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WHY EXTRATERRESTRIALS ARE MANLIKE

BY ERICH VON DANIKEN*

Sometimes it seems as if all the opponents of the ancient astronaut theory entered into a secret pact and agreed on one inextinguishable main argument: Extraterrestrials cannot have been manlike!

This argument is thrown at me in discussions, it is brought up in numerous letters, and even scientific publications use it. Several people are responsible for spreading this idea: Hoimar von Ditfurth in the German-speaking countries of Europe, Stanislaw Lem in Poland, and Carl Sagan in the USA. Their argumentation always runs like this:

- (a) Life on Earth is due to a unique coincidence. Atoms formed molecules and macromolecular chains. An endless series of accidents and physical interactions finally led to the production of the DNA and consequently to that of the cell.
- (b) The cell, as the smallest living unit, is the basis of biological evolution. All the rest is mutation, selection and adaptation.
- (c) This evolution can only have taken place on Earth, as only the Earth provides "terrestrial" conditions; consequently, extraterrestrial forms of life must be completely different in their molecular structure.
- (d) It is absurd to believe that extraterrestrials might think and act in a similar way that we do.

Ditfurth's theory is not new, but in fact antique. Many scientists, including the German Nobel Prize winner Manfred Eigen, have maintained that life has developed by chance. In his book *Das Spiel* (The Game) Eigen attributes a miraculous quality to this chain of coincidences: "The percentage of protein structures produced in the course of the entire history of the Earth is in fact so minuscule that the existence of efficient enzyme molecules seems like a miracle."

At the same time, however, the scientific elite is fully aware of the impossibility that life on Earth developed by chance. In his recently-published book *In the Centre of Immensities*, the famous British astronomer Sir Bernard Lovell assures us: "The probability of such a coincidence leading to the production of one of the smallest protein molecules is extremely low. It is virtually zero under the marginal conditions of time and space which apply here."

Our schools are often responsible for spreading the false doctrine that life can be artificially produced in laboratories. I want to emphasize here

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once and for all, that not one experiment ever done on this planet has produced life! Tens of thousands of tests and experiments have been carried out and others are being conducted daily. The so-called "Miller experiments" (named after the biochemist Stanley Miller) have yielded complex chemical compounds, but no life. Two well-founded scientific laws prove that life cannot have been produced by accidental chain reactions and physical interactions, namely:

- The law of mass action which does not allow the production of enzymes in the primary substance.
- The entropy principle: since the chemical processes in the primary substance are revertible, the tendency has to be towards more disorder and not towards more order.

Of course, scientists know about these laws, but they resort to the unjustifiable belief that even the impossible is possible over the course of millions of years. It is like putting the hundred small parts of a wristwatch together in a shaker and shaking them vigorously for some billion years. Unfortunately, the individual parts will never become a wristwatch all by themselves!

Lately, intelligent people have started to look for a solution to this dilemma. The Hebrew University of Jerusalem organized a symposium in June 1980, entitled: DID ADAM COME FROM OUTER SPACE? And in November 1980, a scientific convention held at the University of Maryland, USA, concentrated on the same question. In both cases, the majority of the participating scientists arrived at the conclusion that life has not been produced on Earth.

If not on Earth, where else can life have been produced? And how did it get to our planet?

Speculating about the "where" is superfluous: "somewhere" in the universe. The second question, however, allows more leeway for different and interesting ideas. In one of his lectures, Sir Fred Hoyle, the leading British astrophysicist, recently emphasized that neither life nor intelligence have originally been produced on Earth. Hoyle supported the theory that man is the descendant of an earlier intelligence, which, according to Hoyle, was dismantled into sets of individual components; these sets were then scattered all through the universe. They included all biological elements needed for the production of life as we know it. When the molecular chain of a biological set of components reached Earth, it incited the process of production, following a predetermined pattern: just remember that the seeds of a particular fruit can only yield this particular fruit! The final program was already coded in the set of elements.

In an article entitled "Seeds from the Stars", Nobel prize winner Francis Crick, the discoverer of the twin-stranded DNA-helix, said that spaceships were too slow to colonize a galaxy with life. Crick:

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"Wouldn't it be better to send out organisms which can survive this extremely long journey, and which are easily transported and capable of thriving in a primeval ocean? Bacteria would be suited best for the purpose. Because of their minuscule size, large numbers of them could be sent out. They can survive at very low temperatures and chances would be high that they would reproduce easily in the substance of a 'primitive' ocean. It may not be my chance that the earliest fossil organisms we know belong to this type of life."

How does all this connect to the question of whether or not extraterrestrials are manlike?

