

# Ancient Astronauts Modern Mysteries

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## HERITAGE OF THE GODS

Thousands of years ago, a gigantic spacecraft cruised into our solar system and cautiously entered Earth's atmosphere. Then without warning, disaster struck. The mighty nuclear engines of the ship flared and its occupants fled into the swampy jungles just before the craft exploded. Those visitors from a distant star found themselves marooned on an alien and hostile world, stripped of all the wonders of their own highly technological civilization. To make matters worse, the Earth was alive with shaggy creatures who walked erect on 2 legs like the spacemen themselves, but whose eyes were dumb and vacant.

The scientists from the doomed expedition captured some of the primitive ape-like earthlings and experimented with them until they managed to produce a curious hybrid that was neither animal nor spaceman. The hybrids multiplied while the space visitors slowly died out. The survivors of the spacecraft taught the hybrids agriculture, mathematics, and the rudiments of science and philosophy. The hybrids worshipped their teachers and preserved their memories in folklore and stories handed down from one generation to the next. Whenever a spaceman died, the hybrids gave him an elaborate funeral, marking the sacred grave with a huge mound of earth or a pyramid of stone.

On quiet nights, the hybrids gathered around their teachers and listened respectfully to stories of other worlds. The teachers pointed out an obscure cluster of 7 stars and called them home. And so it came about that the hybrids regarded the star system of the Pleiades, or the "Seven Sisters," as the home of the gods.

In the 1950s and '60s, a small group of European scholars began to review the ancient lore. Men like Brinsley Le Poer Trench, W. Raymond Drake, Andrew Tomas, and Robert Charroux questioned the modern scientific viewpoint and wrote books asking if mankind might not really be descended from a far-off race of space travelers. A Swiss hotelier, Erich von Daniken, read their books and then wrote one of his own. His enjoyed a spectacular success and millions of copies were sold interna-

tionally. The idea of the ancient gods being spacemen from another world seemed like an exciting, new, and plausible concept to millions of people.

Actually it is a very old belief shared by isolated cultures on every continent. The gods came from a distant star, a Hopi Indian tradition claims, and they would revisit us again sometime in the future. Today the Hopi regard the influx of unidentified flying objects as proof of that promise.

The natives of Africa and the aborigines of Australia also cherish legends of the ancient Sky People and, like the Indians of the Americas, regard the "Seven Sisters" as their place of origin. Another constellation, Orion, is universally credited as the home of evil space people. These traditions are also preserved in the Bible. ("Canst thou bind the sweet influences of Pleiades, or loose the bands of Orion?" *Job* 38:31.)

Did we descend from lizards and apes, as modern scientists teach, or was the original Garden of Eden actually the green hills of a long forgotten planet in the Pleiades?

## A DOOMED UNIVERSE

There are over 200 stars in the Pleiades but only 6 are visible to the naked eye. Yet the folklore of all cultures refer to 7 instead of 6. Removed hundreds of light years from our own solar system, the Pleiades are doomed. The stars are following courses that cause their gravity fields to interact, and they are passing through luminous clouds of gas. Some of the stars are slowly imploding, burning out and condensing into small masses of highly concentrated energy. If any inhabitable planets exist within the Pleiades they must be very uncomfortable places, their surfaces alternately frozen when their suns died and scorched by the huge clouds of glowing gas that occasionally raked across them. Violent vortices of energy from the shifting gravity fields would also produce frequent tremors and quakes.

Imagine that Trench, von Daniken, and the other UFO cosmologists are on the right track. Imagine that the Pleiades shelter an ancient civilization with a very advanced technology. Their scientists realized eons ago that their

world was headed for destruction and their only hope for survival was to develop space travel and find a new home in some other galaxy.

So they built giant space arks and sent them out in all directions in a massive search for a new world. One of these arks eventually cruised into our solar system and found Earth . . . a rich planet with a life-supporting ecological system, inhabited only by lowly life forms and mindless hairy creatures who dwell in caves. The creatures regarded the newcomers as gods and set in motion the beliefs that would govern human-hybrid affairs for thousands of years.

Meanwhile, back on the doomed planets of the Pleiades, scientists wondered what had become of one of their great arks. Another expedition was formed to go searching for the missing spacecraft. Time being a relative thing, only a short period elapsed between the launching of the arks and the dispatch of the searchers. But on Earth many thousands of years had gone by. The gods were all dead and buried in great pyramids. The hybrids had even begun their own primitive exploration of space. They hoped for—but did not really expect—a meeting with beings from another world.

