



ANCIENT SKIES

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ANIMAL MUTATIONS IN ANCIENT EGYPT?

BY ERICH VON DANIKEN*

Sakkara, only 30 kilometers from Cairo, is the biggest and oldest archaeological dig in the world. The place is full of mysteries, because beneath Sakkara millions of mummified animals of all kinds were found as well as kilometers of subterranean corridors. I know what I am talking about. I was down there.

Open to the tourists is the so-called Seraphaum, which contains gigantic stone sarcophagi made of granite from Aswan, which is about 1000 kilometers distant from Sakkara. The archaeological literature states that mummified bulls were found in these sarcophagi. The same story is told to tourists today. The fact is that there has never been found even one bull in these sarcophagi! Here is the story:

In 1851 the brilliant French archaeologist Auguste Mariette discovered these subterranean tunnels and holes. All the sarcophagi were empty. They contained absolutely nothing. A few months later, Auguste Mariette was lucky. He found two sarcophagi which were closed and sealed. This time he was sure that he had found some of the holy bulls like the first one, the so-called Apis-Bull. There is, by the way, absolutely no doubt that the old Egyptians had a cult with this holy animal. Auguste Mariette opened the first sarcophagus and inside he found hundreds of very little pieces of broken bones, wrapped in a stinking mass of bitumen (asphalt, pitch or tar). Mariette was deeply disappointed. He went to the second sarcophagus and this time he felt sure that he would find a mummified bull, because the sarcophagus was sealed with the sign of the holy Apis-Bull. When he opened the second one, his disappointment was even greater. Again hundreds of little broken bones, all mixed under a terrible stinking mass of bitumen. Had somebody destroyed the mummified bull? No! Auguste Mariette himself states that the seal and cover of the sarcophagus were unbroken and the linen inside was not destroyed. The mass of bitumen and bone pieces were already in the sarcophagus, put there by the Egyptian priests themselves.

*This article, like his article "Mysteries of Ancient Egypt" published in *Ancient Skies* 17:2, is based upon Mr. von Daniken's presentation at the 16th Anniversary World Conference of the Ancient Astronaut Society held in Chicago in August 1989.

Mr. von Daniken is the author of *Chariots of the Gods?* and 13 other books on the ancient astronaut theme, which have sold over 50 million copies to date world-wide. His five latest books, all best-sellers in Germany, have yet to be translated into English.

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Later, in this century, two British archaeologists discovered other unbroken sarcophagi with the sign of the holy bull. In one case there was absolutely no doubt in their minds that a bull would be found in the sarcophagus because the two horns with a golden disk stuck out of the linen. Piece by piece the linen was carefully peeled away, but inside was again the same stinking mass of bitumen with the bones of eight different animals, two of which could not even be identified. In another sarcophagus the bones of a bull-like animal was found, but it appeared to have two heads!

What now? It is interesting to note that not all bulls in ancient Egypt were holy, but only certain animals with very special signs which distinguished them from the others of the same species. Concerning the holy Apis-Bull, Heordotus wrote:

"The so-called Apis is black. On his front he has a white, rectangular spot. On his back the picture of an eagle. His tail hairs are doubled and under his tongue one recognizes the outline of a beetle."

Only the Apis-Bull was glorified as a heavenly animal in prehistoric Egypt. Our unknown ancestors considered this bull with the special signs as an animal from the gods; one who descended from the universe. It was a personal work of the god Ptah. This is also proved by golden disks with many stars which were found between the two horns of some bulls. The Greek historian and philosopher Plutarch, who lived about 50 AD, wrote that this holy bull was not born on Earth by a natural process, but was created by a beam from heaven. Plutarch's words are confirmed on a stela, which Auguste Mariette found in the Seraphaum.

Concerning the holy bull, it has been written: "you have no father, holy Apis, you have no mother, the gods created you directly."

Is there any explanation for the strong belief of the old Egyptians that certain animals with certain markings were holy and belonged to the gods? Is it possible that extraterrestrials created animals by genetic manipulation?

Speculations of this kind are confirmed in the writings of the old Egyptian priest Manetho and also by the old historian Julius Africanus. Eusebius, one of the fathers of the Church, quoted long passages from the book of the priest Manetho, and I now quote from Eusebius:

"There was a time when the gods created humanoids with two wings, but also with four wings and two faces, and even with two natures, male and female. These gods created animals with the legs of goats and the horns of another animal. They even created bulls with the heads of a man and others with two heads, also other monsters of different kinds and different species. The Babylonians and the Egyptians represent these monsters in their sculptures."

