

M0005960: Wellcome Historical Medical Museum display: "The Origin of the World by Creation Out Of Primeval Water", key to map of the world

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KEY TO MAP

WITH COLOURS, DESCRIPTIONS AND TYPE STORY

Each colour represents a fundamental belief. The use of two or three colours conjoined indicates a belief which is a fusion of these represented by the single colours.



- 1 THE ARINTA OF CENTRAL AUSTRALIA** had a very crude creation myth. They believed that everything was originally covered with salt water, which was withdrawn periodically by people living to the North, and thus the land appeared.



- 2 THE CREATOR MADE THE WORLD, GENERALLY OUT OF A LITTLE EARTH WHICH HE FOUND.**
TYPE STORY from the Eskimos of Bering Strait.—'Everything was covered with water. Raven father came from the sky and made everything' (This story appears also in Egyptian mythology—which see).



- 3 THE EARTH OF WHICH THE WORLD WAS MADE CAME TO THE CREATOR FROM ELSEWHERE.**
TYPE STORY from the Puget North American Indians.—'There was originally only water, and some geese who brought earth to the Creator from their home in the south.'



- 4 EARTH WAS THROWN DOWN BY THE GODS ON TO PRIMEVAL WATER TO FORM THE WORLD.**
TYPE STORY from the Thompson North American Indians.—'The Old One (the Creator) took a little earth from the world above and threw it down on to the waste of waters. The earth spread out as it touched the water, and then the Old One added trees and other improvements.'



- 5 A GOD WAS BELIEVED TO HAVE FISHED UP THE VARIOUS ISLANDS ON A LINE FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE PRIMEVAL SEA.**
TYPE STORY from Tonga.—'The god Tangarova was fishing in the primeval sea, and drew up all the Tongan Islands. They would have formed one great land if his line had not broken, leaving the act of creation incomplete.'



- 6 THE EARTH WAS PRODUCED WHEN THE CREATOR CALISED SOME OF THE PRIMEVAL WATER TO THICKEN AND SOLIDIFY.**
TYPE STORY from the Jews of Armenia.—'In the beginning there were six people in a canoe sailing on primeval water. They agreed that the one who could thicken the water into earth and form the arch of heaven should be God Almighty. God succeeded in doing this by spitting into the water.'



- 7 THE EARTH WAS ESTABLISHED BY SOME CREATIVE POWER ON THE BODY OF A TURTLE, TORTOISE OR FROG, IN THE MIDST OF PRIMEVAL WATER.**
TYPE STORY from the Buriats of Siberia.—'Once there was nothing but water and a turtle floating in it; God turned it over and built the world on its stomach.'



- 8 THE EARTH WAS MADE BY BEING BROUGHT UP BY A DIVER, USUALLY AN ANIMAL OR BIRD, FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE PRIMEVAL SEA.**
TYPE STORY from the Natchez North American Indians.—'The Creator and the animals existed above the primeval sea. Wishing to make a home for living beings the Creator called a council of the animals, and bade them dive and bring up earth from the bottom of the sea. After unsuccessful attempts by the other animals, Crowfish managed to bring up a little mud which the Creator rolled out to form the earth.'



- 9 THE EARTH WAS FISHED UP FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA, AND WAS THEN ESTABLISHED ON THE BACK OF A TURTLE.**



- (attributed to Ingonia's tribes of North American Indians)
TYPE STORY from the Huron and Wyandot Indians.—'Once a woman fell from the sky world down towards the expanse of water. She was held up by the wings of the water-lark until Tad succeeded in bringing up a little earth from the bottom of the water. This earth was established on Turtle's back and formed the earth, where the woman lived and became the mother of mankind.'



- 10 THE WORLD AROSE OUT OF PRIMEVAL WATER AFTER A CONFLICT OF GOOD AND EVIL POWERS.**
TYPE STORY from Teotihuacan.—'God and the Archangels Michael and Gabriel began to blow away the waters and uncover the earth. They found Satan under a Blasphemy, who by nearly killing God, forced him into an alliance, and then instructed God and the Angels in the best method of separating land and water.'
(This myth appears also in Babylonian and Assyrian mythology—which see)



- 11 TWO CONFLICTING POWERS, ONE GOOD, THE OTHER EVIL, SHARE IN THE MAKING OF THE EARTH, WHICH WAS FIRST BROUGHT UP FROM THE BOTTOM OF PRIMEVAL WATER.**
TYPE STORY from the South Siberian Altaians.—'In the beginning God and a man flew above the primeval water in the shape of black geese. At God's command the man brought up earth from the bottom of the sea, which God strewn over the water and made into the world. The man dived a second time, and kept back some of the earth in his mouth, which melted so that he was forced to spit it out, thus forming swamps and other blonches on God's good world.'



- 12 THE EARTH WAS BROUGHT UP FROM THE PRIMEVAL SEA AND ESTABLISHED ON THE BODY OF A FROG. AN EVIL POWER TRIED TO RUIN THE NEW CREATION.**
TYPE STORY from the Chaldean Maggids of Central Asia.—'Veshirvani (the Creator) and Chagan-Shakasty (his companion) found a frog on the primeval waste of waters. Chagan-Shakasty brought earth from the bottom of the sea which Veshirvani strewn on the frog's body forming the world. Shalimus (Satan) tried to submerge them with the earth on which they were sleeping but with each attempt the earth grew and there was no water left to submerge it in.'



- 13 THE WORLD WAS MADE OUT OF A GREAT EGG WHICH EXISTED IN PRIMEVAL WATER.**
TYPE STORY from India.—'The Creator fertilised primeval water out of which came an egg. From the egg the Creator was born as Brahma, who made heaven and earth from the two halves.'



- 14 THE EARTH AROSE OUT OF PRIMEVAL WATER, AT THE WORD OF THE CREATOR.**
TYPE STORY from the Quiche of Guatemala.—'In the beginning there was nothing but water and two creators, K'epi K'ucumatz and Hurikan. The earth and the mountains all arose at the mere word of the creators.'