

ANCIENT SKIES

"Come Search With Us!"

Official Logbook of the Ancient Astronaut Society

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TEXT OF ADDRESS BY ZECHARIA SITCHIN* BEFORE THE HOUSE OF LORDS UFO STUDY GROUP, LONDON, ENGLAND MARCH 11, 1980

MY LORDS:

It is an honor and a privilege to have been invited to address you today. For this, I owe thanks and gratitude to your indefatigable Chairman, the Earl of Clancarty.

Your group has been formed primarily to look into the UFO phenomenon, to try and lift the fog that seems to engulf the subject of Unidentified Flying Objects. I do not profess to have seen one, nor am I in a position to pass judgment on this or that recent sighting claim. But I have read one report of a sighting by a young man who, I believe, has told the truth. He was hiking from his hometown to a faraway city, to find a suitable bride in the land of his forefathers. At eventime, tired, he lay down to sleep in the field. In the middle of the night, he was awakened by noises and bright lights. Half dazed, he saw a UFO hovering in the sky; some of its occupants were going up and down a ladder; and he could see their Commander, standing at the open door, shouting orders. Awed and frightened, the young man fainted. When he came to, the UFO and its occupants were gone; and the young man set up a marker at the place, for he realized he had come upon the place which was a gateway to the skies.

I am relating, of course, the biblical tale of Jacob's Vision. And it is not the only biblical tale of vehicles that can appear from the skies and disappear in the skies - as the Whirlwind that carried the Prophet Elijah aloft, or even the Kavod - commonly translated "Glory", in which the Lord had descended upon Mount Sinai.

So, it is my contention that if we believe in the Bible, we must have an open mind concerning the UFO enigma.

The Bible, indeed, is only the tip of the iceberg of a vast written and pictorial heritage left

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us by the civilizations of the ancient Near East, in which the existence of IFOs - Identified Flight Objects, were accepted as fact and described in detail. And the intelligent beings who piloted these craft were neither Unidentified nor Unknown. The ancient peoples knew who they were, what they were called, and where they had come from. The Indo-Europeans called them Deus - "The Shining Ones." The Egyptians called them Neteru - "The Guardians." The Semitic peoples called them Ilu - "The Lofty Ones." And the people who had started it all, the Sumerians, called them Din-Gir - "The Righteous Ones of the Rocketships." We speak of them as the "Gods" of antiquity.

It should be no wonder that the tales of ancient Mesopotamia should form the starting point of the Old Testament. The first Hebrew Patriarch, Abraham, was a native of Ur - a major Sumerian city in southern Mesopotamia. A century or so ago, the existence of Abraham, of his predecessors and their abodes was no more than uncorroborated tales. But systematic archaeological work - one of whose pioneers was Sir Henry Layard - has uncovered the royal cities of Nineveh, Nimrud, Calah, Ashur; and Assyria and Babylonia had come to life just as described in the Bible.

But the Bible also spoke of even earlier cities, such as Erech and Ur; and it spoke of a Land named Shin'ar as the very first place where Mankind built cities after the Great Flood. And the scholars of a century ago asked themselves: "could there really have been a civilization, with royal cities and temples and palaces, with priests and kings - even before Assyria and before Babylonia?" The possibility seemed amazing, for Assyria and Babylonia had already taken us back almost 4,000 years.

Well, as we now know, this indeed was the case. The more the archaeologists went south in Mesopotamia, in the great valley between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, the older were the remains they dug up. More and more, they came upon inscriptions that were not in Assyrian or Babylonian, but in a strange language which was obviously older. The biblical city of Erech was found; and Ur was found, and other great cities also. And as we now know, these were the remains of the civilization referred to in the Bible as Shin'ar. Today we call that land Sumer; but the correct pronunciation is SHumer. Would it surprise you to learn that this name of that ancient land meant "Land of the Guardians?" It is the exact name by which the Egyptians called their gods.

The Sumerian civilization takes us back almost six thousand years. We tend to think of human progress as a process of gradual evolution. The fact that puzzles all scholars is that in Sumer a High Civilization blossomed out suddenly and unexpectedly. Without a precedent, out of nowhere, there sprang out a civilization that had great cities, high-rise temples, palaces, courts of justice, commerce,

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shipping, irrigation, metallurgy, mathematics, medicine; whose people included kings and priests, judges and doctors, dancers and musicians. Every aspect of a high civilization that we can think of had its "first", its beginning in Sumer, including a written language, scribes, schools, a literature, epic tales and poems. And, yes - if it be considered a mark of civilization - a bicameral system of government, with a House of Commons and a senate-like House of Wise Men.

