

occupying the whole of Europe, and this fact would account for a wide diffusion of ethnic and religious ideas, but it may be doubted if some of the figures, e.g., those of the pottery at Hissarlik, supposed to be those of the Axe Goddess, are more than accidental resemblances to the symbols of her cult.

The tumuli were undoubtedly used for the sepulture of important persons, such as kings, chiefs or leaders, and their relatives. It is not improbable that they may have been used in the case of certain religious rites, for in the tumulus called Mané-er-H'roec, at Locmariaquer, and in Mont St. Michel, at Carnac, a large number of celts (stone axes) were found, and these have been regarded as votive offerings either to the Axe Goddess, the manes of the dead, or to the Divinities of death. In many of the tumuli the bones found were more or less incinerated, proving that cremation was practised. On the exposed surface of the greater number of the slabs forming the walls of the tumulus of Gavrinis the line-tracing or sculpture is very rich, and gives a marked distinction to this tumulus. It would seem to have been the tomb of a king.

It is in the dolmens, however, that one finds the largest number of inscriptions. These have not been deciphered. They would appear to consist of two kinds—one ornamental, good examples of which are to be observed in the upright supporting stone of the Dol des Marchands, the second totemic of which examples are to be found in the dolmen at Kerioned, in the Alée Couverte des Pierres Plates, near Locmariaquer, and in the Alée Couverte of Luffang. A curious fact is that in the two last named there are the outlines of the same figure, which seems to the writer to be that of an opened lentil pod. On one of the slabs in the Mane Lud dolmen there is an inscription which is difficult to classify. It is clearly not ornamental, and it is not totemic, for an almost similar one has been described as found in the New Grange tumulus, near Drogheda, Ireland. Something similar is to be observed on one of the vertical slabs at the end of the cavern in the Gavrinis tumulus, but here the outlines are less readily traced, owing to the surrounding lines of sculpture following the curves of the inscription. It may be hierogrammatic in function.

Of what race were the dolmen builders? The definite answer to this question would determine also who were the founders of the menhirs and of the tumuli, for it is generally conceded that the three classes of monuments may have, in Brittany at least, been built by the same tribe or race. Though first looked upon as of Celtic origin, it is now recognized that they are the remains of a race which inhabited the western and north-western part of Europe before the advent of the Celts. This race, known as Iberian, also occupied Ireland, Wales, and the western portions of England and Scotland, and thus the distribution of dolmens and other megalithic remains would be accounted for. There are, however, difficulties in accepting this view. The dolmen-builders were mesocephalic, the Iberians dolichocephalic. The Iberians who inhabited the Dordogne district and the portion of the Landes district, including Dax and its neighbourhood, from Paleolithic times, did not build dolmens, and in all the country lying between the Garonne and the Pyrenees, inhabited in Caesar's day by the Aquitani, a tribe of the Iberians, there are very few megalithic remains.

The explanation of these difficulties can only be conjectural. According to Collignon<sup>(1)</sup> the Iberians were not a race, but an assemblage or collection of tribes, derived from three races which inhabited from the earliest times the Spanish peninsula. These were the Neanderthaloids of Gibraltar, a people like the Cro-Magnon race, and the type called by de Quatrefages the race of Mugem, whose remains are to be found in kitchen middings, on the banks of the Tagus. Accepting this view, it would be possible to regard the Aquitani as a less mixed race descended

(1) Les Basques. *Memoires de la Société d'Anthropologie*, 3d Serie, Tome 1, Fascicule 4, page 55.