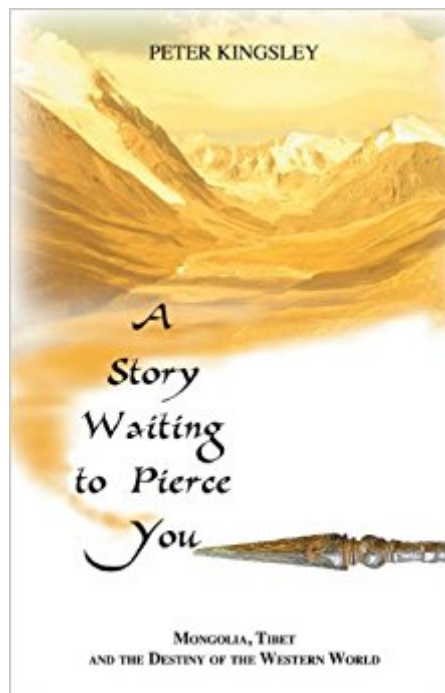




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A Story Waiting To Pierce You: Mongolia, Tibet And The Destiny Of The Western World



Synopsis

Revealing a forgotten truth in the present day, this account illuminates the crumbling political and economic structures of the West, shedding light on an ongoing and arduous search for a sense of purpose. Recounting a true story, this exploration tells of a wandering Mongol shaman who made a dramatic appearance around the Mediterranean centuries before the time of Christ. Highlighting how this nomad came as an envoy on a mission of purification, this study records how he met with a man who became tremendously influential in Western science, philosophy, culture, and religion: Pythagoras. The essence of Western civilization is said to have originated from this meeting and—this examination argues that today's conflicts and tensions have stemmed from taking this monumental occasion for granted, forgetting that there must be a greater meaning to life than everyday efforts and struggles. Reflecting on a time when Eastern and Western cultures were one, this evocation contends that there is still a common spiritual heritage to all civilizations. A unique collaboration between the author and archaeologists, historians, and shamans from around the world, this document has the potential to change the future for all.

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Customer Reviews

“In this profoundly erudite and eloquent book is a startling ancient secret that will forever alter the way we think about the origins of western civilization.” —Pir Zia Inayat Khan
“The rich and dense scholarship in this book is admirable, nay incredible, with worldwide scope. Scholarly discussion depends on evidence; of which A Story Waiting to Pierce You

offers the most surprising riches combined with overwhelming expertise. —Walter Burkert, author, *Greek Religion and Babylon, Memphis, Persepolis* "The book's controversial claims are based on impeccable scholarship and thus should be taken seriously. —Highly recommended." —Choice (April 2011) —Let this book wake you up into new sunlight. It is not just a book, and so to be read with the mind. Peter Kingsley's voice is a friend, and also a way of seeing, of remembering essence, of walking in a great circle around an island you have always loved, but only rarely visited. —Coleman Barks, translator of Rumi —By challenging some of our most fundamental perceptions of early European history, Peter Kingsley pushes out the horizon of the modern world and opens a new chapter in our appreciation of European-Asian relations. His innovative research into the spiritual and intellectual debt of ancient Greece to Inner Asia not only broadens our understanding of the past, but also helps us to understand better who we are today. —Jack Weatherford, author, *Genghis Khan and the Making of the Modern World* —A blazingly alive work of scholarship and spiritual insight —Jacob Needleman, author, *What is God? and The Heart of Philosophy* —Piercing. Peter Kingsley is a master of adamant prose and peerless scholarship. His work is truly worthy of that overworked term wisdom. And he is a master stylist: he turns you upside down and inside out without your knowing it is happening. This book will inspire, delight and enlighten many but will also challenge others because it is a mirror that reflects our most stubborn prejudices about the origins of our most sacrosanct cultural beliefs. And for that, Peter Kingsley deserves the highest praise. —Larry Dossey, M.D., author, *Reinventing Medicine and The Power of Premonitions* —This is a small book. You can read it in an hour. I suggest that you read it several times and really get the golden idea at its core. Then bring that idea to everything you do —every decision, every choice, every plan, every interpretation. Live by an entirely different guidance. Walk like you've never walked before. —Thomas Moore, author, *Care of the Soul and The Re-enchantment of Everyday Life*

Peter Kingsley is an honorary professor at both Simon Fraser University in Canada and the University of New Mexico. He is the author of *Ancient Philosophy, Mystery, and Magic; In the Dark Places of Wisdom; and Reality*. He lives in Asheville, North Carolina.

