

## The Location of the Pillars of Heracles according to Plato

1. The following text delineates the location of the Pillars of Heracles and is precise albeit, because of Plato, somewhat elaborate. It confirms that the Pillars were in Africa and next to them was Libya and east of that was Egypt. Furthermore, Atlantis was 'behind' and 'inside' the Pillars and 'behind' and to the west of Libya, beyond the Atlantic Pelagos. It is reminded that the "inside" and "outside" are due to the characterization "mouth" at the Pillars of Heracles. The "outside" is the outside of a mouth.

The reader should not expect things to be given straightforwardly. The undemanding meanings are never the significant ones. Knowledge of the significant requires good memory, quick wittedness and above all, logical thought. As Plato would dictate, whoever denies the logic such as that of the Pythagorean Theorem, is either a liar or irrational.

Forthwith is presented Plato's translated text followed by the relevant commentary and analysis of the pervading logic. In effect, it is a philological study approached in mathematical fashion, which is in line with what Plato invariably prescribes.

2. *"...because the writings refer to how mighty was the force, that marched in arrogance at the same time against all of Europe and Asia, that campaigned out of the Atlantic Pelagos ..."*

a) Accordingly, Europe and Asia are on the same 'side', because he refers to them as *"at the same time"*.

b) He writes that the Atlantians *"...campaigned out of the Atlantic Pelagos..."* Thus, the Atlantic Pelagos is 'inside' or on the 'inner side', whereas Europe and Asia are 'outside' or on the 'outer side'.

c) In other words, Europe and Asia are on the other side of where is the Atlantic Pelagos! Clearly this is not applicable at Gibraltar. Western Europe is washed by the Atlantic Ocean. According to the, until now, prevalent misconception as to the size of Libya, it too was by the Atlantic Ocean! This is indicative of the reigning confusion.

3. *"...apart from these, they also ruled the interior of this here Libya up to Egypt, while Europe as far as Tyrrhenia ..."*

(Translators note: for purposes of translation, the term *"up to"* is hereby used to signify as reaching and stopping at a certain limit, while *"as far as"* incorporates the place mentioned i.e. up to *and* including.)

a) The Atlantians, before the war of 8.600 BC, ruled the interior of Libya up to where Egypt began. The *"up to"* indicates that Libya interposes between the Atlantians and Egypt. Plato reports that Atlantian hegemony stopped short of

Egypt. Their sphere of influence did not include Egypt or regions east of Egypt.

b) They had conquered Europe “*as far as*” Tyrrhenia. This means ‘up to the end of’ or ‘up to and including’ Tyrrhenia. It means that the Atlantians invaded Tyrrhenia (Portugal, Spain, and France) either from the west of Europe or via Sicily and southern Italy.

c) It’s important to note that Plato delineates two different regions. By writing “*this here*” he defines a region that contains Libya and Egypt in the next phrase and then refers to another region which is the Tyrrhenian parts of Europe.

d) Therefore, one can thus far safely surmise that the Atlantians who were categorically ‘inside’ had made conquests which may have been ‘outside’ as well as ‘inside’ their territories. Up to now, there is some justification for regarding the Pillars of Heracles as being where they are today widely considered to have been, namely, on the European and African coasts across the Strait of Gibraltar (Image 1 - yellow border). It is somewhat inconclusive in that Europe also continues ‘inside’ Gibraltar i.e. to the Atlantic Ocean, and also from where Libya was considered as being; Inconclusive because, as was shown, Libya *did not* begin from the Atlantic Ocean as was widely believed since Roman times. Therefore, in this case, Gibraltar is already excluded as being the site of the Pillars of Heracles (Image 1). To the contrary, the present theory that considers the Pillars as sited at Gabes is compelling and in absolute accord with the fact that the Pillars of Heracles were entirely situated in Africa (Image 2 - yellow border).

