



# ANCIENT SKIES

*"Come Search With Us!"*

## Official Logbook of the Ancient Astronaut Society

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### TIME DILATION IN ANCIENT TEXTS

BY ERICH VON DANIKEN\*

A generally accepted scientific theorem is that on interstellar flights a time dilation effect would be observed at very high speeds. Time on a spaceship travelling just under the speed of light passes much more slowly for the rocket crew, than for the people on the launching planet. Thus, time can be manipulated using speed and energy. For example, if

\*ERICH VON DANIKEN was born in 1935 in Zofingen, Switzerland. While still a high school student, he began to question the accepted translations of the Bible, particularly of the Old Testament. He noted that the Hebrew word "Elohim," is a plural word meaning "Gods," rather than the singular "God," as commonly presented in the Bible. Reading "God" as "the gods," the biblical story of creation became "the gods created man in their own image." "Angels" became "robots."

An avid reader, Erich von Daniken has become an authority on mythology and extraterrestrial visits to Earth. A compulsive traveller, he is an expert on the physical evidence of ancient technological civilizations. The theory that extraterrestrials "created" intelligent man was published in his first book, Chariots of the Gods? (Erinnerungen an Die Zukunft) which was published in Germany in 1968, then translated into English and published in England in 1969 and in the United States in 1970. A full-length, documentary movie, also entitled "Chariots of the Gods?", was based upon the book and has been shown throughout the world, and a television special about the book was shown as "In Search of Ancient Astronauts." "Chariots" has been translated into 33 languages and has sold millions of copies throughout the world.

Von Daniken quickly followed with a sequel Gods From Outer Space, then The Gold of the Gods and In Search of Ancient Gods. His next book, Miracles of the Gods, strayed from the ancient astronaut theme into the field of religion, apparitions and the supernatural. His latest book, Beweise (Proofs) has just been published in Germany by ECON Verlag, Dusseldorf, and is expected to be the year's best seller. Von Daniken said that Beweise contains convincing proof of ancient astronauts and their visitations to Earth in pre-history. To date, more than 37,000,000 copies of von Daniken's books have been sold.

Von Daniken has presented over 300 lectures around the world, including about 100 in American universities, and has appeared on countless radio and television programs.

On February 12, 1975, Erich von Daniken was awarded an honorary doctor's degree by the University of Bolivia. He lives in Bonstetten, Switzerland with his wife, Elizabeth and his daughter, Cornelia.

a spaceship is steadily propelled at the speed of 1G and then braked half way along its course with minus 1G, the following time dilations would take place:

Years in Spaceship	Years on Earth
1	1.0
2	2.1
5	6.5
10	24
15	80
20	270
25	910
30	3,100
35	10,600
40	36,000
45	121,000
50	420,000

The above table is from Meyer's Handbook on Space.

Little known, however, is the fact that in a number of old writings we can find references to this time dilation effect. Let me give you two examples:

The first one comes from the Japanese Nihongi; these are among the oldest Japanese annals. There it is reported that one day a handsome young man named "Island-Child" took his boat far out to sea to go fishing. He didn't catch a single fish and soon fell asleep. Suddenly, he awoke, for all around him there was light. In his boat was a beautiful maiden. Island-Child was very frightened and he asked the maiden: "Where do you come from?"

She answered: "I have come to you through the air. Look there, that shining pearl is my boat. You are so handsome that I want to love you forever."

As the maiden herself was of extraordinary beauty, Island-Child followed her call, left his boat and climbed into the shining pearl. Everything there was very strange, and so bright that he had to close his eyes. In a short while they reached a far-away God-Planet. The soil there was completely different from Earth's soil; there were strange colors, and the sky was not like ours.

Out of a castle gate danced seven boys, singing "We are the Plejades." They disappeared, and now eight boys danced out and around Island-Child, singing "We are the Hejades." Island-Child was very happy, and he loved the beautiful maiden for three years.

