

Re: Asian natural disaster or evolution in action?

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.anthropology.paleo/2005-01/0084.html>

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On 1 Jan 2005 10:16:49 -0800, roger_pearse@yahoo.co.uk said in alt.atheism:

>Before this gets entirely out of hand, I think both sides might wish to
>know that there is no date for the birthday of Mithras, or the Persian
>Mitra, specified in any ancient text. I know that the idea that
>Mithras was born on 25th December goes around. But it's not true.

<http://ancienthistory.about.com/library/weekly/aa122397b.htm> "Mithras, the sun-god, was born of a virgin in a cave on December 25, and worshipped on Sunday, the day of the conquering sun."

<http://www.takeourword.com/Issue022.html> "Modern scholars believe that the cult of Mithras was based on the secret understanding of an astronomical phenomenon know as the "precession of the equinoxes", that is, the background of fixed stars is not really fixed. They knew that solar events such as solstices could be used to plot the movement of these stars. Also, as the days begin lengthening after the winter solstice, it is a time of new beginnings and hope for the future. Thus Mithras' birthday was set at the winter solstice, which is usually on December 22. However, due to the insertion of intercalary days (days inserted into the calendar to correct for accumulated error) and confusion with the Roman festival of Saturnalia, it has slipped to December 25."

>2. People who know that the Romans worshipped a deity called Sol
>Invictus suppose that this day was a festival of Sol Invictus. This is
>wrong: the cult was created in 274AD by Aurelian, while the name of the
>day is primitive in Rome. The sun cult celebrated its festivals in
>warmer weather!

"Sol Invictus" was the Roman name for "Mithras". The Zoroastrian Mithras was the Sun god.

>4. One of them may have learned that Mithras is also sometimes called
>Mithras Sol Invictus (Mithras the unconquered sun) and supposed that
>this means Mithras=Sol Invictus (it does not).

See above – it does.

"When it comes to specifics, Christians are as deceitful and two faced as ever. They are utterly unable to deny that 25 December was the birthday of the Unconquerable Sun, the Roman name of Mithras. What they say is that it does not matter! Suddenly all Christians become fundamentalists because the New Testament does not say when Jesus was born. The church decided Jesus was born on 25 December precisely because it was already the highly popular birthday of Mithras, and a national holiday. What it was was the midwinter solstice, a solar festival and therefore associated with a solar god. The reason the Christian bishops were happy to accept this as a Christian festival was because Christianity was seen by everyone as a solar religion—even the Christian bishops." – ibid

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"They laughed at Newton, they laughed at Einstein, but they also laughed at Bozo the Clown."

- Carl Sagan

(random sig, produced by SigChanger)

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