After Neanderthals and Cro-Magnons disappeared from Europe only people of the Homo sapiens type remained. One of them was Evenor, the father of the beautiful mortal Cleito which, according to old traditions, Poseidon himself made his wife.

Adriatic plain

In the not so distant past, the majority of today's Adriatic Sea was dry land. 11,000 years ago, the middle and northern part of today's shallow sea was a vast plain, the so-called Adriatic shore. The area was over 550 kilometers long and 350 kilometers wide. Shaped corresponding to a rectangle whose two opposite sides (edges) consisted of mountain ranges, it bordered with the Apennines in the west and Dinarides in the east, and the other two, the mountain system in the north of the Alps and the Adriatic coast in the south, near the deep South Adriatic basin. The coast was stretched between the Palagruza threshold of the Gargano peninsula on the Apennine Peninsula, across the Tremiti Islands to the island of Pianos, including the island of Palagruza, Lastovo and Mljet to the eastern Dalmatian mainland. The Palagruza threshold is now in the sea, separating the shallow northern Adriatic shore with Jabučki sea valley and the southern part, with deep southern Adriatic cove. This former body of water which was a bay of the Mediterranean in the south Adriatic syncline deep valleys, was on the surface two-thirds less than the present. Yet it is a "real" sea at the Strait of Otranto.

Given the numerous remains of bones and tools in the areas of the Adriatic basin, upright people since the time of the Heidelberg man, have stayed successfully developing there. Therefore, it can be argued that it was the Adriatic plain along with other areas such as oases around the Mediterranean Sea that were one of the cradles of the first real people.
Generally – along with the development of man - social relationships have developed and the original community of people have now modified into a more numerous, coherent and organized community. With the establishment of social order, such communities acquired features of organized units with coherent policies where culture and civilization evolved and flourished. On civilization, a kingdom on the spacious Adriatic plains preceding Athenians, ancient Greek writer and philosopher Plato wrote in his dialogues (Critias and Timaeus), in reference to stories of the ancient Greek writer and politician Critias the Younger.

The pillars of Hercules
In the ancient world, destinies of people strongly intertwined with the will of their gods but the conviction prevailed that the domicile of gods was never indented to be accessible to ordinary mortals. However, as it is – while discovering new worlds - a wider horizon and richer knowledge estranged and relocated the mythological scenery and the residence of gods to the edges of the known world. Nearly 150 years after Solon told about the legendary site of the Pillars of Hercules, the ancient Greek historian and writer Herodotus wrote about the same columns being in Gibraltar. Herodotus’ knowledge of the western world comes primarily from Phoenician and Persian sources, hence writing individual chapters of Historia (History) was largely summarized from the same sources adjusted to the appropriate occasions. The experienced Phoenician seamen sailed through Gibraltar centuries before the Greeks. Phoenicians named the place The Columns of Melkart after the god of Tyre whose counterpart in Greek was later Hercules. The fact that the Pillars have been ‘inserted’ in Gibraltar by Hercules and remained there to this day is credited primarily to the Ancient Greek geographer Eratosthenes and his followers.

According to the ancient and Roman period after Ptolemy, times of darkness and denial of advanced thoughts and ideas came to be. There has been a decline in science and complete regression in any respect. Unbalanced slavery and social order, more frequent religious conflicts and wars of conquest were the cause of this scientific eclipse throughout the old and middle age. All that is needed to know about the world was either in edicts, or in orders of the ruler, or written in the teachings of expanding new and dominant churches. Church dignitaries of the middle ages cultivated a negative attitude towards science and literature from ancient times, denying almost all the moral values of antiquity. Hercules and Melkart, like most of the gods of the old world, were abandoned. It is not surprising that no medieval world map shows The Pillars Hercules nor Melkart.