But then he grew homesick, and wanted to see his parents and his old friends again. The beautiful maiden saw the sorrow in his face, and she asked him "Island-Child, what is worrying you?"

And he answered: "I want to go home to see my parents and my friends again. And I promise that I shall gladly return to you."

The maid from the stars advised against such a journey, but Island-Child kept insisting. Finally she could no longer refuse his appeal and they both boarded the shining pearl. Quickly Island-Child (Continued on next page)

(Continued from first page)  
was home again.

But to his bewilderment his home village had completely changed. There were still some of the old streets and fountains; also the small stream and the surrounding hills. But the houses were different, and strange people lived in them. All confused, Island-Child went up and down the street where he once lived, but he recognized no one, and people laughed at him as if he were a stranger. This made him very sad, and quietly weeping he walked out of the village. There he met an old man who asked him why he wept. Island-Child told his story. The old man became excited, clapped his hands over his head, and shouted:

"What you tell me is impossible! My great-grandfather told me a story of a handsome young man who went out to sea in his boat and never returned. His name was also Island-Child. But this was more than 300 years ago!"

Island-Child was of the belief that he had spent only three years in the world of the beautiful maiden. But here on this earth more than 300 years had passed.

The second story can be found in fragments of the Old Testament Apocrypha. The fragments I refer to are called "The Remaining Words of Baruch," and you will not find them in your Bible at home. Baruch was a scribe during the time of the prophet Jeremiah, and is mentioned several times in the Book of Jeremiah.

This prophet Jeremiah had - as all the prophets probably had - a special relationship with the Almighty.

The Almighty warned Jeremiah that Jerusalem would be conquered and that all prominent persons would be deported to Babylon. As this calamity grew near, Jeremiah asked the Almighty for an interview, and it was granted. Jeremiah said to the Almighty:

"Here is a young friend of mine; his name is Abimelech. He is from Abyssinia, and has twice saved my life. He has no part in the sins committed by this town. Therefore I beg you to save him from the assault of the Babylonians."

"The Almighty granted his prophet Jeremiah's request, and instructed him to send Abimelech away the next morning with a basket to fetch some fresh figs. He also told him that his friend should take the long way 'round, through the vineyards of Agripa.

Jeremiah did as he was told, and sent his Abyssinian friend to fetch the figs. Abimelech followed a narrow path through Agripa's vineyard and picked the fresh figs, filling his basket with them. On the way back he suddenly felt dizzy, lost his balance, fell to the ground and - as he later believed - into a deep sleep. When he awoke, he noted by the position of the sun that he must have slept for about two hours. Abimelech rushed back to Jerusalem, fearing that he would be scolded by Jeremiah.

But when he reached Jerusalem he didn't know a single person. He entered the house in which he and Jeremiah - as well as the scribe Baruch - had lived. No one is there. Strange people are on the streets. Abimelech is bewildered, and walks slowly out of the town, asking himself whether he still possesses all his senses. Again he enters the town, looks around for all the places he once knew, and concludes that he is really in Jerusalem. But he does not recognize a single person. A few other things have changed - the town's crest is different, and unfamiliar banners are flying.

And again he walks outside the walls, and turns and looks at the town, and wonders "Have I lost my mind? Did that short nap confuse me somehow? It must be Jerusalem, I left it only a few short hours ago." And so he enters the town for the third time.

Again, he cannot find a single face or name familiar to him. Walking along in deep depression he comes to a well, and there he meets an old man with a long beard. Abimelech asks him:

"What is the name of this town?"

"Jerusalem," answers the old man.

Abimelech replies: "I know I should not ridicule elderly persons, but this town cannot be Jerusalem." And Abimelech tells his story to the old man.

When he mentioned the names of the prophet Jeremiah and the scribe Baruch, the old man said: "My friend, you must be under the protection of the Almighty. Baruch and Jeremiah and all the others were taken in chains to Babylon. But that was sixty-six years ago!"