In this work Peter Kingsley wears two hats, addresses two audiences, and the book divides accordingly. The first part is narrative, and the tone is that of a bard or shaman using story-telling

powers to urge readers along a path of self discovery. The second part is historical, and the scholarship here regarding shamanic history can only be described as magisterial, albeit (as with all scholarship) rightly part of a vetting process that proceeds, sometimes over decades, through communications between many scholars. Unsurprisingly most reviewers fall into two camps: those drawn by the shamanic quest, who make little or no reference to Kingsley's scholarship, and those drawn by the scholarship but uncomfortable with the shamanic quest, which can destabilize one's sense of control. Well, Peter Kingsley could have written two books targeting different audiences. But then there's something slightly dodgy and manipulative about doing that when your own journey to knowledge has progressed by yoking disparate sides of your brain. Give the guy credit for trying to bring to fruition the unique mix of potentialities he was born with, even though he's undoubtedly encountered some rough seas on his journey. Regarding the narrative part of this book: In its large rhythms and its mingling of intimacy and distance, Peter Kingsley's text reads like a prose poem, an instrument well suited for stirring readers. There are lapses of tone, however, when the author appears identified with unpleasant parts of his narrative. To some extent these subvert his larger aim by interrupting the progress of the narrative's long, positive line. Since reviewers rate via stars, I'll subtract a star for such blemishes. Regarding the scholarly part of this book: A few years before the First World War, the British historian Arnold Toynbee drafted a monograph on the culture of ancient Greece. After many interruptions he took up the work again and completed it in the late 1950s, by which time he had become perhaps the most widely read historian writing in English. *Hellenism* was published in 1959. I mention *Hellenism* because on pages 59-62 Toynbee tells a story that contains numerous key elements of the story Peter Kingsley tells in the book under review. Among those key elements: Toynbee points out commonalities between Pythagorism and Orphism (in which oracular statements were famously uttered, in trance, by a mouthpiece for Apollo), identifies nomads of northern Asia as the possible source for those common elements, and discusses how this importation into Greece met a religious need that was lacking in Greek culture. To be sure Toynbee tells this story within a somewhat different perspective that synthesizes other elements, too. But the parallels are striking. I consider them sufficient to justify saying that Mr. Kingsley's scholarship has essentially filled in, with remarkable detail, the large blanks of a story that was evident to Toynbee a century earlier. I certainly don't mean that Kingsley was guided by or even knew of Toynbee's account. If this is sound history, that would be irrelevant in any case; Over time any number of historians could uncover some version of this story. My key take-away is this: Not only is Peter Kingsley's scholarship grounded in its details upon scores and scores of heterogeneous sources, but it may also be considered in its broad outlines mainstream, not

idiosyncratic. Whether or not one is personally attracted to his particular synthesis or mode of presentation, this is serious stuff that deserves serious consideration.

Very illuminating and open-minded review of the Mongolian influence on western philosophy. Written by one who has researched his subject in an unbiased manner it seems.

Awesomely good, synchronistic as I read it when preparing my arrow for my pipe ceremony. Cheers Peter Kingsley, again brilliant shamanic validation.

An interesting history of how the ancient understanding of consciousness made its way around the world.

love his books

This work continues Peter Kingsley's exciting quest. I found it so stimulating that I ordered one of his cd's, Christ, the Forgotten Song. This man is deep! He just might transform your life! And he is not without humor, thank God. At several points during the two-part cd I was moved to tears. The book also is presented in two parts, the story/song/poem, and the footnotes. Scanning through the footnotes made me want to reread the story. It is obvious that the author has a great drive toward truth. He is truly a prophet for our time and I am happy that he has found a following.

A very inspiring booklet on the common roots of western and eastern civilizations (the first being created through the intervention of a Mongol in Pythagoras' Greek world)! P.S: Except for the too thick and academical notes, full of many names and books references and few real interesting information. This is why I gave it 4 instead of 5 stars.

This beautiful book offered me new great insights into the spiritual history of the world. Thank you Peter Kingsley

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