

Revealing Eden

Locating the Original Edenic Peninsula from Seafloor Maps

By Larry Tyler

The URANTIA Book contains detailed information about the Garden of Eden that might point to the location of the sunken Edenic peninsula on a map of the Mediterranean seabottom. According to *The URANTIA Book* (page 823), the original Eden was located on a "long narrow peninsula—almost an island—projecting westward from the eastern shores of the Mediterranean Sea." This, the third choice of the committee on location, had a good climate and temperature due to the "encircling mountains and to the fact that this area was virtually an island in an inland sea." While it rained "copiously on the surrounding highlands, it seldom rained in Eden proper."

The coast line of this land mass "was considerably elevated," the neck connecting it with the mainland measuring a mere twenty-seven miles across at the narrowest point. Eden was watered by a great river that came down from the higher lands of the peninsula and "flowed east through the peninsular neck to the mainland and thence across the lowlands of Mesopotamia to the sea beyond." This river was fed by four tributaries of origin in the coastal hills of the Edenic peninsula.

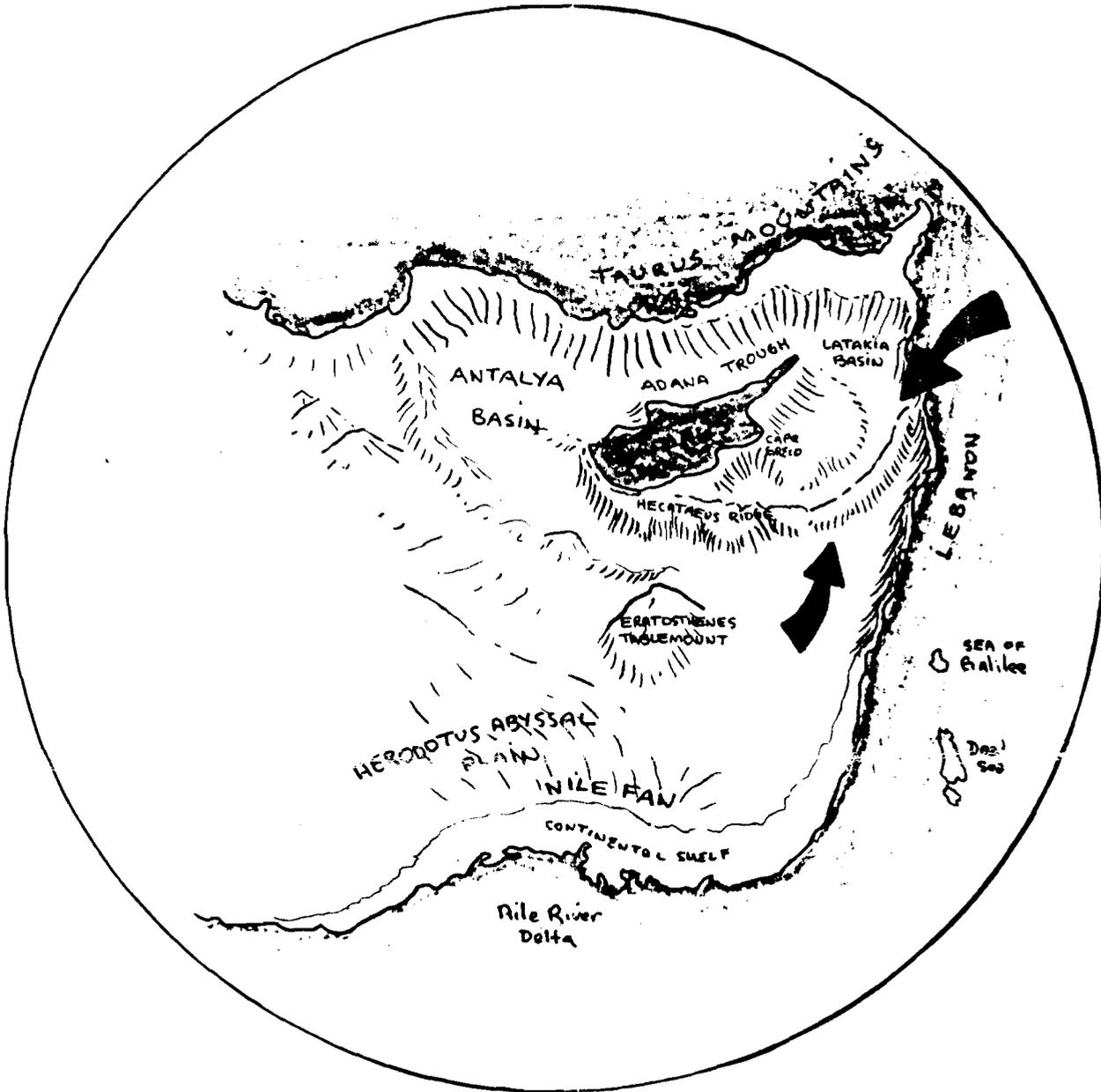
In order to look for the long-lost Eden on seafloor maps, I made inquiries to a number of American cartographic departments and was eventually directed to the Defense Department. A request to