Following the theories of the relocation of poles and the hypothesis of a sunken island (Plato's Atlantis), there are enough indications that the Pillars of Hercules are found in their original location in the Strait of Otranto, in the passage that connects the Ionian and Adriatic Sea separating the Apennine and Balkan Peninsula. It is most interesting, as in many details, that the Adriatic Plains fit Plato's description of the legendary sunken world (geographic location, size of the plains, immersion - from the west, north and east – the mountain systems, pleasant climatic conditions on the plains, etc). The area is rich in minerals, forests, and it is specifically stated in the description that it is rich in white, red and black stone (marble). By abundance of sources, hydrological diversity and formed streams, it is also one of the areas rich with cold springs, thermal and mineral waters. All streams that were flowing down the Apennines, the Alps and the Dinarides are funneled through the Adriatic plains down to the south - in the cross section of Palagruza - into the former Adriatic Sea. Thus, the space in the sea - not far from today’s most extended islands of Palagruza and Lastovo – can be said to have been the coast of the large plain
and the site of the sunken island and legendary place. The centuries-old conflict between the citizens of Atlantis and great-Athenians, as written by Plato, were held near the plains and great-Athenian polis, in areas of western and southern Balkans. In addition, when apparently in one terrible day and one terrible night Atlantis was submerged, it was when a good part of the Athenian plains, the space which is now Albania, Greece and the Greek islands, was flooded, desolate, bleak, and even centuries after the great flood left barren and lifeless.

The last great cataclysm

Layers of the Earth's crust with an increased concentration of carbon and iridium are very rare. Iridium layers are found for example in Denmark, Italy, Spain, Tunisia, Morocco, followed by New Zealand and North America, where the film thickness goes up to 40 centimeters. It is assumed that the appearance of iridium could be due to very poor soil sedimentation in a period when the concentration of iridium, which is constantly in minute quantities falling from space to Earth, was increased. Minor amounts of iridium are found in the ashes from huge volcanic eruptions. The emergence of iridium in the soil, however, is most likely in the cases after impact of falling of a celestial body to Earth, when in extreme conditions they disperse larger amounts of this element. Iridium sites around the Mediterranean Sea (Italy, Spain, Tunisia and Morocco) indicate a strong possibility (probability) of one or more asteroids falling within the Mediterranean iridium circle, that is the space in the Mediterranean Sea.

An asteroid falling to Earth is not an everyday occurrence, its reality in the past and a serious threat in the near or distant future is present. At various time intervals such strikes permanently modify the planet and in some cases present an almost fatal threat to survival of life on Earth. The last cataclysm that caused the great flood on Earth occurred after the fall of an asteroid around 8500 years B.C. The asteroid fell into the Mediterranean Sea, most likely in the Tyrrhenian regions and/or the Ionian Sea. An enormous amount of energy was liberated from the Earth's crust and mantle followed by a thermal shock wave, tsunamis and floods along with destructive earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, black precipitation, completed by blackout days without daylight and the extreme climatic conditions with features of the ice age. It was painful and highly uncertain times for man across the Earth's Northern Hemisphere. For the umpteenth
time in recent history, human population was decimated, and brought to the brink of extinction in areas of Europe and North Africa. Recent history recalls a larger celestial body falling to Earth (The Large Siberian or Tunguska explosion in 1908), as well as aftermaths of catastrophic tsunamis (for example, the Sumatra-Andaman underwater earthquake and tsunami that occurred in the Indian Ocean in 2004). In addition to the 2012 well-studied images taken of a drop of a larger celestial body on Jupiter, it is possible through a computer system to simulate the fall of heavenly bodies on Earth and assume and evaluate the consequences of such an attack.

The peripheral area of demarcation between the two neighboring African and Eurasian tectonic (lithospheric) plates is a likely scene of a celestial body falling to Earth, as well as several smaller, sunken or elevated microplates in the Mediterranean area. All the more reason that the action of natural forces, in the geomorphological sense, had all the features of the cataclysm of which we speak. By sinking of the microplate in the Adriatic basin, the sea would overwhelm most of the former mainland in the central and northern Adriatic. However, rising sea levels were of a global, planetary character and it was so strong that it significantly altered the land and sea mass in the country. Rising sea level is influenced by global warming or the greenhouse effect. Gases and ash of which the concentration in the extremely polluted atmosphere grew, prevented planetary radiation and reflected heat back to Earth. This way rising temperatures of the atmosphere and the consequent melting of ice masses happened. Except for the sea levels rising caused by conditions in the atmosphere and climate change, science has no knowledge about extreme tectonic activity in the relatively recent history.

