

# The Origin of Sumerians

—Re-Evaluation Following Remarkable Excavations at Turkmenistan Gonur Tepe and Other Sites

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Who were the Sumerians? Where did they originate? For those who are not familiar with this remarkable, resourceful and intelligent people, who not only invented writing but also established the true mythological foundations of all main religions of the world, simply put, they taught us almost everything. Four different points regarding the current known archeological evidence are evaluated separately, and the Sumerians' unique and strongly sacred mythological beliefs related to the lapis lazuli stone and the myth's origin are analyzed. The uniqueness of the lapis mine location in the Hindu Kush Mountains and the unique (fingerprint) trace element and other physical characteristics of this metamorphic sacred blue stone of the Sumerians are the primary points of focus. The only possible and provable location of their original homeland, "based on the analysis" is; between the Caspian Sea and the Hindu Kush and Kopet Mountains, which is in Turkmenistan. This analysis and conclusion are based on "multiple independent factors": current archeological excavations, the uniqueness of metamorphic lapis lazuli as a stone and over 6000 years of lapis lazuli mining at a fixed location (absolutely necessary requirements for the origin of strong lapis mythology) and current credible biogeographic DNA evidence and the distribution of R1b haplogroup of "Arbins", as recently described by Dr. Anatole A. Klyosov. The Sumerians initial migration presumably began with a persistent drought in their original homeland, that eventually forced them to abandon their home migrate and resettle in the southern fertile lands of the Middle East between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers and eventually further south near the banks of Nile River in north east Africa.

**Keywords:** Sumerian Origins; Lapis Lazuli; Location-Location-Location

## Introduction

The recent remarkable excavations at the ancient river settlements north of the Kopet Mountains in Turkmenistan and the so-called Margiana not only revealed an advanced civilization in the Neolithic and Bronze Ages (Harris et al., 1996; Sarianidi, 1994, 1995), but also helped to answer the question of who these Sumerians were? The first ever agricultural Neolithic settlements in the Murgab River delta of Turkmenistan appeared as early as the 7th millennium BC.

For those, who are not very familiar with this remarkable, resourceful and intelligent people known as the Sumerians throughout human history, who not only invented writing but also established the true mythological foundations of all main religions of the world today, simply put they taught us almost everything (Kramer, 1963).

Linguistic scholars from around the world have attempted to associate the Sumerians with the ancient cuneiform language, but have agreed on nothing. These scholars all accept that it is an extinct agglutinative language (Michalowski, 2006) and that it is not an Indo-European or Semitic language; and arguments regarding this subject continue today. Everybody wants to claim the affiliation in one way or another, or at least they want to prevent others from claiming the affiliation if they cannot claim it themselves.

The more recent distribution and rapid diffusion of the last 20 - 30 years of archeological excavations and publication (especially the color pictures of the findings) over the Internet

has made this privileged and closely guarded information available to all. The judgment and biases of the original excavators have been exposed and criticized very quickly by whomever is interested with the subject matter.

Monopolies on and secrecy regarding information no longer exist in the 21st century. When I read the wonderful 100 page PhD thesis by Alessandro Re (2011) titled; "Ion and Electron Microscopy for the Characterization of Materials of Archaeological, Historical and Artistic Interest: DETERMINATION OF THE PROVENANCE OF LAPIS LAZULI USED FOR GLYPHIC ART", my long interest in finding a thoroughly scientific answer to the question of who the Sumerians were was satisfied, because I knew then that my early assumptions were finally supported by the proof. The bio-geographical mDNA or autosomal or Y-DNA population-tracking methods that had been used successfully with human mDNA (Achilli et al., 2007) and the cow genome (Bos Taurus) (Pellecchia et al., 2007) in order to prove the Anatolian origin of Etruscans can not be used as easily for the Sumerians because of the more distant time frame, genetic dilution, wide distribution of original mutations, migration of subclades and the lack of "relative isolation" over a significantly long time period make genetic tracking difficult. Therefore it is not easy precisely identify a certain geographic location for the origin of Sumerian civilization's early beginnings using only a biogeographic approach. Dr. Anatole A. Klyosov has published many excellent fundamental biogeographic studies one after another (Anatole, 2012) which are no doubt destined to be the

