

Appendix Three: Rabiah on the significance of the omphalos

Can you tell me about the omphalos?

So, when Shaykh Nazim came to Glastonbury in 1999, the only place he wanted to visit was the Glastonbury Abbey. And he came in there, and we walked all around, and then he stopped in front of the Omphalos which is there in the corner outside of the Abbot's kitchen. And all he said - he pointed at it and I wasn't aware of the significance at the time - he just said "This has been brought here by Khidr alayhi s-salam, and it comes from the Holy Land." Khidr *alayhi s-salam* being the, you know, the one who never dies.

Who met Moses.

Yes. And in the English tradition we have kind of worked out that this is also the Green Man.

So then a few years later - it must have been several years later - we had a Shaykh from Kenya, Shaykh Abdul Hamid who at the time was the imam of the mosque in St. Anne's, and he came to visit in Glastonbury, and we took him around and showed him the Omphalos. And on that day it had rained, so there is a dent on top of the stone and that was filled with water, and he just stared at it and he said, "Look! Doesn't this remind you of the *Maqam Ibrahim?*" *Maqam Ibrahim* is the footprint of Ibrahim - of Abraham - which is right next to the Kaaba in Mecca.

You can look in and there is actually, on a stone, the footprint of Ibrahim. And it looked very similar. So Shaykh Abdul Hamid, being on quite a high level, he then said, "Well, I'm going to go inside and pray to *rakats*, and just pray on it and see whether this is true." So he then came out after a few minutes and he said, "No, it's not a footprint of Ibrahim *alayhi s-salam* - it is the footprint of Isa *alayhi s-salam*" - of Jesus. And we were very surprised, and I went home and I phoned Shaykh Nazim and I said, "Shaykh Nazim, this is what Shaykh Abdul Hamid has said," and Shaykh Nazim confirmed it and said, "Yes, that is true." Then, again, a few years later Shaykh Bukhari, he was in Glastonbury, so I took him there to the stone and I said, "Look, Shaykh Bukhari - this has been confirmed by Shaykh Nazim that this is a footprint of Jesus," and he just stood in front of it and he was in absolute trance. He was staring at it - must have been several minutes - and then he came back and just said that he'd had this vision that the stone was directly connected to Jerusalem - this is going in, and going out of the stone was, just like Jacob's Ladder, a ladder leading up to Heaven.

That's what he said. And that, of course, brought this very interesting-- I mean, many interesting stories; first of all the fact that there was a footprint of Jesus there, and you then think about the song "Jerusalem": "And did those feet, in ancient times..." Blake, obviously, was a man of visions also who could see a lot of things. And then the very fact that this stone has been brought from Jerusalem does remind also of the Stone of Scone, which of course had exactly that function - that while Jacob - Israel - was sleeping on it, he had this dream that there was a ladder going up to Heaven, and as we know this is now the stone where the coronation has been taking place and will take place, and which has now been brought up again to Scotland. So whether these are now

sister stones, or-- ? But I do see a real strong connection between the two of them.

It also brings the story that-- this whole point of Glastonbury being a kind of Jerusalem. I've always thought that it has something to do with the End of Times. Shaykh Nazim told us -- he held up an orange one day, and he was then pointing to the top and the bottom and saying, "This is the North Pole and this is the South Pole," and then he twisted the orange around just forty-five degrees so that the top and the bottom became the Equator, and he said, "This is what is going to happen at the End of Times when the magnetic fields get changed." And this is something - an occurrence, roughly... roughly every twenty-four thousand years - and this is what's actually happening right now, that every-- well, twenty-four thousand years or so, the magnetic field has to be recharged: so, let's say the plus of the magnet is in the North Pole; it will then swap over and become the South Pole. And while this is happening, this is also one of the re-- this is already happening, slowly-slowly, which is one of the reasons why there are so many Northern Lights and magnetic things happening in the atmosphere.

Personally, with this whole question of, "Why is anyone even suggesting that Glastonbury could be the new Jerusalem?" The reason why it is called the Holy Land - and the Holy Land is much, much bigger than this ridiculous little Israel and this tiny little annex of Palestine - the Holy Land as it's described in the Old Testament goes all the way from Damascus all the way to Baghdad, and then it goes all the way down, including Saudi Arabia, including Yemen, including a small strip of land from... from Egypt; and this is physically the axis on which the world turns. And it is because of that that it has enormous magnetic pulling power - and physics and spirituality, they are always connected.

You know, in Glastonbury they often speak about that the ground is very thin, and that you have these connections to the outer-worldly... well, faeries we'd call them, *jinn*, whatever. But this is part of the whole business with the ley-lines and all that. And, I mean, who knows? If now, really, the world swings over forty-five degrees, then you'd have a completely new piece of land which will be the axis, and maybe that is Jerusa-- maybe that is Glastonbury.

Glossary

<i>Adhan</i>	The call to prayer
<i>Ahlan wa salam</i>	Welcome, be at home
<i>Ahl al-Sunna wa'l-Jama'a</i>	People of the Sunna and Community
<i>Allahu Akbar</i>	God is great
<i>Arbaeen</i>	The Forty
<i>Awliya</i>	Friends of God
<i>Aya</i>	Verse of the Qur'an. Also translated as 'sign'.
<i>Banu Asfar</i>	Blond people
<i>Baraka</i>	Blessings
<i>Bayt al-mamur</i>	The much frequented house. The place the angels visit in Heaven
<i>Ba'ya</i>	Allegiance, in Sufism given to a shaykh
<i>Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim</i>	In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful
<i>Bushra</i>	To give good news
<i>Caliphate</i>	An Islamic 'state' ruled under a Caliph according to Islamic Law.
<i>Al-Dajjal</i>	The deceiver. A figure who will appear at the end of times and draw people away from Allah. Also translated as Anti-Christ.
<i>Dar al-Harb</i>	The realm of war (place where Islam is not practiced)
<i>Dar al-Islam</i>	The realm of Islam
<i>Fana</i>	Annihilation. A mystical experience in which the mystic loses themselves in the Divine Presence.
<i>Hajj</i>	Pilgrimage. One of the five pillars of Islam.
<i>Hijra</i>	The Prophet's migration from persecution in Mekka to safety in Medina.
<i>Insha Allah</i>	If God wills it
<i>Isa</i>	Jesus
<i>Jalhilliya</i>	The state of ignorance that existed before Islam.
<i>Jihad</i>	Struggle for God. Also associated with holy war.
<i>Jihadi</i>	One undertaking jihad.
<i>Khawarij</i>	From the group Kharijites. Used to describe an early group of Muslims who split from the community.
<i>Karamat</i>	Miracles