Returning to Simplicity

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Elliptical stones in granite, curved shadows tracing the movement of the sun and parading across the dusty ground, 95 monoliths up to 3.5 metres tall, in concentric circles and first arranged six thousand years before the Christian era: at the Cromlech of the Almendres, the value of simplicity shines.

Tell me of lines and radial designs, of the flat top on menhir number 8 that with the assistance of small stones may have enhanced the observation of the equinox. Tell me of a newly agrarian society, of hunter-gatherers exploring their megalithic selves. Tell me of religion and of the stars looked upon with astronomical awe; and then say something of the rocks that have faced unaided the sun and rain through the seasons of the millennia. Tell me of the megalithic wonderland in the low hills and plains just west of Evora, in Portugal, in the most rock monument-adorned region in all of the Iberian Peninsula. Tell me how it was, four and half thousand years before Stonehenge.

And I'll tell you of a bicycle in that most popular design, the Chinese pigeon that we are all familiar with today. I'll mention the radial spokes and wheels, pure circles; and the mechanical advantage, so clear and straightforward, of a cog set and chain. The power of the pedal, through sun and rain can take one back to the inspiration of simplicity.

In Evora the bicycles are gainfully employed, at least the ones that wait in line at that shop with a prominent street view not far from the Roman



A village church west of Evora.

Below
The Cromeleque dos Almendres, in Portuguese, 15 kilometres west of Evora.

