The Consequences of a Reversal of the Rotation of Earth

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Planetary rotation in a plasma universe may be not solely inertial but also affected, if not driven, by electromagnetic forces. Fluctuations in the current of circuits associated with rotation would affect the rotation rate, as may be the case with coronal mass ejections retarding and restoring Earth's rotation rate.

Ancient legends of global extent suggest the occurrence of catastrophic rotational disturbances accompanied by electrical discharge phenomena. One consequence of such disturbances would be tsunami-like surges ("sloshes") of the oceans across the continents. Such a wave should have left behind vast deposits of sediment, which the electrical discharges may have converted into rock. The Book Cliffs of UT and CO, and the Green River basin to the north, seem to be the result of such a massive "slosh" toward the northwest. The east-sloping limestone cap on Sandia Crest east of Albuquerque may also have been deposited and lithified in such a slosh.

In a universe where plasma interactions are the dominant features and large-scale changes can occur catastrophically, planetary rotation may be not so much inertial as driven by electromagnetic forces. Coronal mass ejections (CMEs)—cells of plasma emitted from the Sun—are known to retard Earth's rotation by a few milliseconds. After the cell passes, the rotation returns to its previous rate, much as a motor slows with variations in the current. Coupling mechanisms between CMEs and Earth are unknown, but we presume there would be greater coupling with crystalline rock than with water.

A surge of several orders of magnitude in the currents connecting Earth and Sun in ancient times is indicated by petroglyphs [4] and by legends of thunderbolts and rivers of fire [5]. Such a surge could easily cause braking and even reversal of rotation. Many legends, which occur in diverse ancient societies around the globe, mirror the story told in Exodus. They relate that after a time of commotion and darkness—which I interpret as a global cataclysm—people were surprised to find the Sun rising in the east. This implies that, before the cataclysm, sunrise was in what we now call the west.

The inertial response of bodies of water to braking or reversal of rotation would be to surge over the continents. If the Earth had been rotating to the west (sunrise in the west), slowing and reversal would cause the oceans to "slosh" toward the west. This slosh would entrain soil and sediment from the regolith as well as the dust from the atmosphere, which legends say was so thick that people could not see their hands in front of their faces. The resultant mixture would likely have been similar to a "slurry" of very wet concrete. This "slurry" would settle and be sorted into multiple strata by the dynamics of the flow, as demonstrated in sedimentology experiments [6].

In addition, centrifugal force would be reduced, introducing to the westward surge a vector toward the poles as water flowed "down" the Earth's equatorial bulge, resulting in a northwestward (in the northern hemisphere) continental-scale tsunami.

Where a mountain range obstructed the flow, slurry would not only be forced around it but also up into the valleys. For example, valleys in the Rockies are filled with a slurry-like sediment (conglomerate) up to 18,000 feet in some places.

Fig. 1 The Book Cliffs region north of Grand Junction, CO.

To the north of the Colorado Rockies, the slosh would have run into Wyoming and up against the mountains to the east of Salt Lake City (Fig. 1). As the slosh stopped and rotation resumed, slurry would slump to the south around the eastern end of the Uintah range, finally stopping as it formed the Book Cliffs north of Grand Junction (Fig. 2) [2].

Fig. 2. Aerial view of Book Cliffs.

The base of the Book Cliffs is oil shale, which contains an estimated 1.8 to 2 trillion barrels of oil (800,000,000 recoverable) [1]. Above the oil shale is 8,000 million tons of coal.

According to legend and myth, it rained oil day and night for many days. The oil would have run through the drainage channels, pooling in basins and mixing with fresh sediment. Electrical discharges, described as rivers of fire in legends, which appear to have flowed up many drainage channels, converted the oil-clay mixture into impermeable shale, trapping the oil [7].

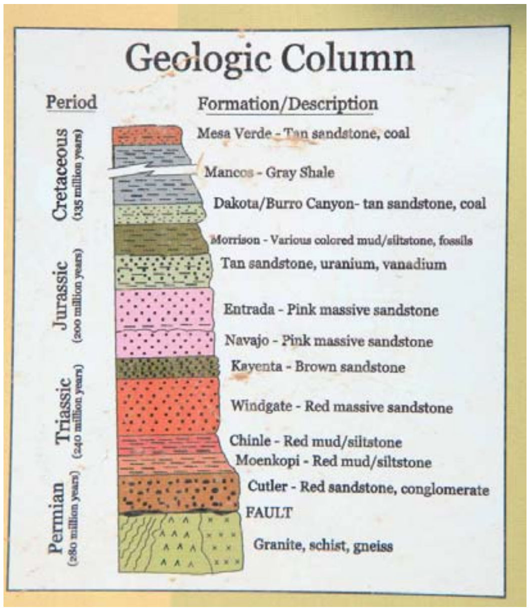

Fig. 3. Typical strata in the Book Cliffs region. Note layers of sandstone, mudstone, shale, and conglomerate interspersed with layers of coal and fossils, all overlying the granite-schist-gneiss base. This kind of stratification sequence is to be expected in a dynamic flow of waterborne silt and organic material that would be electrically lithified after sedimentation.

Fig. 4. Granite produced by subjecting loose sediment to a plasma discharge.

Every tree was reported to have been blown down during the earlier hurricane period of the catastrophe. The following flood (slosh) would sweep those uprooted forests and the fauna in and near them into great heaps above the oil shale, accounting for the layers of bone and coal [3].

To the south, the slosh would flow through northern New Mexico. This may be the explanation for the limestone cap atop Sandia Crest east of Albuquerque. It slopes eastward at about a 9-degree angle for many miles. A thick slurry of carbonates pushing west and around the southern end of the Colorado Rockies would have flowed up and over the granitic mountains that form the core of Sandia Crest and been lithified as limestone. [The steep and rugged west side may be the result of later electrical discharge excavation of a circular "crater" centered near the Four Corners area. But that is another story.]

Fig. 5. Layers of rock and coal in a road cut near the top of the Book Cliffs.

Fig. 6. Layers of limestone cap Sandia Crest at 10,000 feet elevation and slope gently down toward the east.

Fig. 7. Sandia Crest east of Albuquerque, NM showing limestone cap sloping to the east.

References

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