

## *Earth Chakras*

Robert Powell & David Bowden

This article, published in the *Journal for Star Wisdom 2013*, is excerpted from chapter 10 of the new book by Robert Powell & David Bowden, *Astrogeographia: Correspondences between the Stars and Earthly Locations—Earth Chakras and the Bible of Astrology* (Great Barrington, MA: SteinerBooks, 2012).

### **The Imprint of the Stars upon the Earth**

We have considered the relationship of the earthly globe to the celestial sphere comprising multitudes of stars, looking at how the stars in the heavens are mirrored on the Earth at various locations, as indicated in Rudolf Steiner's words, "we can conceive of the active heavenly sphere mirrored in the Earth."<sup>1</sup> Elsewhere Rudolf Steiner said: "The continents upon the Earth are held in place from without by the starry constellations. When the constellations change, the continents change, also. On the old maps and atlases these relationships between starry constellations and configurations on the Earth's surface were correctly shown, including also the constellations of the zodiac."<sup>2</sup> What we believe to be the correct depiction of the projection of the zodiacal constellations—in particular, of the ecliptic running through the middle of the zodiacal constellations—has been mapped out by David Bowden.<sup>3</sup>

Now there is the question as to whether not only the stars but also the planets might be mirrored upon the Earth? Astrogeographia is concerned primarily with the projection of the stars upon the earthly globe, which is a huge theme. However, the relationship of the planets to the earthly globe is also a vast theme—one which we can only briefly depict here in outline. We ask the reader to bear with us in this sketch, in the understanding that it deserves a much more profound treatment than we are able to give it here.

The relationship of the stars and planets to the Earth are continually changing each hour of the day on account of the Earth's rotation. However, in Astrogeographia we are interested in the *archetypal relationship* of the heavens to the Earth. To express what is meant by "archetypal relationship" an analogy may be drawn with the horoscope at a person's birth.

If one were to photograph a person's brain at the moment of birth and then photograph also the heavens lying exactly over the person's birthplace, this latter picture would be of exactly the same appearance as that of the human brain. As certain centers were arranged in the latter, so would the stars be in the photograph of the heavens. The human being has within himself a picture of the heavens, and every person has a different one, according to whether he was born in this place or that, and at this or that time. This is one indication that the human being is born from out of the whole cosmos.<sup>4</sup>

The analogy for the Earth to the birth horoscope of an individual is the *thema mundi*, the birth horoscope of the Earth, when at some time in the early history of the Earth an imprint of the starry heavens upon the Earth took place. It is this imprint that is the focus of Astrogeographia. The question now is whether there is also an archetypal relationship of the planets to the Earth? That there is such a relationship is expressly stated by Rudolf Steiner. After saying in relation to the stars, "We come, then, to a complete mirroring of what is outside in the interior of the Earth," he says that the same holds also for the planets:

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<sup>1</sup> Rudolf Steiner, *The Relationship of the Diverse Branches of Natural Science to Astronomy*, lecture 10 of Complete Works volume 323, January 10, 1921—*Das Verhältnis der verschiedenen naturwissenschaftlichen Gebiete zur Astronomie* ["The Astronomy Course"], Rudolf Steiner Verlag: Dornach/Switzerland, 1997, lecture of January 10, 1921 (translated from the German by RP).

<sup>2</sup> *Faculty Meetings with Rudolf Steiner, Volume II (1922-1924)*, Complete Works volume 300c (Great Barrington, MA: Anthroposophic Press, 1998), Questions and Answers from April 25, 1923. (English translation amended by RP after comparing with the German original.)

<sup>3</sup> Robert Powell & David Bowden, *Astrogeographia and the Bible of Astrology—Correspondences between Stars above and Earthly Locations below* (Great Barrington, MA: SteinerBooks, 2012), chapter 8 and appendix 1.

<sup>4</sup> Rudolf Steiner, *The Spiritual Guidance of the Individual and Humanity* (Great Barrington, MA: Anthroposophic Press, 1992), p. 63.

*Picturing this in regard to each individual planet, we have, say Jupiter, and then a “polar Jupiter” within the Earth. We come to something which works outward from within the Earth in the way that Jupiter works in the Earth’s environment. We arrive at a mirroring (in reality it is the opposite way round), but I will now describe it like this: a mirroring of what is outside the Earth into the interior of the Earth.*<sup>5</sup>

In addition, another of his indications, which we shall come to below, alludes implicitly to an archetypal relationship of the planets to various continents of the Earth.

## **The Seven Planets, the Seven Continents, and the Seven Earth Chakras**

There are seven classical planets—Sun (Sunday), Moon (Monday), Mars (Tuesday), Mercury (Wednesday), Jupiter (Thursday), Venus (Friday), Saturn (Saturday)—according to which the seven days of the week are named, and there are seven continents. It is thus worth considering whether there is a correspondence between the seven continents and the seven classical planets. Even though, in the quote from Rudolf Steiner at the start of this article, he indicates that there is a correspondence between the continents and the starry constellations—this being also the core theme of Astrogeographia—the question is whether, over and above this correspondence to the constellations, there is, in addition, also an archetypal relationship between the continents and the seven planets? If there is, we could ask the further question as to whether there is a specific location upon each continent that is the central focus of the in-streaming planetary impulses? Such locations would be special “power points” or “planetary chakras” upon the Earth.