But most amazing of all was the Sumerian knowledge in the field of astronomy. The astonishing fact is that all the principles of a Spherical Astronomy, which is the basis of modern astronomy, were inherited by us from the Sumerians. The concept of a Celestial Sphere, an Axis, the Plane of Orbit, the circle of 360 degrees, the grouping of stars into Constellations, the division of the skies into twelve Houses of the Zodiac - even the pictorial depiction of the Zodiacs and their names - everything you can think of, we find in the Sumerian astronomical tablets.

We learn at school that the first one to suggest that the Sun and not the Earth was in the center of our planetary system was Copernicus, in 1543. Not so. There have been found Sumerian astronomical texts that say clearly that the Sun is in the center.

How could such a High Civilization arise, out of nowhere, all at once, six thousand years ago? Our scholars have no answer. But the Sumerians themselves had an answer. "All that we know, they said, was taught to us by the gods."

In text after text, in tale after tale, they described how these gods - naming them by name, stating when it happened - taught Mankind the art of agriculture, of irrigation, of building cities, of running courts, of writing, of playing music. One text listed more than one hundred of these various fields of knowledge, a comprehensive list of all that makes up a modern civilization. And all was given to Mankind by these "gods" of the Sumerians.

Who were these gods? In Figures A, B and C you can see how the people of ancient Mesopotamia depicted them. In Figure A you see the famous goddess Ishtar, wearing goggles and equipped with some kind of panels extending from the back of her head.

In Figure B you see the picture of a lifesize statue, also of a female goddess. The sketch in figure C clearly shows the pilot's helmet she was wearing, the instrument box that was attached to the back of her head, and the hose extending from it. There are many texts concerning Ishtar and her sisters, describing how they could fly in the Earth's skies - even describing in detail the seven pieces of special attire Ishtar had to put on before taking to the air.

In case you get the impression that Sumer was some kind of a Land of Amazons, let me quickly add that there were, of course, also male gods. I have found many texts that speak of the unique weapons that they possessed, weapons that could stun or kill and that appear to have been some kind of Ray-Guns. Archaeologists have found among the oldest ruins a clay statuette of a helmet-wearing "god" holding a bent weapon. I show it in Figure D. It makes me recall the intriguing biblical tale of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. Although the two Angels ate, slept and washed like any human, they were immediately recognized by the townspeople because of their special dress and weapons. And when the townspeople tried to force their way into the house in which the two Angels were staying, the Angels used their weapons to stun and blind the people. I cannot help feeling that in Figure D we see one such "Angel."

These gods, the Sumerians said, were not of the Earth - they were of the Heavens; and in addition to being able to roam Earth's skies, they could traverse the interplanetary space, and travel in rocketships between Earth and their planet.

The pilots of these spacecraft were called "Ea-

gles". And on official occasions, they actually wore uniforms that made them look like Eagles - as you can see in Figure E. A depiction was found (Figure F) which shows two such "Eagles" saluting a rocket. I have also reproduced Figure G to make it clear that the two who salute the rocket are not birds, but Beings of flesh and blood who wore mantles and a head-covering that made them look like Eagles.

I was thinking when I wrote my book that people eager to ridicule all this evidence could say that what the two "Eagles" are saluting is not a rocket, but a very large pencil. So, I also reproduced another depiction of what is undoubtedly a rocketship inside an underground silo (Figure H). In the lowest part you can see two astronauts manipulating hoses and other instruments. Above them there is an instrument panel. Then there is another compartment. The underground rocket supports a Command Module, which is above ground.

Anyone who would still doubt these and other ancient drawings reproduced in my book must of course explain where the ancient artists had seen these rockets, these underground silos, these gods with their pilots' helmets and instruments and weapons. Was it all drawn from imagination? Or do these drawings show us what the people in antiquity had actually seen with their eyes?

Assuming that the evidence is valid, we must now face the crucial question: if those who flew in Earth's skies in antiquity were visitors from another planet - which was their Home Planet?

The answer is again provided in profusion by the Sumerians. Eons ago, they said in texts which are well known to scholars, the Solar System was invaded by a large celestial body. After causing collisions and dislocations within the Solar System, it was captured to become a twelfth member of our Solar System, a large planet whose vast elliptical orbit takes it well beyond Pluto, and back to Earth's vicinity, once every 3,600 years. The Sumerians called this planet Nibiru; the Babylonians called it Marduk.

