One Godz

A People’s History of the Upper Paleolithic

Toward a Phylogeny of Art, Language, and Religion

Appendix

Brunel Gallery - the Summer Triangle

Edited By

Glen M Golub
Dead Linguists Society
The Summer Triangle is an asterism which includes Cygnus the swan and Aquila the Eagle. For this reason we presume this panel in Brunel Gallery is dated to Chauvet 3. It was probably used in the final rite of a Vision Quest at the summer solstice or end of summer. At that time the Milky Way passes between Altair and Vega along the centerline of Cygnus, an obvious death symbol found in Memorial Caves.

The Quest would have begun in the Shaft at Lascaux in spring. It is possible that the ceremony performed here included someone throwing a javelin at the image to ritually kill Cronus (Taurus) and send the Bull into ecliptic declination.
The Summer Triangle acts as an alarm clock. When the Triangle is in the east at dusk beginning mid June it marks the end of spring and start of summer, beginning of the Quest. Perhaps for boys this might be their first big hunt with their share being put toward a dowery? In Fall the Triangle is stretched high south to overhead at dusk and early evening, the change indicates that summer is over. The Milky Way along the centerline of Cygnus indicating death refers to leaving one’s playthings behind, the boy is dead and replaced by a man.

Additional significance lies in the asterisms Lyra and Aquila which form the base of the triangle. This represented to men of the time that they were expected to maintain a balance between Aquila (Latin: Eagle) symbol of Strength and Lyra (Greek: Lyre) or Art, the softer side. The same duality that men today try to muddle through. Presumably they will be leaving the relative safety of the cave and their mother’s protection to join the men. Their education had been in the hands of the women and old men from whom they learned the Lyra side of life. Once their quest is complete they will put away their Lyras and learn to fly like Aquilas.

Fig. - The Milky Way passes between Vega and Altair. Denb bobs around in a river of souls that passes through the Summer Triangle.