



ANCIENT SKIES

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TEOTIHUACAN: MORE MYSTERIOUS EACH DAY

BY ERICH VON DANIKEN*

When Hernando Cortes, the conqueror of Mexico, rode through the valley of Otumba, only twenty-five miles northeast of present-day Mexico City, in July 1520, he noticed peculiarly regular hill structures. He had no idea of what the soil was hiding under the horses' hooves. The Aztecs called the place "Teotihuacan", which means something like "the place where one becomes a god." But even at the time of the Aztecs, Teotihuacan was in ruins. The Aztecs themselves did not know who had at one time built Teotihuacan, but they believed that the mounds of the ruins covered the graves of the gods. An Aztec legend notes: "During the nighttime, when the sun did not yet shine, when there was no day, it is said that the gods convened and sat in counsel at the place called Teotihuacan." (1)

Modern archaeology has not discovered much more about the origin of Teotihuacan. In its heyday, the city spread over an area of twenty-five square kilometers; the population at the time is estimated at 200,000. If one compares ancient Teotihuacan to a modern city of 200,000 people, one begins to realize the extent of the infrastructure involved - water mains, garbage disposal, food supply, energy. Approximately 2600 important buildings were erected along the two central streets of Teotihuacan. All architects stubbornly adhered to the astronomical plans of some unknown predecessors during a construction period that lasted several centuries.

We do not know who built Teotihuacan, but planning supposedly began around 500 BC. Because the mysterious builders are unknown - they are not Aztecs, nor Mayas, nor Olmecs - they are simply called Teotihuacanos. These Teotihuacanos, like all the other Central American nations of that time, are said to have been stone-age people with no knowledge of metals.

How difficult it is to grasp the planning and construction of this large city is expressed by Laurette Sejourne, who was in charge of the excavations at Teotihuacan for several years: "The origins of this highly-developed culture represent the most inaccessible of all mysteries... While it is difficult to believe that cultural traits found their definitive form at the outset, it is even more difficult to imagine that the necessary complex of intellectual requirements was there all of a sudden - perfectly developed. We have no material evidence for this astonishing developmental process..." (2)

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A magnificent avenue runs in the north-south direction at Teotihuacan. It is about two miles long and 131 feet wide and today is called the "Avenue of the Dead." Temple and pyramid remains line this avenue on both sides. (Early archaeologists assumed that the small earthen mounds which lined either side of the "avenue" were tombs - hence the name "Avenue of the Dead." Subsequent excavations proved the mounds to contain stone structures, but the name persists.) The "Avenue of the Dead" in itself represents a masterpiece of planning and construction. In perfectly regular intervals, the builders constructed wide stairs in the street in order to compensate for the one-hundred-foot grade. If one looks from north to south, one gains the impression of an endless stairway which, climbing towards the sky, joins the Pyramid of the Moon at the end of the boulevard. This pyramid covers an area of approximately 495 feet by 655 feet.

To the right of the "Avenue of the Dead" lies the monumental Pyramid of the Sun (approximately 718 feet by 738 feet at its base). Although it is sixty-two feet higher than the Moon Pyramid, one is under the impression, when viewed from the top of the Sun Pyramid, that the two structures are of the same height. This is caused by the gradient in the street.

All names, such as Avenue of the Dead, Pyramid of the Moon, Pyramid of the Sun, Temple of Quetzalcoatl, and Citadel, have been created in modern times. What these structures were called originally or what purposes they served is still unclear. It is undisputed, however, that the entire city was designed from an astronomical point of view. It represents a miniature model of our solar system.

In the past few years, the area surrounding Teotihuacan has been explored. At prominent points everywhere, archaeologists found Indian drawings etched in the rock which, when connected, form a network of coordinates over Teotihuacan. At the peak of the Cerro Haravillas, about four and one-half miles west of the Sun Pyramid, a large boulder, ten feet long, with mysterious geometrical signs was discovered. From this point, the Sun Pyramid cannot be seen, because the view is obstructed by the foothills of another mountain, the Cerro Calavera. When researchers with field glasses looked in the direction of the Sun Pyramid, which is hidden behind the hill, they spotted another boulder on the next hill, this one also bearing etched drawings. The median of a circle pointed to the top of the Sun Pyramid with the accuracy of a compass.