4. “...*Thus this force all gathered as one, attempted to enslave at one time plus yours plus ours plus those inside the mouth every land ...*”

a) For this sentence, one would need to know ancient Greek in order to analyze not only the syntax, but to differentiate the meanings derived from the spelling in the ancient text. A best as possible attempt will be made to elucidate it in English. Remember, it is an Egyptian (priest) speaking to a Greek (Solon). The words in the ancient text that correspond to “*your*” and “*our*” sound identical, with but one vowel defining the meaning between “*yours*” and “*ours*” (as does the ‘y’ in English). Thereby the two places are set in different locations. After the “*plus ours*”, he adds “*plus those inside the mouth every land*”. If Plato had placed “*every land*” at the start of the clause i.e. before the “*plus yours*” it would have simply indicated that all these lands (Europe, Egypt and in general all lands inside the boundaries) were on the same side, namely, ‘inside’. This would have been a pleonasm and Plato is not wont to superfluousness. He would have simply written ‘every land inside the mouth’ or ‘every land inside and outside the mouth’ or briefly ‘every land’. However, this would be in contradiction to the sentence of Para. &2 above, whereby both Europe (where Greece is) and of course Asia, are affirmed as

being on the 'outside'. Therefore, by being written in this way, this sentence is in accord with the preceding one but also with the next.

b) Furthermore, because the Egyptian priest indicates two separate locations, the differentiating "yours" and "ours" are, by syntax, respectively associated with the lands 'outside' (as understood thus far) and the lands 'inside' of the Pillars of Heracles. In other words, the 'outside' is "yours" (i.e. Solon, Greece) and the 'inside' is "ours" (i.e. the priest, Egypt). He did not include Egypt in the preceding sentence because it had not yet been conquered. It is evident that only Libya had been subjugated *before* the war, because it was already under Atlantian dominion. Egypt was conquered in the course of the war, as will be reported, but was subsequently liberated by Athens.

5. "...while those who had not been enslaved thus far prevented not to be enslaved, whereas to the others whoever of us dwell within the boundaries of Heracles it granted us absolute freedom"

a) This means that the Egyptians were 'inside', had lost the war and had been subjugated.

b) Egypt is both 'inside' and *at* the boundaries of the Pillars of Heracles.

c) Accordingly, Libya which neighbors Egypt is also at the boundaries of the Pillars. Moreover, both are of the countries that are 'inside'.

6. Recapitulation:

a) Europe and Asia were 'outside' whereas Libya and Egypt were 'inside' the Pillars of Heracles. In other words, Libya and Egypt were not on the side of the 'outer' sea which one needed to navigate in order to get to Europe and Asia.

b) Those 'inside' the Pillars were by the 'inner' sea and on the 'inner' land. Furthermore, because the Atlantians traveled "out" of the Pillars to enter the 'outer' sea so as to navigate to Europe and Asia, it indicates that they dwelled 'inside' the Pillars of Heracles.

c) It was shown that both the Libyans and the Egyptians were 'inside'. Consequently, *Atlantians, Libyans and Egyptians were all 'inside'!*

d) The Pillars of Heracles is the point separating those 'outside' from those 'inside'.

e) The Atlantic Pelagos is 'inside' and *before* the Pillars (from the geographical perspective of the Egyptian priest). Past the Pillars is the 'outer' sea and Europe and Asia follow beyond.

f) Therefore, even if it hadn't been stated, it is clear that the Pillars of Heracles marked the boundary between the 'inner' and 'outer' seas.

g) *Consequently, since the Pillars were the boundary (as demonstrated, between the Atlantic Pelagos and the 'outer' sea), they were also on the boundary of Libya and Egypt with the 'inner' and 'outer' seas!*

h) The 'outer' sea was that between Europe and Africa for the reason that the Atlantians navigated "out" through the Pillars of Heracles. Therefore, the sea 'outside' the boundary (of the Pillars of Heracles) and beyond the limits of Libya, Egypt and Atlantis (which are all 'inside'), was/is the Mediterranean Sea.

7. Fundamental Conditions: Libya, Egypt and Atlantis are 'inside' Africa because:

- a) The boundaries of all three were on the 'inside' and thus 'inside' the Pillars of Heracles in North Africa.
- b) After navigating a certain part of the Mediterranean Sea, one would find Europe and Asia, which were on the 'outside'. (Image 1, 2)
- c) Libya was after Atlantis and before Egypt i.e. in-between.