The terminology for describing the chakras in this chapter is tabulated below.<sup>6</sup> This tabulation is based upon indications given by Rudolf Steiner:<sup>7</sup>

<b>lotus</b>	<b>chakra</b>	<b>planet</b>	<b>colour</b>
8 petal	crown	Saturn	violet
2 petal	third eye	Jupiter	blue
16 petal	larynx	Mars	green
12 petal	heart	Sun	yellow
10 petal	solar plexus	Mercury	orange
6 petal	sacral	Venus	red
4 petal	root	Moon	peach blossom

In 1967, Robert Coon described in his book *Earth Chakras*<sup>8</sup> the basic principle of one major Earth chakra on each continent, with the exception of Antarctica. We begin our study of the planetary Earth chakras first by quoting from Robert Coon from the opening chapter to his book *Earth Chakras*:

Geography teaches us about the continents, oceans, mountains, and rivers of the world. Geology studies stone formations—the skeleton of the Earth. These sciences investigate the more material aspects of the planetary body. The study of Earth chakras is more akin to acupuncture in that we are exploring the more subtle energy structures of the Earth. Earth chakras are like bodily organs that are vital to the health of the world, and to all living beings dependent upon the various environments provided by the world. Each chakra serves a different function, which is twofold:

1. To maintain the overall global health.
2. To transmit and receive energy encoded with information.

<sup>5</sup> Rudolf Steiner, *The Relationship of the Diverse Branches of Natural Science to Astronomy*, lecture 10 of Complete Works volume 323, January 10, 1921—*Das Verhältnis der verschiedenen naturwissenschaftlichen Gebiete zur Astronomie* [“The Astronomy Course”], Rudolf Steiner Verlag: Dornach/Switzerland, 1997, lecture of January 10, 1921.

<sup>6</sup> See Lacquanna Paul & Robert Powell, *Cosmic Dances of the Planets* (Sophia Foundation Press: San Rafael, CA, 2006), pp. 179-183.

<sup>7</sup> Although Rudolf Steiner indicated not only the approximate locations (larynx, heart, etc.) and the planetary correspondences but also, albeit indirectly (in artistic form), the colors of the lotus flowers in his 1923 sketch “The Human Being in Relation to the Planets,” he did not specify either in this sketch or elsewhere the number of petals belonging to the lotus flower located in the region of the crown. See the discussion in the previous reference as to why this lotus flower (crown chakra) is indicated to have eight petals.

<sup>8</sup> See Robert Coon, *Earth Chakras* (self published; distributed by Lulu.com, 1967-2009), p. 3.

There is one great Earth chakra located on each continent.

He gives permanent (fixed) map locations for six of the major chakras and a temporary (moving) location for the Third Eye chakra (see table below), indicating that the current location of this mobile chakra coincides with the place of the heart chakra. He weaves the Earth chakras within a wider context of 156 sacred sites across the planet. This number he derives from 52 “inspirational earth chakras,”<sup>9</sup> multiplied by three since each of these 52 earth chakras, he says, “generates a related structural and a related creative gate.” He also pointed to a system of spinner wheels and gates for the Earth, that become progressively activated into the future, in 19-year cycles. He says that he received his inspiration for the sacred geography of the Earth from the prophet Elijah.

*Table of Robert Coon’s identification of seven Earth chakras on seven continents*<sup>10</sup>

<i>Chakra</i>	<i>Continent (Country)</i>	<i>Place</i>
7 <sup>th</sup> chakra (crown)	Asia (Tibet/ China)	Mount Kailas
6 <sup>th</sup> chakra (third eye) [moving]	Europe (England)	Glastonbury and Shaftesbury
5 <sup>th</sup> chakra (throat) [larynx]	Asia-Africa (Israel/Palestine-Egypt)	Great Pyramid, Mount Sinai, and Mount of Olives
4 <sup>th</sup> chakra (heart)	Europe (England)	Glastonbury and Shaftesbury
3 <sup>rd</sup> chakra (solar plexus)	Australia (Northern Territory)	Uluru and Kata Tjuta
2 <sup>nd</sup> chakra (sexual area) [sacral]	South America (Bolivia-Peru)	Island of the Sun, Lake Titicaca
1 <sup>st</sup> chakra (base of spine) [root]	North America (California, USA)	Mount Shasta

With Robert Coon's basic idea of one chakra on each continent as a starting point, we proceed in this article to construct a map of the planetary chakras of the Earth, based on the insights of spiritual science given by Rudolf Steiner—in particular his description of the influences of the planets upon the Earth. In this way we find an assignment of seven planetary chakras to locations on the surface of the Earth—still, however, adhering to the principle of one chakra on each continent, with the exception of Antarctica. We derive our basic insight from Rudolf Steiner’s indications given in his lectures *The Mission of Folk Souls*,<sup>11</sup> In the sixth lecture he connects the influence of Mercury with Africa, that of Venus with Southeast Asia, that of Mars with “the broad region of Asia” of the Mongolian peoples (this includes not just Mongolia but also China, Tibet, and other parts of Asia), that of Jupiter with Europe, and that of Saturn with America, whereby it is clear from the context that he means North America. Then in the twelfth lecture of *The Mission of Folk Souls* he is more specific about the key location of a place in Germany as “the point on the continent of Europe from which once the greatest impulses rayed out in all directions.” We believe that with these words Rudolf Steiner identified the *Jupiter chakra* of the Earth as the Externsteine. In this lecture it is clear that he meant the Externsteine by his reference to this point lying between “the cities of Detmold and Paderborn,” since the ancient site of the Externsteine does in fact lie between Detmold and Paderborn and there is no other noteworthy ancient site between these two cities in Germany. His description of this location as being “the point on the continent of Europe from which once the greatest impulses rayed out in all directions” fits that which can be thought of as the planetary chakra of Europe—the place of in-streaming cosmic forces for the spiritual evolution of Europe.

Having—with Rudolf Steiner’s help—identified the Jupiter chakra, i.e. the “third eye” chakra, with the Externsteine on the continent of Europe, the task remains to find the locations of the other planetary chakras on the other continents of the Earth. The seven main continents are: Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Antarctica, Europe, and Oceania, comprising the region of Australia, New Zealand, New Guinea, and neighboring islands (now collectively known as Australasia)—although often simply “Australia” is named as the seventh continent in this list, instead of Oceania.<sup>12</sup> Leaving Antarctica out of consideration reduces this to six continents. However,

<sup>9</sup> Ibid., p. 95.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid., pp. 6-16.