them for detailed maps of the floor of the eastern Mediterranean was turned down on the basis that such maps contained classified military information.

Some time after that, the National Geographic Society published their *WORLD OCEAN FLOOR* map and, later, *THE MEDITERRANEAN SEAFLOOR*. This latter map enabled me to examine the seafloor configuration for evidences of the ancient Edenic peninsula as described in *The URANTIA Book*.

In attempting to locate the original Edenic peninsula by the use of seafloor maps, one must remember that a number of geologic changes have taken place in the thirty-eight thousand years (page 828) since the times of the Garden. Four thousand years after Adam and Eve left the garden (page 826)—or about thirty-four thousand years ago—the "violent activity of the surrounding volcanoes" caused the "submergence of the Sicilian land bridge to Africa." The eastern floor of the Mediterranean Sea sank, carrying down beneath the waters the whole of the Edenic peninsula. At the same time, the coast line of the eastern Mediterranean was "greatly elevated."

The floor of today's Mediterranean Sea lies at depths ranging from 821 feet below sea level, off the coast of Cyprus, to 1519 feet below sea level, off the coast of Israel. The island of Cyprus is the prominent geologic feature of the eastern Mediterranean, having



Carry Tyler

a maximum elevation of 1951 feet above sea level.

Stretching from the southwest corner of Cyprus to the coastal mainland at Lebanon is the *Hecataeus Ridge*, at a depth, apparently, of about eight hundred feet. Under close examination, this submerged ridge indeed shows up as a long and narrow "peninsula," with a narrowest point, nearest the mainland, about thirty miles wide.

No peninsular formations occur south of the Hecataeus Ridge, where the vast and level basin, fifteen hundred feet deep, spreads offshore from the *Beirut Escarpment*. This empty basin is bordered on the west by the *Eratosthenes Tablemount* and on the southwest by the *Nile Fan* and the *Continental Shelf*.

From the descriptions in *The URANTIA Book*, the Hecataeus Ridge seems to be the most probable site of the legendary Garden

of Eden—indeed, in view of existing geological features, the only possible site. The highlands that surrounded Eden might have been the elevated lands of present-day Cyprus, whose one-time joining to the coast near Lebanon is still evidenced by the submerged Hecataeus Ridge.

Some traces of the irrigation canals of Eden and of the walls built to seal off the peninsula from the mainland may still remain. The brick-covered conduit (page 825) may remain in part near the peninsular neck. Finally, although the temple which housed the Tree of Life was destroyed (page 826), "the stone wall" (surrounding the temple) "stood until the Garden was subsequently submerged." These, and a number of other archaeological traces, may exist today beneath the waters of the eastern Mediterranean Sea to identify the Hecataeus Ridge to future explorers as the long-forgotten location of the Garden of Eden.