

## A Cognitive View of the Legend of “EL DORADO”

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### Abstract

The classical 1<sup>st</sup> attention spared in autism, the quantum 2<sup>nd</sup> attention hurt in it, and the classical-quantum blend (or 3<sup>rd</sup> attention) hurt in madness are echoed by the legend of *El Dorado*—the Colombian Muisca coated with gold dust who released it after sailing to and diving into the center of Lake Guatavita<sup>1</sup>. *El Dorado* suggests that nature re-creates finiteness (1<sup>st</sup>) through infinity (2<sup>nd</sup>) in nothingness (3<sup>rd</sup>). That vision makes the “*logos* heuristics.” *El Dorado*, *logos*, Leonardo da Vinci’s mural “Fight for the Standard,” Alfred Wegener’s 1915 drift of continents, and plate tectonics tell us that Sir Walter Raleigh never wrote Shakespeare’s plays (e.g., “The Merchant of Venice”). They also tell us that *climatic avalanches can be barred* by a Third Rome assembly, built at the very least by the USA, Ukraine, and Russia (Hitler’s nemeses). The Third-Rome should follow a Cincinnatus<sup>2</sup> as wily as was in the 9<sup>th</sup> century the Viking St. Olga, her grandson St. Vladimir/Volodymyr, her Norse father-in-law Ríurík, or his great-grandson Yaroslav the Wise.

**Keywords:** *El Dorado*, autism, folly, “Fight for the Standard,” climate changes, Shakespeare’s source, the Third Rome.

### 1. Introduction

When Columbus arrived at the mouth of the Orinoco River on his third trip in 1498, he exclaimed: “We have reached the **Garden of Eden**.” The enormous amount of sweet water launched into the sea by the lower Orinoco told him that he had discovered a huge continent and that vast forests and high mountains lay West of the delta he had reached. About forty years later three groups of exactly 166 adventurers each met on the high plain of Cundinamarca, north of the future Bogotá (the capital of Colombia). Gonzalo Jiménez de Quesada headed the main Spanish expedition from the Atlantic port of Santa Marta, Sebastián de Belalcázar came from the high and hilly Quito in Ecuador, and Nikolaus Federmann, from Coro in Venezuela. Federmann stood for the **gold** that the Welser family had **given** Charles I of Spain.

The three captains had heard about gold stored in the Muisca Confederation near the sources of the Arauca and Meta rivers, two tributaries to the Orinoco. They found that every ruler-to-be of the Southern Muiscas was covered with **gold dust** (the 1<sup>st</sup> attention) before boarding a **raft** that **coiled** (the 2<sup>nd</sup> attention) to the **center** of the *circular* Lake Guatavita. Having reached the **nothingness** of that lake, ***El Dorado*** (“The Golden One”) (the 3<sup>rd</sup> attention) **jumped** into its waters, releasing his **precious blanket**. The three explorers found just salt on that high plain. They never suspected that the **drift** of **continents** on Earth’s oblate spheroid allowed their reunion on that high niche of fixed **spring** and perennial **beauty**.

The idea of continental drift was devised by Alfred Wegener in 1915; and the plate tectonics that confirms Wegener’s hunch is still under discussion. We presume that high valleys and earthquakes are produced by the clash of continents (e.g., in the Himalayas) and subduction<sup>3</sup> (e.g., Bogota’s Savannah) in seven major and other minor tectonic **plates**.<sup>4</sup>

Most of the terrestrial raft-plates made about 300 Ma ago a continent called “Pangea.” ***Pangea*** and the single **ocean plate** (“Panthalassa”) that its moving lands split have been **floating on fluid magma**. The **classical rigidity** of Earth’s solid tectonic plates (as in **bread**) and the **quantum plasticity** of the magma they **float on** (as in **wine**) obey convection currents in Earth’s *liquid* outer core, circling Earth’s hotter and **solid iron-nickel core**. The solid core denotes the **blend** of **bread and wine**, **meat and blood**, or **classical and quantum** computing that re-creates **nature** and **human brains**.

<sup>1</sup> The nothingness at the center of a circle/cross makes a *shut door* in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and an *open door* into the 3<sup>rd</sup> attention.

<sup>2</sup> Lucius Quinctius Cincinnatus was a retired and mythical short-term **dictator** in the early Roman Republic.

<sup>3</sup> Within “subduction,” an **oceanic plate** goes under a ring of **continental plates**, recycling into **flexible magma**.