<sup>11</sup> Rudolf Steiner, *The Mission of Folk Souls*, Complete Works volume 121 (London: Rudolf Steiner Press, 2005).

<sup>12</sup> There are widely diverging views as to how Oceania is defined. Oceania was originally conceived as the lands of the Pacific Ocean, stretching from the Straits of Malacca to the coast of the Americas. It comprised four regions: *Polynesia*, *Micronesia*, *Malaysia* (now called the Malay Archipelago), and *Melanesia* (now called Australasia). Geopolitically Oceania

Rudolf Steiner considered Southeast Asia separately from the rest of Asia, bringing the number back to seven. Southeast Asia he correlated with Venus, and the rest of Asia—at least, that part of Asia comprising the natural habitat of the “Mongolian peoples”—he brought into connection with Mars. Thus, just as we looked for the Jupiter chakra in Europe, so our search for the Venus chakra is in Southeast Asia, the Mars chakra in Asia, and the Saturn chakra in North America. However, as will be elucidated in our discussion concerning the location of the Sun and Mercury chakras, there is a question—bearing in mind that Africa is correlated with Mercury by Rudolf Steiner—about the position on the globe of the Mercury chakra.

Now let us move forward for a discussion regarding the corresponding resonances of the Sun, Mercury, Venus, and the Moon, with the continents of the Earth. Regarding the Sun chakra: contemplating the Earth as a whole, on numerous occasions Rudolf Steiner referred to the central significance of the location of Golgotha/Jerusalem for the entire Earth. Here Christ’s sacrifice took place, which signified on a spiritual level the transition from a descending to an ascending phase of evolution for the Earth and humanity. Astrogeographia connects onto the fundamental significance of Golgotha/Jerusalem and, as discussed in our book—especially in chapter 9—Jerusalem is identified as the location on the Earth’s surface that can be regarded as the spiritual center of the Earth, i.e. the heart chakra, corresponding to the Sun.<sup>13</sup> In terms of continents, Jerusalem lies in Asia, but is very close to Africa, and is not far from the southernmost reaches of Europe. However, as discussed in chapter 9 of our book, Golgotha, Mount Sinai, and the Great Pyramid are all spiritually connected with one another, which indicates something of the great outreach of this heart chakra of the Earth.<sup>14</sup>

Taking this into consideration, the Earth’s heart chakra is very much linked with the continent of Africa. In fact, Africa looks like a heart! And just as the location of the heart chakra in the human being is not identical to the physical heart, but is nevertheless intimately linked to it, so Golgotha/Jerusalem can be considered as the heart chakra, which is intimately linked to the “physical heart” of the Earth—Africa. As the Sun is the center of our solar system, and as the heart chakra, corresponding to the Sun, is the spiritual center of the human being, so Golgotha/Jerusalem is the spiritual center of the Earth—on account of Christ’s sacrifice there, bestowing upon the Earth and humanity the central transforming impulse for the spiritual evolution of the world. And long before the city of Jerusalem existed at this location—in fact, from the time of the *thema mundi*, the birth horoscope of the Earth—on a spiritual level this place was the center of the world, as was recognized later in the Rabbinic tradition: “The innermost sanctuary of the Temple [of Solomon], the Holy of Holies, or *Kodesh Hakodeshim*, where the Ark of the Covenant was placed, *marked the exact center of the world.*”<sup>15</sup>

Apart from identifying Africa’s chakra, the heart chakra, with Golgotha (Earth’s Sun chakra) and Europe’s chakra, the “third eye,” with the location of the Externsteine (Earth’s Jupiter chakra), we are in agreement with Robert Coon’s pinpointing of the locations of four of the other five Earth chakras. However, based on Steiner’s research connecting the planets with regions of the Earth, we come to a different correspondence of the chakras to these locations. This is to be expected, because we are looking from a cosmic perspective (*Earth’s planetary chakras*), whereas Robert Coon is focused upon *Earth chakras*. We are indebted to Robert Coon for his work in identifying the locations of the Earth chakras, which has served as a starting point for our research. Our work approaches this subject from a cosmic perspective, in order to identify the positions of the planetary chakras upon the Earth. We respect Robert Coon’s research and are grateful for his pioneering work in this field, and we believe that in this vast field of inquiry there is room for different perspectives.

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includes Australia and the nations of the Pacific from Papua New Guinea east, but not Indonesian New Guinea or Malaysia. Sometimes Oceania is defined as a continent comprising Australia and nearby islands. This definition is sometimes extended to also include Micronesia, Polynesia, and every island in between, where New Zealand is considered to belong to Polynesia. The widest definition of Oceania includes the entire region between continental Asia and the Americas.

<sup>13</sup> Robert Powell & David Bowden, *Astrogeographia: Correspondences between the Stars and Earthly Locations—Earth Chakras and the Bible of Astrology* (Great Barrington, MA: SteinerBooks, 2012).

<sup>14</sup> For Robert Coon, as indicated in the above table, the great expanse covered by the Great Pyramid, Mount Sinai, and the Mount of Olives comprises the throat (larynx) chakra of the Earth.

