



ANCIENT SKIES

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SECRET TUNNELS OF THE INCAS

BY JAVIER SIERRA*

Translated from the Spanish by Doris L. Phillips

In January 1533 the Spanish conquest of Peru reached its most dramatic point. The Inca-King Atahualpa, prisoner of Pizarro and his men, promised to pay a huge ransom in gold and silver for his freedom. To speed the gathering of the gold and silver, Atahualpa consented to let three of his Spanish captors enter the sacred Temple of the Sun (the Coricancha) and take all the precious objects necessary to meet the amount of the ransom. Thus, these men were the last ones to see that sacred ambit in all its splendor before proceeding to remove seven hundred sheets of gold weighing about five pounds each from its walls and snatching gold masks and scepters from the mummies of the Inca emperors, ancestors of Atahualpa. However, although considerable, the amount of gold was not sufficient for the ransom to be given on the deadline set by Pizarro and this gave him a perfect excuse to execute Atahualpa in the afternoon of June 24, 1533.

Following the death of Atahualpa, Pizarro returned to Cuzco to continue the looting of the Coricancha. There still remained the gold statues in the garden and the impressive gold solar disc which gave the Temple its name. But, in spite of the opportunity the Spaniards had to find them, these most important treasures were not found. They had been hidden in some unknown place, out of their reach. The chronicler Cristobal de Molina wrote in 1553, referring to the gold solar disc: "The solar disc was hidden by the Indians in such a way that to this day it has not been found." This gave way to the speculation that the most valuable and sacred Inca objects were being kept in subterranean rooms, accessible only through secret tunnels. Several stories relating to this served to perpetuate the myth that a tunnel leading to the Inca treasure begins at the Coricancha Temple and exits near the massive ruins of Sacsayhuaman, in a place known as the "Chinkana Grande" (Big Cave).

The Chinkana Grande today is no more than a big hole a few meters deep under a colossal hewn stone. In 1989 the investigator Fernando Jimenez del Oso tried to film the entrance of the cave but failed in his effort due to the narrowness of the opening and the rubble caused by blasting when the Peruvian Armed Forces closed the cave to discourage the curious and the greedy in search of the treasure. The most revealing of the efforts to penetrate the

Chinkana took place in 1700 when a group of several people decided to enter to find the treasure of Atahualpa once and for all. They met a grim fate, and after several days underground only one of them escaped with his life. He emerged from an opening under the main altar of the Church of Santo Domingo, where in Pizarro's time rose the majestic walls of the Temple of Coricancha. The survivor brought out with him an ear of corn made of solid gold, doubtlessly one of the objects that once graced the rich garden of the Coricancha.

Another story adds to the credibility of the legend. In 1814, Brigadier Mateo Garcia Pumakahua, a descendant of the Incas, was forced by circumstances to show his superiors part of the Inca treasure. He took one of the high-ranking officers blindfolded through the main square of Cuzco to a stream and then, after removing some stones, proceeded down a stone stairway to Cuzco's underground. Once there, the blindfold was removed and the officer beheld astonishing riches: large silver pumas with emeralds for eyes, "bricks" made of gold and silver, and other objects of incalculable value. Although unsure of his whereabouts, he later recalled that while looking at the treasure he had heard clearly the clock of the Cathedral in Cuzco's main square striking nine. Obviously he could not have been very far from it.

The account of the officer's experience confirmed once more the existence of a tunnel between Sacsayhuaman and the Coricancha because on the hypothetical line that connects those two Inca sacred places also are situated the Cathedral of Cuzco and the little Church of San Cristobal. (See Exhibit 1). In 1600 a Jesuit Friar hit the mark in summing up the whole story surrounding the tunnel: "The celebrated cave of Cuzco, called Chinkana by the Indians, was made by the Inca Kings. It is very deep and runs through the center of the city, its mouth or entrance being in the fortress of Sacsayhuaman. It comes down on the side of the mountain where the parish of San Cristobal is situated and, with varying degrees of depth, ends at the site which is now Santo Domingo and was in Inca times the famous Temple of Coricancha. All the Indians to whom I have spoken have told me that the Incas made this costly and laborious cave to enable their kings and armies to go in times of war from the fortress of Sacsayhuaman to the Temple of the Sun to worship their idol Punchau without being detected."