Abimelech laughed, and answered that the old man must be out of his head. "I left Jerusalem only a few hours ago to fetch some fresh figs." And to prove his statement he opened the basket and showed the juicy figs. But the old man replied: "No, Abimelech. Look at the fields. It is not the season for figs. Figs won't be ripe for several months yet!"

This story is another example of the phenomenon of time dilation. Abimelech himself, who walks in and out of Jerusalem, doubting his sanity. The fresh figs, which cannot possibly be ripe that time of year. In the few hours he has been away, sixty-six years have gone by.

It would be easy to simply laugh off these reports with the argument that they should be classified among fairytales and fables. But in the original versions, the essential parts of these stories are accurate and precise. The ancient chroniclers, copiers and translators knew nothing about time dilation. This explains the often naive narration in the form of a fable. And don't forget, the examples I gave are only two among hundreds of similar folktales found in every land.

In Tibetan holy books, we find references to a "great teacher" with the rather complicated name "Padmasambhava." Before the eyes of his students, this "great teacher" disappeared into the universe. The event is described as follows:

"The search for me will never end," said the great teacher, and he flew away. The king and his court were like fishes on the sand. When they looked they could see the great teacher, as large as a raven. And when they looked again he appeared as big as a thrush, and later the size of a fly. And finally he became foggy and blurred and only as large as the egg of a louse. And when they looked again, they could not see him at all.

This is obviously an eye-witness description of the departure of some sort of aircraft or spaceship. Can it be explained away as only a myth?

On the Indian Sub-Continent we find the great epic poem, the Mahabharata. Let me quote from the stanzas called "Arjuna's Journey to Indra's Heaven."

When the guardians of the world had gone, Arjuna, the terror of his enemies, wished that the heaven-chariot of Indra should be brought to him. And suddenly, in a sea of light there came the chariot, frightening away darkness from the air and illuminating all the clouds in the sky. The chariot filled all the lands of the world with a thunderous uproar. Then Arjuna climbed into the sun-like, the heavenly chariot, and happily he flew toward Heaven.

I feel that one should not always assume that such passages - and I have reported only a few of the many that exist - must be looked at from a psychologist's analytical viewpoint. I myself believe that behind these epics, these myths and folk-tales, lie some real happenings, some hard facts.

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# HISTORY OF THE ANCIENT ASTRONAUT SOCIETY

By Gene M. Phillips\*

The ANCIENT ASTRONAUT SOCIETY is a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation organized exclusively for scientific, literary, and educational purposes, with its World Headquarters in Park Ridge, Illinois, USA. The Society's primary objectives are to determine whether extraterrestrial beings visited Earth in prehistoric times, whether an advanced civilization existed on Earth prior to our recorded history; or a combination of the two.

The concept of a world-wide society to investigate the accomplishment of these objectives came to me while I watched a television special based upon the book Chariots of the Gods? by Swiss author Erich von Daniken. The program explored various heretofore unsatisfactorily explained physical mysteries which von Daniken had presented in his book. Rock drawings, huge stone works, carved reliefs, enormous stone statues, and strange ground markings were presented to support the view that extraterrestrial intelligences had visited Earth in prehistory, disseminating knowledge and technology. Aware of the explanations advanced by the scientific community for the mysteries, I was amazed at the simplicity of von Daniken's explanations. I was also amazed at how satisfying his answers were for the greatest mysteries which have beset mankind throughout history - religion and the origin of life itself. It became obvious to me that it was imperative for someone to make an organized, objective study of the field to determine the answer to these riddles. In addition, I wanted the opportunity for myself, and other laymen, to witness first-hand, the various physical evidences around the world.

On September 14, 1973, a corporate charter was obtained to thrust the Society upon an eagerly awaiting world. Membership is open to the public and currently, the ANCIENT ASTRONAUT SOCIETY has over 1,000 participating members in forty-seven of the United States of America, and in thirty-five nations, comprising one-fifth of the countries of the world.