Secrets of the Adriatic islands
The geography of today’s islands follow their reflection under the sea. The underwater world is part of the former land, with it’s vast plains of the Adriatic and it’s hills, the hills and valleys of the Dinarides. Islands in the Adriatic Sea are within the isobath of 100 meters and due to the previously mentioned sea level rise at the beginning of the Holocene at about 96 meters, obviously – in recent geological history – they were an integral part of the Adriatic shore. By lithological composition, the islands are made of limestone and dolomite of the Mesozoic age. On the south and southwest of the islands, at the bottom of the transverse valleys such as Sutmiholjska and Grabova valley on the island of Mljet, breccias and conglomerates can be found, dating back to the the end of the Pleistocene and the beginning of the Holocene, at the time of the last great cataclysm on Earth.

In the structural-geological sense, the longitudinal axis or vertex (axis of extension folds) is important for good visual folded structures in oblique stratification, bulging or convex portions (the anticline) and sunken or concave parts (the syncline). This is the axis that determines the effect of physical forces that caused the creases. Anticline structure dominates the island of Mljet in the south to the Kornati area to the north and in the wider areas of the Dinaric Alps to the east. Specifically, in case of Mljet, the entire island is a folded structure whose axis is predominantly parallel to the coast, and is traversed by faults, among which the most numerous are those vertical to the island, which is in the north to south and northwest to southeast and northeast to southwest direction. In case of inclined layers it is described as tectonic intimacy. Older and younger dolomite limestone is similarly tilted, which is a strange geological thrust relationship when older deposits practically slide on top of the younger structures.
In the far western part of the island of Korčula, above Vela Luka, is Vela Spila, an exquisite and well-researched cave. In nearly eight meters of deeply layered earth inside the caves more than 30,000 years of human history is recorded. This is when the cave was still a good 200 to 250 meters high above the vast plains of the Adriatic. Today, with the plateau in front of the cave, the view stretches across parts of the Vela Luka Bay far out to the west and north Adriatic Sea, and to the south to the edge of the Blato field. On the hills near the cave and the adjacent Kopile at the Blato, during good weather, the Apulian valleys of Gargano and the Palagruza Island can be seen, and on the other side, the southern parts of the island of Hvar and Peljesac peninsula, as well as the peaks of the Biokovo mountains and mountains deep in the Dalmatian hinterland. Today the cave is situated at an altitude of 130 meters above sea level and is accessible by road which leads to the plateau at the entrance to the cave.

Like Odysseus’ cave, the nearby island of Mljet and Vela Cave have an opening in the ceiling, or to be precise, two openings in the interior, near the entrance, hence there is bright day light visibility in the cave. Bearing in mind life and events in and around the cave through distant history, Vela Spila is a unique natural laboratory in which, in addition to traces of human habitation in it, evidence of the great flood is stored. Specifically, the opening of the cave is directed toward the southwest from where, during the last great cataclysm, tsunamis were oncoming.

In the sediments at a depth of 580 cm to more than 720 cm, material from the Paleolithic phase can be found, which shows very uniform properties (mixed ash/charcoal, finely edged stones, finely 'ground' bones and a lot of silica). The ashy layer which determines the end of the Paleolithic period is probably due to the strong thermal shock wave that precedes and foreshadows cataclysmic deposits of collapsed larger rocks and stones, or a period of a devastating earthquake and tsunami. Radiocarbon analysis of the ash layer dated back to 12,200 years ago. Such differences and discrepancies in the years between the results of radiocarbon analysis and the assumed time of the cataclysm, is a result of immediately altered atmospheric conditions. Asteroids falling on Earth were followed by a thermal shock wave, then disorders in atmospheric pollution. Radiocarbon dating method uses natural carbon isotope $^{14}C$ dating, and the results are relevant to the condition that it did not cause any major changes or disturbances in the atmosphere. Atmospheric trouble after cosmic cataclysms helped a faster decomposing of the carbon isotope $^{14}C$, which make the calibrated radiocarbon dating method results significantly more important than actual results. In the case of the ashy layer, the difference is more than 1,700 years.
The collapsed layer in the cave makes up large pieces of rocks and stones. The collapsing of the walls and the ceiling of these proportions, indicate the force and intensity of natural forces. The layers are also more recent deposits of silt varying composition, sand and clay which waves and tsunamis deposited into the cave in huge quantities. In layers deeper than 4.5 meters and above the layer of collapsing stone are layers with a large amount of small pieces of rocks and stones in nearly horizontal lines, so again, the composition of the soil points to occasional intense collapsing material in the cave for a number of subsequent destructive earthquakes and seismic activity which are characteristics of tectonic activity on the edges of the continental lithospheric plate and the Adriatic microplate.

