

**ANCIENT HISTORY OF ARIZONA FOUND**

Thousands of miles from the beloved state and by the purest of accidents and smallest of chances there has been discovered by a pioneer Tucsonan an unheralded writing by a former citizen of the Old Pueblo which has upset or at least placed under inquiry every established tradition as to the origin of the word "Arizona" and has even further connected the region through the same channel with the beginning of the entire human race.

Basing its facts upon an ancient Aztec myth, the theory is further substantiated by the Mohave language, purest of Indian tongues, by the author, who while remote and unknown in Arizona has without doubt obtained his traditions through personal investigation conducted in Arizona.

A small publication, little more than a pamphlet and coming from the press 45 years ago, was the source of the old yet novel theory as to the name of Arizona, and was accidentally located by Harry Drachman, a local merchant, during a recent trip to Washington, D. C. Upon the shelves of a magnificent library in the capitol city "Arizona As It Is" was found in a remote section of another valuable library which had been the heritage left by a late citizen.

Hiram C. Hodge, author of the little book, had according to its statements spent several years in Arizona in the early days of its development, probably about 1870, and had spent a considerable portion of this time undoubtedly in Tucson. Many pages of the publication, now out of print, were devoted to Tucson and those desiring information in regard to the then growing town, were cited the names of several prominent merchants of the early days with whom they might communicate. Names familiar to the pioneers of the Old Pueblo were found within the pages of the book, proving beyond a doubt the authenticity of the personal investigations of Hodge by the accuracy of their information and data.

Who Hodge may have been and whether he is still living are unknown and investigation to that end has been without avail. The few of those pioneers yet living who remember Tucson in the early seventies fail to recall to their minds any such person as Hodge, this however, being emphasized by them as no reason whatever to assume any doubt as to the truth of his statements since many thousands were virtually transients in that period and remained only a few weeks, months or years in the Old Pueblo.

That the author also conducted his investigations among the Mohave Indians is also a likelihood, this being concluded from the manner of his writings and his apparent familiarity with their language and traditions. The Mohave language is described by him as by far the most perfect and complete of any of the Indian dialects of this country, this being surprising information to many language students.

Submitted to many persons who have familiarized themselves with the myths in regard to the naming of this state and the origin of its traditions, the new definition, meaning "sun beloved maiden," has failed to call any memory forth and creates a virgin field for research in traditions.

Definite connection is given between the origin of Arizona and that of the human race of Indians to the Mohave tribe who adopted it as their own, the word Aribunia being based upon the Aztec myth and upon the later languages of the Mohaves.

Words would be wasted in attempting to relate more clearly and more pleasingly the tradition than does Hodge himself in the selection copied by Mr. Drachman while in Washington as follows:

The Mohave language, which is by far the most perfect and most complete of any of the Indian dialects of the country, has two words of nearly the same meaning: "Ari," meaning the sun, holy, good, or beautiful, and "Zunia," maid or maiden; which together means the land of the beautiful or lovely maiden. This may be the true meaning of the word Arizona.

Another definition is this, "Ari" from the Mohave, meaning beautiful, or good, and "zuna" from the Spanish, a zone, and taken together, the land of the beautiful zone.

Both of these definitions seem to be well made, and both are quite significant and expressive.

**Old Aztec Tradition**

"The earth is the offspring of the sky. Long prior to the present race of men, the earth was peopled by a race of giants who in time died off leaving the earth uninhabited. After a long time, a celestial virgin, a child of the thirteen great deities who ruled all things, came down to earth, and being well pleased, remained for a long time its sole inhabitant.

"Once when in deep sleep, a drop of dew from heaven fell on her, and she conceived and bore two children, a son and daughter, from whom have sprung all the people of the earth. The name of this celestial virgin was Arizona, the beautiful, or sun beloved maiden."

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