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This is really strong stuff. You have to read it several times to grasp the incredible message from the past. How was it some thousands of years ago? Were there human beings with wings? Is this all a bunch of bull? If not, why do we see their reliefs and sculptures in every big museum on Earth? The only difference is that in our museums they are not called winged humanoids, but winged angels.

Eusebius writes that human creatures with legs of a goat were created. Stupid? Then look at Sumerian and Babylonian cylinder seals and temple walls. Images of these creatures do exist in stone. Yes, and the gods created bulls - bulls with the head of a man and some with two heads. May I remind you that the monster of Crete, the Minotaur, was a bull with the head of a man? The people of Crete constructed the well-known labyrinth to contain this monster.

Eusebius says that different animals were mixed together. Garbage? What about the Sphinx? and when I say sphinx, I refer not only to the great sphinx at Giza, but also of sphinxes of at least 50 different types throughout Egypt. Whole streets lined on both sides with different types of sphinxes have been discovered.

In the British Museum in London there is the black obelisk of King Salamanassar II, which depicts an elephant with two strange creatures with animal bodies and human heads, walking on their hind legs. The creatures are kept on leashes held by humans.

In another relief on the same obelisk one clearly sees two figures like sphinxes, with feline bodies and human heads. (See Figure 1). Nothing special? Then why is it that they have human hands with five fingers? One appears to be sucking its thumb and the other is waving his hand in front of his face. Why are they kept in chains held by men? and why does the inscription on the obelisk state that "man-animals" are being transported to prison?



Figure 1. Photo of portion of black obelisk of King Salamanassar II in British Museum in London depicting sphinx-like figures with feline bodies and human heads and hands.

With all these monsters and mixed creatures and all the indications in the literature and sculptures we have only two possible explanations:

1. These creatures never existed but were simply fantasies produced by the artists.
2. Some of these terrible creatures did exist at one time, in which case they must have been created by genetic engineering. It is impossible for nature and evolution to create such monsters, because neither the sexual apparatus nor the chromosomes fit together.

But what about the empty sarcophagi at Sakkara? It was very difficult to cut these sarcophagi out of the granite and transport the huge blocks of 100 tons over a distance of 1000 kilometers. And all this with very primitive tools and methods of transportation? These huge sarcophagi were then deposited into a subterranean cave, which had first been cut out of the rock. Then in some manner or another, they were rolled, one by one, down into the tunnels leading to the cave and then placed very precisely in separate chambers. The chambers were then closed by an artificial wall. This unbelievable work proves the importance of mummification to the ancient Egyptians, who mummified practically every form of life. Millions and millions of mummified birds of all kinds were found beneath Sakkara. There were also mummified cats, dogs, fish and snakes. More than 300,000 crocodiles, including their eggs, were mummified in separate linen. And, of course, the human body was mummified too.

For an Egyptian priest it was absolutely unthinkable to mummify a body in pieces. The Egyptians believed in resurrection after death and for this the whole body was necessary. Why then have the same Egyptian priests made an exception in this case? Why have they broken the bones of some animals into thousands of little pieces and wrapped them together in a stinking mass of bitumen? Definitely the contents of the sarcophagi were extremely important, otherwise there is no reasonable explanation for the gigantic sarcophagi and the subterranean chambers. But I have a suggestion:

Some monsters in ancient Egypt, including some of the holy Apis-Bulls, date back to the time of the gods - the extraterrestrials. During their life time these heavenly animals were free. They were worshipped as "the holy ones" who belonged to the gods. From time to time these animals destroyed villages, small temples and killed people. Just as the cow is venerated today in India, the specially-marked animals in ancient Egypt were untouchable. When they finally died by a natural process, the priests were afraid of their resurrection. They wanted the monsters never to come back to life to bring fear and terror to the people. Therefore, huge sarcophagi were cut out of granite and the bones of these monsters were broken into thousands of pieces and wrapped in adhesive bitumen. The sarcophagi were then closed with heavy stone covers and placed into the subterranean caves. These caves were not temples of worship, but rather were prisons for the destroyed monsters.