It was information such as this that made me and my friend, Vicente Paris, decide to undertake a serious investigation of this particular tunnel. And so, in 1993 we travelled to Cuzco, Peru and confirmed the existence of a subterranean chamber beneath the main altar of the Church of Santo Domingo, which originated the legend of the man who, having entered the tunnel in Sacsayhuaman, ended up in Santo Domingo. More recently, in March, 1994, we returned to

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Cuzco and not only reconfirmed the existence of the chamber and the mouth of the blind tunnel, but also we learned about the function and use of the tunnel from Father Benigno Gamarra, Abbot of the Convent of Santo Domingo. Here it is: "Your information is correct, but the tunnel in question extends much beyond Sacsayhuaman, since it ends in some place underneath Quito, in Ecuador!" (Note 1)

We asked him: "Why are the entrances to the tunnel under the main altar of Santo Domingo now closed?" He answered: "Unfortunately the earthquake that devastated Cuzco in 1950 forced us to close the opening in order to strengthen the foundations of the church. But all was not lost by its closing, because when I was a student here and later as Abbot I was able to find out that the tunnel had a very special function." We asked: "What was it?"

Father Gamarra answered: "Every 24th of June the interior of the tunnel was totally illuminated by the rays of the Sun being reflected on the surface of the famous solar disc and were in time deflected towards the interior of the Chinkana (cave). There, a series of mirrors of highly polished metallic sheets conducted the sunlight to the very fortress of Sacsayhuaman. The Incas were accomplished astronomers and geometers and this precision work must have been of special significance to them, a significance which is now lost to us."

Father Gamarra also uncovered for us another enigma consisting of four trapdoors located in the lateral naves of the Church. He explained that they are trial excavations which uncovered part of the original walls of the Coricancha. Apparently, three years ago a team of Peruvian archaeologists decided to demolish the convent of Santo Domingo to recover from the subsoil the remains of the sacred Coricancha. Father Gamarra also told us that there is a stream originating in the main square of Cuzco which runs by the old walls of the Coricancha, beneath the Church. This last bit of information, far from being marginal, shows us the existence of at least one natural passage connecting the main square, site of the Cathedral, with the Coricancha. Some Spanish chroniclers, like Cieza de Leon, tell us that the main square of Cuzco was in their time a lake or swamp which was later drained by the Inca Sinchi Roca. Today two rivers still cross the city and, covered by flagstones, function as city streets.

Everything seems to point to the fact that the Incas made use of a natural cave to lay out the tunnel between Sacsayhuaman and the Coricancha. Garcilaso de la Vega hints at the existence of a complex system of siphoning viaducts by the Incas which seemed to have crossed the River Saphi and served to connect openings in the rock and man-made roads. In spite of all this information, there is something perplexing about these theories and legends. Let me explain. In the course of our investigation, we noticed that the two geographical points in question, the Fortress of Sacsayhuaman and the Coricancha, seem to be connected by an imaginary straight line that also passes under the Cathedral and the Church of San Cristobal. This "discovery" of ours was accidental. After we had reached the highest point at Sacsayhuaman, known as Muyucmarca, we were able to verify that those four buildings were exactly aligned. Of course, the present religious ones were built on top of the older Inca structures. Transposing our visual findings to a map, we were surprised to find that we had to add one more religious building to our count and also that the line could be easily prolonged to reach the confluence of the two rivers that cross the city. Our analysis showed that whoever constructed these religious buildings knew very well what they were doing. Did the Spaniards seek to use the underground cellars of their new churches to find the coveted treasure of the Incas by opening entrances to the tunnel? Or, perhaps, knowing the magical and

tellurian value given those places by the Incas, did they simply try to "Christianize" them? Be that as it may, the surprising fact is that no one until today has noticed the strange and revealing alignment of those religious structures which, judging by the findings of other investigators, such as Maria Scholten de D'Ebneth, regarding the Route of Viracocha, cannot be attributed to mere coincidence. In 1985 she discovered the main course taken by Viracocha from Lake Titicaca to the Pacific Ocean, an absolute straight line nearly 1500 kilometers long terminating in northern Peru near Tumbes.

