

shown to a brother in Christ and fellow creationist. For that, I apologize to him and the readers of *TJ*. As for the rest of his letter, I don't feel that further reply from me on this issue would serve any good purpose. However, I would like to take this opportunity to recommend to the readers a clear and irenic creationist critique² of the internet articles by Robert Gentry on cosmology that Kulikovskiy mentions. You can view it in PDF format on the Creation Research Society website (address below).

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References

1. Humphreys, D.R., Humphreys clarifies cosmology again, *TJ* 17(1):60–61, 2003.
2. Repp, A.S., The nature of redshifts and an argument by Gentry, *CRSQ* 39(4):269–274, <www.creationresearch.org/crsq/articles/39/39_4/Redshifts.pdf>, March 2003.

The landing place: response to letter by Jonathan Clerke

I am writing in response to Jonathan Clerke's letter in *TJ* 17(2), 2003, asking about a fragment from Julius Africanus, the third-century Christian chronographer who said that the Ark landed on the mountains of Ararat, either in Parthia or Phrygia. Jonathan wanted to know if either of these locations could be near the Cudi Dagh in south-east Turkey (see map).

Julius Africanus seems much more certain about Parthia than Phrygia. He says, '... the ark settled on the mountains of Ararat, which we know to be in Parthia'. Then he says, 'some say they are at Celaenae of Phrygia' as if it's somebody else's view and he is not sure whether to believe it.¹ So let's have a look at these two places.

Parthia was once a great empire,



The Roman (dark grey) & Parthian (light grey) empires (and the Roman vassal state of Armenia—white) overlaid on a modern day political map.

but it fell into decline when the Roman Empire reached its height.² During the reign of Mithradates II (c.123–88 BC), Parthia extended from modern-day Afghanistan, through Iran, Iraq and south-east Turkey almost as far as the Black Sea. It included most of ancient Armenia, otherwise known as the region of Ararat, and it certainly included the Cudi Dagh. As the Roman Empire expanded during the first century AD, Armenia became a Roman vassal kingdom, but conflict continued, and from the time of Nero onwards they had a compromise solution, so that the Parthians would nominate one of their own princes to be king of Armenia, and he would be crowned in Rome. This arrangement worked well as long as the Romans and Parthians agreed on the choice of king, but sometimes they didn't, and further conflict led to the decline of the Parthian Empire.

In AD 224 there was a rebellion from Ardeshir, the Persian vassal king who ruled in his own region of Parthia, and in AD 226 he captured Ctesiphon, the residence of the Parthian kings near Baghdad. This meant the end of Parthia and the beginning of the Second Persian Empire.

Julius Africanus (AD 160–240) wit-

nessed the latter years of the Parthian Empire and finished his five-volume *Chronology* in AD 221, just five years before Parthia came to an end. In that case, when he wrote about the mountains of Ararat being in Parthia, he was probably referring to a historic or geographic location, regardless of the current political situation.

We also have to take into account that Armenia continued to have an Arcasid (Parthian) king long after Parthia itself had fallen, and this tradition continued until the fifth century. The Arcasids were the ruling dynasty of Parthia, dating back to the earliest days of the Empire.

Now we turn to the suggestion that the mountains of Ararat might have been in Phrygia. This is a less likely possibility because Phrygia is in western Turkey, a long way from the place which is normally known as the mountains of Ararat. Celaenae was a city in the hills, close to the sources of the river Maeander (now known as Menderes). Jacob Bryant³ says that this was just one of many places, far from Armenia, where Noah was held in high esteem by the ancient world and his memory was celebrated. It seems that some people at Celaenae

must have thought that the mountain above the city was Ararat and the Ark landed there. This supposed landing place of the ark appears to be based entirely on local tradition and it is not surprising that Julius Africanus had doubts about it.