With a small and a large lake and the island of St Mary in the Great Lake, Mljet seems like some sort of 'replica' of the legendary sunken island not far from there, and like rings, alternating bands of land and sea around the island. Before last great cataclysm, Little and Big Lake were either small freshwater lakes or just marshy mud valleys or saline as those at or Sobre or Blato on the island, not far from the lake. Time when the Great and Little Lake become salty corresponds to the geological end of the Pleistocene epoch and the beginning of the Holocene, or the completion of the Old Stone Age, the Paleolithic period and the duration of the Middle Stone Age, the Mesolithic. Scientific studies and research speak of this period as a time when a very tumultuous and extreme times with features of the Ice Age ended and when the era of gradual
stabilizing of continental temperate of the Atlantic climate in the northern hemisphere of the Earth begun, again reemerging as extremely favorable for the survival and life of people. The Middle Stone Age or Mesolithic is generally believed to have been a time of darkness and great cultural gaps. Duration of the Mesolithic era in the Northern Hemisphere somehow disguises itself, coinciding with other periods and climatic changes that are attributable to long term consequences of the catastrophe. Only in the final stabilization period of the climate and living conditions in the region of the Mediterranean basin starts the Neolithic Age, the Neolithic. As conditions in geographical terms stabilized in some areas so has the new culture of the Neolithic evolved and flourished.

Megalithic construction
It is no longer questionable whether the people of the time transported megaliths from distant quarries hundreds of kilometers away by sea and rivers using primitive boats or other vessels and then - exceeding all expectations – moved those megaliths overland to the final destination using probably wooden rollers. At the final destination stone blocks weighing at several tons were assembled in trilithones. People of those times did it, but the question remains, how they managed it? In fact, it is estimated that, in all phases of the transfer of each of the megaliths dozens and hundreds of people participated. They had to be resourceful, well-organized and they had to utilize tools and instruments of which we know nothing today. Ultimately, it is difficult to justify the enormous efforts that whole generations have invested in raising megalithic structures, with no real knowledge of their purpose or intent. The harsh living conditions, life expectancy of people of the Stone Age was much shorter than today, but still they have without any valid reason and sense, you could say, indulged in a long and exhausting rising of megalithic structures. Man had to spend a good deal of time in the search for food, hunting and collecting fruits, so it must have been another point to it. At some point in the past, man could simply somehow move, lift and carry the stones which people of similar physical constitution and capabilities never before and never afterwards could move, lift and carry. At the time, when people moved blocks of stone, built menhirs, dolmens and megalithic monuments, they were all created and built within the limits of their capabilities. Later, when in the very same areas, megalithic construction is for some reason no longer possible, to the people then, as well as to us today, it seems much more surprising and mysterious.

Anomalies - exceptional circumstances on Earth
Due to rotation and the flattening of the Earth, the acceleration of gravitational pull or Earth's gravity varies between 9.78 m/s² and 9.82 m/s² and varies from place to place on earth. Its middle value is measured above sea level and is used as a physical constant (9.80665 m/s²). Differences in the acceleration of gravity are dependent on the altitude, the Earth's crust and the internal structure of the Earth. Due to the rotation of the Earth, the radius at the poles is 43 km less than the radius at the equator. As gravity decreases with the square of the distance by Newton's law of gravity, so does the acceleration of Earth's gravity at the equator decrease. In addition, the higher the body mass of an object, the greater its gravitational pull. Weight \( F_g \) or \( Q \) is the force acting on the body within the gravitational field and is equal to the product of mass \( m \) and the strength of the gravitational field and gravity \( g \) (\( F_g \) or \( Q = mg \)). The centrifugal force at the equator is relatively high due to rotation, while it is completely lacking at the poles. Because the centrifugal force is contradictory gravity, objects have lower
weight at the equator than at the poles: acceleration of Earth's gravity (g) at the equator measures 9.78049 m/s², while its value at the poles is 9.83221 m/s². Thus, the body weight of 1000 kg at the equator has a weight of 9780 N (Newton), while its weight on the poles is 9832 N. For the two bodies to have the same weight at the poles and the equator, the mass of one of them has to be 5 pounds higher at the equator than the weight of another body at the poles. Due to differences in the attractive force, caused by centrifugal force of rotation of the Earth, substances in the interior of the Earth (in Earth's mantle) are farther from the Earth's center near the equator. A theoretical conclusion was determined by the Dutch astronomer, physicist and mathematician Christiaan Huygens his studies of the laws on centrifugal and centripetal force, and later even by Isaac Newton in his general laws of gravity.