<sup>15</sup> “On The Location of the First and Second Temples in Jerusalem” by Lambert Dolphin and Michael Kollen, <http://www.templemount.org/theories.html>

Beginning with Robert Coon’s identification of Mount Shasta as the Earth chakra on the continent of North America, given the association, according to Steiner, of North America with the planet Saturn, we see Mount Shasta as the Saturn chakra of the Earth, i.e. the crown chakra. Proceeding from West to East across the northern hemisphere, North America corresponds to Saturn, Europe to Jupiter, and Asia to Mars. Having identified Mount Shasta as the Earth’s Saturn chakra and the Externsteine as the Earth’s Jupiter chakra, it is a matter now of finding the Earth chakra on the continent of Asia that corresponds to Mars. According to Robert Coon, the Earth chakra of Asia is Mount Kailash in the Gangdisê Mountains (part of the Transhimalaya) in Tibet—regarded as THE sacred mountain in Buddhism, Hinduism, Jainism, and the Bon religion, a branch of Tibetan Vajrayana. The Earth’s Mars chakra is thus Mount Kailash. Summarizing our findings so far:

<i>Planet</i>	<i>Chakra</i>	<i>Continent</i>	<i>Place/Planetary Chakra</i>
Saturn	Crown	North America	Mount Shasta
Jupiter	Third Eye	Europe	Externsteine
Mars	Larynx	Asia	Mount Kailash
Sun	Heart	Asia-Africa	Golgotha/Jerusalem

Whereas these four places belong to the Northern Hemisphere, the other three locations of Earth chakras belong to the Southern Hemisphere. Given that Africa is already accounted for in terms of the Earth’s heart chakra at Golgotha being the chakra corresponding to the “heart continent” of Africa, what are the remaining three continents and where are their corresponding chakras? In light of Rudolf Steiner’s indication referred to above, it is Mercury that is the planet of Africa in terms of the people indigenous to that continent. Before considering a continent other than Africa in relation to Mercury, let us look further at the question of Africa’s relationship to the Sun. As a starting point, it is well-known that Africa is the world’s main source of gold, the precious metal corresponding to the Sun. Already from the time of the building of the Great Pyramid, around 2500 BC, during the reign of Pharaoh Khufu (Cheops) of the Fourth Dynasty in Egypt, gold is recorded as having been brought from the “land of Punt”—a trading partner for the ancient Egyptians known for producing and exporting gold. The exact location of Punt remains a mystery. Most researchers now say that Punt was located in the region of the Horn of Africa, where today Northern Somalia, Eritrea, Djibouti, and Sudan (Red Sea coast) are located. In the fifteenth century BC it is recorded that Queen Hatchepsut traded gold from Nubia for myrrh and other goods from the land of Punt. Later, around 1000 BC, agricultural communities south of the Sahara began to resort to gold production for part of the year, and from that time onwards transported the gold across the Sahara to trade it for goods. The Phoenecian city-state of Carthage (814-146 BC), located in North Africa on the Gulf of Tunis on the Mediterranean coast, was renowned for its gold, which probably came from the Sub-Saharan region. After the destruction of Carthage, regular trade across the Sahara broke down. Around AD 100 the camel was introduced from Arabia into North Africa by the Romans, making trans-Saharan trade possible again. It is known that from around AD 400 onward camels were regularly transporting gold across the Sahara from West Africa, which for the ensuing eleven hundred years became the world’s most important supplier of gold. The Ghana Empire, located in what is now southeastern Mauritania and Western Mali, obtained much of its gold from the Bambuk and Boure goldfields in Sudan. The Ghana Empire was superseded in the thirteen century by the Islamic Mali Empire, which flourished above all through its gold trade. It contained three immense gold mines within its borders, unlike the Ghana Empire, which was only a transit point for gold. Mali was the source of almost half the world’s gold—exported from the goldfields of Bambuk, Boure, and Galam. Then, in 1868 gold was discovered in South Africa—since then the source of nearly 40% of all gold ever mined, and thought to be still home to an estimated 50% of the world’s gold reserves. This brief history of Africa’s relationship with gold, the metal of the Sun, lends support to the identification of Africa as the Sun (heart) continent on account of its gold reserves—gold being the metal corresponding to the Sun.

On another level, not forgetting that Steiner related the people of Africa to Mercury rather than to the Sun, as the Sun is universal, its influence cannot really be limited to one continent. However, it needs to be borne in mind that Steiner was focusing upon the indigenous people of Africa as the “Mercury race” and not so much upon the continent of Africa as such—and this applies also to the other correspondences between continents and planets referred to in this article. On a physical level, according to the “World Sunshine Map” the continent of Africa receives many more hours of bright sunshine during the year than any other continent of the Earth, and this could

also be a reason for considering Africa as the “Sun continent” or the continent where the Sun’s influence is greatest.<sup>16</sup> Apart from Africa’s relationship to the physical Sun in terms of hours of bright sunshine, and to gold, the metal of the Sun, it is also the natural habitat of the lion; and as Linda Tucker shows convincingly in her book, the lion—especially the white lion—is a symbol both of the Sun and of the spirit of Africa.<sup>17</sup> Moreover, in astrology the heart corresponds to the constellation of Leo, i.e. to the lion, so again we see a correspondence here relating Africa to the heart—and also to the Sun, to which the heart (from another perspective) corresponds.<sup>18</sup>

Relating to the Earth as a living being mirroring in kind the planetary life of our solar system, the lungs are said to correspond to Mercury.<sup>19</sup> If Africa is the heart, where do we find the lungs of the Earth? Everyone knows that trees are the lungs of the Earth and that, in particular, the tropical rainforests are the greatest suppliers of life-giving oxygen on the planet. The Amazon represents over half of the Earth’s remaining rainforests and supplies an estimated 20% of the planet’s oxygen. This is one reason for considering South America, home of the Amazon basin, as the Mercury continent. If Africa is regarded as the Sun (heart) continent, South America can perhaps be identified as the Mercury (lungs) continent. There are various considerations that support this. For example, Mercury is thought of as the planet of movement—Steiner refers to “Mercury’s swift-winged movement in our limbs”<sup>20</sup>—and considering the love of movement in South American countries, where an extraordinary number of dance forms have originated, the “Mercurial quality” of South America comes to expression in their penchant for dance.<sup>21</sup> Mercury (lungs) clearly also has to do with breathing, and during breathing the diaphragm contracts and flattens, producing an outward movement of the upper abdominal wall—the epigastric region (solar plexus or “pit of the stomach”), where Steiner locates the Mercury chakra.<sup>22</sup>

