Kogi, Colombia

Our elder brothers who live at the heart of the world

©GraphicMaps.com
Caribbean Sea
Santa Marta
Barranquilla
Cartagena
Caracas
Panama
Venezuela
Panama City
Cauca River
250 mi
250 km
Orinoco River
Turbo
Cúcuta
Magdalena River
Arauca
Pacific Ocean
Medellín
Andes Mts.
Meta River
Puerto Carreno
Yopal
Quibdó
Bogotá
Puerto Inirida
Buenaventura
Guaviare River
Cali
Colombia
Tumaco
Florencia
Mitú
Pasto
EQUATOR
0°
Quito
Caquetá River
Brazil
Ecuador
Putumayo River
AMAZON JUNGLE
COLOMBIA
LOW / HILLS / MOUNTAINS
Peru
Amazon River
CLICK HERE FOR LARGER MAP
NORTH AMERICA
Atlantic Ocean
Caribbean Sea
Pacific Ocean
Colombia
EQUATOR
PRIME MERIDIAN
AFRI
SOUTH AMERICA
1000 mi
1000 km
TROPIC OF CAPRICORN
23°5'S
90°W

Location

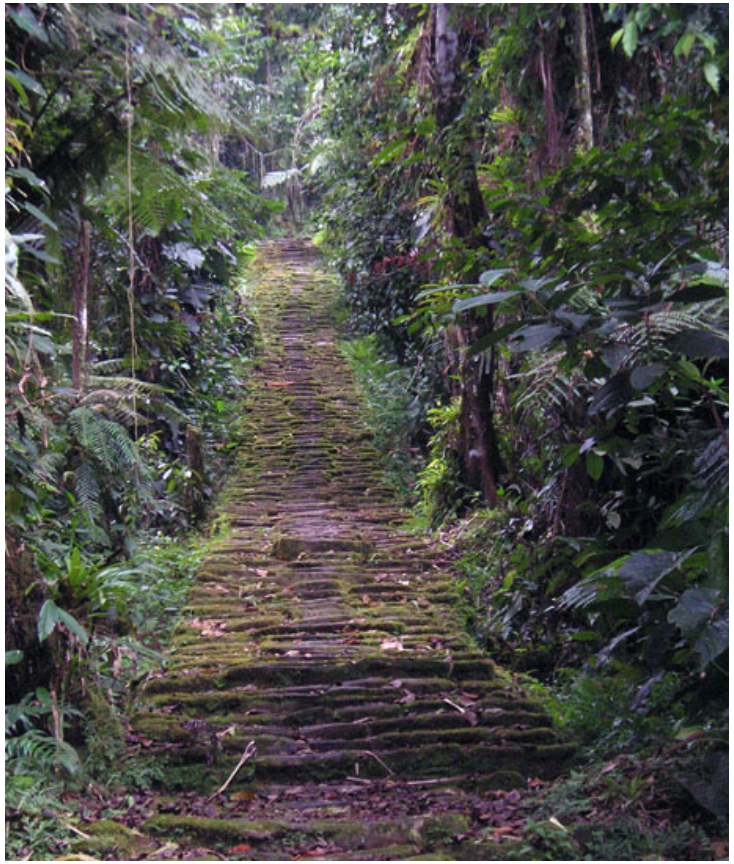
This territory rises abruptly out of the sea creating something of a pyramid shape.

19,000ft high in 40 km
Hardly any level land

3 different microclimates

- Subtropical, temperate, paramo (mountainous alpine tundra)
- Variety of eco-systems/biomes from the coast up to the peaks = rich variety of flora and fauna

