon/Abbay watershed to the West; the watershed of the Jubba and its tributaries the mighty Wabishebele and the Ganale, to the South of Eden and last but not least, the watershed of the totally Edenic/Ethiopic Awash to the East,

all the 4 rivers that “compaseth the whole land of Ethiopia” become obvious , even to the blind (Fig 2 & 3). As for the Baro and the Omo watersheds, these plausibly, were tossed in by the Creator as surety. Next, Genesis 2:9 goes on to state that the “Tree of Life” and the “Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil” were planted “in the Midst of the Garden”. We know that Adam and Eve dwelled within walking distance of the middle of the Garden because we are told that they ate, contrary to instruction, of the fruit of the tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

Regarding this central location in the garden, Ethiopia is geographically located “Eastward” (E) between 33 and 48 degrees of longitude and North (N) of the equator between 3 and 15 degrees. The Mid Point coordinate of this quadrangle is 9 degrees (N), 40.5 degrees (E). When one compares the coordinate of Addis Ababa at 9 degrees (N), 39 degrees (E), this city, Addis Ababa is indeed “near” to the middle of Eden. The significance of this is further amplified below.

**Third,**

**DNA evidence, the “Smoking Gun”:** In the science journal, *Nature* (), Andrew B. Singleton, Noah A. Rosenberg, Mattias Jacobson and others published a collaborative genetic study entitled “Genotype, haplotype and copy-number variation in worldwide human populations”. Based on that paper and others, the Los Angeles Times reported comprehensibly on March 4, 2008 that “Scrutinizing the DNA of 938 people from 51 distinct populations around the world, geneticists have created a detailed map of how humans spread from their home base in sub-Saharan Africa to populate the farthest reaches of the globe over the last 100,000 years” and went on to say that they “left what is now Ethiopia and, along with their descendants”, went on to people the entire Earth. If pinpointing the proverbial Garden of Eden to be Ethiopia was not enough, they further stated that the DNA evidence showed the place where the first *Homo sapiens* , the biblical Adam and Eve, originated in Ethiopia ,was “from a location near Addis Ababa”! I am sure the great Emperor Menyelek II and his wife Empress Taitu, both leaders, in their time, of the struggle against European expansion and colonization in Africa and the rest of the world, and also symbols of pride for Africans anywhere and fair minded people everywhere, would have been pleased as founders of the capital city, to receive this news, had they been now alive. Related to this matter of Ethiopia being the home of modern man everywhere was another article and map on page 49 of the January 2013, 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition of the National Geographic magazine entitled Global Journey (Fig 4) that displayed the human migration of Ethiopians graphically with dates and the statement that “Once modern humans began their migrations out of Africa (Ethiopia) some 60,000 years ago, they kept on going until they had spread to all corners of the Earth”.

After my belated catching up on these astounding events, I recalled my travelling companion, the 20 year old Japanese, on the road to Gondar. To him I say: I finally got it little brother! However migrated, mutated, differentiated or segregated, modern men and women are, we all being the progeny of Adam and Eve ( end products of hominid mutation), are all brothers and sisters (Fig. 5). Furthermore, we are all ETHIOPIANS, for that is where we collectively ORIGINATED- “SOMEWHERE NEAR ADDIS ABABA”, ETHIOPIA!

It is where one originated, not where one has been or where one was last, that determines one’s nationality.

**So the next time I renew my Visa, I plan to answer like this:**

Name? Gabre Sellassie, Homo sapiens.

Mother's Name? Eve.

Father's Name? Adam.

Age? 200,000 years old.

Nationality? Ethiopian.

Permanent Address? Somewhere near Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Current Address? Gondar, Ethiopia.

Countries last Visited? United States of America and Jamaica.

How Long Was Your Stay abroad? 400 years.

Sign Truthfully! False Information is Punishable by Law! :

Signature: Gabre Sellassie (Bernard Bradley Anderson)!

