

## **Modern Human's Grand Journey, from East Africa to the Southernmost End of the Americas (I)**

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### **Summary**

Understanding the biological relationships of modern man to other preceding members of hominidae now found in fossils and assaying his socio-cultural position in comparison with the latter is of great interest at present. Every anthropologist may recognize in a broad sense the evolutionary sequence that the ape-man, *Homo habilis*, *H. erectus*, and modern man (*H. sapiens*) followed. Although some had questioned if modern man stemmed from Neanderthal man, molecular-biological-techniques have revealed that both lineages branched from each other 500,000 years ago in Africa. *H. erectus*, then ancestral forms of Neanderthal and family modern man migrated "Out-of-Africa" and dispersed over the Eurasia Continent. Among these only modern man reached Alaska after crossing the land bridge of "Beringia" now sunken below sea-level at the Bering-Strait, and they came through the corridor from Alaska to Montana or thereabouts, then continued the journey into the American Continent. In establishing clearly the scheme of modern human's journey over the world, problems existed due to very sparse distribution of archaeological sites, lack of fossils found, and in problematic dating of the sites. Then, there were serious conflicts in estimated time of "Out-of-Africa" with many older sites recently dated. We attempted to establish the time of modern man's "Out-of-Africa" at the beginning of the warm interglacial substage that began ca. 50,000 years ago. The lineage of modern man had diverged and branched into three races of Nigroid (N), Caucasoid (C) and Mongoloid (M) 300-200 thousand years ago (Nei and Roychoudhury, 1982). Each of them would have weakly survived under heavy selective pressure at an obscure niche for the ancestral small population, then their fossils of AMHs (anatomically modern humans) would not be found until the population increased. The races C and M went out of Africa to Levant, leaving the race N in the home land. The C went north over the Caucasus Mountains chasing the Mammoth Animals toward the plains extending north and west to the Caspian Sea. In the journey towards the east, the unavoidably hypothetical scenario under which M migrates is as follows: After following the steppe and deciduous forests along the Zagros Ranges, the southern foot of the Alborz Mts, the people with a hunter-gatherer's life style

might have appeared west of the Hindu Kush Mts. A group of them separately went eastward to India, Southeast Asia and Australia. Another group of M went way north, avoiding huge mire or bog plains occupying areas between the basins of the Ob-Irtysh and Yenisey rivers. Through steppe, mountain tundra and Taiga along the north sides of Altai, Tien Shan and Yablonovyy Mountains, M reached Lake Baikal. From Lake Baikal the only way to pass to the coastal lowlands of the Arctic Sea is to take a route through the Rena drainage-basin.