CHAPTER FOUR
An, The Father

In the previous chapter I briefly discussed the name of the Father god in some of the world myths. I showed how the various gods were confused with one another, with the Father and the Son being repeated in different relationships as the various tribes embellished the old folk memories.

In the oldest recorded memories he was known as An. This name is found in Sumerian myths, as well as many others, including Egyptian.

Kramer discussed the Sumerian pantheon of gods and the embellished stories found on the old clay tablets:

There follows a paean of self-glorification put into the mouth of Enki, and concerned primarily with his relationship to the leading deities of the pantheon, An, Enlil, and Nintu, and to the lesser gods known as the Anunnaki.

An was the Father, while Enlil was the Creator, and Nintu was the female companion of Enlil who helped bring forth human kind.

In the Sumerian story of the Flood, Ziusudra, the Sumerian Noah, is given directions to save himself:

By our hand a rainstorm . . . will be sent, To destroy the seed of mankind . . . It is the decision, the word of the assembly of the gods, The command of An and Enlil, . . .

In Sumeria An also meant the sky. In the Akkadian myths, borrowed bodily from Sumer, the Father god became Anu. In one creation epic it was said:

After Anu had created heaven, Heaven had created earth, Earth had created river . . .

This same name is remembered in Hittite mythology:

Formerly, in former years, Alalu was king of Heaven. Alalu was sitting on the throne, And mighty Anu, the first of the gods, stood before him. . . . In the ninth year Anu gave battle against Alalu.
Here the myths are confused. The Father did not give battle against Alulu, the king of Heaven and Creator. A lesser god gave battle against his creator Father. The theme of warfare in heaven is repeated time and again in the old myths.

Rev 12:7 — Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought . . .

In Babylonian myths Anu was the sky god, borrowed from the earlier Akkadians and on back to the Sumerians.

Human memories were debased across many cultures and lands, illustrated by ancient Ireland where the Father was transformed into the Earth Mother. As Campbell stated:

She is Anu, a goddess of plenty, after whom two hills in Kerry are called the Paps of Anu . . .

In the corrupt religious memories of Egypt An takes on various and assorted forms. He is:

A mythological serpent,
A god who beautifies the faces of the dead, and
The name of a goddess.
Anu was the divine father of Pepi I, while Anch was his divine title.
As Ani he is the title for Horus, a Son of Osiris, and the one we know from the Bible as Melchizedek. Ani was also a name of Osiris as the Moon-god.

Osiris was the leading Egyptian god figure and Creator of the universe. He also carried the name An of the stars.
The Tchatchat-urt-em-Anu was the great council of the Egyptian gods in On, the City of the Sun.
An-Kenset and An-ken-mut were names for Egyptian god An. From the common elements in these old myths we see the origin of the An name. It comes from memory of a Father god in very ancient times. It meant Father, and thus the confusion between the Father of all, and the Creator Father.
To repeat, the Creator Osiris carried the name An. An was the divine Father of Pepi I. In Hittite mythology Anu was the first of the gods. In Sumeria An was the leading god figure, father of Enil and Nintu. Unfortunately, the memory of this god name was mostly forgotten in folk traditions from other cultures.

Examples of the An name are found in many regions of the world:

An, Burma
An Pass, Burma
An Khon, Laos
An Ling, China
An Shan, China
An Phu Dong, Vietnam

An Teallach Mountain, Scotland
And so on.

Many times the names are spelled with O rather than A. This is found in the biblical name On for the Egyptian City of the Sun which the Greeks called Heliopolis. Other examples are:

On, Belgium and Norway
Ona, Norway, Spain, Japan, Florida, W. Virginia
Ona River, USSR
Onna, Okinawa
Onna Island, Truk Islands, Pacific Ocean
Ono, Japan, California, and Pennsylvania
Ono Lake, Fiji.