## COSMIC DISASTER

In the Earth year of 1908, the Pleiadian search party approached our planet and, like their predecessor, ran afoul of strange forces which caused their nuclear engine to malfunction. Plummeting out of control, the gigantic craft entered the Earth's atmosphere over Tunguska, Siberia, and then exploded so violently that hundreds of square miles of forest were flattened and the flash was seen thousands of miles away. (For more information about this event, see article on page 16.)

More years passed and the Pleiadians launched yet another search party. But this time they prudently orbited the Earth from a safe distance, sending smaller scout ships out from their main spacecraft to explore the mysterious world. One of these scout ships suffered an accident near the town of Farmington, N.M. A group of American scientists allegedly examined the

(Continued on page 74)

# ANCIENT ASTROS

(Continued from page 14)

wrecked saucer and the bodies of several "little men" found inside it. The saucer and corpses were loaded into U.S. Air Force trucks and carried off to some unknown warehouse. At least, that's the story *Variety* reporter Frank Scully later told. One year later, in March 1950, *hundreds* of unidentified flying objects appeared in the skies over Farmington daily for 2 full weeks. Scully concluded they were searching for the crashed saucer or were conducting some kind of tribute to their fallen comrades. Air Force investigators offered a more mundane explanation. The objects swarming around Farmington, they said, were just fragments of a balloon that had blown apart in the upper atmosphere.

## FICTION OR FACT

In the late 1960s a popular television series, *The Invaders*, enthralled audiences with a premise that may have been more fact than fiction. Each show began with a voice explaining that an alien race on a doomed planet somewhere in space was searching for a new home, just as our hypothetical Pleiadians are seeking a safe new world with a stable sun. Many of *The Invaders* episodes were actually based on real events from the hair-raising history of ufology. The agents of that fictional alien world looked just like us and were very clever at exploiting our beliefs and suspicions. When cornered and attacked by the show's hero, those TV "Men In Black" dissolved into thin air just as the real UFO "Men In Black" have reportedly done.

The crashed saucer filled with the charred bodies of little men never really existed. Scully had been told the story by a person who claimed to have seen the object but when other reporters tracked his informant down they discovered his tale was just a flight of fancy. Years later, Scully publicly apologized for printing the yarn. But the Air Force continues to receive letters from UFO fans demanding information about little aliens said to be pickled in jars at some

Air Force base.

Our reality is so flimsy it can be easily altered by rumors and belief in rumors. There are even a few UFO contactees who claim they have been transported to the Pleiades aboard flying saucers. When they spread their stories the hardcore UFO believers accept them and fit them into the fictitious subculture of ufology. The gods of the ancients have become the phantom spacemen of today. We have traveled full circle, our modern radio telescopes now pointing optimistically toward the "Seven Sisters" as we listen to distant crackles and squeaks.

## WHERE DO THEY COME FROM?

When ancient men asked their mysterious teachers where they were from the entities replied by pointing to the Pleiades in the night sky. Modern UFO contactees standing in deserts, swamps, and forests have asked the same question and received the same answer. But that doesn't really prove very much. A man might convincingly declare himself to be a native of Philadelphia when, in fact, he has never been near the place. In the early 1950s, many UFO entities modestly claimed the planets Venus or Mars as their place of origin. As our space satellites penetrated to those planets and found them barren of life, the entities changed their stories. They were now from more distant places . . . star systems many light years from Earth.

Today there are hundreds of cults devoted to the contactees and their elusive contact from Pleiades. It is estimated that these cults now have over 5 million members worldwide. Some manage to support lavish magazines and newsletters. Some have built expensive temples and schools dedicated to spreading the propaganda of the mischievous space people, just as esoteric religious cults in ancient times disseminated dangerous racial and political ideologies.

The Pleiadians have infiltrated every level of society in the past 30 years. Recent polls indicate that over half the population now accepts the notion that UFOs are benign spacecraft from some other planet. The ranks of the believers now include famous scientists, journalists, lawyers, doctors, and politicians. The gods of the ancients are still with us and many people are engaged in spaceage evangelism . . . preaching the gospel of the space people and preparing the way for a time when the Pleiadians can land openly in our midst—and take over. ★