Distribution of mass in the Earth's interior is uneven. Density of the mass is greater under the oceans, seas and the North Pole where the force of gravity is greater. Materials in the Earth's mantle shift uniformly and the greater concentration of mass in some places is the result of the tilted position of the Earth, the rotation and the effects of various forces. Rotation speed and strength of the magnetic field of the earth have changed throughout the history of the planet. North and south poles of the Earth are constantly shifting, and several times in the past they have changed in their places.

Upon impact of heavenly bodies, or the proximity of another large celestial body we come to speak of the work of relatively large inertial (and gravitational) forces which are transferred or delivered through the active layers of the Earth's mantle as vector quantities, and thus contribute to more pronounced shifting and additional redeploying of internal mass. The largest ocean on Earth, the Pacific Ocean, is located on the opposite side of the European continent. Gravitation force under the ocean is much greater than the gravity on the European continent. An asteroid falling in the Mediterranean Sea area caused a wave of inertial forces that were passing down through the layers of the Earth's crust and mantle. On that occasion - in varying degrees - a large amount of material was launched (or accelerated) in the direction of inertial forces, regardless of pre-existing direction of motion of the mass, in terms of different gravitational pulls. Shifting and moving masses of molten mantle and movement in the outer core of the Earth caused disturbances to the convection of the circulating mechanism in the mantle and displacement in the axis of the core movement, which reflected in the force of gravity (acceleration of Earth's gravity). Thus, on the surface of the Earth major differences and deviations from normal values of gravity could be observed in different units. Anomalies in the Earth, which moved through units like islands with exceptional circumstances have emerged as a vortex. On the surface of the Earth they were exhibited differently and also disappeared the same way they appeared. In places with vortexes, Earth's gravity was extremely disturbed and non-permanent, which created - among other things - all the terms and conditions for megalithic construction.

The Earth's crust beneath the Mediterranean Sea is of the oceanic crust type, therefore thinner than continental. In addition, the Mediterranean is an area where the African and Eurasian continental lithospheric plates meet. Therefore the consequences of the fall and impact of heavenly bodies in the Mediterranean were even more extreme and catastrophic. During a long period of time since the last great cataclysm, the situation in the atmosphere and on the surface of the Earth's northern hemisphere has stabilized. The re- 'balancing' of the internal mass and gravity lasted for thousands of years and lasts to this day. Anomalies or exceptional circumstances on the Earth's surface, which enabled megalithic construction were channeled and reflected on the surface of the Earth in different units more than 9,000 years ago. This much time was needed for the displaced masses to rearrange and counterbalance within the mantle and outer
cores of the Earth. Initially, in the few thousand years after the cataclysm, anomalies dominated the European and North African regions, the areas closest to the crash site of a celestial body, and then, with different intensities, transferred through the whole earth. They emerged last in the southern hemisphere of the Earth, in Oceania, Easter islands and Australia. As proof that it had been so, the eloquent chronological overview of megalithic architecture is enough. It is possible to accurately determine the duration of the anomalies in certain geographic areas, and given the monumentality of the building and number of megalithic structures, it is also possible to determine the intensity of disturbance in the force of gravity in these areas. 11,000 years ago (before the last great cataclysm and shortly thereafter) man had already settled in all continents and it is a combination of circumstances, wherever the opportunity came (anomalies in the functioning of gravity) permitting him to build and create monumental edifices, to move, lift and arrange megaliths, monumental structures several dozen tons heavy. Megalithic tradition is therefore an appearance given to man which occurs 10,500 years ago in the European and African regions and lasts until 1,000 - 1,500 years ago in the areas of southern Oceania.