<sup>4</sup> Ninety per cent of earthquakes and tsunamis occur in the “Ring of fire” around the Pacific Plate.

The Muisca obtained their gold by trading mineral salt, a fact that arose the myth of a city of gold at the junction of Venezuela, Brazil, and Guyana. That city, or *Manoa*, soon became *El Dorado*. The greed of Europeans is epitomized in the two **searches** by the English knight Sir Walter Raleigh for the vanished Lake Parime and the legendary city of *Manoa/El-Dorado*, set at first by Raleigh's misinformed informants between the Orinoco and the Amazon rivers. *El Dorado*—later located amid the “tepuis” (cut mountains) of Roraima—was imagined full of gold.

Sir Walter searched in vain for the gold palaces of *El Dorado* under Elizabeth I—the *virgin* English queen with rotten teeth and a smallpox-scarred face—who in 1587 set him at colonizing North America. The colonists, placed by Raleigh on the *Virginia*'s Roanoke Island (today in North-Carolina), waned before he first crossed the Atlantic in 1595.

In 1617, Raleigh searched again for *El Dorado* after his release from the Tower of London, where he was kept under the charge of plotting against King James I (son of the Scottish “Bloody Mary,” or “Mary Stuart”). Since **James I** was not as understanding as was Elizabeth I, Raleigh's second failure brought him the loss of his head in 1618. Beyond the damage left today by criminal gold mining in Roraima, no explorer ever **found** the origin of *El Dorado*'s gold dust, nor would anybody propagate a vision of **why *El Dorado* jumped** into the water at the center of Lake Guatavita.

About **Sir Walter Raleigh**, the American poet Edgar Allan Poe wrote: “But he grew old/This **knight so bold**/And o'er his heart a shadow/Fell as he found/No spot of ground/That looked like *Eldorado*.” (Poe, 1859).

## 2. Hypotheses

*El Dorado* **knew** that having gold is not enough. *The growth of global population, the overheating of Earth's atmosphere, sea-level rise, and the 6<sup>th</sup> extinction underway* respond to the absence in most people and leaders of the vision left by the myth of *El Dorado*. *We are too many and love too much the gold behind our use of fossil energy.* Mother **Earth** may not sustain in this century the flight of three billion “poor” sub-Saharan Africans to rich economies.

The “**forests**” crossed by the “sweet water” of the Amazon, Essequibo, Caron í and Orinoco **rivers**, their “**richness of free nonhuman species**,” and the “social justice” sought by *El Dorado* are now choked. Losing the previous tipping points would rob our young. Yet a “**Third Rome**” could **sow** the progress promised by **Gabriel** to the **Great Mother**.

Gabriel's angelic hailing of the **grace** of **quantum computing**, the vision of **St. Olga**, and Shakespeare's “**Merchant of Venice**” imply that faith, hope-doubt, and charity make grace.<sup>5</sup> We just need to link Robert Burns' question, “**Should auld acquaintance be forgot and never brought to mind?**” with the answer, “**we'll tak' a cup o' kindness yet, for auld lang syne.**” Yet kindness does not carry gifts: E.g., in a soccer match (3), two teams fight each other (1), while the referee sides with both opponents simultaneously (2), under his or her reading (3) of FIFA's rules.

## 3. Discussion

Shakespeare's “Merchant of Venice” begins with the concession of a loan to the young gentleman Bassanio by the Jewish moneylender Shylock. Bassanio's ship-owner friend, Antonio, warrants repayment in three months, under the menacing extraction of a pound of his flesh. Bassanio invests the loan in marrying Portia, an heiress at Belmont, near Venice, while his friend Gratian marries Nerissa, Portia's lady-in-waiting. Each wife gives a ring to her husband.

Since Antonio's ships are reported lost at sea at the end of the grace period, he is arrested by the Doge of Venice. Although in the trial Shylock is offered the double of his loan, he **chooses** his convened-upon pound of Antonio's flesh. **Disguised** as a Paduan lawyer and his helper, after reminding Shylock suitably of the **blood** he forgot, **Portia** and **Nerissa** free Antonio, spoil Shylock of his gold, and take from their thankful husbands their two rings as fair payment.

The next day, Bassanio and Gratian see in Belmont their rings with the respective wife. Upon hearing that Portia took her ring from the lawyer she spent the night with, and Nerissa from the helper she accompanied all along, they are **shocked!** Yet a letter helps them grasp that **Portia** and **Nerissa impersonated** the superb lawyer and adjunct helper.