There is yet another consideration here, which emerges when we turn our attention to Cuzco, the capital of the Inca civilization and of the whole Tawantinsuyu (Peruvian) empire. According to the Incas the word *Qosqo* (their word for Cuzco) meant “navel of the world.” We find here, in this expression, an allusion to a Mercury center. For the navel is related to the solar plexus (Mercury) chakra.<sup>23</sup> Robert Coon identifies Lake Titicaca as the Earth chakra for the continent of South America, and in Inca mythology there is a link between Lake Titicaca and Cuzco. Manco Cápac was said to be the mythological founder of the Inca Dynasty in Peru and the Cuzco Dynasty at Cuzco. He was thought to have arisen from the depths of Lake Titicaca. If Lake Titicaca is the Earth’s solar plexus (Mercury) chakra, Cuzco was evidently conceived of as the closely related “navel center of the world” and the Inca connected these two places in the personage of their legendary founder. Thus, Lake Titicaca is identified as the location of the Earth’s Mercury chakra, closely linked with Cuzco as the “navel of the world.”

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<sup>16</sup> See <http://earth.rice.edu/mtp/geo/geosphere/hot/energyfuture/Sunlight.html> for the “World Sunshine Map.”

<sup>17</sup> Linda Tucker, *Mystery of the White Lions* (Mapumulanga/South Africa: Npenvu Press, 2003), pp. 253-256.

<sup>18</sup> In astrology the Sun is said to be “at home” in Leo. In other words, there is a deep relationship between the Sun and Leo. And just as the heart corresponds to Leo in terms of its physical structure, on a soul/spiritual level it corresponds to the Sun.

<sup>19</sup> For the correspondences of the organs with the planets, see Lacquanna Paul & Robert Powell, *Cosmic Dances of the Planets* (Sophia Foundation Press: San Rafael, CA, 2006).

<sup>20</sup> Lacquanna Paul & Robert Powell, *Cosmic Dances of the Planets* (Sophia Foundation Press: San Rafael, CA, 2006).

<sup>21</sup> The people of Africa, too, have a great love of dance—in line with Steiner’s identification of the indigenous African people as the “Mercury race.” Further, many people of Black African descent came to Latin America, mainly to Brazil and the Caribbean, but also to Columbia and Venezuela, as part of the Atlantic slave trade.

<sup>22</sup> Rudolf Steiner likens the Earth to a human being: “America appears like the breast”—see *Menschheitsentwicklung und Christus-Erkenntnis* (“Human Evolution and Knowledge of Christ”), Complete Works volume 100 (Dornach, Switzerland: Rudolf Steiner Verlag, 2005), p. 287. It is in line with these words of Steiner to relate the lungs to South America. See also *Esoteric Development: Selected Lectures and Writings*, Complete Works volume 53 (Great Barrington, MA: SteinerBooks, 2003), lecture of March 16, 1905, p. 110 for Rudolf Steiner’s location of the Mercury chakra in the “pit of the stomach” (German: *Magengrube*), i.e. solar plexus.

<sup>23</sup> The close relationship between the navel and the solar plexus (Mercury) chakra is evident in the Hindu tradition, where the location of the 10-petal lotus flower (Sanskrit: *Manipura*) is sometimes identified as the region of the navel and sometimes as the region of the solar plexus. A possible solution to this conundrum comes through Rudolf Steiner’s identification—see previous footnote—of the location of the 10-petal lotus flower as the region of the “pit of the stomach,” which would seem to indicate the solar plexus (rather than the navel), i.e. the epigastric region rather than the umbilical region. Given that the solar plexus is the location of the Mercury chakra, nonetheless in other traditions—for example, Daoist and Hindu traditions—the navel is of great significance. Thus, according to Ayurvedic medicine, the navel is an important energy center in the human body, with nearly 72,000 subtle nerves (nadis) converging in this area.

In relation to identifying the location of the Earth's Venus chakra, it is helpful if we now turn to an important aspect of Robert Coon's research: that six of the seven Earth chakras all lie along one or the other of two great ley lines of the Earth, which he calls *ley arteries* and names the *Rainbow Serpent* (female) and the *Plumed Serpent* (male). *Ley arteries* is an appropriate expression in terms of their overriding magnitude and significance in comparison with all other ley lines (energy lines) on our planet. Our own research confirms the validity of two principle ley arteries encircling the Earth and that six of the seven planetary chakras of the Earth are indeed located on these arteries—the only one not lying on one of the two lines being the Earth's Sun (heart) chakra at Golgotha/Jerusalem. However, the paths of the two ley arteries which David Bowden has mapped out mathematically differ slightly from the paths of the ley arteries indicated by Robert Coon.

Since Robert Coon in his work does not consider Southeast Asia to be a separate continent from Asia, he does not indicate that one of the seven Earth chakras is located in Southeast Asia. However, in his mapping of the paths of the Rainbow Serpent and the Plumed Serpent around the globe, he identifies two locations where these ley arteries meet and cross one another. One is Lake Titicaca, and the other is the island of Bali. The crossing point on Bali he calls "the World Purification Center," seeing it not as an Earth chakra but as a *sacred gate*—one of the *twelve foundation gates of the world*. He indicates that the sacred sites located on the island of Bali serve in the purification of the Earth's blood. This is exactly the function of the kidneys in the human being, to help in the purification of the blood, removing toxic materials from the body. Just as the heart is the organ corresponding to the Sun, and the lungs are the organ corresponding to Mercury, so the kidneys are the organ corresponding to Venus.<sup>24</sup> Further research led us to the identification of the highest mountain on Bali, Mount Agung, as the location of the Earth's Venus chakra. The Balinese believe that Mount Agung is a mystical mountain, which they think of as a replica of the mythical Mount Meru, the sacred mountain in Hindu and Buddhist cosmology, considered to be the center of the universe. Moreover, the most important, largest, and holiest Hindu temple on Bali, *Purah Besakih* (the Mother temple of Besakih), is located high on the slopes of Mount Agung. According to our research, it is here on this volcanic mountain that the Earth's Venus chakra is located.