In searching for evidence to support this Sumerian contention, I have come upon a cylinder seal which scholars identify as VA/243. Cylinder seals, like so many other things, first appear in Sumer. A hard stone - frequently a semi-precious stone - was first cut into the shape of a cylinder; then a picture (with or without an inscription) was engraved on the cylinder, but in reverse. This indeed is the same idea as the rotary press, on which our newspapers are nowadays printed. But instead of using ink and paper, the Sumerians rolled the cylinder on wet clay. When the clay dried and hardened, they obtained a permanent imprint of the picture and the inscription.

The imprint of this particular seal is reproduced in Figure I. It is a scene depicting the granting of the plough by the gods to Mankind. But in the upper left hand side, there is a great scientific treasure. For there, for all to see, is an actual Sumerian depiction of the Solar System!

I have drawn a sketch of the Sumerian depiction, which you can see in Figure J. I have also drawn, in Figure K, the Solar System as we know it, with the planets in their correct sizes and order, beginning with the small Mercury, then with the larger Venus, the Earth and the Moon, and so on.

Now, compare the two sketches. You see that the Sumerian depiction shows, first of all, the Sun (and not the Earth) in the center of our planetary system, and recognizes that the Sun is vastly larger than the planets surrounding it. It then shows all - I repeat, ALL - the planets known to us, in their relative sizes. But in the Sumerian depiction, there is one additional, large planet between Mars and Jupiter. This is the twelfth member of the Solar System - the one I have named the "Twelfth Planet."

On this Twelfth Planet, the ruler of its people lived in a magnificent palace - you can see its gateway depicted in Figure L - surrounded by counsellors,

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 ministers and a host of courtisans. Some 450,000 years ago, their astronauts had landed on Earth, led by ENKI, the first-born son of this ruler. When the decision was reached to establish settlements and a Spaceport on Earth, another son - his name was ENLIL, was sent down to take over command.

As I address you today in this House of Lords, I cannot escape the symbolism of my talking of En-ki and En-lil, for these names literally meant "Lord of Earth" and "Lord of Command." You, my Lords, unknowingly continue a tradition which has its roots on another planet.

Where did I get all this remarkable information? It is all there, in the ancient texts, accompanied by ancient pictures. But all along, all the scholars have treated these writings as products of primitive imaginations; in other words, as Mythology. But, I asked myself when I began my research thirty years ago, and I ask you to ask yourselves: What if all these "mythologies" are not fiction, not imagination? What if they are instead records of what ancient men heard from their "gods," - not fairy-tales, but records of prehistoric events that had actually taken place?

On how you answer these questions, will depend your answer to the UFO enigma. If it could happen then, it could happen now. Thank you.