Some intelligent form of life had to be there first. This form of life shot "life-bombs" with millions and millions of life seeds out into its own galaxy. Many of these "bombs" did not find a target; some of them may still be flying through the universe, while others were probably consumed by the heat of the sun. Yet some finally reached a suitable planet on which organisms had to develop after their own image according to the evolutionary principle. And from there the program progressed with a snowball effect: endless and inexorable.

Since these life seeds can only reproduce on a planet with conditions similar to those on the home planet of the original intelligence, the new form of life evolves according to the old laws. It is just as if the seeds of a European tree are transplanted in Australia. Although the seeds are buried in different soil on a different continent, a tree with the same branches, the same leaves and the same fruit will grow. If Australian conditions are not favorable to the seeds, no tree will grow. Seeds either die or reproduce according to the coded program.

The "life-bombs" and "life-seeds" mentioned above react similarly. Those life seeds which arrive on an unsuitable planet, on Jupiter for example, die off; they simply do not get a chance to grow. The others which find a suitable planet develop according to the pre-coded program.

Theoreticians like Hoimar von Dirfurth simply do not take into account that the origin of life is not to be found on Earth. We are the offspring of some other system! And here lies the answer to the question of "likeness" or "unlikeness". As the origin is the same, the result is likely to be similar too.

This modern view does not exclude the possibility that the universe is full of strange forms of life which we cannot imagine even in our wildest dreams; but, the life seeds of such strange living beings would not have been able to grow and to reproduce on this Earth.

And why, I can hear the critics asking, why should intelligent extraterrestrials think and act in a similar way that we do? Far back in ancient times, a crew of extraterrestrials landed on this planet. They took a cell from one of the already existing hominids, manipulated its genetic complex and allowed it to grow into an egg by putting it into a nutrient solution. The egg was then artificially transferred into a female of the same species, and the female bore a child. Naturally, this child inherited all the characteristics of the hominid parents but through the specific artificial mutation it also gained something which was missing with its parents: intelligence. Since the extraterrestrials designed the genetic manipulation after "their own image" and consequently also after their own pattern of intelligence, we developed similarly to them.

The question "Why do extraterrestrials think in a similar way that we do?" is put the wrong way. The extraterrestrials do not think in a similar way that we do - we think in a similar way that they do. Which is not quite the same. After all, we are their product!

The model described here does not contradict evolution or religion. In the United States several law courts are engaged in legal fights between "evolu-

tionists" and "fundamentalists". These fights will lead nowhere. Both sides pretend to be in possession of the absolute truth. But as a matter of fact, neither of them knows more than a half-truth. If they included the extraterrestrial element in their reasoning, everything would become as clear as day. All the mysteries surrounding the origin of life, the process of our becoming intelligent, and the religious traditions according to which God created man after His image would suddenly have a satisfying solution.

STONEHENGE - ANOTHER VIEW

BY WILLIAM COLLINS*

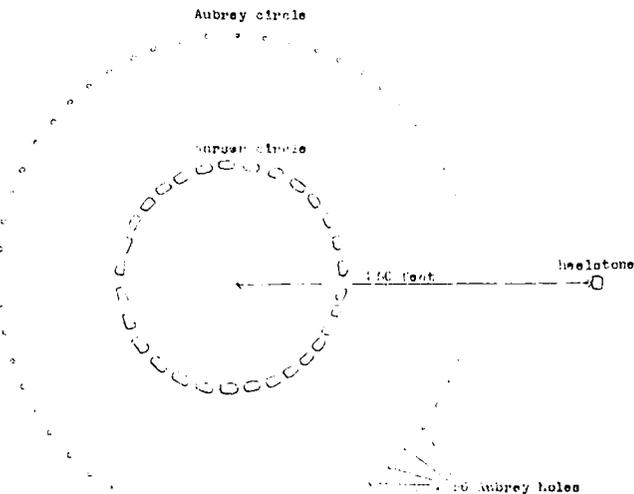
Of all the objective scientific proofs of extraterrestrial visitation I have discovered during my many years of research, the most spectacular and the most easily assimilated manifests itself among the ponderous ruins of one of Britain's oldest and most enigmatic tourist attractions - Stonehenge!

An exhaustive analysis of the major dimensions of this Stone Age monument which has graced the Salisbury Plain in Wiltshire for some 3,900 years, at least, reveals a number of stunning facts, the most remarkable of which concern the mysterious circle of 56 chalk-filled pits known as the Aubrey holes and the isolated inclined standing stone known as the heelstone (over which the Sun is said to rise each year at the time of the summer solstice).

For centuries the significance of these 56 holes has been one of the most tantalizing enigmas of the past, and it was only in 1964 that the first real attempt to elucidate it was made when Prof. Gerald Hawkins advanced the theory that they had served as a computer for predicting solar and lunar eclipses.

The results of my own extensive research, however, show the 56 Aubrey holes to be connected, not with any astronomical event, but rather with a particularly significant astronomical distance - the circumference of our Sun!

