

## Peer Review Report

### The Mystery of the Three Kings

Peer Review: The Mystery of the Three Kings by Timothy Schwab and Anna Zamoranos

#### 1. Overview and Purpose

The Mystery of the Three Kings explores the true origin of the Magi, aiming to reconstruct their historical, cultural, and geographic identity using Scripture, ancient sources, and overlooked regional connections. This work boldly challenges long-held assumptions and traditions, seeking to re-anchor the biblical Magi not in Persia, India, or Arabia, but in Southeast Asia specifically, the Philippines.

The authors present a hypothesis that the Magi were descendants of Sheba, Tarshish, and Ophir brothers from the Genesis Table of Nations who maintained advanced maritime capabilities and religious reverence that led them to Bethlehem. The goal of this book is restoration: to reclaim the identity of these figures from tradition and reframe them through direct textual and historical evidence.

#### 2. Methodology and Use of Sources

The authors methodology is multi-layered and interdisciplinary:

- Biblical exegesis: In-depth review of the genealogical record (Genesis 10), Psalms, and prophecies (Isaiah, Micah, Matthew 2), building a case from Scripture first.
- Historical referencing: Citing early Christian writings, suppressed Vatican records, and ancient travelogues to establish trade connections and timelines.
- Linguistic analysis: Exploring the term MAGInoo in the Philippines (a noble class), and its possible

## Peer Review Report

root connection to the term Magi suggesting that the biblical Magi were royal priests of Southeast Asian origin.

- Cultural anthropology: Identifying gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh as native to the Philippines in ancient trade, aligning the biblical narrative with archaeology and botany.

The authors also draw upon Chinese, Muslim, and Greek records, particularly in identifying the isles of gold (Wak Wak, Suvarnavipa, Chryse, Ophir) as consistent references to the Philippines.

### 3. Strengths of the Work

- Textual Harmony: The book is firmly grounded in the biblical record. It respects the integrity of Scripture and builds its case from Genesis to the Gospels in a consistent manner.

- Original Insight: This work presents a novel but well-supported theory, giving voice to a regional historical identity long suppressed by colonial scholarship.

- Interdisciplinary Synthesis: The blending of linguistics, ancient cartography, trade history, and theology gives the book depth. It is not conjecture; it is built on evidence.

- Correction of Misinterpretations: The authors challenge the notion that the Magi must be from the East as Persia, showing that the East from Israel's view included lands beyond India. This interpretation is logically and geographically sound.

- Documentation: Sourced with hundreds of historical references and maps, the book provides strong support for its assertions and invites scholarly engagement.

### 4. Potential Scholarly Contributions

## Peer Review Report

This work can contribute meaningfully to:

- Biblical geography studies, particularly on the origin of the Magi.
- Non-Western biblical scholarship, which has long been marginalized in academic circles.
- Theology and eschatology, particularly in understanding Psalm 72:10-15 as a messianic prophecy fulfilled by the Magi.
- Restorative history, countering the Eurocentric lens imposed during colonization.

### 5. Critical Observations (Minor)

- The hypothesis is groundbreaking and bold, which may challenge some readers unfamiliar with regional histories or pre-colonial Southeast Asian influence. A brief primer section on precolonial Filipino trade networks might help newer readers.
- Some assumptions about suppressed documents (e.g., Vatican records) could benefit from stronger citation or clarification on access and provenance.
- Opponents may attempt to dismiss linguistic parallels (e.g., MAGInoo and Magi) as coincidental without engaging the full historical context. This should be addressed preemptively in future editions.

These critiques are minor and do not detract from the academic integrity of the work.

### 6. Final Evaluation & Recommendation

Final Verdict:

The Mystery of the Three Kings presents a compelling and well-supported challenge to centuries-old assumptions about the Magi. The research is original, methodologically sound, and textually faithful

## Peer Review Report

to the Bible. It contributes meaningfully to biblical scholarship, ancient geography, and postcolonial historical restoration.

Rating:

Strong Accept Recommended for publication, academic consideration, and broader theological discourse.