Just one month after the Society was chartered, I had the opportunity to meet Erich von Daniken and to explain to him the Society's goals and ambitions. His immediate reaction was, "How can I join?" and his support has been the principal reason for the success of the Society. Since that time he has given unselfishly to the Society of his time, reputation and financial resources.

The early months were spent digging for publicity, which is not an easy task for a totally new organization dedicated to the study of such profound ideas as whether spacemen had visited the Earth in the remote past, and whether man is a hybrid of higher forms of Earth animals and intelligent beings from outer space. The decision to make the Society a scientific and literary oriented organization made the early days easier, because it was seldom placed in the "kook" or "nut" category, as have many organizations with less noble objectives. The Society's immediate task was to establish a lecture series and to publish its views and findings. Von Daniken was the first lecturer for the Society, and he has presented many lectures for the Society since that time. Also, Ancient Skies, the Society's logbook, or newsletter, has become accepted as a high quality, scientific publication, presenting original articles by the principal writers and scientists in the field.

Recognizing the international appeal of the concept of the Society, we soon decided to sponsor an annual conference to bring Society members and the public together from around the globe. The First World Conference, held in the Chicago area in April, 1974, was well attended, and featured fourteen speakers, including Erich von Daniken, NASA space engineer Josef F. Blumrich, professor of philosophy Dr. Luis E. Navia, and other notable personages. The First World Conference was a huge success in bring-

ing together people in the field who had had little or no contact with each other. The Chicago Tribune reported that it was "perhaps the most significant attempt to give ancient astronautism credibility."

The Second World Conference was held in Zurich, Switzerland in May, 1975. It was organized and financed by Erich von Daniken. For the first time, most of the renowned authors in the field were brought together. Such men as Jacques Bergier, W. Raymond Drake, Andrew Tomas, Frede Melhedegaard, Peter Krassa, Professor Hans Schindler Bellamy, Max Flindt, Gerardo Levett, Dr. Pasqual Schievella, Dr. Luis E. Navia, Josef F. Blumrich, Dr. Kurt Melhose, Gerhard Steinhauser, Walter Ernsting and Dr. Josip Kotnik participated in the conference, including, of course, Erich von Daniken, who was awarded the Society's First Exceptional Service Award for his unyielding struggle to further the ancient astronaut theory and the objectives of the Society.

The Third World Conference was held in Krikenvenca, Yugoslavia in May, 1976. It was sponsored by the Yugoslav Bureau of Tourism and was arranged by Dr. Josip Kotnik. For the first time, writers and scientists from the East joined with those of the West to explore the Society's objectives. New faces appeared, including George Sassoon, of England, with his report on the "manna machine," and Prof. Dr. Harry O. Ruppe, one of the world's leading experts on space travel. The Yugoslav Conference was extremely well attended by members of the press. The Conference received wide publicity throughout Europe, and there was an hour-long nationwide TV presentation about the Conference.

The Fourth World Conference will be held in June, 1977 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and the Fifth will return to the Chicago area in 1978.

In addition to sponsoring conferences, meetings and individual lectures, the Society has presented well-organized expeditions for its members, with the first in July, 1975, to Peru and Bolivia. This first group of hardy travellers visited Tiahuanaco, Cuzco, and Macchu Picchu, and flew over the Plain of Nazca. In November, 1975 and again in November, 1976, Society sponsored member expeditions explored sites in Mexico, including Tula, Teotihuacan, Chichen Itza, Uxmal, Labna, LaVenta, Palenque, Bonampak, and Yaxchilan, braving the rigors of jeep trips into the interior and small plane flights into the jungle of Southern Mexico, just across the Usumacinta River from the forbidding jungles of Guatemala. A few more adventuresome members went into Guatemala, to the ruins of Tikal, and to Copan, in Honduras.

The next expedition will be in July, 1977 to Bolivia and Peru. Future member expeditions are planned for Stonehenge in England, the Great Pyramid in Egypt, the massive stone figures of Easter Island, and petroglyphs in Australia and New Zealand, and other sites to be considered.