According to the chronicler, Cieza de Leon, Peru was for many years deprived of any sunlight. Finally one day the Sun rose over an island in Lake Titicaca, after which there appeared in the land "a white, corpulent man who in aspect and body showed great authority and dignity. He also showed great power, converting hills into level grounds and these into mountains." This champion civilizer, called Viracocha, crossed the Andes Mountains, altering their orography and finally disappeared into the sea. This shows that Viracocha performed a real cartographic feat belonging to an era in which, in theory, there were no theodolites or artificial satellites. But who was this Viracocha capable of such mathematical and cartographical superior knowledge?

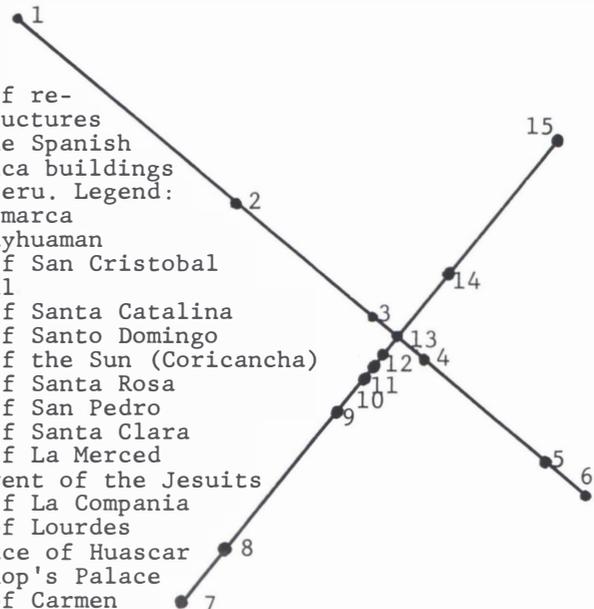
Our investigations prove that at least until the middle of this century the tunnel at Cuzco existed and was open. Unfortunately we are still unable to prove how it was constructed or what the reason was for its being built. In the opinion of Felipe Mor-montoy who is the general coordinator of the Inca Movement and a direct descendant of Brigadier Mateo Garcia Pumakaua, the tunnel and its passages had various functions, from short-cuts through craggy mountains, to roads leading to concealed sacred sites. He says: "We have hidden rock carvings that seem to have been covered with something that looks like gold leaf. They must be the authentic work of the WAYO-QHARI, the giants that seem to have been the first inhabitants of these lands - the ones who built those gigantic stone works."

As you can see, the enigma is just beginning to reveal itself.

Note 1: See also Erich von Daniken's The Gold of the Gods (Bantam Books, NY, 1974 pb) in which the author describes his visit into subterranean artificial tunnels in the Andes Mountains in Ecuador where he saw objects of metal in the form of animals and, more incredibly, a "library" of several thousand thin plates made of a metal which von Daniken thought might have been gold.

Exhibit 1.
Showing the alignment of religious structures built by the Spanish over the Inca buildings at Cuzco, Peru. Legend:

1. La Muyucmarca at Sacsayhuaman
2. Church of San Cristobal
3. Cathedral
4. Church of Santa Catalina
5. Church of Santo Domingo
6. Temple of the Sun (Coricancha)
7. Chapel of Santa Rosa
8. Church of San Pedro
9. Church of Santa Clara
10. Church of La Merced
10. Old Convent of the Jesuits
11. Church of La Compania
12. Chapel of Lourdes
13. Old Palace of Huascar
14. Archbishop's Palace
15. Church of Carmen



I NOTICED IN ANCIENT SKIES 20:2 a letter from Mr. Filip Coppens of Belgium wherein he mentions a book by the late Mr. Mestdagh. According to Mr. Coppens, Mr. Mestdagh ascribes the Viking depredations and conquests in Western Europe to a Viking yearning to return to the land of their ancestors' origins, presumably Atlantis.

