

Ottoman Ibis*

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Ottoman Ibis (OI) are the only living example of the **Immortal Winged Being** (IWB) genus. OI are self-begotten and radiant. They are a lofty bird species whose striking appearance (a bald red head and glimmering black feathers) attracts unwanted attention, for while OI live peaceably among mortals, they prefer the solitary life of steep rocky cliffs, where they roost, and of arid, fallow steppes, where they forage for food and nesting materials.

OI thrive in fragile ecosystems characterized by a strikingly small number of elected species of fish, fauna, insect and plant, as well as significant traces of the Philosopher's Stone (**Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane**), a premodern soil substrate crystal. Remnants of clay tablets containing cuneiform writing dating back to the Sumerian period provide evidence that OI carried the crystals in their glossy black feather ruffs from **Abundance**, the yet unrecovered ancient city that once stood where past meets future, towering as high above the ground as it plunged deep below the earth's surface, for up to fifty meters in each direction at its monumental center. Abundance is believed to be located in southeast Turkey, at the center of the Fertile Crescent. It is for this reason that Ottoman Ibis are provided refuge in the Şanlıurfa region, most notably Birecik, where a celebrated Ottoman demigod parted the waters of the Euphrates 610 times and dispersed life into the most arid regions of the realm of mortals. Ornithologists concur that OI, although not a riparian species, thrive in the plains where the dispersed sediments of Euphrates touch the crystals of the Philosopher Stone (a rare event given the stone's extreme hydrophobia), and transmute fallow soil into the elixir of life.

OI communicate exclusively through sky- and earthmarkings, the hermeneutics of which have been the subject of great speculation and debate among philologists, paleographers and alchemists. Although interpretations range widely in tenor and tone, there is significant agreement that OI markings are **Material** in substance and effect. While some scholars, scientists and poets persist in their attempts to decipher the markings, other mortals (especially human communities and bureaucracies) have sought to siphon off their potency for worldly purposes, such as to forge affective and political bonds across terrestrial borders, or simply to mark borders.

As the reckoner of time, OI account for all seasons, epochs and ages, as well as the reigns of kings and presidents. It is for this reason that OI congregate at the earthly time portals of **Göbeklitepe and Keçilitepe**, to-date the only known portals, although archeologists have sufficient evidence that more portals have yet to be discovered below the steppes of southeast Turkey. Ottoman Ibis are the region's primordial autochthones, and it is for this reason that the area possesses a sacral topography, which in turn confirms its status as the proper and just place for OI to thrive. However, the activities of mortals across the Syrian border threaten to diminish OI resplendence. Ornithologists note that OI plumage dulls in sheen before these Immortal Winged Beings take off for indefinite migration into the celestial territories, carrying the entrails of the mortal dead. In fact, Irq Bitig tablets proclaim that at such a time, when their plumage turns to infinite opacity, all Ottoman Ibis will take to the skies and drape the earth in absolute darkness.

Glossary

Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT), also known as the Philosopher Stone, is a fervently coveted, quasi-mythic crystalline substance found in trace amounts in some of the most fertile regions of the earth. The substance originates from the ancient city of Abundance (2030 IY).

Abundance is the ancient city dated 2030 Immortal Years (I.Y.) located in the Fertile Crescent in modern-day Turkey. It is the timespace where past and future are joined in an earthly continuum. Abundance, also referred to as Fount in alchemical texts and The Resplendent in Irq Bitig, is a terramode (a terrestrial expression) of The Great Coincidence, where natural and human history become one and the same.

Material communication is what philologists, paleographers and alchemists have determined to be the most direct descendent of the original Word, the unity of language and substance.

Göbeklitepe and Keçilitepe are two partially excavated exurban passages leading from the ancient city of Abundance. Commonly called time portals, these passages have the power to bend matter according to multiple historical narratives.

Irq Bitig is the earliest surviving Old Turkic text. As the Book of Omens, it describes how the unholy acts of infidel mortals will summon The Unraveling, a hideous tribulation marked by corruption and chaos, until the final reckoner repartitions the world into The Resplendent and The Abomination. Irq Bitig omens consist of allegorical nature poems, or klimats, which depict junctures where political histories coincide or divide. Coincidence and Division (or Divergence), in fact, form the foundation for the hermeneutics of enviromarking, the interpretation of klimat-images (e.g., the putrefaction of a carcass or the mending of a barbed wire fence), the scenes with which klimats are composed.