The lost city of the Ancient Tairona

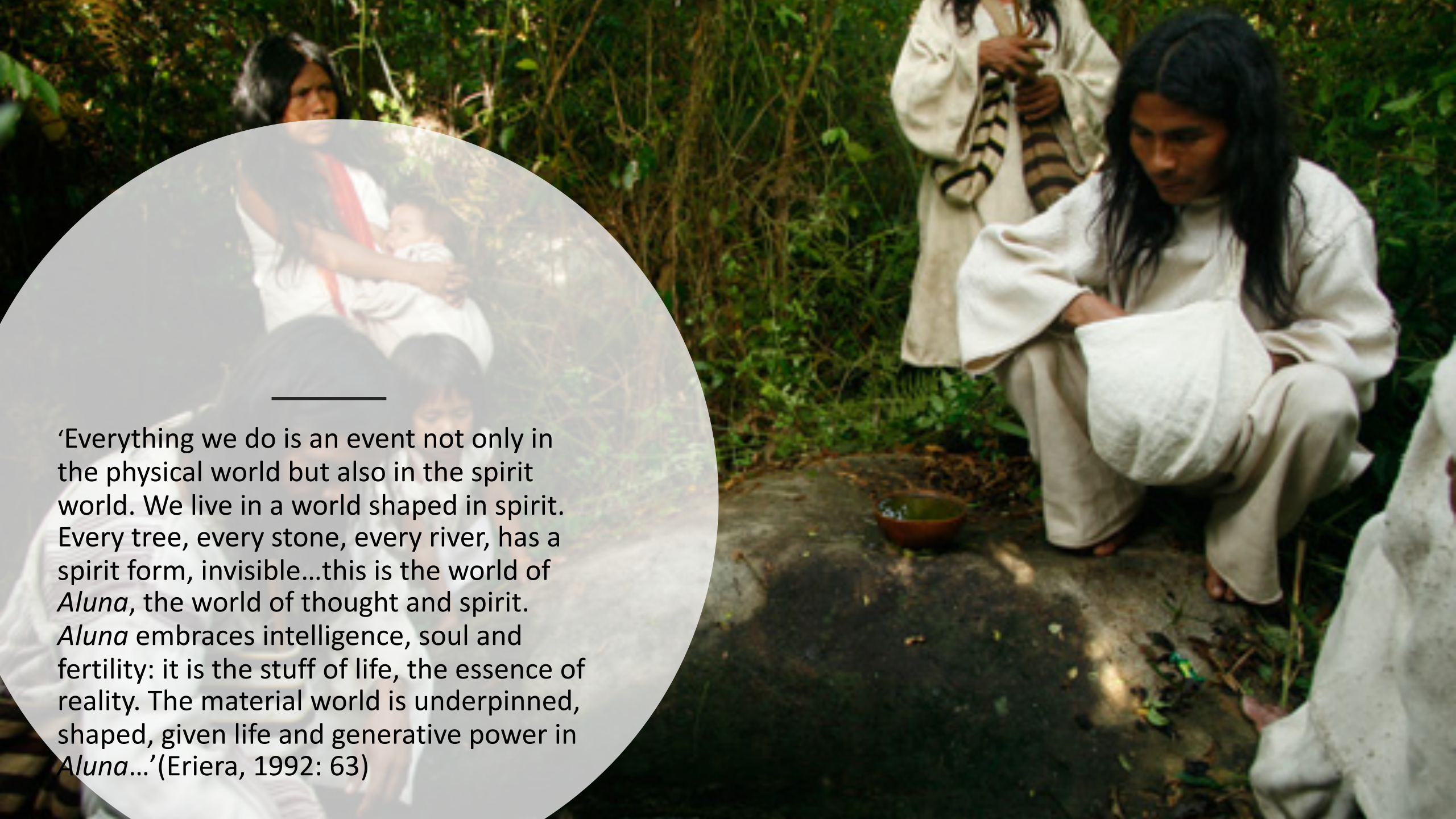


- Prior to Spanish conquest the Kogi lived in the Sierra Nevada
- The invaders devastated the indigenous population, driving them away from the coast
- The population then hid up in the mountains, sealing themselves away
- They only emerged in 1992 to send the world a message

Elder brother/younger brother story

The message:
the earth is alive, and our actions are killing her.

- Everything came from the darkness of the mother (Aluna)
- Women are the mother more than men
- Balance can only come through careful mediation on the mother
- No action should happen without thought to avoid imbalance