In addition to member expeditions, the Society will sponsor trips by scientists to explore the physical mysteries from our viewpoint. One such trip is currently being organized by Stephen Woolley and John Sissons, of England, to the Tassili Range in the Sahara in northern Africa, to examine the rock drawings first discovered by Henri Lhote.

The Society also intends to sponsor scientifically supervised research and teaching in the ancient astronaut field in colleges and universities.

The ANCIENT ASTRONAUT SOCIETY recognizes the need to operate on a scientific basis, but is ever mindful of the invaluable contribution to the advancement of knowledge by interested laymen. With your help, the ANCIENT ASTRONAUT SOCIETY will become one of the world's most influential organizations in the study of the origin of mankind. COME SEARCH WITH US!

\*Mr. Phillips is the Founder and President of the Ancient Astronaut Society. A graduate of Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Harvard University and Northwestern University School of Law, he is a practicing attorney in Park Ridge, Illinois.

## ON THE PALENQUE VEHICLE

I must take issue with the statement set forth in "The Palenque Vehicle", Ancient Skies, 3:4, that "Traditional science is hampered by the dogma that ancient astronautics is nothing but a theory, mainly for the reason that spacecrafts which are usually highly sophisticated machines are unthinkable without an industrial society."

First, traditional science is hampered, period. With that we are all in agreement, I am sure.

Second, while it is true that spacecrafts are unthinkable without an industrial society, this must surely support the theory that such devices are the product of Extraterrestrial Intelligences (ETI). It seems easier to square the evidence with the theory of ETI than with a "society of craftsmen who built rude mechanical structures" and were later "wiped out by tyrannical over-lords."

I would not argue with the author's interpretation of the picture on the Palenque Slab, but I cannot believe that the state of knowledge necessary to produce such a vehicle could be switched ON and OFF at will. Surely, the evidence speaks heavily in favor of ETI. There is no reason to suppose that one must be stranded to build a Vimana. It could have been brought to Earth as a piece of standard equipment for planetary exploration. If Earth intelligence had reached a state where the society of craftsmen could have built a Vimana as needed, I doubt if the "tyrannical over-lords" could have erased the knowledge as cleanly as it seems to have been.

The article which George Sassoon and I wrote over a year ago, reprinted in Ancient Skies, 3:2, concluded with our preferring NOT to speculate on the origin of the "manna-machine" which we believed the Israelites during their wanderings in the wilderness (Exodus 16). Our later researches have strengthened our view that the manna-machine was a product of ETI, and is a device of the type needed to regenerate oxygen and provide food for a long space journey. The Israelites, a pastoral people, could not conceivably have built the "manna-machine," to say nothing of the spacecraft which went with it. Rodney Dale, Trinity House, 16 Almond Grove, Bar Hill, Cambridge CB3 8DU, England.

RECENTLY, A "SCIENTIFIC REPORT" WAS TRANSMITTED by German television, which tried to explain how the Great Pyramid of Egypt was constructed. The program explained that to achieve a precise leveling of the pyramid, a wall was erected around the periphery of the base and water from the Nile River was diverted into this area. Then hundreds of sticks were placed into the inundated ground with markings on the sticks to indicate the level line, and the water was drawn off to the desired level. After that, sand was supposedly filled in at the low levels to permit a level surface for the entire base area. Quite simple! It is inconceivable that such a large area (thirteen acres!) could be leveled in such a manner. Further, the pyramid is built on a solid rock foundation, not earth and sand. How could such an enormous structure (2,300,000 stones) be built on shifting sand?