8. Adequate Conditions:

- a) The Pillars, Libya and Egypt were in sequence and 'inside' the boundary. Starting from the west where the Pillars were and heading eastward, there was Libya followed by Egypt.
- b) Atlantis was elsewhere because there was an intervening Atlantic pelagos 'inside' the Pillars (TIMAEUS). Therefore, it lay further back from the boundary, at a distance defined by the size of the pelagos (sea) which the Atlantians would navigate from the edge of the Continent of Atlantis i.e. Gadeiriki, before arriving at the Pillars of Heracles or, put in another way, before arriving at the marker between 'inside' and 'outside'.
- c) Since both Libya and Egypt had the 'outer' or Mediterranean Sea in common as a boundary the landmasses of Europe and Asia were north of this delimitation. Accordingly, Libya and Egypt are south of the Mediterranean Sea. The Continent of Atlantis, on account of the Atlantic Pelagos, is definitely to the west of Libya and even further south.

It is the first time that the position of Pillars of Heracles is so clearly specified and from none other than Plato himself, he who presented Atlantis.

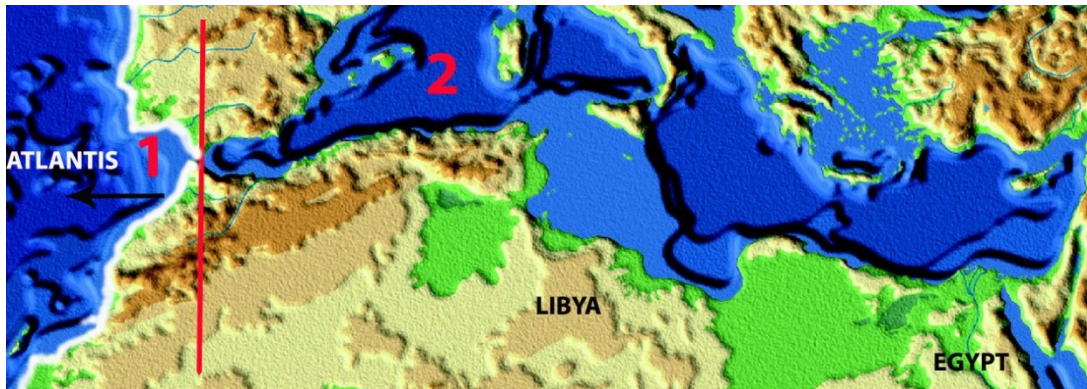


Image 1. The white coast line defines the boundary of the Pillars of Heracles according to earlier theories.

1. The 'inside' peoples. 2. The 'outside' peoples. The white line shows the hypothetical boundary of the Pillars of Heracles. This depiction is in disagreement with Plato's descriptions (and not only Plato's)

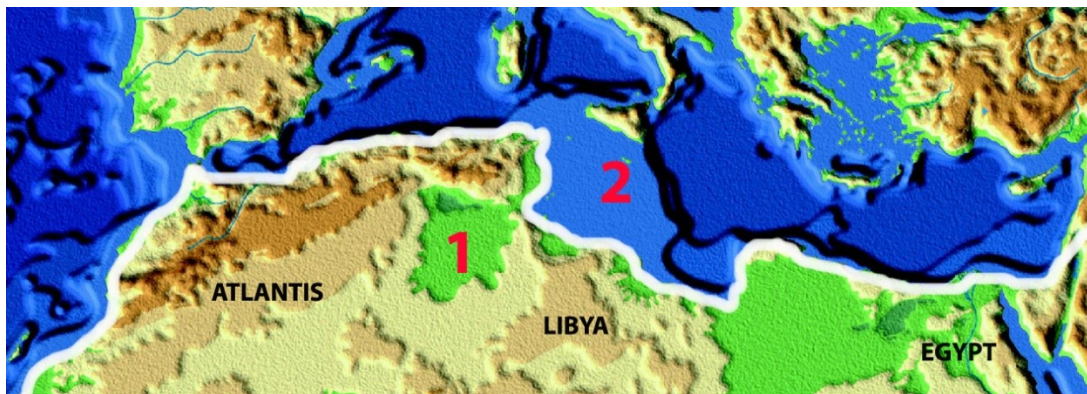


Image 2. The white coast line shows the boundary of the Pillars of Heracles according to Plato. 1. The 'inside' peoples. 2. The 'outside' peoples. The present theory is the only one without 'weak spots' in explanation, besides being patently obvious.

In conclusion, the Pillars of Heracles referred to by Plato in regard to Atlantis, were at the cove of Syrti Minor at the Gulf of Gabes; nowhere else.