Geodesic measuring uncovered further mysteries. From the top of the Sun Pyramid, looking west, one can watch the sun set precisely behind the marked boulder at the vernal equinox. Similar engraved rocks, positioned astronomically in relation to the Sun Pyramid and the Moon Pyramid were found on the Cerro Chiconautla, nine miles to the southwest,

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(Continued from previous page)

others as far as twenty-two miles northeast of Teotihuacan. More than thirty points are known to have some correlation to the mysterious city. Drawings identical to those on the mountains and hills around Teotihuacan were discovered on rocks 450 miles north of that city, near the town of Durango. Teotihuacan must have been the center of a geographical and cosmic system.

During my last visit to Teotihuacan, a new mystery was brought to my attention. At a dinner, Engineer Gerardo Levet, a Mexican member of the Ancient Astronaut Society, asked me: "Did you see the layer of mica that was found in the ruins?"

"Mica?" I was surprised. "What is so special about that?"

Gerardo Levet informed me: "Mica occurs only in a few rare places in Mexico. The closest larger deposits are found in the United States and in Brazil. Mica has some very astonishing qualities. For instance, it is heat-resistant and can even absorb extreme changes in temperature, so-called temperature shocks, up to 800 degrees Celsius. Nowadays, thin plates of mica are used as windows in blast furnaces. Mica is also an extremely efficient electrical insulator. It is resistant to arcing, which means that even if you add high voltage, no sparks will bounce from one piece of mica to the next. This insulating capability made mica ideal for use with modern materials, for example in high-frequency technology, radar equipment and now also in computers. Mica is resistant to all organic acids. Even thin plates of mica are not decomposed by acid. How did this rare and unique material end up in Teotihuacan?"

"Maybe mica was contained in the natural rock that was being used out here," I suggested.

"Wrong!" Engineer Levet said. "Mica occurs in high-mountain regions. Being from Switzerland, you should know that. Moreover, the mica layer in Teotihuacan has been artificially embedded between layers of stone, like a sandwich."

I wanted to find out more. The next day, my assistant, Ralf Lange, and I were out among the ruins. We asked several guards for the layer of mica. They all pretended not to know anything about it. Had Gerardo Levet been hallucinating? Finally, we found an elderly gentleman who told us that the mica layer was about two hundred yards from the Sun Pyramid. But he added that it was not open to tourists and had been covered with iron plates and locked up with padlocks. We wanted to check it out anyway. After searching for a while, we really found several iron plates at the indicated spot under an improvised wooden roof. A young guard in a blue uniform had watched us and followed us. Our financially-backed arguments finally persuaded him to pull some keys from his pocket and to lift the first metal plate.

The moment the sun hit the ground in the hole, its rays were reflected brilliantly by the mica, which covered the ground in pieces of four to eight inches in size. The same surprising effect re-occurred when the second and third and finally the fourth iron plates were raised. Now we could distinguish it clearly: layers of mica were sandwiched between the layers of stone forming the ceiling of the room below. A layer of rocks, all stacked on top of each other and joined with mortar, was followed by a layer of mica, approximately three inches thick, and then another layer of stacked rocks. I removed one of the slabs of mica and held it against the light. It could easily be split into thin lamellae with the thumb. It was undoubtedly muscovite mica, the type that our grandparents used to call "glass from Moscow." (3)

Muscovite, a potassium aluminum hydrosilicate, is predominately found in granite, sometimes in the form of a vein running through the rock. Minor deposits are present in the Gotthard Mountains in Switzerland and in the Zillertal Alps of Tirol. The larger deposits are found in India, Madagascar,

South Africa, Brazil and the United States, and in the area of Lake Baikal in the USSR. Most countries are dependent on mica imports, among them the Central American countries, whose mountains consist mostly of volcanic rock. Where did the mica used in Teotihuacan come from?

But the most pressing question was: Why did stone-age people cover and insulate rooms with mica if they could not possibly know about its properties? Stone-age people did not melt metals; therefore, they could not be aware of the heat-resistant qualities of mica. Stone-age people did not use high-frequency equipment, so why did they use mica? Stone-age people did not handle hazardous acids. Why did they use mica? And where did it come from?

Several rooms were insulated with a mica ceiling. What did these rooms store? What was processed in these rooms? Archaeologists are silent. I can think of two possible answers, but I find both of them unsatisfying.

First, high heat was produced in the room covered by the mica layer - heat that was not supposed to escape from the room. This would apply, for instance, for the operation of a foundry furnace. However, since the bottom layer of the ceiling, which is made of stone, would have been heated up first, traces of the exposure to such high temperatures would still be visible in the rock. I was unable to verify that because the guard persistently refused to admit us into the subterranean chambers.

