Reviewer 2

Thank you for your comments and clarifications.

The basis of this article is that the perception of light constitutes a foundational structure in Western culture. The genealogical method was utilized to explore and support this claim. In addition to exploring various Western worldviews regarding the concept of light and outlining similarities throughout its cultural history, this genealogy reveals that some of these ideas emerged simultaneously in other cultures. Most fascinating, in my opinion, is that these cultures also separated the concept of light from its natural source – that is, the physical source of light. It seems inherently interesting that cultures, from the great religions and mythologies of the distant past through the New Age, have perceived light as an entity that does not necessarily originate from a physical source such as the sun or a lightbulb. According to the genealogical study presented, this is a recurring motif in the mythologies that developed in the ancient Near East, the birthplace of Judaism and Hellenistic culture. In the revised manuscript, I have added the aim of the study and the hypothesis in the Introduction. In the Conclusion, I now emphasize that this genealogy shows how cultures, beginning with the great myths and continuing through contemporary times, have separated the idea of light from the source of light. Moreover, the genealogy reveals that Western culture’s foundational mythologies attribute holiness, knowledge, and wisdom to light, and this has traversed its history in a continuous through-line.

I appreciate your constructive suggestion to clarify the Conclusion, and I hope the revisions and corrections clarify it adequately. I did not delve into basic concepts differentiating between types of culture, such as “popular culture” and others. These are rooted in the culture’s religious foundations, and have broad cultural implications, and it is not the purpose of this article to find a direct and causal connection to any specific popular culture. Rather the goal is to show that the same cultural concepts about light exists in many mythologies, religions, philosophies, historical metaphors, New Age culture, and more. Although they manifest differently and change over time, they all have a similar concept at their base.

Regarding your comment about the gods in the Greek pantheon, it is customary to refer to twelve Olympians: Zeus, Hera, Poseidon, Demeter, Ares, Athena, Apollo, Artemis, Phaistos, Aphrodite, Hermes, and Dionysus. Sometimes Vesta and Hades (Pluto) are added to the list.

Thank you again.

Sincerely,