

are closer observers of nature and natural phenomena than we are. I have never yet met with a savage or barbarous race that did not, for example, have names for certain groups of stars, and for the great planets.

Some of the native tribes of Australia, which we used to be told were the lowest and most ignorant savages in the world, call the Pleiades the corroboree of young girls; the southern cross, a duck; and Orion, a hunter throwing a boomerang at the duck.

The Fijians plant their yams when the erythraea tree blooms; and they can tell to an hour when the two shoals of the Balalo will arrive each year on the reefs of the sea. To the ancient Chaldeans we owe the earliest studies in astronomy, and our method of reckoning by the half dozen; they found out by direct observation how to calculate the eclipses of the moon. It was thus inevitable that men should always have recognized that heaven and earth, the whole universe, is the work of one great power.

We have seen that the most ancient of men known to us, the Sumerians, began with one original god, Ann, whom they placed in heaven above. The Babylonian Semites brought their great sun-god, Shamash, with them. Brought into contact with Murril-Dugga, son of the Sumerian God of the Earth, Ea, the Babylonians converted their Shamash into the Merodach of the Bible, and came very near at one period to making him a one and only supreme god before, long before, the days of Abraham.

On the point of one supreme god, however, the ancient Egyptians came perhaps nearer to the light than any other nation that lived and thought in darkness. For the common people the Egyptian teachers had hundreds and hundreds of gods, represented by animals and images. But the priests and the educated Egyptians had a god of their own of a totally different type. The Egyptian sacred texts, known only to the priests, taught them such wonderful maxims as these: "There is a single Being, the sole producer of all things both in Heaven and earth, himself not produced of anything; the only true living god, self originated, who exists from the beginning; who has made all things, but has not himself been made; his commencement is from the beginning, he is the god that has existed from all time; there is no god without him; no mother bore him, no father had begotten him, he is a god-goddess created from himself; all gods came into existence when he began."

This god the Egyptians never represented by any image. Apparently his name was never called in vain, so sacred was it. We do not even yet know what his name was.