

The Caesarian and "The Dragons of Eden"

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February 25, 2005

Abstract

This short two page essay contests Carl Sagan's arguments on intelligence (cranial volume: body volume), phrenology, the Caesarian section and it's contribution to theism, dictatorship (or the converse). I am writing this because I once believed *Carl Sagan* verbatim from **The Dragons of Eden** and did not consider him speculative.

1 The Caesarian

In the time of Gaius Julius Caesar (and his grand newpnew Octavian), Most mothers who underwent a Caesarian-like procedure to remove the child alive died. Julius's Caesar's mother "Aurelia" lived beyond 72 (as researched by Colleen McCullough). Caesar, henceforth could not have been born of a Caesarian considering the medical equipment and knowledge available at that time.

2 Dictatorship, Caesar and the Caesarian

In his book **The Dragons of Eden**, Carl Sagan speculates that Caesar's dictatorial tendency and his disregard for theology, deities (except for rituals), was because he did not suffer a cranial compression during birth (supposedly the most painful experience humans experience which is why we can't remember our birth at all.) Clearly, Caesar, Gaius Julius Caesar II, the greatest general, dictator of Rome was not born of a Caesarian from historical accounts we have available.

3 Why Name the Caesarian, "Caesarian"

The medical reasons behind the presently used Caesarian section are well known and accepted in the community. I have no educational background to contest any of the reasons. For actual facts on this, you would probably want to read the following text.

http://www.netdoctor.co.uk/health_advice/facts/caesarian.htm

3.1 Disambiguation

Caesarion is the cognomen of many who claimed to be Julius Caesar's sons. This included Ptolemy Caesarion, Cleopatra's son. The procedure of removing the baby by a cut, rather than the natural process is **Caesarian**.

Wikipedia indicates that Gaius Julius Caesar II, had Marfan's syndrome which usually resulted in fatality of the mother during childbirth and was an inherited disease. This of course, is confusing to our argument, however there is enough evidence to prove that "Aurelia"¹ lived while Caesar was an adult and died much after Caesar did.

The Caesarian section being attributed to Caesar is now accepted as folklore and nothing else. The cognomen Caesar was never attributed to one who was born of a successful Caesarian. Secondly, the first successful Caesarian section where the mother survived is recorded in the year 1500 A.C.E.

3.2 Historical Fact

The ancient Romans did have a law called **Lex Caesar** literally "to cut". (source: Wikipedia). This may have been a law authorised by either Julius or Augustus (a.k.a. Octavian) Caesar. Although the following content is also from Wikipedia, I consider it fit to include it here. The first recorded incidence of a woman surviving a Caesarean section was in Germany in 1500: Jacob Nufer, a pig gelder, is supposed to have performed the operation on his wife after a prolonged labour. European travellers in the Great Lakes region of Africa during the nineteenth century observed Caesarean sections being performed on a regular basis. The expectant mother was normally anaesthetised with alcohol and herbal mixtures were used to encourage healing. From the well-developed nature of the procedures employed, European observers concluded that they had been employed for some time.

3.3 In Fiction

MacDuff who defeated Macbeth was supposedly not born naturally but was ripped off his mother's womb (a prophecy fulfilled). The exact dates of Shakespeare's writing and of the fictional event are still under contest. This is not directly referred to as a Caesarean though.

DISCLAIMER

I am in the process of migrating to a different town and have already packed the books I have referred to. Some facts may not entirely be verbatim with the book, but I can assure you I am not wrong. I would like to reiterate that I am not an authority of language nor Caesarian sections.

¹I owe this evidence to the work done by Colleen Mccullough who has done much research in "The Masters of Rome" series