

# ALEXANDER AT THE END OF THE WORLD KAFIRISTAN AND HINDUSTAN

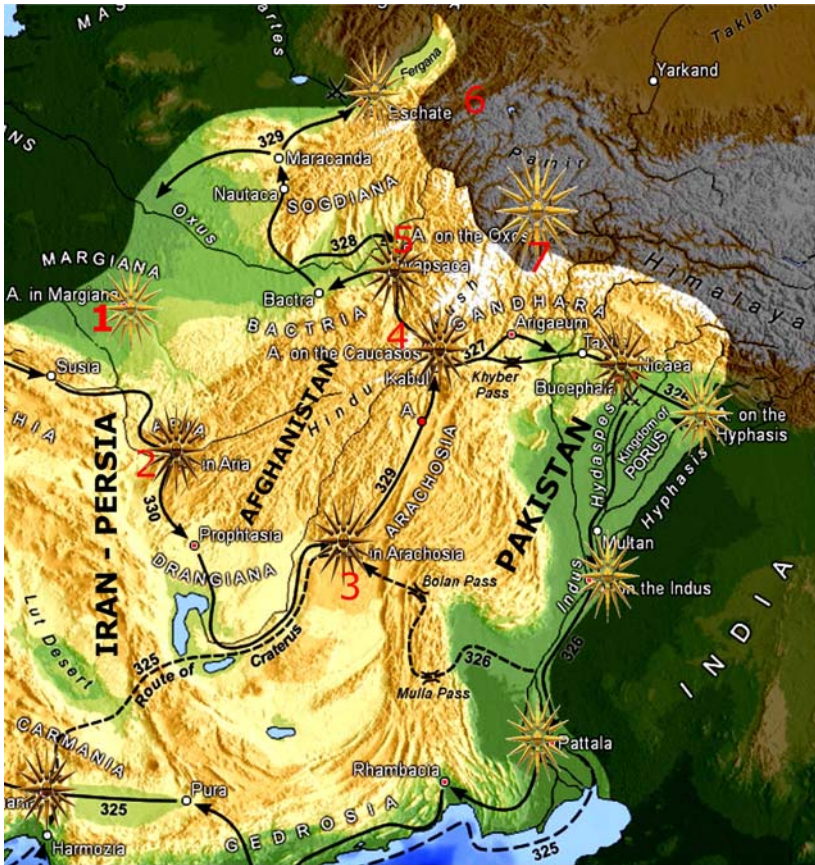
*Hellenic Ethos reaches the Far East influencing  
Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism and vice versa*

Professor Taiganides, Elissaios Paul,  
[editor@grekethos.org](mailto:editor@grekethos.org)

The most poignant scene, for me, in the movie *Alexander* by Oliver Stone is where Alexander is standing erect on a vertiginous cliff high in the Hindu Kush [*Ἰνδο Καυκασος*] of Afghanistan [map] staring into space. It is the year 329. It took him 2 long years, but he succeeded in subduing the fierce horsemen of Sogdiana; married the Bactrian princess **Roxanne**, the most beautiful and sexiest girl he had ever seen; **Bessus**, the usurper to the throne of Persia, was captured and dealt with harshly; he was now the undisputed **king of kings**.

Yet, Alexander has a look of **pathos** and ΠΟΘΟΣ [*a lingering for something elusive*] as he gazes at the breathtaking panorama of the splendor of the snow-capped Himalaya peaks jutting into heaven, home of God **Uranos**, begetter of the Titans. Sadly, he appears to realize that the world is **bigger** than his geographical knowledge said. He is contemplating what to do next. He does what all megalomaniacs do, nevertheless.

