

## PRE-HISTORIC PERIOD

### THE EARTH : Periods :

1. Archean. - 2. Primary - 3. Secondary - 4. Tertiary - Quaternary. Man's activity starts from the quaternary period which is divided into :

**PALEOLITHIC** (*chipped stone*) period.....100,000 B.C.

**NEOLITHIC** (*polished stone*) period..... 10,000 B.C.

Copper age : 4,000 B.C. Iron age : 1,300 B.C.

**Sources from which art originated** : Hunting implements and domestic utensils, dresses, dwelling, inborn sense for beauty.

Magic art developing later on into religions and philosophies and arts :-

- + Formulae for the prayers and rituals - hence literature.
- + Sacred places to assemble and perform rituals - hence architecture.
- + Music and dance - hence music and drama.
- + Coloured masks, dresses and colouring of the body - hence painting.
- + Modelling or carving of masks and wooden idols - hence sculpture.

**PALEOLITHIC PERIOD** : The primitive man lived in caves and hunted animals for food and clothing.

Of the Paleolithic man many discoveries have been made. The historical references are given according to the names of the localities where the old remains were found. *N.B.* - Dates differ very much from geologist to geologist.

100,000 B.C. Chellean period (*from the locality Chelle*) Flints in silex.

75,000 B.C. Acheulean period (*from the locality Acheul*) Better flints.

50,000 B.C. Mousterian period (*from the locality Moustier*) Flints and works in bones.

22,000 B.C. Aurignacian period (*from the locality Aurignac*) Great artistic progress in sculpture and painting. Famous paintings of Altamira caves in Spain.

19,000 B.C. Solutrian period (*from the locality Solutre*) Art inferior to the previous period.

16,000 B.C. Magdalenian period (*from the locality La Magdalene*) Sculpture in stone and ivory. Painting of the Combareles grottoes in Dordogne (*France*).

12,000 B.C. Azilian period (*from the locality Mas d'Azil*) Works in ivory and bones. Painting on pebbles.

*N.B.* Contrary to the Paleolithic artists of Spain and France, who painted almost exclusively animals, the African paintings of the same period show hunting, fishing and fighting scenes wherein human and animal figures are represented in their natural settings.

**NEOLITHIC PERIOD** : Great social progress. Beginning of social life in villages built on lakes or built on land. In the latter instance the villages were fenced with wooden pillars. Agriculture and domestic animal breeding started during this period.

The most important artistic features of the Neolithic period are the Megalithic monuments - namely : MENHIR, DOLMEN, CROMLECK representing the very prototypes of monumental architecture.