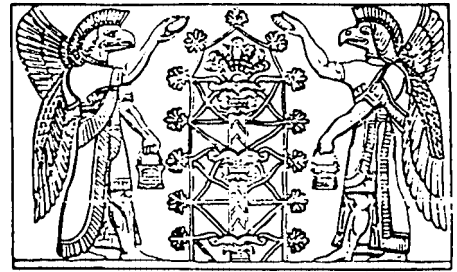


Fig. G

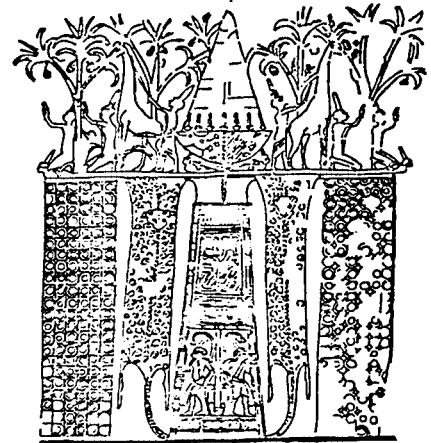


Fig. H



Fig. I

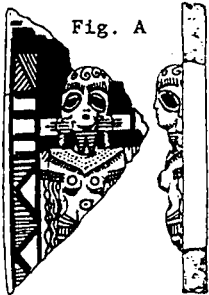


Fig. A



Fig. B

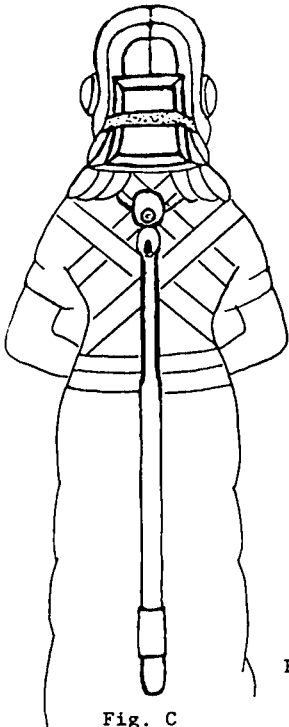


Fig. C



Fig. D



Fig. F

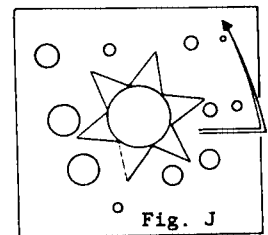


Fig. J



Fig. E

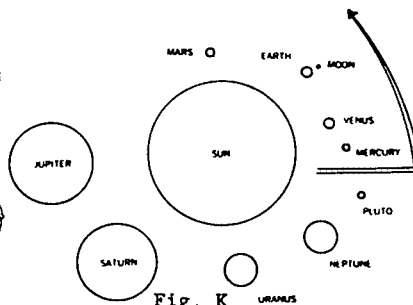


Fig. K

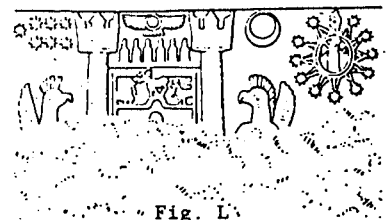


Fig. L

MORE ON THE SOUTH AFRICA METAL SPHERES

There is a small error in my article in Ancient Skies 6:5 on the metal spheres found in a pyrophyllite mine near Ottosdal, Western Transvaal, South Africa. The article states that there are "hundreds" of the metal balls, when in fact, they are extremely rare.

I followed up on the spheres when I recently visited the Hereditary Guardian of the History of the Zulu people, Witchdoctor Credo Mutwa. His race memory goes back about 4,000 years (!) and he told me of the time when the "gods" were on Earth and that man could speak to them. According to the Zulu history, the "gods" flew in air machines! Also according to their race memory, many ancient peoples came to the shores of South Africa and mined gold, diamonds and other minerals.

Credo Mutwa says that the metal balls are Lodestones, magnetic objects used by the ancients in navigation. Their traditional history tells that the ancient visitors mined the soapstone - which even to this day is sacred to the Zulu - and that they left the metal balls as offerings of thanks to the Mother Earth for the minerals they had removed from her womb. The magnetic Lodestone was one of their most precious possessions, for without it they could not navigate. So it was a fitting offering.

Recently I was back at Klerksdorp Museum and was afforded the opportunity to test the metal ball and it is definitely, though faintly, magnetic. I did not have the equipment to test it for radiation. Brenda J. Sullivan, P. O. Box 144, Makwassie, 2650 Republic of South Africa.

WALTER JOERG LANGBEIN has announced the publication of his first book entitled "Astronautengoetter-Ver-such einer Chronik unserer phantastischen Vergangenheit." The book is published by John Fisch, Jean-Jaures Nr. 6, Luxemburg. Mr. Langbein was a speaker at the Ancient Astronaut Society's Fifth World Conference in 1978 and its Sixth World Conference in 1979. His address is Auf-dem-Felde-11, D-3283 Lugde-niese, West Germany.

ERICH VON DANIKEN has just completed a five-week lecture tour throughout Germany, and is currently lecturing in Austria. He will be in England in June to promote his latest book, PROPHET OF THE PAST.

BOOKS RECOMMENDED BY OUR MEMBERS

- THE ANCIENT STONES SPEAK, by David Zink
- THE COMPLETE BOOK OF EXTRATERRESTRIAL ENCOUNTERS, by Randall Fitzgerald
- THE ATLAS OF THE UNEXPLAINED, by Francis Hitching
- ATLAS OF EARLY MAN, by Jaquetta Hawkes
- IN SEARCH OF ANCIENT ASTRONOMIES, by E. F. Kruppe
- THE SECRET VAULTS OF TIME, by Stephen A. Schwartz

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BEP-KOROROTI IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC?

According to the ancient legends of the Kayapo Indians, a tribe in the upper regions of the Amazon River in Brazil, Bep-Kororoti came down from the stars and taught them how to cultivate the soil, how to construct houses, and many other aspects of civilization. Each year the Kayapos celebrate the coming of Bep-Kororoti with a ritual dance, with one of their members dressed in a very unusual garment representing the dress of their "god" from the stars. The matted straw suit, with a helmet-like head covering, is quite similar in appearance to the astronaut suits of today. See Figure below.

While visiting my friend, Wolfgang Siebenhaar, in Berlin in February of this year, we went to the Volkerkunde Museum and were absolutely shocked to see in the Polynesian display, a "worship-suit" made of matted straw, and a helmet-like head covering, very similar to that worn by the Kayapo Indians of South America. The Polynesian "deity" also carries a staff, similar to Bep-Kororoti's "thunder weapon." See Figure below.



The Polynesians have a legend about a god named "Maui", who brought "the fire" to mankind. Is it possible that Bep-Kororoti and Maui are one and the same god?

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