



ANCIENT SKIES

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EXTRATERRESTRIAL STRATEGY AND ETHICS - PAST AND PRESENT

BY Dr. James W. Deardorff*

Much has been studied and written about the likelihood that human-like creatures once visited Earth in their flying chariots, and were called "gods" and "goddesses" by the early inhabitants. It would appear that from 3000 to some 15000 years ago, or more, Earth was visited fairly frequently by ancient astronauts, who sometimes stayed around for extended periods. On some of these visitations the sky-gods imparted skills in agriculture and other subjects to the natives, thus helping establish our earliest civilizations. In other instances, the literature of mythology indicates that the ancient astronauts were content to allow earthmen and women to be their slaves or mates, and encouraged them to worship them as gods. This suggests that the early visitors had diverse origins and possessed a considerable range of ethical values.

The fact that no one group ever took over Earth, however, suggests that, at the least, the more ethical ones had means of keeping those of lowly ethical values in check. It implies that some were more advanced than others, in both technology and in ethical values. If this were not true, we should expect that only one species of sky-gods would have dominated, rather than the plethora of descriptions coming from the legends of Earth's various past cultures. Thus, it would seem that the more advanced ancient astronauts had a philosophy of "live and let live," or "learn and let learn" relative to both us and other ancient astronauts, augmented by taking action only when necessary to prevent any non-ethical groups from engaging in any disastrous acts towards Earth and its incipient civilizations.

Over the last 3000 years or so, the evidence is less definite that ancient astronauts continued to engage in extended visitations. Instead, we then find evidence of occasional extraordinary sightings and events of short duration little different from those which can be traced from our own century back a couple of thousand years. The Fatima event of 1917 is an example. The orthodox explanation is that as mankind became more civilized, we began to

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This article is based upon the lecture to be presented by Dr. Deardorff at the Ancient Astronaut Society's 16th Anniversary World Conference in Schaumburg, Illinois on August 25, 26, 27, 1989.

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discard our superstitious frame of mind that included sky-gods and sky-chariots. The extraordinary events, which would today equate to UFO events, are ignored on the basis of being so rare, and therefore so bizarre, as not to merit discussion.

The alternative I would like to present is that the ethical values of the more advanced ancient visitors from space no longer permitted extended visitations after our early civilizations began to progress. It probably became obvious to those in charge that we would never develop self-sufficient civilizations if we were to continue to rely upon them, the ancient astronauts, instead of learning to think for ourselves. With them around to be treated as gods and goddesses, how could we ever evolve in mind and spirit, in technology and ethics? So the ancient astronaut strategy had to shift to one of greatly restricting their contacts with us so as not to interfere with our societies. What occasional contacts continued to occur would form the basis of new legends, to be sure, but would not affect societal development. Presumably, the more advanced ancient astronauts from time to time had to enforce this strategy upon less advanced ones who would not have abided by it.

This state of affairs, mostly a hands-off policy, seems to have persisted for several millennia until about the time of World War II. Whether it was the greater rate of acceleration of our technological growth then, including the beginnings of space exploration, or our development of nuclear weapons of mass destruction, we do not know, but since 1947 the ancient astronauts started showing themselves to us with much greater frequency and in much greater numbers. The modern terminology is, of course, extraterrestrials (ETs) instead of ancient astronauts, and UFOs instead of sky-chariots.

Some ufologists prefer to think of the UFO intelligences as interdimensional beings, or denizens of other realities, or of "multiverses," because of the apparent ability of UFOs to transcend space and time, and manipulate the human psyche. However, I shall continue to call them ETs on the grounds that whatever their abilities are now, in ages past each ET group likely evolved through a more primitive stage similar to our own long before developing the technology that could cause their vehicles to vanish suddenly from sight. Their past evolutions likely occurred upon distant planets within this or other galaxies, so the term ET may well be appropriate whether or not they possess inter-dimensional capabilities.

Though the rate of occurrence of reported UFO sightings and close encounters since 1947 has been as large as several thousand per year per nation, only about one person out of 20 believes to have been a UFO witness. This is such a sufficiently small fraction that the scientific establishment can continue to ignore the UFO phenomenon, ridiculous

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ling it when they find it necessary to debunk any rare sighting which may find its way into a news story.