Secondly, was the room under the sandwich layers supposed to be protected from an outside heat source? This possibility is not satisfying either, because the layer of mica is topped by twenty inches of rock, which by itself would have provided very good insulation against heat. Were experiments conducted in the rooms? Gerardo Levet claims that an archaeologist friend of his told him that two pipes run directly from these rooms to the center of the Sun Pyramid. A chamber is known to exist under the center of the Sun Pyramid, but the entrance is blocked by heavy iron gates. What is kept from the public here?

Was equipment of the gods stored under the heat shield? To be totally speculative: Was this the central energy source for Teotihuacan?

Regardless of the many questions and the scant answers, one thing is certain: the planners and builders of Teotihuacan must have been aware of at least some of the particular properties of mica. Otherwise they would not have gone to all the trouble of using the sandwich insulation. Does that not allow for the conclusion that some big unknowns, gods, built the rooms for their own use? It is obvious that somebody knew where and how to obtain mica and was familiar with its properties, and that somebody was not one of the stone-age people who built Teotihuacan.

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BY THE LIVING HEAVEN AND THE LIVING EARTH

BY ANDREW TOMAS*

Teng-mu, a scholar of the Sung Dynasty of China (10th-11th Centuries), wrote a remarkable sentence at a time when Europe was obscured by the Dark Ages: "How unreasonable it would be to suppose that besides this earth and the sky which we can see, there are no other skies and no other earths." This cosmic outlook had existed in China for thousands of years and gave origin to an ancient oath: "I swear by the living Heaven and the Living Earth!"

Why was China called the Celestial Empire until the Chinese Revolution of 1911? Why did the national flag of the Chinese Empire depict a red dragon on a yellow banner? Why were the Emperors of China titled the "Sons of Heaven"?

As one who resided in northern and central China for 20 years, I confidently say it was because of the landing of "fiery dragons" in the Gobi Desert, hence the yellow background of the Imperial flag symbolizing the desert. The red dragons which came down from the sky must have raised huge clouds of dust. This event allegedly occurred in the year 2698 BC from which the Chinese calendar begins. Sometime in February 1987 the Chinese people all over the world will be celebrating the new 4685th year with the processions of dragons amidst the rattle of firecrackers commemorating the spectacular and noisy arrival of the Sons of Heaven in fiery dragons, flying fishes and turtles in the Gobi. The Russian philologist Lisevitch, gave a scholarly analysis of these legends in the Soviet magazine *Africa and Asia*. (1)

According to ancient texts the dragons had a metallic sheen and some carried as many as 70 passengers, or "ancient astronauts". Chinese folklore insists that the flying dragons were not only vehicles of locomotion but also carriers of heavenly blessings. It is said in Chinese history that before the landing of the Sons of Heaven the people of China lived like savages. The dragons gave them the science of agriculture, domestication of animals, breeding of silk worms and all the arts and sciences. This is another "cosmic civilizer" myth which ancient Egypt, Babylon, India, Greece, Mexico and Peru also had.

Where did the Sons of Heaven come from? The ancient books of China mention Emperor Huang-Ti who had a special tripod which he aligned with the star Regulus in the constellation of Leo. In fact, Huang-Ti's second name was Sian-Yuan (or Regulus) to remind the Chinese nation of his cosmic origin and connection with this star that is some 77 light years distant from our solar system.

How could these Regulus astronauts cover such a vast distance in one lifetime no matter how long it was? The texts of antiquity state that the "dragon man" Fen-Tse "died temporarily" for 200 years during his flight. Does this sound as though he was in suspended animation?

The heritage of the Dragon Emperors was amazingly rich in scientific accomplishments. Huang-Ti is considered to be the father of Chinese medicine. The *Book of Changes* or *I Ching*, dating back to this legendary epoch, contains diagrams of whole and broken lines, forming 64 hexagrams. In 1679 Leibniz discovered the binary system in mathematics which is based on the numbers 1 and 0. Our computers work on the "on-and-off" principle of the binaries. When Leibniz had learned of the *I Ching* he realized that his binary system had been known in China for thousands of years.

The medical art of acupuncture is also traced to the Sons of Heaven. It teaches that there are some 700 points on the human body which act as focal points for a biological energy. Fantasy? Yet how can a needle stuck into one's foot help a sick liver? How can a few needles inserted into certain spots on the skin permit a Chinese surgeon to dispense with anesthetics and perform a painless operation?

Soviet medical researchers have built electronic devices which make the acupuncture centers visible on a screen, establishing a scientific foundation for acupuncture. Not only that, Dr. Podshibyakin of the Kiev Institute of Physiology has discovered that during the intensification of solar flares, all of the acupuncture points on the body increase their brightness.

