



Meru Foundation eTORUS Newsletter

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Greetings from the Meru Staff

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West Coast: Bill Haber



Stan, Bill, and I want to thank all of you for your interest in Meru Foundation's work – and for your patience. There's a reason why this is our first eTORUS mailing for 2008: we have spent much of this year organizing and writing *The Alphabet that Changed the World*, our forthcoming book on the Meru research. (More on this below.) We've also made progress in several other areas, and wanted to take the opportunity of this holiday season to update you on our findings and current plans.

The Alphabet that Changed the World

Stan and I have spent much of this year focused on completing the manuscript for *The Alphabet that Changed the World: How Genesis Preserves a Science of Consciousness in Geometry and Gesture*, Meru's first book written for a major publisher. We have planned and prepared for this book over many years, and in 2008 the elements we needed to do it came together. We are privileged to have the assistance of independent editor, author, logician, and classical scholar Charles Stein, who worked with us previously to craft *Linguistic Cosmology*, a chapter-length summary of our research for a book commissioned by MIT Press. (See below for information on the MIT Press book.) Charles Stein's expertise, and his ability to organize a logical way to introduce the Meru hypotheses and findings to readers, has made our first full-length book possible. Crafting this work has taken longer than Stan and I expected, and we have learned a lot we didn't previously know about the process, which hopefully will stand us in good stead when we write our next book. But our current manuscript is nearing completion, and we are confident enough now to be able to announce it to our entire eTORUS readership.

The Alphabet that Changed the World: How Genesis Preserves a Science of Consciousness in Geometry and Gesture will be published by North Atlantic Books/Random House, likely during 2009. (Once we hand in our manuscript, it still takes several months for the book itself to be produced, and actual release date always depends on North Atlantic/Random House's overall schedule.) A prototype publisher's catalog page for our book¹ is included in our new [online Meru Foundation Introductory Packet](#). The packet also includes brief summaries of our findings and goals, expert evaluations, and a reprint of the eTORUS article, *The Unique Qualities of Gesture Letters Formed by a Single Model Hand*. Please take a moment to have a look at this Introductory Packet, and pass it on to others who are interested in learning about Meru Foundation's findings and goals. Thank you.

Regarding *Linguistic Cosmology*, mentioned above: In [eTORUS #40](#), we announced the completion of this chapter written for *The Complementarity of Mind and Body: Realizing the Dream of Descartes, Einstein, and Eccles*, a compendium edited by physicist Richard Amoroso and neurophysiologist Karl Pribram which will be published by MIT Press. At the time, we had anticipated that this book would be released during 2008, but MIT Press has had its own delays, though the book is still forthcoming. Once it's released, we'll announce it in the eTORUS.

Meru Models in Traditional Sources: *The Fountain of Wisdom*

For the past several years, with the help of colleagues in the Boston-area Jewish community, we have been exploring and gathering references in traditional sources that are clearly based on knowledge of the conceptual and physical



models we first discovered from our study of the letter-text of Genesis. We wrote briefly about two of those sources – Yehuda HaLevi's 13th century *Al Kuzari*,² and R. Shabetai Sheftel Horowitz's 16th century *Shefa Tal*² – in *The Unique Qualities of Gesture Letters Formed by a Single Model Hand* (printed in [eTORUS #41](#)). This year, we explored a third and quite convincing source: *The Fountain of Wisdom*, a text attributed to an anonymous group of authors in 13th-century Provence, France, known as the "Iyyun Circle". (As the Hebrew word *iyyun* actually means "circle", this name seems redundant; nonetheless that is how this group is referred to in academic writing.)

We had the opportunity to study this text with an expert in the field, Rabbi Dr. Meir Sendor (Ph.D. Harvard; Yale, Yeshiva University), who has characterized it by saying, in effect, that "everyone (in the field) knows that no one really understands this text." There is one extant translation of *The Fountain of Wisdom* into English, by Mark Verman (Wright State University, Ohio),³ which we used as a reference for our studies – but by my own observation, even though Verman's translation of each individual word is reasonable, the text as a whole made no clear sense. It read as if some unifying foundational concept was missing.