That letter would fail, however, if Bassanio and Gratian could not unconsciously combine in their brain classical cerebral computing (the 1<sup>st</sup> attention) with quantum cerebellar computing (the 2<sup>nd</sup> attention) into their 3<sup>rd</sup> attention. By hurling humans' 5000 cerebellar microcomplexes into the cerebellar vermis and brainstem, they escape folly. In so doing, they echo the travel and dive of *El Dorado*, the floating of the few pieces of Earth's rigid crust around the Fire that blesses its central gravity, and the fact that nature pursues the void junction of life (1<sup>st</sup> attention) and freedom (2<sup>nd</sup> attention) in the justice, kindness, and happiness that surround the 3<sup>rd</sup> attention.

Portia and Nerissa's quantum ability to live in separate people **at once saves** Antonio and sets the happiness bestowed by a just, elegant, and kind use (3<sup>rd</sup> attention) of the infinity and nothingness veiled in the 2<sup>nd</sup> attention. After all, devilish freedom (2<sup>nd</sup>) cannot foil humans' search for equality (1<sup>st</sup>), liberty (2<sup>nd</sup>), and fraternity (3<sup>rd</sup>).

<sup>5</sup> As with the myth of *El Dorado*, “**Grace**” **prays** for **sinners** (2<sup>nd</sup>), whereas “**grace**” renews **repented sinners** (3<sup>rd</sup>).

**Raleigh** only equals *El Dorado's going trip* and **Scrooge McDuck's attachment to gold coins**. Because he never "lost" the thirst for gold in his 1<sup>st</sup> attention, *Raleigh* did not match the **Prophet Muhammad**, the Mesoamerican demigod **Quetzalcoatl** (Cassella, 2018), **Christ**, **Krishna**, and the Chinese **Yellow Emperor**, who did **return** to a **renovated world**. Raleigh **captured** *El Dorado's spiral-like path* through **infinity** to reach the **center** of Lake Guatavita but failed to **get** the **meaning** of his **immersion there**. Having missed the **return** to a **new world**, *Raleigh could not have written Shakespeare's plays*. In them, the 1<sup>st</sup> attention joins the **power** of the 2<sup>nd</sup> attention and the **beauty** of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Attention. While he learned pronouns in the 2<sup>nd</sup> attention that encloses the 1<sup>st</sup> attention, *Raleigh never reached the 3<sup>rd</sup> attention*.

Being mentally poorer than **Raleigh**, autistics **invert pronouns** (Kanner, 1943), for they lack the 2<sup>nd</sup> attention. Unlike the **coiled going** of *El Dorado* and the **pronouns** mastered by **Raleigh**, autistics cannot **cross** the **infinite number of radiuses** of a **circle** or the **infinite circles** in a **sphere**. Autistics love circular lids, but are blinded by perfect repetition, as in **gold**. They cannot **play** the **fake madness** of Alice's phantomatic **Cheshire cat**, a cognitive mode of **infinity** that the **searching Raleigh** did have. Unlike the suicidal **Vincent van Gogh**, **Raleigh** never **entered** the **beauty veiled** in central **nothingness**. And van Gogh shot himself after realizing that **schizophrenia** impeded his **return** to **beauty** and a **better reality**. The poorest normal humans are cognitively **rich**! Sadly, they don't **know** that they could seize **progress**.

Nature's autistic side prevented *El Dorado's sinking through* his **rigid raft**, as we **do not sink through** Earth's **plates**. He **stood on his raft** under the autistic **laws** that: a) "Separate things cannot share the same space at the same time (or Pauli Exclusion Principle); and b) "One thing cannot exist in separate places simultaneously (or Einstein's finite speed of light). These **laws**, or Eucharistic **bread**, **make** Bassanio and **Gratian** **pay** their **disguised wives** with their **rings**.

Yet they escape **anger** and **madness** (after their wives' "confession") by **combining** (the 3<sup>rd</sup> Attention) the **cerebral principles** of the 1<sup>st</sup> attention with the **cerebellar principles** of the 2<sup>nd</sup> attention: a) "distinct things may share the same space" (in the **superposition**, or Eucharistic **wine**, by which a **lawyer** and a **dame** [Portia] **share** the same body); and b) "One thing may lie in separate places" (within the **entanglement** by which a **Paduan lawyer** in **Venice** **respires** as **Portia** in **Belmont**). The **rigidity** and **fragility** of **bread** **united to** the **flexibility** and **resilience** of **wine** (or **meat and blood**) **combine** in the Last Supper celebrated by Christ and in the "**Merchant of Venice**" celebrated by Shakespeare.