Now, in coming to the task of mapping the flow of the two great ley arteries, we looked for the crossing points of these two circles around the globe connecting the locations of the Earth's planetary chakras. Focusing first upon the crossing point in the Asia/Southeast Asia region against the background of our cosmic perspective (complementary to Robert Coon's Earth-based perspective), the crossing point we found is not on the island of Bali, but interestingly coincides more or less exactly with Mount Kailash, the Earth's Mars (larynx) chakra, which, as described in chapter 9 of our book, lies on the Dubhe meridian—Dubhe being the most luminous of the seven stars comprising the Big Dipper. We found that the other crossing point, located in the Andean highlands in Peru, South America, lies some 854 miles (1374 kilometers) north-west of Lake Titicaca, the Earth's Mercury (solar plexus) chakra,<sup>25</sup> about 8900 ft (2700 m) above sea level. Like Mount Kailash, it is on the meridian of a very powerful star, since it lies close to the Deneb meridian—Deneb having a luminosity of about 250,000, listed as the thirty-second most luminous star in our galaxy.<sup>26</sup>

The Andean crossing point is just 20 miles (32 kilometers) southeast of Kuntur Wasi ("House of the Condor"), the name given to ruins of a religious center with complex architecture and stone sculptures at the headwaters of the Jequetepeque River. Kuntur Wasi is thought to have been constructed around 1000-700 BC and was occupied until around 50 BC. This was the time of the Chavin civilization in Ancient Peru, and lithosculptures found at Kuntur Wasi are similar to the Chavin style. The crossing point of the two great ley arteries is also 19 miles (30½ kilometers) southwest of Cajamarca, the city that is remembered as the place where the Inca empire came to an end when the Spanish conquistadors captured and murdered the Incan emperor Atahualpa there.

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<sup>24</sup> For the correspondences of the organs with the planets, see Lacquanna Paul & Robert Powell, *Cosmic Dances of the Planets* (Sophia Foundation Press: San Rafael, CA, 2006).

<sup>25</sup> It is also interesting that the Andean crossing point lies some 578½ miles (931 kilometers) north-west of Machu Picchu, the great Inca ceremonial center in the Cuzco region,

<sup>26</sup> See Robert Powell & Kevin Dann, *The Astrological Revolution* (Great Barrington: SteinerBooks, 2010), chapter 5, concerning the extraordinary significance of the mega star Deneb in the constellation of the Swan.

Also very close, just 56½ miles (91 kilometers) southwest of the Andean crossing point, lying on the western outskirts of the Peruvian city of Trujillo on the Pacific coast,<sup>27</sup> is the World Heritage archeological site of Chan Chan, the largest pre-Columbian city in South America—some 500 acres (two square kilometers), with many pre-Columbian palaces. The vast adobe city of Chan Chan on the Pacific coast, which was a triangular city surrounded by walls 50-60 feet (15-18 meters) high, was built by the Chimú around AD 850 and lasted until its conquest by the Inca Empire in AD 1470. It was the imperial capital of the Chimú until it was conquered by the Incas in the fifteenth century. It is estimated that around 30,000 people lived in the city of Chan Chan, sometimes called the City of the Moon because they worshipped the Moon there. In terms of size and complexity, it has been compared with Teotihuacan in Mexico and with some of the ancient cities of Egypt. Also very interesting is the somewhat older archeological site of the Sun and Moon temples six miles (9½ kilometers) from Chan Chan, on the southeastern outskirts of Trujillo. This complex is dominated by two huge adobe brick buildings: an artificial platform called the Temple of the Moon, and one-quarter of a mile (400 meters) away the Pyramid of the Sun, the largest pre-Columbian structure in Peru. This step pyramid, towering 135 feet (41 meters) above the surroundings, is the tallest adobe structure of the Americas. This major archaeological site was built at the time of the Moche culture (AD 100-800)—perhaps out of a sense of those ancient peoples for this crossing point of two great ley arteries carrying the male solar (Plumed Serpent) and female lunar (Rainbow Serpent) energies.<sup>28</sup>

The balancing of the Sun and Moon energies—manifested by the great Pyramid of the Sun and the Temple of the Moon, near Trujillo, perhaps as an expression of the meeting of the Plumed Serpent and the Rainbow Serpent nearby in the highlands—is an activity of Mercury, the planet closest to the Sun. In the words of Rudolf Steiner:

*I hold the Sun within me—  
As King he leads me into the world;  
I hold the Moon within me—  
She preserves my form;  
I hold Mercury within me—  
He holds Sun and Moon together.*<sup>29</sup>

This “holding Sun and Moon together” comes to expression at Lake Titicaca, where there is the Island of the Sun and the Island of the Moon, thus indicating a close resonance between the Earth’s Mercury chakra, Lake Titicaca, and the Andean crossing point of the two great ley arteries with the nearby Pyramid of the Sun and the Temple of the Moon on the outskirts of present-day Trujillo.

