**The Indus Avian Bird Mother, Goddess of the Earth and Her Water Resources**

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This figurine is a rare example of an Indus Civilization Avian-Bird-Mother. It may represent the awesome White Bellied Sea Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*). It is a product of the Kulli-Mehi Culture of Harappa Period 3A, about 2500 BCE.The noted archaeologist, Sir Aurel Stein in 1931 excavated the site of Mehi in southern Balochistan, Pakistan, which borders the Indian Ocean, and he found thatfemale figures like this one always have a flat base indicating they were meant to be set on some ritual platform.



White Bellied Sea Eagle (Haliaeetus leucogaster) After https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/4f/Haliaeetus\_leucogaster\_-Gippsland

Three necklaces adorn this figurine, and they all signify the water of the

oceans. Sir Aurel Stein surmised

that these figurines probably

represented a mother goddess of the Earth. The Earth, of course, is 71

percent water-covered of which 96.5 percent is sea water. The top necklace is probably of two marine shell gorgets.

The second one is of parallel bands, which are probably of hollow stems of marine conches, the same conch stems were used by Siouan Indian chiefs of North America to signify power. The lower one has three, elaborate, presumably marine shell necklaces with a large shell gorget depended from the bottom one. The Avian-Bird-Mother’s arms are akimbo as though waiting for a confirmation of her demand of her dedicants to properly take care of the earth and water.

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