guiding foundation for further revelations regarding our common ancient human history in the coming years. His primary finding is the origin of the Y-Haplogroup R1b mutation that arose 16,000 ybp (year before present). He called the offspring of the ancestor that originated this mutation “Arbins” bearers of the R1b Dr. Anatole A. Klyosov calls as “Arbins” bearers of R1b haplogroup. R1b is presumed to originate in south Siberia/Central Asia. Therefore there were approximately 8000 - 10,000 years of migration and shuffling and regrouping since the original mutation of the R1b haplogroup of “Arbins” and their sub clades. Sumerians obviously belonged to R1b haplogroup. Following the emergence of Neolithic agricultural societies resulting in permanent settlements and prolonged interactions and specializations throughout central Asia “Original Sumerian Homeland” became one of the Arbins regroupings throughout this long 8000 - 10,000 years of history, before climate change forced them to make the maiden migration and resettle in the fertile lands of the Middle East between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers around 4000 BC (Paleoclimatology, 2012; Houghton, et al., 1990), and eventually further south on the banks of Nile River in north east Africa.

We must use the most logical and scientific approach possible to solve the question of where is the original homeland of the Sumerian civilization was located prior to their migration. The answer to this question requires the use of multiple independent factor analysis (multivariate analysis). A justification for this method of analysis comes from its use at CERN. Where over 5000 PhDs have used this method in their discovery of “a” new Higgs Boson. In their analysis, they found a “combined standard deviation” of different variables of 4.9 sigma (less than the required 5.9 sigma for absolute certainty) indicating with 99.99997% certainty that they found “a” new Higgs Boson.

Using the “combined approach”. The Sumerians had four unique, independent characteristics that I have noted addition to the obviously unsolvable linguistic cuneiform puzzle of 5000 years of history.

First, the Sumerians were obsessed with their sacred blue metamorphic stone the “lapis lazuli”. To understand the scientific concepts behind the answer to the question of; where the Sumerians originated, the 100 pages of excellent research by (Allessandro, 2011) available at <http://dottorato.ph.unito.it/Studenti/Tesi/XXIII/re.pdf> are required reading.

To understand where the Sumerians originated it is essential to know where this blue metamorphic stone is mined and where the Sumerians obtained it. Additionally it is essential to understand that this blue metamorphic stone has a UNIQUE FINGERPRINT of trace elements that reflects its location of creation on our planet; that is every mine has a different fingerprint of trace element ratios. In other words if one argues that the lapis lazuli of Sumerians originated somewhere other than the Sar-e-Sangh mines of the Hindu Kush Mountains east of Turkmenistan, where Gonur Tepe and other Neolithic and Bronze age settlements were located, it can easily be proved that the famous UR standard of the Sumerians found at the British Museum’s LAPIS LAZULI collection is actually mined from the Hindu Kush Mountains at the Sar-e-Sang lapis mines in Badakhshan, Afghanistan, but nowhere else, (Moorey, 1999). That metamorphic blue stone has a UNIQUE FINGERPRINT (Allessandro, 2011), that is “analogous” mtDNA or Y-DNA in the human genome.

The second unique characteristic of the Sumerians is their mythological beliefs which are related to lapis lazuli the well known Gilgamesh Epic that they believed that their mythological gods lived in lapis lazuli palaces, the sun, the moon and venus rise from the palaces every day to travel the sky and return to the palaces at night. We can easily see in all of the Sumerians’ archeological remains the dominance of lapis mythology (i.e. lapis heaven = sky) but no other stronger symbols. (Kramer, 1998) When the mineralogical characteristics of lapis lazuli are studied it is clear why the Sumerians thought that the color of this blue stone resembled not only the sky but also the stars in the sky, due to traces of yellow pyrite (FeS<sub>2</sub>; fool’s gold), and the clouds in the sky, due to the presence of white marble lines.