### **Legends and Figures:**

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Fig.1- Rock ascending to the clouds, close to the town of Addis Zemen on the road to Gondar.



Fig. 2- Painting by Gabre Selassie showing The land of Ethiopia; an elevated garden, dubbed “The Roof of East Africa” showing its 4 main watersheds: 1- The Atbara and its tributaries to the North. 2- The Blue Nile and the Gihon/Abay to the West. 3- The Jubba and its tributaries including the Ganale and Wabbishebelle to the South and 4-the totally Ethiopic Awashto the East. Also shown are the Baro and the Omo.



Fig. 3- Depiction by hands, of the same 4 watersheds superimposed on a map of Ethiopia, with fingers pointing “somewhere near Addis Ababa” in the middle.



Fig. 4- The Human Migration Map taken from the January 3013, 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition of the National Geographic magazine showing the movement of modern man, Homo sapiens, the progeny of Adam and Eve, from their home in Ethiopia, “somewhere near Addis Ababa” to people the planet Earth.

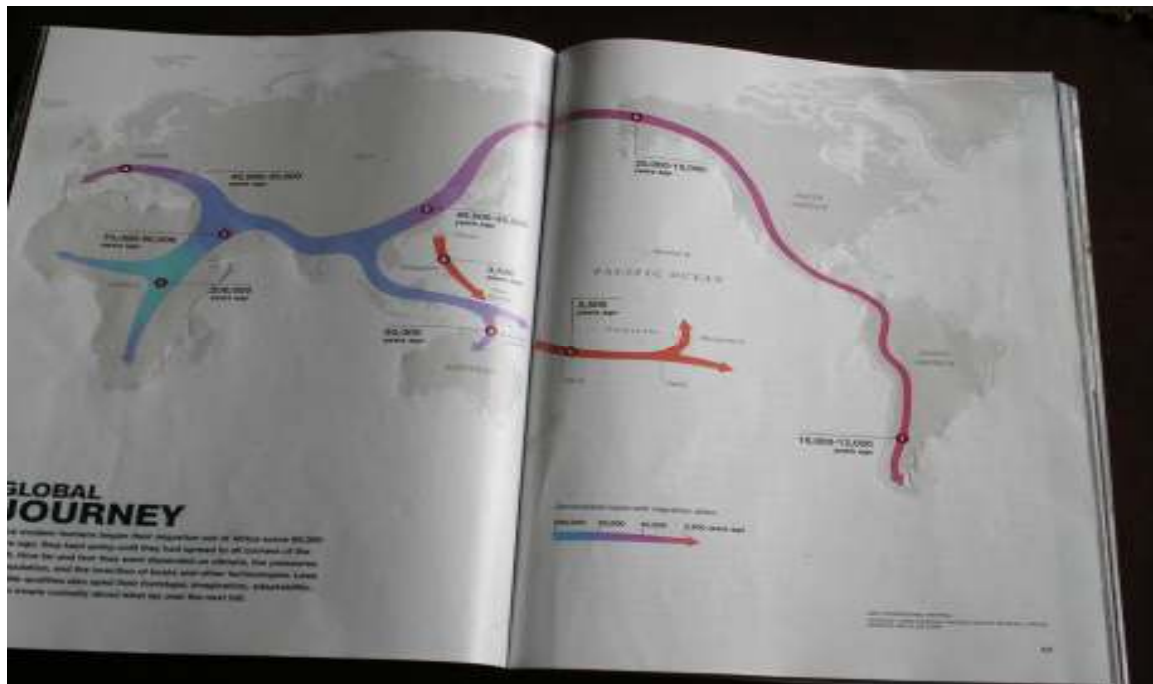


Fig. 5-

- . Mutated Hominid Haploid Chromosomes in the process of replication
- . Themselves antecedents of Modern Men and Women (Adam and Eve and their Progeny)



. In the Middle of The Garden of Eden, somewhere “near Addis Ababa” Ethiopia

. 200,000 years ago



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