A great many years ago I wrote on that subject. My research revealed, at least to me, that the key to the origin of the People(s) who produced the Vikings is to be found, not in the early histories of the people of present-day Denmark, Norway and Sweden, but in the sagas and legends of the Nordic Gods.

The answers to the origin of these people lie in the ancient Nordic Pantheon. Accepted "traditional" history tells us that there were two distinct families of gods. Actually there were three divine families. (Four if one counts the god Ull, who belonged to the original settlers of Scandinavia.)

The foremost family is known in English as the Aesirs; the Aryans. The second family is known as the Vanirs who, my research tells me, were Semites, probably Phoenicians. The third family is known as the Alvirs, who eventually fought Aesirs and Vanirs and were ultimately hunted down as outlaws.

The Aryan origin of the Aesirs is indisputable because of the links, by legend and language, with the great sub-continent. Tor of the North matches Indra, etc. Rig, as in the chief Vedic poem, we find even today in the native names of Norway and Sweden. Rig was the title bestowed on many of the ancient leaders. The German Reich springs from Rig, meaning nation, crown, kingdom.

The most important Aesiric gods were Odin, Tor, Tyr and Balder. The Aesirs did not permit what we call incest; that is, no man could marry his sister or half-sister. The Vanirs had a different custom. As Abraham of the Bible married his half-sister, Sarah, so Niord, the Chief of the Semitic Vanir was married to his sister (or half-sister) Frigga, who ended up married to Odin and became the mother of Tor and Balder. The markedly different customs, or mores and morals, denotes the merging of two different cultures. This, by itself, however is not enough to classify the Vanirs as Phoenicians. So how do we fortify this theory?

According to the ancient legends, Niord spent half the year in the abode of the gods, Asgard. The other half was spent in his native land which was located beyond the Western Sea (presumably the North Sea). This might be taken to indicate America - or Atlantis - if it were not for the fact that to arrive in what is now Sweden where the Vanir heritage in names is most numerable, one must sail from the West.

It was in Southwestern Sweden that the Vanir-Aesir colonization began. Other pioneers, a monolithic people related to the builders of Stonehenge had preceded them and settled in thriving communities. Some of their stoneworks still stand - now attributed to the Aryans by our traditional scholars. This despite the fact that even today communities, lakes and rivers bear the name of the megalith deity, Ull. It takes no courage to perpetuate the status quo.

The North and Baltic Seas in those days were treasure troves of amber which washed up on the beaches of Scandinavia. Rachel Carson in her monumental work, The Sea Around Us, describes the amber trail southward to the artistic Etruscans in what is now Italy. The amber, plus the promise of a land rich in timber and minerals is, in my opinion, the main reason for the Aryan-Semitic invasion of the North. It was a joint venture, some Aryans no doubt sailing with the Phoenicians, but the bulk of the vast horde marched through Europe, creating kingdoms both South and Northwest of the Baltic Sea.

My research leads me to believe that the conquest of Scandinavia took centuries. Reinforcing armies of Aryans marched up through Europe, crossed the Baltic via the Danish Islands and joined the Phoenicians arriving in Western Sweden over the "Western Sea", driving the survivors of the Monolith People

into the mountains and wild coasts of Southern Norway and the primeval forests of Northern Sweden.

During this remote era available only in sagas and legends, passed on by word of mouth, the spiritual heritage of Aryan India and Persia and the Levant waned and the heroes of the struggle against the Megalith People became the new Pantheon. But in the new divine garments, fragments of the distant past were interwoven. These fragments provide an integral part in supplying the pieces to the puzzle.

To Wit: In addition to the similarities in divine character, the sky-chariots, the origin of key words, the merging of two vastly different cultures; Niord of the Vanir became elevated to the god of seafaring and commerce. An apt post for a Phoenician. And, this was not least of all: when the Vikings suddenly sprang upon an unsuspecting world, they did so in perfected Phoenician ships.

We do not know what the Vikings knew about the world that surrounded them as no records exist, and most of the records of other ancients who might have had contact with them have been destroyed by military and religious conquerors.

I believe that the reason for the Viking raids lies in the ancient word odal. It can loosely, but not wholly, be translated as inheritance. The oldest son inherited the land. The younger ones had to acquire new land for survival. When land finally became short, the raids began on a decadent, but rich, Europe.