Surprisingly, the idea that extraterrestrials are around and are covertly observing us has made it into the scientific literature. One hypothesis (out of several) to explain it is called the "embargo hypothesis" - that they are maintaining an embargo against Earth and the solar system until such time as we are mentally and ethically prepared to realize our position as newcomers within the galaxy, and to accept the fact that multitudinous ETs predate us, all with technical capabilities far exceeding ours. The argument is often made that until we learn to live together in harmony amongst ourselves, we would certainly not be able to treat ETs as anything but enemies if they were to show themselves openly.

An extension of this hypothesis is the "leaky embargo" hypothesis. By its reasoning, the embargo against Earth has had a purposeful "leak" since about 1947, consisting of occasional ET contacts with individuals as well as UFO sightings purposefully permitted. The reason for the leak is to educate those who are mentally prepared to accept that ETs are around, possess great technology, are generally non-malevolent, and have control over certain psychic phenomena. Students of the UFO phenomenon have therefore learned at least that much. The embargo as a whole is maintained, however, by not leaving enough evidence behind to satisfy most scientists of the reality of ETs. In this way they are behaving ethically, in that they are gradually preparing us for a future eventuality while not suddenly forcing themselves upon that large fraction of humanity whose belief systems cannot withstand the thought that we are potentially under the control of extraterrestrials.

What are some of the other reasons why persons who speak for science wish to discredit the reality of the UFO phenomenon? Why do they wish to discredit the reality of ancient astronauts? Let us tackle the latter question first.

If we look into what little has found its way into the scientific literature on the matter, we find two main thoughts leading to the negative scientific consensus. First, it is claimed that no definite artifacts of an advanced civilization have been discovered on Earth or on other planets of the solar system so far investigated. Of course, this claim omits the possibility that the pyramids were constructed either under the guidance of ancient astronauts or using techniques taught by them, and it omits many other smaller artifacts with drawings which seem to depict ancient astronauts and/or their sky chariots. Thus, the critics await nothing less than the discovery of artifacts indicative of an ancient civilization more like our own today, showing heavy use of metals and/or materials more advanced than any we know of today. However, woe unto any archaeologist who comes across any such artifact and attempts to prove to colleagues that its date of origin precedes the modern era! The preference would be to forget any such evidence rather than to lose one's professional reputation or job.

The critics' negative claims also omit the possibility that the Face on Mars is an ancient astronaut sculpture or artifact. This possibility cannot yet even be discussed within the "reputable" scientific literature.

Second, it is claimed that if extraterrestrials had been around in the past 30000 years or so, many more would have visited Earth in even earlier times, going back many tens of millions of years. That is because the relatively recent age of the solar system in comparison with other stellar systems within the galaxy would permit other ETs to have evolved, starting several billion years ahead of us. That much is plausible. The conclusion then drawn is that surely some small percentage of any such visitors to Earth would not have had high enough ethical va-

lues to leave us essentially alone to develop. Just one such ET group could have taken over Earth millions of years ago, in which case we would not be here today (assuming we are in no way related to them). Of course, this argument assumes that only one ET group is ever around Earth at any one time, and that the more ethical ones who could deter the least ethical ones from such behavior have no reason to leave a contingent behind in Earth's vicinity for substantial lengths of time to observe and explore its flora and fauna, and to interact with other ET groups.

Thus the critics have omitted two key points from consideration: (1) that technology thousands of years into our future, which advanced ETs would possess, should permit easy travel within the galaxy, thus allowing multiple numbers of ET groups to be around Earth, exploring it and observing it at any one time; and (2) that the majority of these ET groups would possess better ethical values than to take over Earth and cause a cessation in the further evolution of its leading creatures, primates. And it must be supposed that the majority ET viewpoint is the one most likely to prevail. In fact, we should allow that most ETs would recognize that if such a policy did not prevail, they themselves would not now exist. Thus, a self-realized Galactic Golden Rule is more likely to exist than not. The above position would seem to be the most plausible one against which scientists should test contrary hypotheses.