As Stan and I worked through several sections of *The Fountain of Wisdom* with R. Sendor, translating it phrase by phrase, it became obvious that the missing, underlying concept was an understanding of universal process equivalent to Meru's [Model of Continuous Creation](#), which has been central to our work for well over 15 years, and from which the *First Hand* model for creating the Hebrew letters was derived. (Accordingly, we now refer to our *Continuous Creation* model as the *Fountain of Wisdom*, as will be seen in the new version of this poster which will appear in *The Alphabet that Changed the World*.) When I compared our reading to Prof. Verman's, what was most fascinating is how close they were – and yet, how far apart. By choosing translations that emphasized a different shade of meaning, our exploration of *The Fountain of Wisdom* brought the underlying model into clear relief.

Over the summer, we worked through enough of the text with R. Sendor to get a sense of what a complete translation could offer. We think that *The Fountain of Wisdom* not only includes a description of the basic models we've been working with, but also goes on to describe how these models could be used for mental exercises and meditation – in 12th century terms. We have, in a sense, done a "demonstration project" for translating this material – and other works like it – into modern language, exploring the sophistication and depth they contain. With funding, Meru could produce a full, annotated and illustrated translation of *The Fountain of Wisdom* and other similar texts. As it stands, Stan and I both feel that our work on *The Fountain of Wisdom* has capped our decade-long effort to ground Meru research in traditional sources. We have no doubt at this point that the giants of tradition knew of these models, and assumed those who read their works would know them as well, likely until as recently as two centuries ago.

Meru Videos on YouTube

All of Meru Foundation's lecture DVD's have been produced and directed by Meru Foundation's President and videographer, Bill Haber. (Our DVD's and other materials are available on our sales website, www.meetingtent.com). This year, Bill has been reviewing our video library (including unreleased material), selecting short segments on single topics, and posting them to YouTube as a way for people to get a "taste" of Meru Foundation's findings and our approach to this work. Check out the video site Bill has created for Meru on YouTube: www.youtube.com/user/filmguy2121.

Please forward feedback and questions to Bill Haber at bill@haber.com. We would especially like to ask those of you who are "Web 2.0-savvy" to share this YouTube video site, and information about Meru in general, in the ways and places that work best in today's Internet environment – social networking sites, twitter, and whatever supplants them as the next popular platform. And if you have expertise in this kind of "viral publicity", we can use your help! Please get in touch with Bill Haber if you'd like to work with us.

In part because of our YouTube and Google video clips, many of our readers are new to eTORUS, and to Meru Foundation's research. I want to thank you for your interest, and for the kind words many of you have emailed to us. You may not know that Meru Foundation is supported entirely by contributions from individuals and sales of our DVD's and other materials. We receive no academic or government grants. For Stan and Levanah, Meru is a full-time occupation, a life's work. Neither of us has a "day job"; in the early 1980's, when Meru was founded, our



original supporters understood that this kind of innovative, creative effort requires complete concentration and focus. I want to ask each of you to consider the value of our work – and then, if it's right for you, to make a contribution to help Meru research to continue. You can give via PayPal by clicking the "PayPal-Donate" button at the top-right of our home page, www.meru.org; or if you prefer to use a credit card, go to www.meetingtent.com and select one of the pre-set contribution amounts. (You may also add a contribution to your regular order.) Thank you all, for your interest and your support.

Stan, Bill, and I want to wish each of you the very best for this holiday season, and for the coming new year.

—Levanah Tenen, ed.

¹ This listing page for *The Alphabet that Changed the World* was composed for the Sept. 2008 North Atlantic/Random House catalog, but as the book wasn't ready it was postponed. The text and layout should be substantially similar when our book is actually released.

² Yehuda HaLevi was a 12-century scholar, poet, and sage who lived in Islamic Spain. He wrote *Al Kuzari* as a defense of Jewish teachings and learning for Jews living in the Islamic world. R. Shabatai Sheftal Horowitz of Prague (c. 1561-1619), known as "the renowned physician of Prague," was a master of both the Talmudic and mystical traditions of Judaism. *Shefa Tal* ("Abundance of Dew"), published in 1612, was his masterwork.

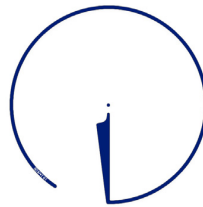
³ *The Books of Contemplation: Medieval Jewish Mystical Sources*, by Mark Verman. ©1992 State University of New York (SUNY Press), Albany, NY, ISBN 0-7914-0720-9, pp. 49-64. [Excerpts are available through Google Books.](#)



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