Alexander marches on to Πεντεποταμια [5-rivers land, Punjab] crossing the Indus River into the Indian subcontinent. For centuries, thereafter Hellenism interact directly and synergistically with **Asia's** prime cultures of Indian **Hinduism**, Ceylonese **Buddhism**, and Chinese **Confucianism**, ancient philosophies, which after 25 centuries of incubation are beginning to assert themselves in the global milieu having been strengthened through cross-breeding with **Hellenism**, new religions from **West Asia**/North Africa, and European **Capitalism**. It's a new **ORDER**; it's **Alexander's ΠΟΘΟΣ**.



2 years earlier, on his way into the Hindu Kush in pursuit of Bessus, Alexander created new strategically located cities named **Alexandrias**. Nowadays, they are called Tilia Tele (**#1 in map**), where archaeologist Sarianidi excavated a hoard of gold; Herat (**#2**), now under a warlord but its avenues used to be the envy of the East; Kandahar (**#3**), now growing opium poppy producing 90% of the world's hashish, but then a paradise of vegetable gardens and grain fields; Begram (**#4**) from where Americans operate today having established a sprawling organic airbase; Ai-Khanoum (**#5**), an urban site of classical Hellenistic gymnasia, theaters, colonnades, etc [Read the article by Prof. **Graf** on page 14]; Khodzent (**#6**) [*Εσχάτη, the Farthermost*] in Panjshir [*Πεντελεωνια*], so remote that neither **Dionysos** nor **Hercules** ventured that far.

These cities provided the communication and logistics hubs necessary to manage Alexander's armies that increased from 30,000 when he left Greece 5 years earlier to over 100,000. They also became the **urban** centers of the **Greco-Bactrian** and **Indo-Greco** kingdoms that the-till-then

nomadic rural people of China and India began to imitate.

2329 years later, valleys around Chitral, NW Pakistan [#7 in map], which are surrounded by peaks that rise to **25,000 feet**, are inhabited by the **Kalash** [Καλλας] people who claim to be descendants of Alexander's hoplites. Until 2 centuries ago, the Kalash numbered more than 70,000. At that time, the region was called **Kafiristan** that is land of the **infidels** [απιστοι]. British author **Kipling** wrote the "*The Man who would be King*" about the Kalash. The story was made into a movie starring Sean Connery feigning God, the son of Alexander.

Coerced conversion to **Islam** [and lately with financial incentives] has reduced the Kalash to less than 6,000. The Kalash still practice **polytheism**, use chairs [a non-Asian custom], grow grapes to make and drink wine; dress similarly to the traditional costumes of **Σαρακατσαναιοι** in Macedonia. People who have visited the Kalash valleys say it is a **Shangri-La** of hypnotic **cataracts**, scenic fields of wheat and corn, herds of goats [Αιγαι-Βεργινα], huge oat trees [sacred tree of Macedon; Βελανιδια], almond trees, walnuts, apricots, pears, mulberries, peaches, figs, fruits that most of us who grew in Macedonia travel to Greece to pick the fruit off the trees and eat fresh, like Alexander.

For more than 3 aeons, after the death of Alexander in **323** in Babylon, Μεσοποταμια [Iraq], **Greeks** with names like Demetrios, Diodotos, Seleucos, Antiochos, Eukratides, Agathocles, Euthydemos, Apollodoros, Menandros [who converted to Buddhism and exerted Hellenic influence beyond India to as far as Thailand], ruled the **Greco-Bactrian** and **Indo-Greco kingdoms** that extended from the Caspian Sea, parts of Persia [Iran since 1935], Margiana [Turkmenistan], Sogdiana [Uzbekistan], Saka [Tajikistan], China, all of Afghanistan, as far east as Delhi, India [map].

We know of these kings through **numismatic coins** they issued, which were traded internationally on the **Silk Road** that originated at that time, whose trade caravans began in **Beijing** and traversed Hellenic domains to reach Europe via Greek **Byzantium /Constantinople**. The largest gold coin ever minded was that for King **Eukratides**. Such coins were traded in Kabul up until the 1980s when **Kabul** was the **Beirut** of the East before religious sectarian strife reduced both to **rubble**.