If the Sun's 2,717,287 mile circumference is divided into 56 million equal parts, each part will be exactly 256 feet long, which is the distance from the centre of the sarsen circle to the heelstone. A startling fact that tells us not only why there are 56 such holes, but also informs us that Stonehenge, which was constructed during the late Stone/early Bronze Ages, was designed by visitors from outer space.



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We could of course delude ourselves into the belief that the ancient Britons were in possession of the kind of sophisticated technology that would have enabled them to determine the Sun's dimensions. But then, that is all it would be - a delusion.

The early inhabitants of Britain may well have been resourceful, smart, cunning, even clever, but the archaeological record shows their technological capabilities to have been virtually zero, particularly during the neolithic period when the Aubrey holes were excavated and the heelstone erected. The complex of 56 Aubrey holes and the heelstone are the oldest features of Stonehenge, constituting what is now referred to as Stonehenge I, which dates from 1,900 BC. It is an indisputable archaeological fact that prior to this phase, during it, and for many years thereafter, neolithic man's greatest technological innovation was the flint implement.

Skeptics may say that all the above is meaningless, because we already know the circumference of the Sun and that is why we can compute the distance with the measurements given at Stonehenge. But we are not saying that the Aubrey holes and the heelstone were placed as they are to teach ignorant man some mysteries of the universe, but rather that the persons who designed the circle and layout knew the information which we now have. Why the layout was constructed, we still have not determined.

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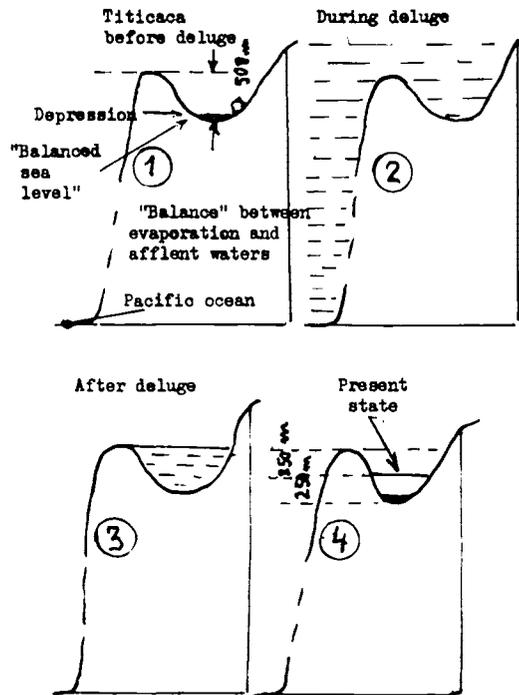
MORE ON TITICACA

BY ING. ERICH REINDL*

While reading the article on Titicaca in Ancient Skies 7:6, I was impressed with the theory that the waters of the Biblical flood rose to such a height as to fill Lake Titicaca, situated 12,500 feet above sea level between the countries of Peru and Bolivia in South America. The sea waters thus brought the marine life to Titicaca, evidence of which still abounds in the area.

I remembered reading a book by the Austrian Otto Muck entitled Alles Uber Atlantis, which discusses the sinking of the continent of Atlantis about 10,000 years ago. According to the author, a large planetoid (about 10km in diameter) penetrated the Earth's atmosphere travelling in an orbit of Northwest to Southeast, exploded off the Carolina coast of the United States and crashed into the Atlantic Ocean near Puerto Rico. Parts of the planetoid penetrated the Earth's crust, causing a violent cataclysm and opening a fissure several thousand miles long. According to the author's calculations, the resulting world-wide deluge easily reached heights of 12,500 feet. In a single day, the continent of Atlantis sank beneath the waters, leaving only the tips of its highest volcanoes in the Azores still visible. According to the Maya Calendar, the catastrophe occurred in the year 8490 BC.

Assuming that there was a world-wide deluge about 10,000 years ago, we can assume what occurred in the Titicaca region, as set forth in the accompanying sketches. First, before the flood, the Titicaca area was a large depression high in the Andes, into which the runoff from the rains formed a small lake. Since there is no drain, a balance existed between the incoming waters and evaporation. People built their dwellings of stone near the edge of the lake because of its stable character. When the catastrophe occurred, the entire Titicaca basin was inundated, flooding the entire area with sea water and marine life. Those people who were lucky enough to escape, found refuge on the peaks of the surrounding mountains. Finally, after thousands of years, the lake has receded to its present stage, losing more water from evaporation than the rainfall brings in.



This explains the mystery of the maritime life at the high altitude, the fact that ruins of Tiahuanaco are found six feet underground, the stone houses still under water near Puerto Acosta and the skinking level of the lake. It may take another 10,000 years for the lake to reach its former level through the slow process of evaporation.