I would go for Ararat in Parthia, because Julius Africanus quite reasonably identifies the Parthian Empire with Ararat, and it's much more in line with the other historical sources that were discussed by Bill Crouse in his original article.⁴

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References

1. Roberts, A. and Donaldson, J. (Eds.), *The Antebellum Fathers: Translations of the Writings of the Fathers down to AD 325*, Vol. VI including: *The Extant Fragments of the Five Books of the Chronography of Julius Africanus*, W.B. Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, 1978–1979. See also <www.ccel.org/fathers2/ANF-06/anf06-50.htm#P2221_636742>, 24 October 2003.
2. The history of Parthia and its wars against Rome is available from a number of sources: PARTHIA.COM <www.parthia.com>; *Illustrated History of the Roman Empire* <www.roman-empire.net>; Livius <www.livius.org/pan-paz/parthia/parthia01.html>; National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution <www.americanhistory.si.edu/csr/nnc/parthia/frames/phism.htm>, all accessed on 24 October 2003.
3. Bryant, J., *A New System or an Analysis of Ancient Mythology*, vol. 3, pp. 45–49, London, Printed for J. Walker & others, 1807. See also facsimile reprint of 1774 edition from Kesinger Publishing Co., 2003.
4. Crouse, B., The landing place, *TJ* 15(3):10–18, 2001.

Fun World amusement?

Thank you for the most recent copy of the *TJ*. I've renewed my subscription after a few years of not getting it, and it's great to be getting this kind of info again. My children

also enjoy the *Creation* magazine.

In Volume 16(3) Dr Bergman, in his article on Darwin's apemen and the exploitation of deformed humans concludes that,

'No doubt if someone attempted a similar show today, public outrage would rapidly shut the show down as racist and fraudulent. Unfortunately, the harm is now done, and cannot easily be undone.'

I would agree with Bergman's conclusion, and I wanted to bring to your attention that such shows, in fact, are still going on today.

While living in the United Arab Emirates, I subscribed to the local paper, *The Gulf Today*. I was surprised to see a photo last year which featured supposed throwbacks to our 'hominid ancestors'. Figure 1 is a copy of the photo which appeared in *The Gulf Today* on Sunday, 3 June 2001 (with an Agence-France byline).

The caption reads,

'THIS IS NO ENTERTAINMENT:

Murugeswari, a housewife and mother of two, looks over her brothers-in-law Armugam (left), Vinayaka Murthy (centre) and Elumalai (right) aged 52, 48 and 46 respectively; at the Fun World amusement park in Bangalore on Saturday. These three brothers, unable to speak any modern language and bearing the physical resemblance to our hominid ancestors, are being exhibited at the amusement park in a specially-built enclosure and can be seen for Rs10.'

Sadly, the exploitation of deformed humans as supposed 'proof' for evolution continues even today.

Does anyone at *AiG* know what sort of affliction/deformation has afflicted these brothers? A rare genetic disorder perhaps? They do look a lot like the photos of Neanderthals/Cromagnon man which are featured in evolutionist publications. Thanks for any insights you can give here.

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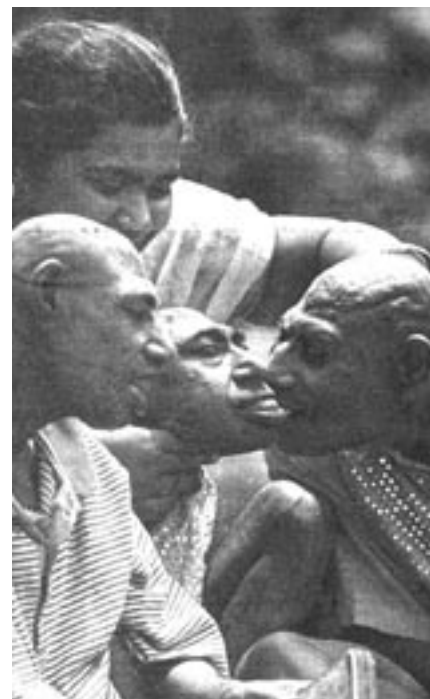


Figure 1. Murugeswari and her three brothers-in-law.

Jerry Bergman replies:

Judging from the photo (not an ideal way of diagnosis) it appears to be microcephaly, a general term for a condition caused by abnormally slow growth of the brain. Microcephaly often results from brain damage during development such as by teratogens (compounds that cause malformations of the foetus), genetic factors, or unknown factors said to be primary.

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Willard Libby and carbon dating Egyptian artifacts

In reference to David Down's correspondence concerned with carbon dating and Egyptian chronology in *TJ* 17(2):70, 2003, I think most readers would be delighted to read what Wil-