**Megalithic centers - a mythological scene**

Just as we do today, so have generations of descendants of megalithic builders wondered about the monumental and mysterious megalithic buildings. In the old traditions and beliefs, megalithic builders have acquired increasing features of people with supernatural, almost divine powers and abilities. So it is not unusual that these same megalithic builders were recognized as characters in a number of mythological motifs that are honored and invoked in the rites and rituals. When the construction sites of megaliths - especially on European soil – are shown on the ancient Greek world maps, ones from times of Homer, Hesiod and Hecataeus, interesting details can be observed. Where some of the oldest and most magnificent megalithic monuments are, the old Greek charts are showing them as elision and happy paradise islands in the outer ocean or as a temporary residence of the deceased and the demigods and gods. The area west of Sicily to the mouth of the river and the islands of Corsica and Sardinia are places where Cyclops, satyrs, centaurs, Lamia, Scylla and Charybdis lived... Strange creatures, half-human and half-animal which Odysseus encountered sailing lost in the seas.

About the divine and divinity in the superhuman megalithic builders remain myths and legends to be told. About the ability of these same people in some different exceptional circumstances on Earth, thousands of megalithic buildings and structures are telling the tale. One of the megalithic builders could be renamed as Hercules, who not only set but replaced its monumental pillars.

Another remarkable and commonplace occurrence aided by gravitational forces of the Moon and the Sun is the alternately raising and lowering of the sea level or the tides. During Earth’s orbit, the moon draws to itself the mass of the oceans and seas, which causes the shift in sea level on the mainland. Gradually, as the force decreases, levels return to their original condition. Tides can be strong or moderate depending on the area of the coastline. Due to the 'extraordinary circumstance' disturbances in the power of gravity tides have occurred much more intensely, extremely and unusually than is the case today.

At some point areas of Egypt and the Middle East had anomalies of 'exceptional circumstances' which speaks in favor of the rich tradition of megalithic buildings, the pyramids and monumental sculptures, today’s wonders of the world. In the areas of Egypt during the megalithic age another event has been registered dating back to XIII century B.C. It is the biblical description of the release of Jews from Egypt and their crossing of the Red Sea. Although not confirmed that at that
time the sea level was significantly lower and significantly different from today's, arguably, the tides do flow in terms of the 'extraordinary opportunity' in unexpected and extreme circumstances. Fleeing the army of the Egyptian pharaoh, Ramses II's grandson, Moses took the opportunity of the 'extreme' low tide and moved with his people to the promised land of Israel, stepping through shallow water. Ramses II wanted, at all costs, to catch up with Moses and punish him. Outraged and offended, the undisputed Pharaoh ignored the tides and the upcoming 'extreme' tide. He commanded to advancing through the shallow water, and then, in the moments that followed, he could only watch as his army was drowned in the deeper water.

There are numerous theories by which falls of celestial bodies to Earth gave birth to the oceans and seas, including life on Earth. Fact is that the last great cataclysm created all the beauty of today's Adriatic Sea, its coastline and over 1,100 islands and islets. It also sunk and destroyed the legendary island of Atlantis, but consequently made megalithic construction possible. Megalithic construction was and still is a challenge to man in all subsequent periods. Persistently trying to mimic the megalithic builders, man has exceeded himself. All subsequent construction could not be more so megalithic, but they were nothing short of monumental. We are witnessing that mankind not only successfully overcame all the hardships, difficulties and anomalies in the past, but also that the whole development of civilization and culture was dictated by exactly such opportunities and troubles on Earth. Even as archaic Homo sapiens, man was a good observer and ingenious in different circumstances. First he observed natural structures that are carved by erosion by wind and water and used them for his residence, refuge and hiding. After that, he began to build, adding and arranging stones to build a completely new structure thereby mimicking natural ones. Then, in periods with 'exceptional' circumstances on Earth, when it was permitted, he built and set megalithic monuments (tumulus, Hengelo, menhirs, dolmens).

And when the disturbances and anomalies disappeared the same way they were made, the man is still building even more persistently. Although he had no skills of his ancestors, megalithic builders were better organized, more thoughtful, and began to use different tools and materials besides stone. Trying to outdo their predecessors, the megalithic builders, the man surpassed himself in construction. His buildings are assuming more and more complex forms and features of urban and more finalized construction.

In all its epochs man remained true to his nature: he built and is still building with a purpose and tearing down and crashes with intent.