

# Ancient Astronauts Modern Mysteries

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## THE WATCHERS

In 1925 a remarkable man named Charles Fort observed, "ships from other worlds have been seen by millions of inhabitants of this Earth, exploring, night after night, in the skies of France, England, New England, and Canada..."

It was certainly presumptuous for Fort to call attention to a phenomenon which would not officially exist until 22 years later, and then would cease to exist officially in 1969 when the U.S. Air Force quietly closed its flying saucer-chasing bureau. The odd little man with the walrus mustache knew something the governments of the world did not. He knew from his extensive research into old magazines and scientific journals that mysterious machines and aerial craft had been widely seen throughout history; that the occupants of these marvels had often been viewed by open-mouthed earthlings, and, in fact, some of Man's most cherished myths were based upon his long time study of such objects.

One offshoot of the persistent mystery was the legend of the Watchers. Strange beings from some other place or some other spacetime continuum have *always* been hovering in our skies, silently watching us struggle upwards from our caves. In the mountains of Tibet the ancient lamas knew all about the Watchers. Occasionally westerners would stumble upon them, too, while traveling in that distant and inhospitable land. Nicholas Roerich, the artist, explorer, and humanitarian, reported seeing gleaming metal discs soaring above the Himalaya mountains in the 1920s. Frank Smythe, the famous mountain climber, observed a "pulsating tea kettle" hovering nearby as he struggled alone up the face of a mountain in Nepal. Before seeing it he experienced the uneasy feeling that something or someone was watching him...benevolently, as if concerned about his safety.

In the big UFO flap years of 1966-68 we received letters from missionaries on the roof of the world describing their own encounters with phantom aircraft. During that same period, a handful of scientists working in remote Antarctica

were reportedly watching great circular objects soaring over the ice fields near the South Pole.

The Watchers enjoyed another year of tourism over this cosmic Disneyland in 1973-74, popping up almost everywhere at once, and then disappearing as suddenly and mysteriously as they had come. From the long history of the phenomenon we know we haven't seen the last of them. They will be back...probably around 1977-78...and a new generation will stand on the hills of Earth and study the night skies expectantly.

## GODS OR SPACEMEN?

One morning in the year 40,000 B.C. a hairy man-animal heard a buzzing sound outside his cave. When he crept to the entrance he was stunned to see a strange visitor had come into his rugged environment: a gleaming metallic object rimmed with transparent windows. Behind those windows stood the tall, silent Watchers, their faces dark and expressionless. The man-animal retreated and, so that his descendants would always remember this unusual day, he sketched a likeness of the object on the stone wall of his cave. The sketches still exist in France, Africa, Australia, and China.

Were these Watchers gods, as the first men thought them to be, or were they astronauts from some distant planet? There is one other possible explanation: they were earthlings being from a splendid continent separated and protected by the oceans from the hostile jungles of the cave men. These beings thrived in a land where magic and technology were one. Their flying machines spanned the world and they watched with detachment as the man-animals appeared and multiplied.

Later, as Man spread slowly across the landscape, the Watchers came forward from the skies and from the seas to offer gentle assistance. They taught men to farm, and gave them the fundamentals of law, architecture, and mathematics. Man, in turn, dedicated his greatest works to these gods. He carved their images from blocks of stones. The arts of the dance, painting, and story-telling all began as a means

of paying tribute to the wondrous Watchers.

Then an element of evil was introduced. The Watchers initially demanded animal sacrifices, and then human sacrifices. They claimed credit for natural disasters and men began to fear them. Around the world great pyramids were built, and choice young women were left in the temples at special times of the year. The gods came down from the sky and, according to legend, mated with the human women. These women bore special children, giants with incredible physical and psychic strength who assumed command of tribes and whole nations. The world was divided into a score of zones or kingdoms, each ruled by one of these hybrid kings. To preserve their godly lineage, the royal families intermarried but the Watchers retained subtle control by appearing frequently before the kings and issuing orders, even laying the plans of battle for ancient wars. Men were disciplined to obey the kings and their gods without question. In a real sense, these gods *owned* the Earth and had direct control over all its inhabitants through the god-king system; a system which was still in effect in many parts of the world into the 20th Century.