Concerning why the scientific community tends to disbelieve that UFOs could represent a genuine ET phenomenon, the previous arguments form the stated basis for that belief too. If they can conclude that ancient astronauts have not visited Earth in aeons past, leaving behind artifacts, then they can conclude that the odds are extremely small that they would have shown up here in just the past 40 years. That is, the ratio of 40 years to 400 million years, a rough date back when the Earth first greened up and could have appeared attractive to ancient astronauts, is only one in ten million. If they can conclude that ETs did not visit us back then, judging from our own existence now apparently free of alien influence, then they can conclude that it is ten million times less likely that we have been visited by UFOs since 1947.

Hence, the arguments which support the past existence of ancient astronauts are crucial in destroying those "scientific" claims that UFOs do not exist today, or have no important meaning.

There are other reasons, however, why spokesmen for science tend to ridicule the idea that either ancient astronauts existed during the dawn of our civilizations or that UFOs have existed since 1947. First, we should note that it is obvious that if either one of these two ideas became scientifically accepted, it would strongly support the truth of the other one. Therefore, science tends to attack them both.

Next, we must bear in mind that science is based upon accepting only that which can be confirmed at will by scientists, as from laboratory experiments, or only that for which some acceptable theoretical framework already exists to explain it. However, the idea that ETs have been around in the past and are around now, possessing and employing a strategy of dealing with us that includes covertness, is unacceptable to science. Why is it unacceptable? For one reason, because it would seem to take control of our own destiny away from us. For another reason, it would mean that these ETs are at least as intelligent as we, which tends to detract from the importance of our own level of intelligence. For yet another reason, it would mean that their levels of science and technology are advanced far beyond ours, and some scientists and even ufologists still cling to the idea that our late 20th-century science knows all there is to know about the physical laws of the universe.

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Because of scientific egoism then, or scientism, these arguments of plausibility are found unacceptable to the spokesmen for science. Thus, they are labelled as "bizarre," so that the following maxim can be brought to bear: The more bizarre the reported event or artifact, the more evidence is needed to prove it is genuine. Presently, an impossibly large amount of evidence is required to prove the reality of any event or artifact that actually involves the technology of a civilization thousands of years ahead of ours. It does not seem to matter how many thousands of such events are reported, or how many dozens of artifacts are found, if no one of them can be found genuine or ancient, respectively, beyond any shadow of a doubt, then they can all be dismissed if the degree of bizarreness is considered sufficiently great.

The strategy of the extraterrestrials since 1947 appears to be to gradually erode away our sense of what we consider bizarre by allowing a fraction of the world's population to glimpse or experience briefly their presence and UFO technology. At the same time, they keep introducing us to events containing paranormal and psychic aspects, as if that is part of what they wish us to learn about. An example is the abduction phenomenon. Just a few years ago most ufologists were dismissing all abduction reports because they were considered too bizarre to study. Now, after hundreds of such reports have accumulated, most ufologists in the United States are treating them quite seriously. This could represent a progression in human thinking resulting from purposeful alien strategy.

What does this strategy seem to be leading up to? It would seem to serve a purpose only if we are destined to meet up with the ETs some day in an overt manner. It would then be a preparation for that day when all mankind suddenly is forced to realize that extraterrestrials are real and are around us now as ancient astronauts were in the past. This would of course be the shock of all time for mankind, perhaps explaining why ethical ETs would presently be engaged in actions designed to mitigate the adverse effects of the eventual shock. As to when this will occur, it seems an exercise in futility to speculate. However, a biblical quote is appropriate: "But of that day and hour no one knows."

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THE ENIGMA OF ZECHARIAH'S FLYING ROLL

BY Dr. Franklin R. Ruehl*

Does the Bible prove that the universe is literally teeming with life, that life, indeed, is the common denominator of the cosmic backdrop?

While the cases of Ezekiel's spaceship and Jacob's ladder have been highly touted, another intriguing biblical UFO description has gone virtually unnoticed. Zechariah, a prophet who flourished in the 6th century B.C., described an object he termed a "flying roll" (Zecharia 5:1,2). Its dimensionality was 20 cubits in length and 10 cubits in breadth. Now, a cubit was an archaic measure of length ranging from 18 to 22 inches. Assuming the lower limit of 18 inches, the unknown object's measurements would have been 15 feet by 30 feet; accepting the upper value of 22 inches, the object's dimensionality grows to 18.3 by 36.6 feet.