After the departure of the "Dragons" the Chinese continued to study astronomy, medicine and even found "dragon currents". They were centuries ahead of Europeans in discovering that a network of magnetic currents covers our planet.

Chinese lore speaks of a secret abode of the Immortals in the Kun Lun Mountains, south of the Gobi, the landing site of the Dragons. In times of crises Chinese emperors used to send envoys to consult these superior men, the masters of Space and Time.

Tibet has a legend of "celestial kings" who "came to earth" and then "went to heaven". Tibetan Buddhist books speak of "iron serpents" which fly in space and of "dwellers of other worlds". They also have a written tradition about Shambhala where "celestial beings" reside in central Asia. This legend tallies with the Chinese belief in the Kingdom of Xi Wang Mu where the Immortals dwell. (2)

The crucial question pertaining to all these legends of China and Tibet is this: is the science of the Sons of Heaven still alive? To respond to this question in the affirmative, and to state that the heirs of the Sons of Heaven still preserve this arcane knowledge I shall relate a story from my life in China.

I met George Rosen in Shanghai in the 1930s. He was a Russian emigre, an aristocrat who spoke English like an Oxford don, French like a Parisian and German like a Berliner. After the Russian Revolution he escaped to north China where he secured employment with the Chinese Eastern Railway in Harbin, Manchuria in the early 1920s. One summer on a bright sunny morning he visited the Hingan Range, the northern end of which borders on Siberia and the southern on the Gobi. There on a forested mountain slope he came across an old Chinese ginseng prospector who was seeking this rare medicinal root, prized in China as the "elixir of life."

Rosen spoke Mandarin fluently and so he approached the man and began a conversation about the properties of the root. The Chinese herbalist then said that old China had a science of her own which was unknown in the West.

"Give me your handkerchief, sir," the old man said. Rosen gave it to him and the Chinese stretched the handkerchief in front of himself and said: "Now look at it!" George Rosen concentrated his gaze on the handkerchief without the slightest idea as to what the reason for all this was. However, in two or three minutes he began to see shadows and then pictures on his white handkerchief in quick succession as if on a motion picture run at high speed. First came a scene of Manchuria full of Japanese soldiers (obviously a panorama of a future occupation of north China by Japan). After that George Rosen saw himself in a warmer city than Harbin but still in China. Then frightening pictures of a great war passed on the small screen, his handkerchief. Finally he was aboard an ocean liner in European waters. A few minutes more and all vanished.

The smiling ginseng prospector handed the handkerchief back and said: "We old Taoists have a cinema which shows real time events." After this preview of the future Rosen decided to resign from the railway and went to Shanghai about 1930 where he obtained a position with a British firm.

Remarkably, Japan occupied Manchuria in 1932 and then most of China in 1938-1942. World War II broke out, inflicting great hardships on all Europeans and Americans in occupied China. After World War II Rosen left China for Europe. Yet George Rosen saw it

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(Continued from previous page)

all in the mid-1920s on his own handkerchief! Would our future Time Television be as simple?

And here is another equally strange story. Peter Kolosimo in his Timeless Earth (3) mentions a Soviet expedition to Tibet in 1959. In the huge Gandan monastery, some 25 miles east of Lhasa, built in 1409, the Russian scientists met a learned lama whom they questioned about the Tibetan Buddhist tradition of infinite life in the universe.

The lama selected two members of the Soviet group and then asked them to perform certain exercises of mental concentration. On another day he brought a strange apparatus which issued a muffled note. As they sat in the hall of the lamasery a strange mist appeared in the middle of the room which soon crystallized into a "swarm of fireflies". Actually this was a three-dimensional miniature image of our solar system. The Soviet scientists were surprised to see a tiny spark beyond a shining dot which was supposed to be Pluto. The lama confirmed that it was a planet still unknown to our astronomy. Needless to say, the Russians were astonished and one of the two participants made the following remark later: "Neither I nor my colleague will ever know whether the image was really before us or only in our minds, whether it was projected through space or imposed on our senses by the lama himself."

So the enigma remains: do we have a tenth planet and was the Tibetan lama more knowledgeable than the two Soviet scientists, thanks to some archaic scientific tradition with which we are not acquainted?

The history of China narrates an extraordinary episode from the life of Emperor Kublai Khan (13th Century) in whose service Marco Polo passed many years.

Early in his reign Kublai Khan made Tibetan Buddhism his official religion after a quarrelsome gathering in Beijing of priests of various creeds. Sitting on the throne of the Celestial Empire the learned Kublai addressed the debating assembly: "Holy men, you must now prove the power of your gods by a miracle so that I could judge them myself."