It now remains to determine the location of the Earth’s Moon chakra. As mentioned already, leaving Antarctica out of consideration, the remaining continent is Oceania, often simply identified with Australia. According to Robert Coon, the Earth chakra on this continent is Uluru, formerly known to non-Aborigines as Ayers Rock, a large sandstone formation in the center of Australia, which is also a World Heritage site. It is the second largest monolith in the world (after Mount Augustus, also in Australia). Uluru is sacred to the Aborigines and is important in their creation mythology. Archeological research shows that the Uluru area has been inhabited by human beings for at least 10,000 years, and some sources maintain that the Aborigines have been there for at least 20,000 years. Uluru, with its distinctive color, glowing red at dawn and sunset, is one of Australia’s most recognizable national landmarks. Our research indicates that Uluru is indeed the location of the Earth’s Moon chakra, lying on the great ley artery running through the Externsteine, Mount Kailash, Mount Agung, and Uluru. The other great ley artery runs through Lake Titicaca, Mount Shasta, and Mount Kailash. Golgotha/Jerusalem, as the Earth’s Sun (heart)

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<sup>27</sup> Trujillo is the third largest city in Peru and is known as the *culture capital of Peru* and the *city of eternal spring*. It is an economic hub in Northern Peru—a Mercurial function, recalling that for the Greeks Hermes/Mercury was patron of merchants and commerce.

<sup>28</sup> This is an example of what is referred to earlier in this book that often a site connected with a power spot is built not at the actual power spot but, for practical reasons, some distance from the power spot. In this case the practical reasons are obvious: the coastal area is much more hospitable than the Andean highlands. Hence the city of Chan Chan and the nearby ceremonial site with the Pyramid of the Sun and the Temple of the Moon were located on the Pacific coast rather than up in the highlands where the actual crossing point of the two great ley arteries is located.

<sup>29</sup> Margarete and Erich Kirchner-Bockholt, *Rudolf Steiner’s Mission and Ita Wegman* (London: Rudolf Steiner Press, 1977), p. 113.



chakra, being of spiritual significance for the whole world, does not lie on either of the two great ley arteries mapped out below.

According to Rudolf Steiner, the region of Oceania was where the Moon was located before it separated out from the Earth.<sup>30</sup> As part of Oceania, Australia comes under the influence of the Moon—also in an evolutionary sense, since the Aborigines, comparing their culture with that of the Lemurians described by Steiner,<sup>31</sup> are evidently descendants from the ancient Lemurians, a culture associated with the lunar influence as an echo of the Ancient Moon stage of evolution. Steiner described Lemuria as a continent very much influenced by the Moon that was located in the region between Australia and Africa, in the general region where now the Indian Ocean is located, which became submerged tens of thousands of years ago.<sup>32</sup> The Aborigines are thought to have inhabited Australia for some 50,000 years—supported by the archeological findings of human remains from Lake Mungo, Australia, dated to about 45,000 years ago—making the Aborigines the oldest continuous population outside of Africa.

Planet	Chakra	Continent	Place/Planetary Chakra
Saturn	Crown	North America	Mount Shasta
Jupiter	Third Eye	Europe	Externsteine
Mars	Larynx	Asia	Mount Kailash
Sun	Heart	Asia-Africa	Golgotha/Jerusalem
Mercury	Solar Plexus	South America	Lake Titicaca
Venus	Sacral	Southeast Asia	Mount Agung
Moon	Root	Australia/Oceania	Uluru

The table offers a summary of our findings identifying the seven planetary chakras of the Earth, where the place of the Christ's resurrection—Golgotha, Jerusalem—is the heart or Sun chakra of the Earth. In *Astrogeographia*, the latitude of Golgotha corresponds to the alignment of the stars on the Celestial Equator, or 0° declination. The three upper chakras are identified with locations in the northern hemisphere: Mount Shasta, California, with the crown chakra; the Externsteine in Europe with the third eye chakra; and Mount Kailash, Tibet, with the larynx chakra. Conversely, the three lower chakras are identified with locations in the southern hemisphere: Lake Titicaca on the border of Peru and Bolivia with the solar plexus chakra; Mount Agung on the island of Bali with the sacral chakra; and Uluru, Australia, with the root chakra.<sup>33</sup>

Throughout Australia, the Rainbow Serpent is a personification of fertility and rain. In 1926 a British anthropologist Professor Alfred Radcliffe-Brown coined the term “Rainbow Serpent” to describe the recurring myth of a snake of some enormous size living within the deepest waterholes, and described in the Aboriginal stories as descended from the larger being visible as the dark streak in the Milky Way<sup>34</sup>. Robert Coon adopted the term *Rainbow Serpent* to describe the great ley artery that runs through Uluru on its circuit around the globe. For the other ley artery he used the term *Plumed Serpent*, the name of the great deity of various Mesoamerican religions—the Feathered Serpent of the Olmecs, Quetzalcoatl of the Aztecs, and Kukulcan of the Maya.

Bearing in mind the deep truth of the words “as above, so below,” relating to the principle of correspondences between the macrocosm (“great world”) and the microcosm (“the little world” of the human being), it is interesting,

<sup>30</sup> See, for example, Rudolf Steiner’s lectures to the workers, *From Crystals to Crocodiles*, Complete Works volume 347 (London: Rudolf Steiner Press, 2002).

<sup>31</sup> Rudolf Steiner, *Cosmic Memory* (Great Barrington, MA: SteinerBooks, 2006), see chapter on the Lemurian Race.

<sup>32</sup> It is conceivable that prior to the destruction of Lemuria there were Lemurians who migrated to regions surrounding the Lemurian continent—to Africa and Australia, for example. In this case, there is a likelihood that Aborigines are descendants of the people who emigrated from Lemuria.

<sup>33</sup> Robert Powell & David Bowden, *Astrogeographia: Correspondences between the Stars and Earthly Locations—Earth Chakras and the Bible of Astrology* (Great Barrington, MA: SteinerBooks, 2012) goes into extensive detail concerning the seven chakras of the Earth and also gives many maps, including the two circles of the two major ley arteries encircling the Earth and intersecting at Mt. Kailash and in the Andes near Trujillo, Peru.