With regard to configuration, the object could either be saucer-shaped (i.e. oblate spheroidal) or cigar-shaped (i.e. prolate spheroidal), as the dimensionality could accommodate both forms.

The identification of the unknown as a flying roll also allows for either configuration. If the UFO resembled a roll in the sense of a bakery product, such as a bagel, then the saucer shape seems more apropos. On the other hand, if the roll alluded to a scroll or some other cylindrical object, then the cigar shape appears to be correct.

But, whether saucer- or cigar-shaped, Zechariah's reference to a flying roll must be duly recorded in the annals of ufology as further biblical confirmation of the ancient astronaut hypothesis!

For skeptics who doubt that aliens could have been exploring terra firma over 2,500 years ago, consider that there abide some 400 billion stars in our galaxy, the Milky Way, which is just one galaxy among an estimated 100 billion in our island universe. Assuming 10 planets per star, as we have in our own solar family, that yields 4 trillion planets, or potential sites for alien bioforms to reside on, in our own galaxy, 400 septillion (i.e. 400 billion trillion) in our island universe!

Moreover, many planetary moons, such as Triton about Neptune, Titan about Saturn, and the Galilean quartet of Io, Europa, Callisto and Ganymede about Jupiter in our planetary brood possess atmospheres, and, thus, the potential to give vitalization to life. Extrapolating to other stellar conglomerations gives us an additional 2 trillion possible domiciles for ETs in our galaxy alone.

Coupled to the statistical evidence is the temporal evidence concerning the age of the cosmos. Specifically, according to the most accurate estimates, our particular island universe is approximately 20 billion years old. Considering that the earth is roughly 4.6 billion years old, some 77% of all planetary bodies should be older than earth.

Once a society enters the atomic era, the computer era, the space era, progress increases exponentially so that a difference of 100 years could mean a 10-, 15-, or even 30-fold increase in technological development. As an example, if a 1489 Neapolitan was suddenly transported to 1589 Naples, he would scarcely notice any difference. But, if an 1889 New Yorker was abruptly teleported to 1989 New York, he would definitely suffer a severe case of future shock!

A civilization 1,000 years older than ours could readily have mastered the intricacies of interplanetary, interstellar, even intergalactic space travel. And, we are talking about the possibility of societies not just 1,000 years older than ours, but 1, 5, 10, or even 15 billion years older!

Thus, drawing from the statistical and temporal evidence, one must conclude that innumerable civilizations exist in the cosmic void with the capacity to have created Zechariah's flying roll.

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TWILIGHT OF CIVILIZATION

BY ANDREW TOMAS*

Between the appearance of the Cro-Magnon man and the early cultures of the Tigris-Euphrates and the Nile Valleys, spreads a 30,000-year long span of prehistory.

It is erroneous to regard the Cro-Magnon man as a primitive caveman inferior to the ancient Sumerian or Egyptian. The tall, handsome Cro-Magnon wandered into Europe during the Ice Age from the east leaving traces in Central Siberia, south Russia, Czechoslovakia, France and Spain. The strong six-footer quickly replaced the primitive Neanderthal and became a successful hunter with settlements in camps and caves.

Cro-Magnon was a man of leisure as he probably worked only two hours a day to provide himself with beef, fish, mushrooms, roots, nuts and berries which were all in abundance. He had plenty of free time to develop his artistic and intellectual abilities. In fact, his brain was larger than that of the future European, his assumed successor.

The Cro-Magnon man had bows and arrows for his hunts on aurochs, wild horses and deer. He has oil lamps of stone to illuminate his caves which contained rock paintings and carvings of high artistic quality. In fact, the aurochs of Altamira (Spain) and Lascaux (France) painted by prehistoric artists can compare favorably with, if not surpass, the bulls of Picasso displayed in his museum at Antibes on the Riviera. Even though some 20,000 years separate these paintings, the older artwork is superior.

