

What Pythagoras was really trying to do was to put all these things together. By doing this he established an experimental college and community at a place called Crotona in Southern Italy. It was on a hill overlooking a city, and here, on top of the world, Pythagoras was going to apply all his principles. He set up schools that would include mathematics, astronomy (he already knew that the earth circled around the sun, even before Copernicus and Galileo; and not only that, but he also knew that all this solar system was moving around a central sun), music, medicine, philosophy, politics, and ethics. These were the seven pillars. In fact, Dr. Bernard states that the builder of the temple of Solomon with its seven pillars was actually Pythagoras; he was given the name Hiram in the Bible; but this is a conjecture, it's not proven, because I've heard other sources say that Hermes was the builder of the temple. Anyway, these are the seven pillars of his school. What he wanted to do was to bring everyone into a community; it was a communistic idea in the sense of having things in common; later on the Essenes picked it up, and they too brought everything into common, and they were considered by some to be Neo-Pythagoreans. This was done so that man could leave private possessions, and thus learn to love his fellow-man through the principle of sharing everything that he had; no one had anything to claim for himself, and therefore, they wouldn't have any "hang-ups" or material desires.

They had what is known as a probation period. For three years the initiate or the new-comer would have to learn the rules. He would not be able to see Pythagoras. The only time he saw Pythagoras was at the beginning, when Pythagoras made the examination to see if it was the right student for the place, and then after the three years probation period, and after five years of silence, when a person would come in and talk to Pythagoras who hid behind a veil so that his face and features could not be seen. At that time Pythagoras would give out the necessary information and instructions of wisdom, and the mysteries would be explained. It's almost like the Rosicrucians, the Freemasons and other Mystery Schools that developed on the same idea of initiation by stages.

In this school, which was called "Pythagoras' Semicircles," everything relating to the wisdom of the school was drawn out of the priestess or oracle of Delphi. The triangle on which he founded all the arts and sciences was: mathematics, music, and astronomy. This he felt to be the sacred triangle. There was also a system of scientific government. Plato, if you remember, in his Republic states that the ideal government is where the leader or the king is also a philosopher. Marcus Aurelius later on became that philosopher-king. But here, already, Pythagoras had set up the idea that the person who rules has to be wise.

In conclusion, the school of Pythagoras was eventually brought to ruin by a certain Cylon and his party, and the meeting-houses were burned--all because of political differences. Legend says that Pythagoras was murdered with his disciples when the meeting-house was set on fire. But it is more likely that, like Apollonius, he simply disappeared from the eyes of men and went on a secret journey to the Himalayas to rejoin the Brahman masters. Also, like Apollonius, his burial place remains unknown.