If there were other reasons for the Vikings to sail West, as Mr. Mestdagh apparently believed, it will be difficult, but not impossible to prove. Perhaps he had discovered other sources. Maybe there are records still extant in the former Viking kingdom of Normandy. Gunnar Nilsson, 801 Edgewater Drive, Inverness, FL 32650 USA.

MORE ON GREEK MYTHOLOGY

BY LUKAS LASKARIS**

The Odyssey and the Iliad are full of examples of the powers of the gods, but they are not the only ones; the whole Greek mythology is strewn with (forget UFOs) examples, shows and influencing powers stemming "out of this world." Take the father of the 12 gods, Zeus. His daughter Athena is said to have sprung (been born) out of his head. Come on! People don't just jump out of other people's heads. Not now, nor in antiquity. Don't take things literally! You see, the Greeks through their travel and association with the Egyptians learned the use of puns as a jest or to disguise and hide something in a message intended only for a certain select group of initiated people, since pun was a word with at least two meanings. Now we go to Mr. Zeus and his KOPH (daughter) that sprang out of his head; his head or his brains. In other words, Athena was his brainchild; that is, he made her. He initiated that she was born, that she becomes, if you will.

Let's go now to the Greek superhero (bum) Iracles, alias Heracles, alias Hercules, whose 12 labors remind us and closely resemble the ones of the Summerian king Gilgamesh together with his friend, Enkidu. Even statues and bas-reliefs resemble each other. Anyway, Heracles in his 6th labor had to kill (eliminate/get rid of) the hens, birds of Stymphalis. Those birds had brazen beaks, brazen claws, and brazen wings (what else is left that is not brazen?). Here we have again another pun; beaks, noses, wings, claws, landing gear, all brazen. These birds were eating men. Eat is equal to defeat or kill. The birds were sacred to Ares, the god of war, or warlord, as I call him. Are we now to believe that the god of war, Ares (Mars), had some birds sacred to him? Only if they help him in his fighting endeavors. They were flying high and suddenly discharging brazen feathers, killing people. No, the word brazen is not a pun here as at the beginning of the descrip-

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tion of the Stymphalian birds. Here we have a lack of appropriate vocabulary by the writers of mythology, in this case, Apollonius of Rhodes, Virgil, Oiodorus, Siculus, et al. They are dumbfounded that the brazen birds drop brazen feathers and kill people and simultaneously those naughty birds discharge a poisonous "excrement" that destroys the crops.

Let's recapitulate: Ares had a flock (squadron) of brazen birds that killed people (not all, but selectively) by taking off, flying high and releasing brazen feathers and also releasing poisonous gas that destroyed crops. Only the initiated of his time could get the message. Sorry, but I am reminded of the killing and defoliation in Viet Nam and that is not a pun. Viet Nam was history in the remaking, the wheel of Life and Death turning and spinning, indiscriminately. You die, I succeed, because the Gods support me. Hera gave him her breast to suckle, Athena her full support, and Zeus his parental support, and thus Heracles became not only a superhero, but also a demigod; and he, as a good learner after every labor, went to the nearby river and "washed" himself (cleansed his body) out of poisonous gasses and his mind out of his sins; and that is our last pun.

**Mr. Laskaris studied hotel management and administration, managed several hotels in various European countries, was a Lieutenant in the Greek Army trained by the Green Berets and worked for the German Defense Ministry and the U.S. Air Force. He currently works as a Parts Manager. His address is 4408 Hallet St., Rockville, MD 20853 USA.

THE EZEKIEL INCIDENT

BY BENJAMIN JOYNES***

I am a 12 year old living in San Francisco. I have been taking advantage of every public piece of information possibly available to me on UFOs, abductions, government cover ups, crop circles and cattle mutilations, etc. for over 2 years and I have also recently developed a deep and serious interest in what I believe you call "Ancient Astronaut" theories. I prefer to look upon the phenomenon in a mature and objective way and not jump to any conclusions, but some things like "Horus" the "Sky God" who rode in a "Sun-Boat", or Stonehenge, intrigue me to the bone. I think it is definitely possible that extraterrestrial beings (or extra-dimensional, or extra-Universal, or whatever the beings may be that many people believe are currently visiting Earth) visited Earth many years ago and taught the ancient peoples of the world certain knowledge.