Maybe **Shakespeare's** implicit **knowledge** of the **meaning** of *El Dorado's jump* into Lake Guatavita is related to Danes. E.g., in his 11<sup>th</sup> century's **tryzub**, **Yaroslav the Wise** added a **cross** to the **ring** and **sphere** that the Norse **Rurik** placed in the 9<sup>th</sup> century on his **trident** at Novgorod. Is the **ring** of **Poskaer Stenhus** related to **Stonehenge**?

Yaroslav the Wise did value the **love**, **pardon**, **justice**, and **kindness** that **touched** his **repented father** (St. Vladimir/Volodymyr) after **marrying** the Christian princess Anna Porphyrogeneta (sister to the Emperor of Byzantium Basil II). Yaroslav and his father **knew** that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Attention is just a **just use** of the 2<sup>nd</sup> attention. Today **Russians** hate a Ukrainian **tryzub** rapt at **killing quantum computing**. If the **devil/grace** in our 2<sup>nd</sup> attention were **slain**, **freedom** and St. **George's remake** of **finitude** would vanish. *In logos, reducing vision to vision is dangerous*.

For example, the rise of heat on Earth would hit bad all young. Worse than that, a freezing avalanche could succeed the heating one with the *free spread of the "Azolla"* super-plant. That plant cut the atmospheric content of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), while growing in a closed Arctic Ocean 50 millions years ago. Perhaps Charles III of England and Margrethe II of Denmark would back the **use** of the *Azolla* to **save** us all! Is any **human future** possible without a **history**?

Leonardo da Vinci too **knew** that we cannot **reach progress** by just **winning a fratricidal war**. Thus, he welcomed the 1503 initiative by Pier Soderini, the Republican gonfaloniere/dictator of Florence, to adorn the East Wall of the Hall of the 500, at Florence's Palazzo Vecchio, with a mural of the 1440's *Battle of Anghiari won* by **Florence** over **Milan**.

Confrontation, war, and winning belong to the 1<sup>st</sup> attention. Thus, in the **central** "Fight for the Standard" of the mural "Battle of Anghiari" Leonardo's **emphasized** (the 2<sup>nd</sup> attention) the defeated "condottieri" (Niccoló Piccinino and his son Francesco). He depicted the 3<sup>rd</sup> attention in the perception of an injustice by the onlooker. Because he **valued** Leonardo's rendering of our three attentions in the *Fight for the Standard*, about 4.5 centuries ago the painter-architect Giorgio Vasari did not destroy da Vinci's **vision** of **human cognition** in the Hall of the 500: He just hid it.

#### 4. Conclusion

The "logos heuristics" (Cassella, 2018, 2022a) suggests to me that Vasari hid the **center** of Leonardo's "Fight for the Standard" (which I size at 4.2 [height] x 6.2 [length] m) 7.035 m under the **center** of his *Battle of Marciano*. Although I had in 1996 the help of the finest researchers in psycholinguistics at Harvard and Mass universities to examine gaps of cognition of autistic versus normal youngsters, the **quantum absurdity** of *logos* makes it seem **false**.

I never falsified *logos*. I checked my **vision** of cerebellar **Long-Term Potentiation** ("**For many are called**") and **Long-Term Depression** ("**But few are chosen**") (Matthew 22-14, KJV) with Masao Ito (Riken Institute, Tokyo). Cerebellar **LTP** pairs *El Dorado's going*; and **LTD**, his **jump**. The path from **LTP** to **LTD** implies a **distributed hierarchy** in **nature** and normal **brains**, as in *El Dorado's loss* of **gold dust**, Shakespeare's **plays**, and **Stonehenge**. In any dolmen,

the vertical stones stand for the 1<sup>st</sup> attention; the horizontal stone, for the 2<sup>nd</sup> attention; and the whole thing, for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Attention. Perhaps 55 kyr ago, Neanderthals taught Homo sapiens and “Bochica’s” ancestors about our three attentions. If I found a *Fight for the Standard* along logos, my views would support a Third Rome that foiled climatic mayhems and the exploitation of women. I posited (Cassella, 2022b) that the Third Rome be headed by a Cincinnatus as wily as St. Olga and made up at the least by a keen USA, a sturdy Ukraine, and an atoned Russia. The new Cincinnatus would exalt the just use of zero (“z”), as did El Dorado, Prince Hamlet, Martin Luther, and Galileo.