If anyone believes that my suggestion is silly, then please give me conclusive answers to the following questions:

- For what purpose were the gigantic sarcophagi?
- If for the Holy Apis-Bull, then why were the bones broken and mixed with bitumen?
- Why were broken bones of different animals found in a single sarcophagus?
- Why have we found in two cases bones of large animals which obviously had two heads?

Much later, maybe thousands of years after the monsters were buried, some pharaohs and priests came down to the chambers beneath the ground and worshipped what they believed to be holy animals, not knowing that the sarcophagi were in reality filled with the broken bones of monsters, packed in bitumen.

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SUPER INTELLIGENCE AT MALTA'S MEGALITHS

BY JOSEPH S. ELLUL*

The Stone Age Megalithic temples of Malta are unique and world famous. They are the oldest buildings in the world still existing. The oldest of these Megalithic buildings is certainly the part known as the Hagar Qim complex, which is made up of three groups of ruins: the main building with seven chambers (which is also unique in its plan), a much older building with a regular form of seven semi-circular apses enclosing a central hall, and a third group of ruins considered to be dwelling houses, or rather "sleeping dens". The first two construction groups are considered to be temples, owing to the signs of sacrificial fires they contain.

The size of the main building is about 23 metres by 33 metres. The older temple is about half this size, while the dwelling houses are about a third of it.

Highly technological methods were used in the construction of these buildings up to a point where they used the horizontal arch we use today for building our water dams. They could also manipulate acoustics so as to channel the sound of their rituals to pass from one chamber to another through a hole about 40cm in diameter in the separating wall.

Yet, the wonder of wonders is yet to be seen. Malta has a special type of stone known as "Globigerina Limestone". Though this type of stone seems to be of one kind to the undiscerning eye, the professionals who work with it can distinguish many different types of this Globigerina Limestone. There are the eroding and non-eroding kinds, some are porous, while others are not. Most of this limestone turns reddish and cracks when exposed to fire, and so far as we know, all the globigerina stone found in Malta cracks with fire. On the other hand, the same globigerina limestone found on our sister island of Gozo is impervious to fire. This so much so that until about sixty years ago the Gozo limestone was used to make wood and charcoal cooking stoves.

But what has all this to do with the archaeology of Hagar Qim? It happens that about three metres in front of the main entrance of Hagar Qim there is a block of stone of a rather irregular shape which forms part of the floor. It is about two metres in width and in the middle of this stone there is a round hole about sixty centimetres across with its bottom funnelling towards one side as a means of ventilation. A careful examination of this pit reveals that the sides are reddish with the effects of fire, yet, and this is the crux of the story, the stone face is not cracked. Now the big question is "How did those people know from where to get that type of stone? Did they bring it across the sea from far away Gozo, or did they know a place where they could get it in Malta, a thing which the modern Maltese people do not know?" This is a really big enigma.

Mnajdra is another Stone Age Neolithic building site of the Antediluvian Era in Malta. Situated near Hagar Qim, Mnajdra is built near the high cliffs overlooking the Mediterranean Sea. This site also exhibits several marks of what were possibly sacrificial fires in one of the buildings, while others seem to have been used as dwelling places for their priests, or the High Priest, for they seem to contain sleeping places and have no signs of sacrificial fires. The lower building of Mnajdra contains a sleeping room with a stone two-tier bunk bed and a small cabin with a small niche inside that could have served as a cradle for a baby. To avoid humidity the base of this stone niche, which has the form of a small cupboard, is separated from the ground by resting on a small stone column. In this kind of small cupboard the skeleton of a baby was discovered during the first excavation of Mnaj-

dra about 1840, in which my great-grandfather took part.

The entrance to this building is perfectly aligned towards the rising sun at its position of the Equinox. But it is not only the Equinox that they marked, but also the Solstices. The entrance that has the shape of a rectangle 1.8 metres wide and 3 metres long, has the direction of the diagonals each pointing towards one of the Solstices.

Yet this direction was not accurate enough for those people. They were very meticulous in such matters. For greater accuracy they placed a big block of stone, slightly dome-shaped, one metre across and projecting about half a metre above ground. This stone block is placed just below the horizon from Mnajdra about four hundred metres away to mark the exact position where the sun broke the horizon. There are still to this day such stones stuck fast in the ground, one for the Winter Solstice and another for the Equinox. The one for the Summer Solstice is lost among the cultivated fields.