My theory is slightly different from your overall ideas. I think that if it did happen, that extraterrestrial beings which serve the powerful force we now call "God" visited Earth long ago. My chief evidence is the culture of Native Americans. I think they may have misinterpreted the E.T.s as Gods, because they didn't know of electricity or technology at the time. In any event, I think they came to Earth to teach ways of respecting and caring for our world, so that it would not face a disastrous end. Obviously the Native Americans do deeply respect the planet. Druids also held sacred astrology of the planets. Anyway, over time those old and precious ways of life were buried in technology and pollution, which will bring that disastrous end of the world. (Note: I also believe that if there are aliens, and they are angels, that an alien came to Mary and told her of Christ's impending birth. After all, potential abductees describe what looks like artificial insemination.) Now I think they are back in one final attempt to abduct humans, instill information, vital information, into their minds, for a later date to save humanity. END OF THEORY.

To demonstrate my deep interest in these subjects I am enclosing my theories on the Ezekiel Incident:

By our measurements of time, Ezekiel first saw his "vision" on July 31, 593 BC. At that time electricity was not being put to use for electronic devices. There were no airplanes, or cars, or even gears and cogs! If someone of that time were to see what we now call UFOs, they would have attributed their technology to magic, or special powers. I believe Ezekiel was visited by an extraterrestrial craft and lived through an ancient episode of what we now call "alien abductions." In the following writings I will display my evidence supporting this theory. I hope it is satisfactory. Thank you.

My evidence: In my study of UFO information regarding government cover-ups, I've found that the U.S. Government may be slowly releasing info on UFOs to the general public, so that, in time, when the E.T.s reveal themselves to us (if ever) it will not be such a shock to people. One way is through books. One way is through television, and one way is through movies. Now, in the film, "Close Encounters of the Third Kind", before UFOs came, they spewed forth huge thunderhead-like clouds to hide in. Ezekiel said huge clouds came before his vision. I think it is also possible that he did not see living creatures, but instead, UFOs which he misinterpreted as beings. The legs with round feet may have been landing gear. The wings, ramps. He saw "wheels within wheels" by those wings. They could have been gears and cogs used to operate the ramps. The strange faces Ezekiel saw I can only attribute to weird windows, perhaps, but the "spirit" that "lifted" him could have been a levitation ray. He said the wheels didn't turn when they moved. In usual abductions the aliens follow each other precisely in a straight line. The burning coals he saw could be attributed to the standard abduction "balls of light" and the "flashing" to what aliens once called a "transversal shock".

There is only one thing missing. The part about his being "distracted". This could've been a result of the abduction "missing time" phenomenon. But usually abductors come back. Well...who's to say they didn't? In fact...he tells of it! By our standards of time they did return to Ezekiel on September 17, 592 BC. This concludes my report. Thank you for your much appreciated time.

***Mr. Joynes is a student. His address is 805 Hayes, Apt. B, San Francisco, CA 94117 USA.

MY THANKS TO WILLIAM M. WOOD for correcting the inaccuracies relating to railguns and their projectile weights and velocities which appeared in my article in Ancient Skies 21:1. Unfortunately at the time of writing my only source of reference was a newspaper clipping. It is evident that some news items are exaggerated, and/or incorrect information is sometimes presented in the media when accurate details are lacking. Robin Collyns, 2/62 Whytehead Crescent, Kohimarama, Auckland 5, NEW ZEALAND.

ERICH VON DANIKEN will be the featured speaker at THE UFO EXPERIENCE CONFERENCE to be held on October 8-9, 1994 at the Holiday Inn in North Haven, Connecticut. Info: John White, 60 Pound Ridge Road, Cheshire, CT 06410 USA. Tel. 203-272-2151.

SEPTEMBER 14, 1994 marks the 21st Anniversary of the ANCIENT ASTRONAUT SOCIETY.

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