<sup>34</sup> See Alfred Radcliffe-Brown, “The Rainbow-Serpent Myth of Australia,” *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland* (Volume 56, 1926), pp. 19-25.

in relation to the idea of two serpents encircling the globe, that Rudolf Steiner draws attention to two “snakes” within the human being:

There is a symbol that one must enliven within oneself. This is the Staff of Mercury (see Figure 8), the luminous staff with a black snake and a bright luminous shining snake. The snake is a symbol for the astral body. Every night the astral body sheds its skin; it throws off the used-up skin. The black snake is a symbol for this. Overnight it gets a new, shimmering skin, and this newly enlivened, beautiful, shining skin of the astral body is symbolized by the shining snake . . . this symbol, the Staff of Mercury, who is the “messenger of the gods.”<sup>35</sup>



Figure: The Staff of Mercury.

Applying the principle of correspondences, we believe that Robert Coon’s insight into two great ley arteries encircling the Earth is a true one, which is mirrored in the human being in the Staff of Mercury described by Rudolf Steiner, and that this is of significance for the interconnections between the seven planetary chakras located on the seven continents of the Earth.

Readers will have noticed that we do not discuss the well-known power point Glastonbury in England, identified by Robert Coon as both the heart center and the temporary third-eye center of the world. What we found through Astrogeographia is that Glastonbury is indeed highly significant, as it is the location at which the star Botein in Aries, sometimes depicted marking the rear right hoof or flank of the Ram (but “the western one of the three in the tail” according to Ptolemy), is impressed upon the Earth. Botein is the fourth brightest star in Aries. In other words, there are three stars in Aries which are brighter than Botein—these being Hamal (“the star above the head of the Ram”), Sheratan (“the eastern star of the two in the horn”), and Mesartim (“the western star of the two in the horn”). Astrogeographically, Botein is the most important of these four stars, since the projection onto the globe of the other three is in the Northern Atlantic Ocean—that of Hamal is 292½ miles (470½ kilometers) west of Knockfole on the northwest coast of Ireland, Sheratan is 458 miles (737 kilometers) west of Limerick, and Mesartim is 514 miles (827 kilometers) west of Cork. Hence Botein serves astrogeographically as the primary star of Aries in terms of the ordering of stars according to their apparent brightness, being the brightest star of Aries which is projected onto firm land rather than onto the Atlantic ocean. And since, according to Ptolemy and as confirmed by Astrogeographia, England as a whole is associated with Aries, Glastonbury assumes special significance for the whole of England and for the entire region falling under the influence of the constellation of the Ram.

Glastonbury, held sacred long before Christianity, was settled already in pre-Christian times by the Celts. According to legend, after Christ’s crucifixion Joseph of Arimathea, in whose tomb (the Holy Sepulcher) the body of Christ was laid to rest, went on a mission and came to Glastonbury bearing the cup of the Holy Grail which had been used at the Last Supper and in which some of Christ’s blood had been collected as it flowed down from his body on the

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<sup>35</sup> Rudolf Steiner, *Esoteric Lessons 1904–1909*, Complete Works vol. 266/I (Great Barrington, MA: SteinerBooks, 2007), p. 393.

cross. Legendary accounts relate that through Joseph of Arimathea, there were Celts in the Glastonbury region who converted to Christianity. Under the Celtic monks, a church is said to have been built at Glastonbury, which according to tradition became known as the “Holiest Earth of England,” since it was acknowledged as the place where Christianity first came to England. Later, Arthurian legends associated King Arthur with Glastonbury, who supposedly was buried in a grave at the great abbey which grew there from the original church. During the twentieth century a New Age community has grown at Glastonbury, attracting many people with Neopagan beliefs. According to the research of Astrogeographia, Glastonbury is closely aligned with the star Botein, lying exactly on the Botein meridian. And on account of the steady movement northward along this meridian of the projection of Botein, since the beginning of the twentieth century, the projection of Botein onto the Earth coincides exactly with Glastonbury, giving grounds to associate the influence of this star with the tremendous growth of interest in Glastonbury as a spiritual center.

We conclude our study of the planetary Earth chakras by quoting from Rudolf Steiner, through whom we came to an understanding of the correspondence between each continent and the seven planets—here contemplating the centrality of Golgotha as the Sun chakra, which, however, is able to be present within the heart of each human being and is thus universal for the whole Earth:

With the event of Golgotha, when the blood flowed from the wounds of the great Redeemer, when the Cosmic Heart’s blood penetrated the Earth and its forces poured down as far as its center, the Earth became illumined from within and light rayed outward into the surroundings...In the Temple of the human body is the Holy of Holies...Those who have an inkling of it receive from it the power to purify themselves to such an extent that they can enter into this holiest place. Therein is the Holy Vessel that has been prepared throughout the ages as a container for the blood and life of Christ when the time for it arrives. When one has entered therein, one has found the way to the Holy of Holies in the great Temple of the Earth...When one discovers oneself within one’s innermost sanctuary, one will be allowed to enter in and there discover the Holy Grail...One enters into the Mystery Center of one’s own heart and a divine being emerges from this place and unites itself with the God outside, with the Being of Christ...Because the human being is a twofold being, one is able to pour the Sun forces into the Earth and act as a connecting link between the Sun and the Earth...It is the mission of every single human being and of the whole of humanity to fill themselves with the Christ Spirit and to recognize themselves as a center living in this Spirit, through which spiritual light, spiritual strength and spiritual warmth can flow into the Earth, thereby redeeming it and raising it aloft into spiritual realms.<sup>36</sup>

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<sup>36</sup> Rudolf Steiner, *The Misraim Service: “Freemasonry” and Ritual Work*, Complete Works volume 265 (Great Barrington, MA: SteinerBooks, 2007), pp. 429-430.