## "I THINK WE ARE PROPERTY."

Charles Fort recognized this theory of human history when he stated, "I think we are property. Someone owns this Earth. All others warned off." The gods were not myths but were, at one time, very real, and their directives to mankind were not dictated out of concern for the human condition but were calculated to protect the Earth itself! Even more disturbing, they had a concise foreknowledge of the human future and often directed human events to conform to the needs of that future. Events that seemed totally senseless to one generation would suddenly acquire important meaning several generations later. Man was caught up like a pawn in some dark and foreboding celestial chess game. We tried to rationalize our predicament with inventive theologies and cosmologies. We rewrote history

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# ANCIENT ASTRO

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until it matched our ideals and concealed our often ugly motivations. Our real history became myth and our myths became our substitute for history.

The parts of our earthly heritage which lay beyond our feeble memories were filled in for us by entities who professed to belong to the Watchers. An oral history was passed on to the men who conversed with the Watchers and we accepted much of it without question. After the great libraries of China and Egypt were destroyed, our prophets filled in the lost chapters of human progress.

We passed through ages of magic, when superstition and the fear of the unknown cast deep shadows across the human psyche. Later, when we became enslaved in the Dark Age, we rewrote history again. In 1848 we began the long and painful escape from the god-king system and entered into the modern industrial age. Political  
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They speak of the "biosphere," the total planet as a single organism. All of the ecological forces on this planet are part of the whole. The winds and water currents are like the arteries of the human body. Each system supports the other. If you interfere with one system you disturb the whole organism. And since 1848 we have been deliberately destroying many of the interlocking systems. The Earth is screaming in agony and that great mind, the collective unconsciousness, is desperately reaching out to us, trying to communicate with us on our level.

For the past 20 years the ufonauts have been repeating two thoughts over and over again to the flying saucer contactees (who now number in the many thousands). "We are One," is one of their favorite declarations. "You are endangering the balance of the universe," is their warning. They are apoplectic over our atomic experiments (over 1,000 nuclear bombs have been exploded in the Earth's atmosphere since 1945), crying that we are not only

ideologies replaced religion as the forces which moved us, and the old gods grew misty and mythical while the new gods, the alleged beings from outer space, appeared in our farm fields.

Was Ashtar, the self-appointed chief of the Intergalactic Federation merely an updated version of Ashtoreth, the multi-breasted goddess of the ancients?

## IT'S ALIVE!

Individual ants are quite stupid, but a thousand ants together form a single collective mind with incredible abilities. They devise military stratagems and even execute elaborate feats of engineering. Alone, an ant is a brainless biological automation. In a group, it becomes an integral part of a larger, intelligent organism.

There are other examples in the animal world. Tiny underwater animals join together to form larger organisms which have the ability to lure and catch large fish and feed the whole colony. A microscopic African flea forms a tiny ball with thousands of its fellow beings

threatening our world but are also affecting "many other worlds."

When Thor Heyerdahl recently crossed the Atlantic in a reed boat he noted that the *entire* ocean was now polluted with oil slicks and human garbage. Most of the oxygen in our atmosphere is produced by a tiny algae that grows in the ocean. Pollution is killing off the algae at an alarming rate. The planet itself is battling now for survival. Since all lesser organisms have a built-in instinct for self-preservation we can assume that Earth has a similar instinct. When the Earth is viewed as a living organism, mankind becomes a kind of disease . . . billions of germs spreading out and witlessly destroying the interdependent ecosystems.

As the pace of the planetary crisis quickens, the Watchers increase their mysterious surveillance. The night skies are filled more often with thousands of cosmic eyes. More and more people are stopped on lonely roads by strange forces which reprogram their minds as easily as we alter and reprogram the tapes in our com-

puters. Humans are tagged just as we tag wild animals to watch their migratory movements and chart their habits. The UFOs do not seem to be part of some distant intergalactic system at all, but are apparently closely related to both mankind and the Earth itself.

"One salient fact about UFOs is missing from all modern accounts I have seen," Fortean Damon Knight once noted. "Unknown flying objects, unknown bodies seen in space, appearances and disappearances, poltergeist activity, falls of strange substances and organisms from the sky—all these things show strong positive correlations with each other. Taken together, they show evidence of rhythmic fluctuation."

In early times Earth may have needed man, but now we have become a plague posing a threat to the entire organism. The signs and wonders of our present day may be the subtle beginnings of the global convulsions to come. Convulsions that will spring from the planet's urge for self-preservation and ultimately destroy us. ★

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