Unlike modern man who seldom looks at the night sky and can identify, at best, only a few stars and constellations, or none at all, the Cro-Magnon was apparently observing the movements of the moon and the sun. According to Dr. Alexander Marshak, in his The Roots of Civilization, the Cro-Magnon of Spain and France had developed a sophisticated calendar composed of notches and marks on animal bones, some made in colors, showing phases of the moon.

Man-made holes on cave ceilings and walls at Pierre Folles and Vendie in France have been identified as representations of the constellations Ursa Major and Ursa Minor, and of the Pleiades in the Taurus constellation.

These people were not savages. Their women were able to tailor leather clothes with fishbone needles. One of the most remarkable portraits of these Cro-Magnon women is located in a rock shelter near Lerida, Spain. This 20,000-year old wall painting shows women wearing very modern, thick dresses, fur caps and boots. (See illustration.)



The Cro-Magnon of Siberia was probably the ancestor of the natives who lived on the shores of Lake Baikal. About 5,000 years ago they could make not only sharp knives and axes of nephrite but also saws and rings which found their way to China. What is so special about nephrite? This green stone is

extremely hard and difficult to carve. When Soviet factory workers tried to break a nephrite boulder with a steam hammer, the steel anvil was smashed to pieces. So it is still a riddle how early hunters and fishermen of Asia were able to cut nephrite and make knives and axes from it.

In India non-glazed clay jugs are used to store drinking water. Because of the evaporation of water through the porous clay, the water from the jugs is cool even in the hottest weather. This principle of refrigeration was evidently used in Mohenjo Daro 4,500 years ago as fragments of similar pottery were found in its ruins.

The theory of ancient astronauts and celestial culture-bearers does not deprive man of the ability to discover things for himself. It merely shows that cosmic visitors could have guided man, charted the course of his future progress and given him knowledge that the early earthman could not have had.

From whom did the ancient Tibetans receive a scientific revelation, anticipating William Smith and Charles Lyell, the pioneers of modern geology, about the constant changing of the earth's crust?

According to old Tibetan legends the immensely high plateau of Tibet was once at the bottom of the sea. In 1964-1966 fossils of two ichthyosaurs were found in the Himalayas which swam in a now-vanished sea 180 million years ago, when man did not exist in Tibet or elsewhere.

And from whom did they obtain knowledge regarding "fiery iron serpents" that flew between "inhabited stellar worlds"? Jallal-Uddin Rumi, a 13th century poet of Persia, echoes this cosmic tradition: "From these stars there has come forth a wondrous people that the mysteries may be revealed."

Herodotus wrote in his Histories that Osiris and Isis came to earth in the year 15,526 B.C. The world was different then and the Cro-Magnon was still confronted with permanent European glaciers.

The solar calendar of the Land of the Nile and the lunar calendar of the Assyrians had a common opening in the year 11,542 B.C. The Aztec world cycles commenced in 18,612 B.C.

In the year 4,241 B.C., on July 19, the rising sun in Egypt appeared together with the star Sirius and that date marked the beginning of the Egyptian calendar. By the year 3,500 B.C. the Egyptian priests issued their first star catalog.

Take another look at the 20,000-year old drawing of the tall, smartly-dressed Cro-Magnon women from Lerida. How can anyone imagine that they lived 14,000 years before the First Dynasty of Egypt, 17,247 years before the founding of Rome and 17,224 years before the First Olympiad?

This concrete evidence from prehistory makes the fantastically distant dates of Herodotus and the Aztecs more credible. In the past three centuries science determined that man and civilization are very much older than former generations had imagined. The basis of history rests on archaeological remains and documents, whose horizon looms somewhere around 5,000 B.C. However, a mass of rock paintings, fossils and artifacts exists to prove that a twilight of civilization was a real thing as early as 20,000 years ago. The drawing of Lerida Cro-Magnon women spectacularly demonstrates this point.

Traces of Civilization must be sought in the so-called Magdalenian and Aurignacian periods that stretch from 12,000 to 25,000 years before our time.

Astronomical recordings on the bones of extinct beasts that were discovered in the Cro-Magnon caves in Spain and France suggest observations of the sun, moon and stars over a period of thousands of years. So the question is raised whether the historical horizon has to be moved deeply backwards into prehistory, contrary to the established views.

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