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### About the author

Placing the words “Antonio Cassella” in the author’s space at Amazon will generate a list of his books, while the website [researchautism.com](http://researchautism.com) allows the downloading of free films and articles about his logos heuristics.

Antonio Cassella was born in Ethiopia in 1940. He had his primary education in Italy; and high-school, in both Italy and Venezuela. In 1965 he obtained from LUZ-Maracaibo a *BSc in Petroleum Engineering*. For 17 years Antonio developed oil fields in the tidal bay of Maracaibo with Creole (a subsidiary of Esso/ExxonMobil), Lagoven, and PDVSA (Petróleos de Venezuela). In 1976, he worked with EPRCO (Exxon Production Research) in Houston; and with Strategic Planning of PDVSA between 1983 and 1993. From 1994 to 1997 he was a scientist at MIT-CEEPR (Center for Energy and Environmental Policy Research), in Cambridge (MA). His research at MIT led to establishing two scenarios of the global growth of population, energy, and the economy; i.e., until 2060 (Cassella, 2018). Antonio holds a brown belt in AIKIDO.

In June 1997, his exploration of the roots of autism, of the genesis of language, and of creative intelligence (lost in autism and schizophrenia) led to a *master’s degree in Psychology*, the *Dean’s List*, the *Thomas Small Prize*, and the *Award for Outstanding ALM Thesis in the Area of Natural and Human Sciences* from Harvard University. In 2001 Antonio Cassella received from Universidad Nacional Experimental Simón Rodríguez (UNESR) in Caracas a *doctoral degree of Research and Teaching in Sciences of Education* under a *Summa Cum Laude* trajectory.

Antonio’s writings in Italian, Spanish, and English (at Amazon and [researchautism.com](http://researchautism.com)) show that we can reverse the sixth extinction and restore the atmosphere and the cycle of water. As shown in [researchautism.com](http://researchautism.com), Research Autism LLC has published 12 free documentaries (15 minutes each) about the logos heuristics. The new links are as follows:

Logos Heuristics	(A) <a href="https://youtu.be/DVHGUsvSuow">https://youtu.be/DVHGUsvSuow</a>	(B) <a href="https://youtu.be/HotEs8wLcS0">https://youtu.be/HotEs8wLcS0</a>
Logos Heuristics	(C) <a href="https://youtu.be/cGFYs5hZMc0">https://youtu.be/cGFYs5hZMc0</a>	(D) <a href="https://youtu.be/i4Mc4hyWsgw">https://youtu.be/i4Mc4hyWsgw</a>
Fight for the Standard	(A) <a href="https://youtu.be/PZUe3ELyYyg">https://youtu.be/PZUe3ELyYyg</a>	(B) <a href="https://youtu.be/et8I3ExEazU">https://youtu.be/et8I3ExEazU</a>
Heurística logos	(A) <a href="https://youtu.be/pJrrHoNs044">https://youtu.be/pJrrHoNs044</a>	(B) <a href="https://youtu.be/tz4dQAq7_o">https://youtu.be/tz4dQAq7_o</a>
Heurística logos	(C) <a href="https://youtu.be/ER6CM1LVIX4">https://youtu.be/ER6CM1LVIX4</a>	(D) <a href="https://youtu.be/3SmsX3P2z6w">https://youtu.be/3SmsX3P2z6w</a>
Lucha por el Estandarte	(A) <a href="https://youtu.be/maq8Qx8kDV8">https://youtu.be/maq8Qx8kDV8</a>	(B) <a href="https://youtu.be/yxnKms3HcGQ">https://youtu.be/yxnKms3HcGQ</a>
Eurística logos	(A) <a href="https://youtu.be/M45zQDLa_tk">https://youtu.be/M45zQDLa_tk</a>	(B) <a href="https://youtu.be/xA8rxjEp1_I">https://youtu.be/xA8rxjEp1_I</a>
Eurística logos	(C) <a href="https://youtu.be/2OrS4UyBEbg">https://youtu.be/2OrS4UyBEbg</a>	(D) <a href="https://youtu.be/QeestlY-fEw">https://youtu.be/QeestlY-fEw</a>
Lotta per lo Stendardo	(A) <a href="https://youtu.be/vv6eiCUB4qw">https://youtu.be/vv6eiCUB4qw</a>	(B) <a href="https://youtu.be/dtRnue7_0Do">https://youtu.be/dtRnue7_0Do</a>

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