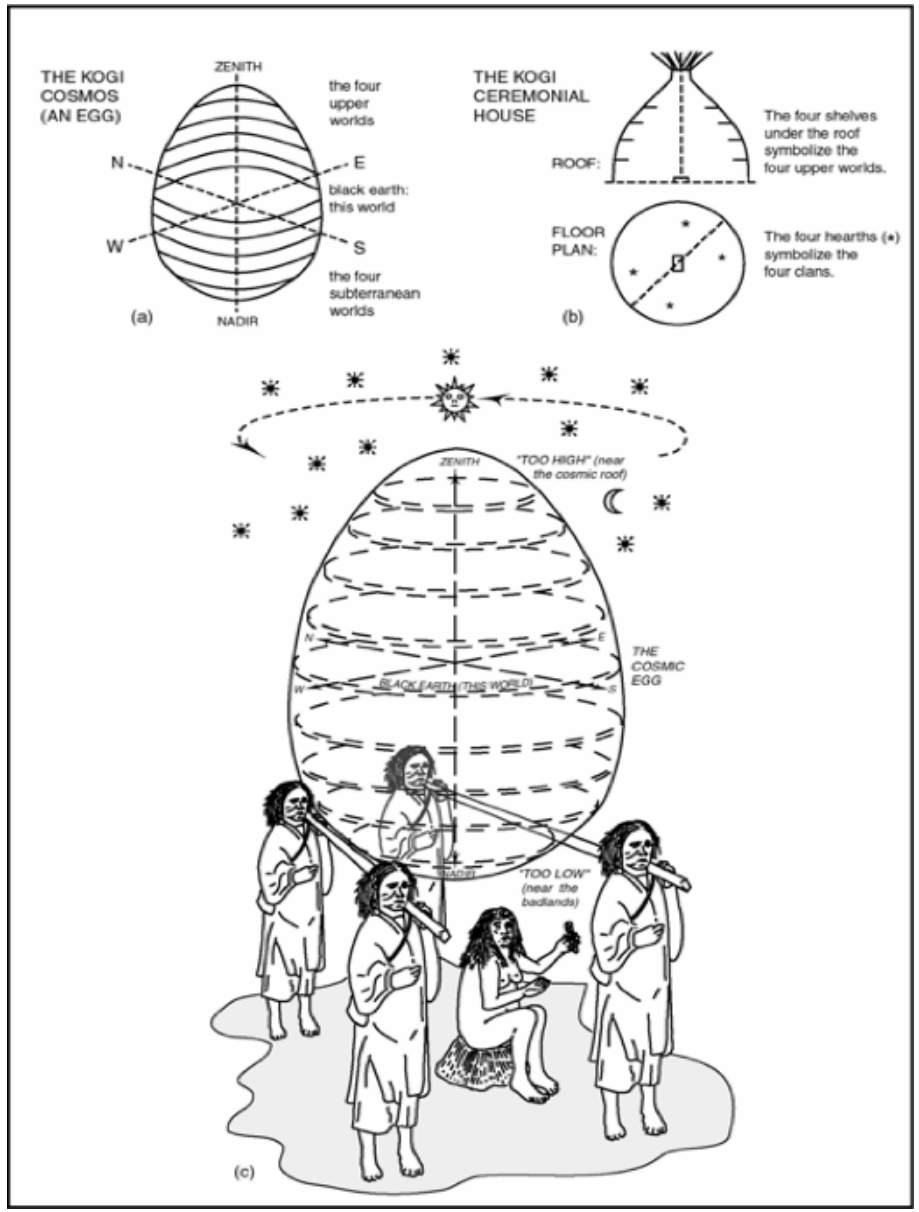


‘Everything we do is an event not only in the physical world but also in the spirit world. We live in a world shaped in spirit. Every tree, every stone, every river, has a spirit form, invisible…this is the world of *Aluna*, the world of thought and spirit. *Aluna* embraces intelligence, soul and fertility: it is the stuff of life, the essence of reality. The material world is underpinned, shaped, given life and generative power in *Aluna*…’(Eriera, 1992: 63)

According to the Kogi, thought connects with spirit and the material world.
As the elder brother, they are obliged to ensure everything remains connected and balanced so that the creative force of the world can continue to produce.
This is achieved through careful thought. Only after ‘mediation’ on consequences can actions be taken.
This is a picture of a thought map. It shows how thoughts and actions work across geographies.

Cosmology

- The system is fragile.
- We exist in a nine layered egg-shaped universe, which is held by elders above the mothery waters of creation called *Aluna.*
- Aluna is described as potentiality out of which anything you can think of can come.



The mamos (light) are skilled practitioners, trained to think and maintain balance

The training

- Individuals are divined. Being a mama is thought of as career
- Taken at birth and taught in darkness initially for nine years (+ nine more = total 18).
- Sleep in day, up all night
- Control body exercises
- Only eat white foods

A second message (Aluna) was sent in 2012 because we hadn’t listened. They are utterly fed up with us.

Aluna showed how the earth can be revitalized using Kogi methods.

This has caused interest and inspired other projects.

Recent news:
Student met the Kogi in France when they came to revitalize a valley.

Currently working with UNESCO to create a project to teach environmental scientists of their methods.

References

- Eriera, A.1992 *The Heart of the World.* London: Jonathan Cape Ltd
- Dodd, E. 1997. The Mamas and the Papas: Goddess Worship, the Kogi Indians and ecofeminism. *NWSA journal*. Vol 9. no. 3 p.77-88
- Reichel-Dolamtoff, G. 1996. *Los Kogi de Sierra Nevada*. Spain: Bitzoc
- http://tironatrust.org/