Also, on the inside of the doorway there is a triangle measuring 97cm by 97cm by 89cm with the base facing the doorway. This figure produces an angle of 55 degrees at the apex, which is the angle subtended by the Summer and Winter Solstice rising of the Sun.

The direction of the solstices is 28 degrees north and 30 degrees south of east. But as the horizon to the Summer Solstice is at a rather high angle, the sun breaks the horizon at 25 degrees north. The Winter Solstice rising is almost at sea level. This makes the angle subtended by the solstices exactly 55 degrees. It is a wonder how meticulous those Stone Age people were in their observations of the Sun's behaviour.

Because certain stones in prehistoric buildings that were expected by some archaeologists to mark the rising Sun at the solstices were found to be not exact in their position, the archaeologists concluded that the inclination of the axis of the Earth to the plane of its orbit has been changing. But the position of the Solstice Stone at Mnajdra shows the exact position of the Winter Solstice rising at the present day, which is 30 degrees south of east. (Malta is 35 degrees North of the Equator). This shows that the position of the rising sun at the Solstice did not change at Mnajdra, and Mnajdra is, at least, ten thousand years old. So, if there was no change within ten thousand years, how could there have been a change within a much shorter period?

So, Mnajdra of Malta, the Antediluvian Neolithic building which is perfectly aligned towards the rising of the Sun proves, without any doubt, that the phenomenon known as Precession does not actually exist. Therefore, the inclination of the Earth's axis towards the plane of its orbit with the Sun does not change with the duration of time.

*Mr. Ellul is an amateur archaeologist and a life-long resident of Malta. His family has been active in the excavation and caretaking of Malta's Antediluvian building sites for the past 150 years. He has written a book entitled "Malta's Prediluvian Culture with special reference to Hagar Qim", which is available directly from the author at Hagar Qim House, 58, St. Catherine Str., Zurrieq, MALTA, Europe, for US\$10, which includes surface postage.

GENE M. PHILLIPS, Founder of the Ancient Astronaut Society, will present a slide-illustrated lecture at the UFO EXPERIENCE CONFERENCE, October 13-14, 1990 at the Holiday Inn, North Haven, Connecticut. Other speakers include Paul Devereux, Ann Druffel, Stanton Friedman, Antonio Huneus, Harry Lebelson, Fred Max, Brian O'Leary, Jacques Vallee, Ed and Frances Walters, Travis Walton and John W. White. For registration information write to OMEGA COMMUNICATIONS, P.O. Box 2051, Cheshire, Connecticut 06410 USA.

WHAT WAS THE SECRET OF METHUSELAH'S LONGEVITY?

BY DR. FRANKLIN R. RUEHL*

While the biblical Methuselah is widely heralded as the man who survived longer than any other mortal, 969 years, it is less well known that six other patriarchs of the Old Testament had longevities exceeding 900 years, including two of the most celebrated, Adam (930 years) and Noah (950 years). Was Methuselah's advanced age simply due to a wild exaggeration? Or, was a mysterious longevity factor actually at work?

Intriguingly, there abides a progressive decline in the patriarchs' longevities over the centuries that suggests the presence of a genetic factor in operation. Specifically, of the first ten patriarchs identified in the Scriptures, nine had lifetimes of at least 777 years. Listed in order of appearance they are: Adam (930), Seth (912), Enos (905), Cainan (910), Mahalaleel (895), Jared (962), Methuselah (969), Lamech (777) and Noah (950). Only Enoch died at the relatively young age of 365.

Shem, the eleventh patriarch referred to in the Bible, lived to 600. The twelfth, thirteenth and fourteenth form a triad that survived into their 400s: Arphaxad (438), Salah (433), and Eber (464). Another quad lived into their 200s: Peleg (239), Reu (239), Serug (230) and Terah (205).

A final contingent, all living well over 100 included: Nahor (148), Abraham (175), Isaac (180), Ishmael (137) and Joseph (110). These were among the later patriarchs.

The pattern of birth order and longevity is decidedly linear, with the early patriarchs living the longest, the later ones, the shortest. As all of them were related through a steady order of descent, the logical conclusion is that a genetic longevity factor was responsible for their extraordinary lifetimes. But, with the passage of time, as they intermarried with ordinary mortal females, that factor was bred out of the human race.