The time-worn theory that the Great Pyramid was built as a tomb by the Pharaoh Cheops simply is not true. Anyone who has visited the various tombs of the Egyptian Pharaohs knows how magnificently the tombs were decorated and furnished with expensive and elaborate relics. I have been inside the Great Pyramid, and there is absolutely nothing to indicate that it was ever used as a burial place. In the unadorned "King's Chamber" there is a granite "sarcophagus", but it really is not that. The stone box is roughly patched, has no finish or ornamentation, and no lid has ever been found. Further, no mummy has been found. The first reports of persons having found their way into this gigantic structure confirm that nothing of value was found inside. Wolfgang Siebenhaar, Ronnestr. 18, D-1000, Berlin 19.

## ON THE GALVANIC BATTERIES

I was shocked to read in K.K. Doberer's article in Ancient Skies, 3:5, the statement by Pieter Coll that the archaeologist, Dr. Kroll, declared that he had contacted the Baghdad Museum and was informed that no one in Baghdad knew of the existence of the "dry batteries."

I wrote to the Baghdad Museum on Nov. 21, 1972, and received a reply from the Director-General, Ministry of Information, Directorate General of Antiquities, Republic of Iraq. The letter, No. 13363 dated December 5, 1972, states as follows:

"In response to your letter of 21.11.1972. We have the pleasure to send you herewith a brief note concerning the electric battery that have been found in Iraq.

"We hope that it is useful for your report. With our best regards."

The "brief note" was an Official Paper entitled, "The Electric Battery", published by the Directorate General of Antiquities, Baghdad, dated Dec. 1, 1972, which reads as follows:

"In 1936 the Directorate General of Antiquities carried out excavation works in the mounds east of Baghdad known as "Khuit Rabboua" and uncovered many finds dating back to Parthian period (227-126 BC).

"The most important of these finds was a pottery Jar (15 cm height). The discovery of this jar was of high importance because of the materials found in it. These materials were a copper cylinder with an iron bar fixed in its center and little extends out of its opening. This cylinder is covered by a layer of bitumen and its copper base is also covered with this substance. The jar itself is covered by bitumen too.

"On examining these contents it was found that they formed the substances of electric battery represented a simplified cell similar to the substances of the battery known (Galvani) for, if a kind of acid added to (Khuit Rabboua battery) it will become analogous to (Galvani) battery.

"Khuit Rabboua battery dates back to the beginning of Parthian period, that is, BC era.

"So the ancient people of Iraq preceded other nations in this invention. This battery is now displayed at Iraq Museum and regarded as an oldest kind of dry electric battery discovered so far."

Yes, Mr. Doberer, von Daniken was right!  
Walter Joerg Langbein, Fahrstrasse 15, Postfach 2669, D-8520 Erlangen, Germany.

FROM JANUARY 17 TO MARCH 21, 1976 there was an exhibition of "Nofrete-Echnaton" in the "Haus der Kunst" here in Munich. There was also a short feature performed, showing the development of ancient Egypt. The film was projected on eleven screens at once, when all of a sudden on all eleven screens, only birds were to be seen. One of the "birds" appeared to me so striking that I could hardly believe my eyes. I returned to view the performance a second time and sat nearer the screen, concentrating only on the area of the screen where I had seen the unusual bird appear. The same figure appeared, and when I returned home I drew a sketch of the "bird". The shape of the "bird" has a bulbous front portion with an extended tail section. There are three wheels, two with stumps, the hump on the back has an air-screw. The color of the bird was dark blue. Is it possible that the ancient Egyptians had helicopters? Joseph Breitenbach, Ruesstrasse 48, 8000 Munchen 50, Germany.

### NEW BOOKS:

The Twelfth Planet, by Zecharia Sitchin, hardcover, published by Stein and Day, New York.  
A Bridge to the Stars, by Dr. Luis E. Navia, hardcover, published by Avery, Manhasset Hills, NY.  
The Day the Gods Died, by Walter Ernsing (Clark Darlton), paperback, published by Bantam, NY.  
Proof of Ancient Astronauts, Part I and Part II, Nazca Sketchbooks, by Robert Earle, available from the author, P.O. Box 9635, Bay Village, Ohio.