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MEMBER EXPEDITION - NOVEMBER 1982

Arrangements are complete for the Society's Member Expedition to Vienna, Petra, Jerusalem, Cairo, Kenya and Malta departing Chicago on Sunday November 7, 1982. After a few days of sightseeing in Vienna, the musical capital of the world, the group will attend the Eighth World Conference of the Ancient Astronaut Society at the Vienna Hilton Hotel on Nov. 12 and 13.

After the Conference, the group will fly to Amman, Jordan for an overland trip to the ancient ruins of Petra. From Jordan, the travellers will visit Jerusalem, then fly to Egypt for a look at the Pyramids and Sphinx at Gizeh, before proceeding to Kenya in East Africa.

In Kenya, two days will be spent at the posh Mt. Kenya Safari Club and three days at the deluxe safari camp, Kichwa Tembo, in the Masai Mara Reserve.

On the return, an optional extension to the Mediterranean Island of Malta is available. The travellers will arrive in Chicago on Nov. 28, or Dec. 1 if Malta is included.

For a detailed itinerary and prices, contact the Society headquarters immediately.

EIGHTH WORLD CONFERENCE, VIENNA, AUSTRIA, NOV. 1982

Reservations are being accepted for the Ancient Astronaut Society's Eighth World Conference to be held in Vienna, Austria on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 12 and 13, 1982. Speakers will include Erich von Daniken, Zecharia Sitchin, George Sassoon, Harry Ruppe, Gene Phillips and many others. Members in the US, Mexico and Canada should contact the Headquarters office; all others should write to AAS, Baselstrasse 10, 4532 Feldbrunnen/SO, SWITZERLAND.

LAKE MIRAMAR

The casual visitor to Lake Miramar in southern Chiapas, Mexico would never know that 400 years ago a hundred thousand Lacandon Indians flourished in the area. There were over 100 stone dwellings on the principal island in the lake and hundreds more along the shores. Today only one family of latter-day Lacandons lives on the shore and a few crumbling stone walls on the island are all that remain of the once-great civilization. There are two stone "idols", small representations of human figures, on the island, but these have been mutilated by having their heads and hands cut off. The severed parts are missing.

At the edge of the lake at the site called "Cueva del Mono" there is a huge stone boulder rising out of the water, into which has been carved in deep relief a human figure (see accompanying photo). The style is Olmec, or at least Olmec-inspired. The position of the carving is truly baffling because it is situated high up on the face of the boulder, about 40 or 50 feet above ground level, and the face of the stone slants inward towards the bottom. There is no way the sculptor could have gotten to the site to carve the image, unless the water level then was considerably higher than it is today, or unless the boulder was moved after the carving was made, by some sort of upheaval, such as a volcanic eruption.

Aside from the few rock walls, the two "idols" and the rock-face carving, no other vestiges of civilization remain at this now-idyllic spot, completely lost to the outer world. Time has forgotten Miramar and its 1,200 foot deep, crystal clear, warm waters that extend five miles across from East to West. No roads lead to the lake and the nearest landing strip is at San Quintin, a two hour march through the thick jungle growth to the West.

But unlike some other past civilizations, we do know what happened to the Lacandons - they were annihilated by the conquering Spaniards. In the late 16th Century, the conquistadors arrived at Miramar, saw the flourishing civilization and determined to conquer the people in search for gold. After two years of stubborn resistance, the Indians were vanquished when the Spaniards brought a warship all the way from Spain, dismantled it, carried it piece by piece through the jungle, reassembled it at the shore of Lake Miramar, then sailed across the water to the island and killed all who failed to escape. After the Spaniards quit the place, the Indians never returned.

NEW BOOKS:

THE STONES OF KIRIBATI, by ERICH VON DANIKEN, published in hardcover by Souvenir Press Ltd., 43 Great Russell St., London WC1B 3PA, England.

ASTRONAUTENGOTTER, by WALTER LANGBEIN, in German by Verlag 2000, Grossherzogtum, Luxemburg.

FEUER FIEL VOM HIMMEL, by PETER KRASSA, in German by Verlag 2000, Postfach 2476, Luxemburg.

DIE STUFEN ZUM KOSMOS, BY ZECHARIA SITCHIN, the German edition of The Stairway to Heaven, published by Europabuch Verlag.

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Rock-face carving, Lake Miramar (Photo: Gene Phillips)



Above:

Enigmatic marking found in Peru, South America, near the small village of Humay, north of Ica, which is about 100 miles north of the Plain of Nazca. First discovered in 1932, the marking extends for miles and is made with thousands of holes dug into the ground, each about three feet deep. Erich von Daniken describes his visit to the site, which remains unnamed, in his book The Stones of Kiribati.