How and when did this longevity factor originate? Since Adam was the first in the succession, the focus of attention should be on him. Many paleo-entomologists have previously theorized that an alien genetic engineering procedure was performed upon him to create Eve through utilization of one of his ribs (Genesis 2:21-22). Could not those same ancient astronauts have introduced a genetic longevity factor into Adam at that same time?

Terrestrial geneticists are today on the threshold of deciphering the complete human genome, or complement of approximately 100,000 genes. Armed with such knowledge, genetic engineers will be able to redesign the human body in a myriad of ways never previously dreamed of, except in sci-fi novels! Extended longevity should be among those improvements.

But, if this prospect is now within our terrestrial grasp, is it not conceivable that extraterrestrials, who may have explored our planet thousands of years ago, made such inroads in biomedicine before venturing into the depths of space, allowing them to perform genetic experiments while planet hopping?

Skeptics might argue that the patriarchs' ages were either exaggerations or miscalculations. But, in addition to their ages being recorded in the Bible, the times at which they fathered their first son were also noted (except for Ishmael and Joseph). That information is critical to assessing the validity of their longevities. For instance, if it is assumed that months were being recorded as years, then a simple division of all ages by 12 would be called for. However, this approach yields a number of contradictory results despite bringing some ages down to 20th century levels.

Specifically, Abraham would have died at age 14 and one-half and Isaac at 15 by such a division. And, Cainan would have had a son when he was only

6, Mahalaleel when only 5, Eber and Arphaxad when only 3, Peleg, Reu and Serug when only 2 and one-half, and Nabor when just a mere lad of 2!

Any other method of division would yield similarly inane results, as it must be applied equally to all of them. Stated otherwise, either all of the ages cited must be accepted as accurate, or none of them: there is no middle ground.

Fascinatingly, reference to the age of an early female was made only once. That woman was Sarah, the wife of Abraham, who bore her first child at age 90 and lived to 127, in congruence with her placement in the later stages of that Genesis period.

Hence, the evidence from the Scriptures strongly points to the intervention of ancient astronauts in the imposing longevities of the patriarchs of the Old Testament. It is further indication that the universe is literally teeming with life; that life, indeed, is the common denominator of the cosmic backdrop!

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INDEX of the first 16 Volumes (96 issues) of Ancient Skies is available from the Society Headquarters for US\$5, including postage and handling. The Index was prepared by Kenneth C. McCulloch and is arranged alphabetically both by subject and by author.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS:

CELTIC SECRETS, Edited by Donald L. Cyr, in large paperback, from Stonehenge Viewpoint, 2821 De La Vina Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93105 USA.

LOST CITIES, by David Hatcher Childress. The first four in a series cover South America; Lemuria and the Pacific; China, Asia and India; and Africa and Arabia. Available in oversize paperback from Adventures Unlimited Press, P.O. Box 22, Stelle, Illinois 60919-9989 USA.

THE LEGEND OF THE SONS OF GOD, by T.C. Lethbridge. Originally published in 1972, this work by an English archaeologist is much more subdued than Chariots of the Gods? and is now somewhat dated but is still good reading. Reissued in paperback from Arkana of the Penguin Publishing Group, New York.

FLYING SERPENTS AND DRAGONS, The Story of Mankind's Reptilian Past, by R. A. Boulay. Once you get over the initial "culture shock" that our ancestors might have been intelligent reptiles from outer space, you will find this book to be fascinating reading. Well-researched and well-written by a cryptologist, now retired after 30 years of U.S. Government service. Available in oversize paperback from Galaxy Books, P.O. Box 8542, Clearwater, FL 34618 USA.

ERICH VON DANIKEN's latest book is available in German from C. Bertelsmann, Munich, West Germany. Entitled Die Spuren der Ausserirdischen, over one half of the high-quality, hardcover book is devoted to excellent photographs from around the world to support the author's thesis.

MAURICE CHATELAIN, author of Our Ancestors Came from Outer Space (recently reissued under the title Our Cosmic Ancestors), has advised that since he has been unable to obtain a major US publisher for his books, he intends to publish his last three books on the ancient astronaut theme privately. We will keep you informed on the availability of these books.