The third and the final answer to the puzzle of who the Sumerians were requires a knowledge of mythological origination history, i.e. how mythologies are created and what “factors” are required to create a powerful belief (myth) that will endure for generations after it is created. (Campbell, 1988).

Specifically, why did the Sumerians adopt the lapis lazuli stone as sacred and associate it with their original shamanistic beliefs regarding the celestial objects of the sky gods (the sun, the moon and venus) of central Asia’s original nomads, “the wanderers of steps” who established agriculture and domesticated animals. There is no question that the godly celestial objects they believed in for thousands of years came to be associated with lapis lazuli rather than lapis lazuli coming to represent the celestial objects. In other words, “the people must see with their own eyes the miracle” that their sacred celestial objects are “rising from” the top of the mountains where the lapis lazuli mines were located. (The blue metamorphic stone looks like the sky with yellow pyrite and white marble lines representing clouds).

When people saw the celestial objects rising each morning and night “from the east” these sacred objects were presumed to have human like life and to have their own house (palace) to rest and sleep after traveling. The concept of gods and godly figures having human forms and humanly needs was a dominant. The original Sumerians associated the lapis mines of the Hindu Kush mountains with the celestial objects of the sun, the moon and venus, simply because they saw them rising behind the mountain tops (i.e. lapis lazuli palaces) (Campbell, 1988).

This conclusion is obvious; because the location of the lapis mines is unique the “people should be unique” as well, and only the people who created and believed the mythology associated with lapis lazuli would live generations to the west of the lapis lazuli mines. (They should see the lapis mines at the eastern side!) So the sacred celestial objects will rise from their palaces in the east. Therefore the original homeland of the Sumerians was Gönür Tepe, Anau and similar Neolithic and Bronze Age settlements in Turkmenistan before they migrated to Mesopotamia due to its better climate and standard of living.

The archeological artifacts of a very similar culture, the traditions of these people, geological and climatological evidence of the already well documented climate change around 4000 BC (Holocene Maximum) in this region (Paleoclimatology, 2012; Houghton, et al., 1990) and ultimately the mass migration from their settlements around Gonur Tepe, Anau Turkmenistan further support this very logical proof of the origin of the Sumerians. (Hiebert, 2003; Raphael, 1908).

The fourth piece of evidence is the icing on the cake. The

cultural similarities between the Sumerians and the so-called Margiana people of Turkmenistan, is striking. As stated by (Guisepi & Willis, 1980) “The Sumerian civilization was established before 4000 BC and reached a high level of culture between 2700 and 2350 BC. In early times both sexes wore sheepskin skirts with the skin turned inside and the wool combed into decorative tufts. These wraparound skirts were pinned in place and extended from the waist to the knees or, for more important persons, to the ankles.

The upper part of the torso was bare or clothed by another sheepskin cloaking the shoulders. From about 2500 BC a woven woolen fabric replaced the sheepskin, but the tufted effect was retained, either by sewing tufts onto the garment or by weaving loops into the fabric. “Named ‘kaunakes’ by the Greeks, this tufted fabric is represented in all of the sculptures and mosaics of the period, as seen in the art from the excavations of Ur displayed in the British Museum in London. Additionally at that time, long cloaks were worn, and materials for garments and head coverings included felt wool and leather. Men were generally clean-shaven. Both sexes seem to have often worn large wigs, as in ancient Egypt.”

### Supportive Visual Evidence

The Power Point MP4 video presentation; THE ORIGIN OF SUMERIANS-ARCHEOLOGICAL AND MYTHOLOGICAL EVIDENCES at the link.  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MgZbHX955ng&feature=youtu.be>

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