Most priests and monks became silent and confused but Lama Turjo Gamba, a Sakya monk from Tibet, looked calmly at the Emperor for a few minutes and then cast a glance at the crowded hall in the palace. Without saying a word, he stretched out his hand and at that moment the heavy golden goblet of the Emperor of China raised itself from the table and tipped before the lips of the Great Khan, unsupported by any hand. All were struck with astonishment.

Emperor Kublai Khan was so impressed by this demonstration that he presented the ring of Jenghiz Khan, his grandfather, to Phag-pa, the Sakya Lama-King of Tibet who had ruled before the Dalai Lamas, in token of his appreciation of the Sakya Lama Turjo Gamba's miracles of which there were several. (4)

Since none of the competing priests doubted the genuineness of this phenomenon of levitation in the palace, must we not be open-minded about this page of Chinese history? Was it a case of antigravitation so much desired by our aviation and space engineers?

The Kangyur and Tengyur, the sacred books of Tibetan Buddhism, state that the system of Kalachakra (Wheel of Time) had come to Tibet from Shambhala, the Cosmic Base, also called the Abode of the Immortals of China. (5) According to these books this event occurred in 1026 AD which is the first year of the Tibetan calendar used by Tibetans even today.

Centuries before Copernicus, the Kalachakra students of Tibet and Mongolia were taught that our earth revolves around the sun. The doctrines of this school were surprisingly modern:

-The earth is not the only garden of life in the Cosmos.

-Living beings are countless and so are the world systems.

Does this information emanate from the Abode of "Starmen" in Central Asia?

The cosmic tradition of China is quite strong even

in this 20th Century. On the 8th day of the first moon (sometime in February) falls the Star Festival. On the 2nd day of the second moon the celebration of the Festival of the Dragon takes place. There is a significant holiday on the 7th day of the seventh moon - the Milky Way Festival.

It may well be that beyond age-old myths of China and Tibet lies a historical reality - the descent of extraterrestrial astronauts in fiery "dragon-like" spaceships in the Gobi Desert who laid the foundation to the "Celestial Empire" with its high culture that is almost 5,000 years old.

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*Andrew Tomas is the author of over 60 volumes, published in 17 countries, including We Are Not the First, one of the classics in the ancient astronaut field. After living for several decades in Asia, Australia and Europe, he now resides in the US, where he remains active in historical research, writing and consulting. His address is 845 East 20th Street, Chico, California, 95926 USA.



"DRAGON SEAL" made

for ANDREW TOMAS

in China in 1935.

PLANS ARE UNDERWAY FOR THE NEXT WORLD CONFERENCE of the Ancient Astronaut Society to be held at the Hotel Lisanj in Novi Vinodolski, Yugoslavia. In addition to three days of lectures, slide presentations and discussions, many social activities are planned for the event. Members will arrive on September 9, 1987 and be greeted with an evening reception hosted by the Mayor of Novi Vinodolski. After attending the Conference on September 10th, Members may participate in an optional Fisherboat Party, beginning at 5:00 PM, with wine, music and food. On September 11 after the Conference, Members may enjoy an optional Picnic. After the Conference on September 12, there will be a gigantic, gala Buffet, with complimentary cocktails hosted by the Society. Sunday, September 13, 1987 will be departure day.

There will be twenty speakers, five from the USSR, five from the USA, five from the German-speaking countries of Europe and five from the remainder of the World. Conference languages are German and English, with simultaneous translation facilities.

Tentative fees for the Conference and related activities are approximately: US\$50 for the Conference fee, US\$15 for the Fisherboat Party, US\$20 for the Picnic and US\$25 for the Gala Buffet. Rates at the new Hotel Lisanj, situated directly on the Adriatic coast, are extremely reasonable: Approximately US\$25 for a single room with breakfast, and approximately US\$30 per person in a double room with breakfast.

At the same time as the Ancient Astronaut Society Conference, a joint USA-USSR Space Exhibition will be held at nearby Rijeka, Yugoslavia, to celebrate 30 years since Sputnik I and 25 years of manned space travel. The Exhibition is being organized by the Yugoslavian government and several Russian cosmonauts are expected to attend and to visit our Conference.

Members in the US, Canada and Mexico should write to the Society Headquarters in the US for further details. Members in the rest of the World should write to Ancient Astronaut Society, Baselstrasse 1, 4532 Feldbrunnen/SO, SWITZERLAND.