An or On doublets are:

Onan, Celebes
Onon River, Russia and Mongolia
Onondaga Indian Tribes, New York with Onondaga Lake
Onondaga, Michigan
Onondowa, Indonesia
Onancock, Virginia

In my attempt to find a Semitic connection I discovered that the An word may have a complicated history. Hebrew uses an as an adverbial form, meaning whence?, where?, or whither?, (should we assume questions asked of God whereabouts?), but otherwise there seems to be no direct connection to the An of the mythologies and place names.

On the other hand, another Hebrew word is much closer to our search. On means might, ability, strength, vigor, power and wealth. It also could mean ease, rest, or freedom from toil and trouble. With a slight variation in inflection it also could mean weariness, sorrow, and trouble but these forms may derive out of opposition to the basic meaning.

Note that in these different forms the initial vowel sound may vary, leading to different applications in different languages, or to different applications in the same language. It may be “a” as in father. Or it may be “aw” as in law. The latter then leads to representation as “o” rather than “a.”

Perhaps An or On come from an earlier linguistic form. Hebrew ayin is a basic root word which, through inflectional variations, led to “an” or “on,” but its origin is unknown.

Its meaning as a feminine noun is the eye. It also means spring, as in water. The Assyrian form is enu, or inu. Importantly, it has a figurative meaning of mental and spiritual faculties, acts, and states.
Many place names scattered around the Near East carry this word:

Al Ayn, Arabia
Ayn al Batt, Syria
Ayn An Naft, Iraq
Ayn Zarah, Libya
Ain, Aden
Ain Amur, Egypt
El Ain, Ethiopia
Ain el Wadi, Egypt
Ayn El Mabika, Arabia
Ayn Huwayziyah, Syria
Ain el Hawari, Jordan
Ain Marra, Saudi Arabia
And many others.

The same form is found in Ayan River, Ozero Ayan Lake, and a number of other Ayan places in Russia and its provinces. It is also found in:

Ain River, France
Ain Department, France
Aino-Shima, Japan
Ainoura, Japan

The shift from Ayn or Ain to An is found in the Near East, including:

An Nabi Hud, Jordan
An Nabk, Syria
An Naqurah, Jordan
An Nimarah, Syria
And so on.

In anglicized form we have such biblical names as Endor, Engedi, and Enrimmon, where ayin is reduced to En or An.

In the biblical traditions the Ayin, Ain, An, or En form is often understood to mean fountain. Endor is the Fountain of Dor and Engedi is the Fountain of Gedi. The fountain or spring is the eye of the barren desert landscape. This may be the route by which ayin came to mean spring.

Other than this slim evidence we have no connection between the mythological An gods and the place names. An, the Father, is not remembered well in the myths although his name shows upon the lands.

We could surmise connections between the Hebrew words and the An name for the Father. The concept of the eye could revolve around the idea that his eye is in all places or that he sees everything. A fountain as the eye of the landscape might suggest that he is the wellspring of all creation, the source of all existence. The idea of strength, power and abundance from the other Hebrew root is obvious in its application to the Father.

This brings us to the English words on, one and only. Examination of the origins of on as being placed upon something, shows no clear connection to one or only. In the old Teutonic languages on has the forms of an and ana but one, although pronounced in Anglo-Saxon as an, was generally pronounced in other Teutonic languages with a sharper accent, as in the modern German ein (reflecting the Semitic ayin). It is found in Greek and Old Latin oinos. We see these in modern Latin languages as Italian and Spanish uno, and French un.

Only derived from the Old English one. Although there is no direct linguistic connection to Semitic languages, this numeral could easily go back to the very ancient An, the One and Only.

As I shall show in following chapters, An married with Hawa is found in Anhwa Hunan, China, and Anhaua River, Brazil. There are also:

Onawa, Iowa
Onaway, Michigan
Onawa, Maine
Onava, New Mexico

An or On marries with Oc, as well as Hawa:
Onagawa, Japan (An-Oc-Hawa), or the island of Okinawa (Oc-An-Hawa).
I shall illustrate other examples as we encounter other evidence.