



ANCIENT SKIES

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Official Logbook of the Ancient Astronaut Society

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VOLUME 23, NUMBER 3, 1921 ST. JOHNS AVE., HIGHLAND PARK, ILLINOIS 60035-3178 USA

JULY-AUGUST, 1996

ATLANTIS - A NEW VIEW OF THE ISLAND CONTINENT AND ITS DESTRUCTION

BY HELI SARRE*

The story of the island continent of Atlantis and its disappearance is known to most of us. It was first told by the Greek philosopher Plato (b. 429BC), and, according to him, the tradition was kept alive by Egyptian priests. Since Plato's time the story has inspired countless seekers of ancient wisdom, channelers, and even those looking for their past lives, and many of them have given us their views on Atlantis in thousands of books and articles. However, a viable theory of the destruction of Atlantis has not been presented so far, the problem being that all the stories are contradicted by the fact that the mapping of the sea bottom does not support the view of a sunken continent in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. Acknowledging this problem, those with a scientific bent have proposed theories placing the ill-fated island into many different locations ranging from the mainland plains of Greece, to the island of Thera/Santorini in the Mediterranean Sea, to the British Isles, to the islands off the East Coast of North America and off the West Coast of North Africa.

As a student of anthropology, mythology, folklore and related disciplines, I sometimes wonder what kind of events might have given rise to both ancient and modern myths, and a new kind of hypothesis about events related to Atlantis has taken form in my mind. Even this one is floating halfway between "myth" and "science": the "mythical" part is based on the assumption that "gods from outer space" participated in building Atlantis and the "scientific" part explains Atlantis as an artificial island and the destruction of it caused by a natural disaster. For the discussion we need to focus on a few questions: Who built Atlantis? How was its water supply arranged? Was the island destroyed in a "deluge" caused by the Antarctic icecap sliding into the ocean, causing a tidal wave which engulfed and sank the artificial island, or by the release of underground gas from beneath the sea floor?

According to Plato, Atlantis was located beyond the Pillars of Hercules, that is, in the Atlantic Ocean west of Gibraltar. Besides the main island there were numerous other smaller islands in the Ocean, forming a chain of islands leading to the other continent (North America) on the other side of the Ocean. The author Charles Berlitz writes that thousands of years ago the level of the sea was lower than it is now and that the coast lines of existing islands were further in the sea and

there were quite a number of other islands then above sea level.

The rise of Atlantis from a small island to a powerful marine kingdom is closely related to the ancient gods. Plato tells us that the Greek sea god Poseidon fell in love with a maiden called Cleito, who lived on the island, and after having married her, he started to develop his real estate to fit the couple's divine needs. According to Plato, Poseidon broke the ground, making "alternate zones of sea and land, larger and smaller, encircling one another; there were two of land and three of water." (Ignatius Donnelly) As the story points out, the island was artificially made to some extent.

The extensive research of the writer/scholar Zecharia Sitchin concerning ancient gods and their civilizing efforts points out that the Sumerian "scientist-god" Enki was the same person as the Egyptian Ptah. According to ancient texts Enki/Ptah was the god who returned to Egypt after the Deluge, raised the land from the mud and made the country flourish again. Ptah, like Enki in Sumer, was engaged in finding and working gold, and in metallurgy in general, and his Egyptian priests were in charge of the activity. Plato makes the connection between Ptah and the Greek Poseidon, who shares a number of characteristics attributed to Enki/Ptah, among them being a builder (of Atlantis), bringing civilization to the natives and being attracted to gold. The developer-god of Atlantis used gold and "oricalcum", possibly an alloy of gold, in his building project.

It would not have been difficult for a scientist-god - Enki/Ptah/Poseidon - to build an artificial island in the Atlantic ocean over thousands of years. He could have brought soil to the building place by such primitive means as on rafts made of sea reeds, or by other, more sophisticated means. Little by little the island would have grown in size and weight-carrying capacity and, ultimately, it could have borne houses, gardens and even race-tracks for the godking's favorite sport, horse racing. The relatively low-lying outer ring of the island functioned as a harbor and as a jetty as well, sheltering the inner rings and the island itself from heavy seas. The construction might have rocked somewhat when the waves were high.

The godking's palace, surrounded by gardens, was situated in the center of the island on a low hill from which two streams flowed to lower levels providing water for the inhabitants. Plato tells: "He himself as he was a god, found no difficulty in making special arrangements for the center island, bringing two streams of water under the earth, which he caused to ascend as springs, one of warm water and one of cold." And as a matter of fact, on a number of islands in the Atlantic ocean there are hot and cold water springs. However, my idea being that the main island of Atlantis was to a large

(Continued on next page)

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extent, or even entirely, man(god)-made, the scientist-god had resolved the problem of potable water by building a "natural water filter" of limestone. The artificial limestone hill in the central part of the island, floating on the sea, would have absorbed salty sea water into its porous structure. Rising upwards through the labyrinthine capillaries of the limestone hill the water would have lost its salt content, and after filtering through the whole hill on reaching the top, the water would have been purified and potable. It would not have been too difficult for a scientist-god to calculate how big a "limestone filter" he needed in order to provide potable water for his subjects every day. Plato told that the hill with the two springs on the top was about 500 feet high.

According to Plato, the island continent sank into the sea in one day and one night. He does not tell how or why this happened. Two alternatives seem feasible in my opinion. The first alternative assumes that the shallow, artificial island floating in the sea sank into the ocean after it was hit by an enormous tidal wave, caused perhaps by the Antarctic ice cap sliding into the sea. The power and weight of the wave would have sunk the outer rings of the island at once and, having caused heavy damage to buildings and gardens on the inner parts, the repeated rocking of the waves would have ultimately caused the destruction of the whole island and its artificial structures. The heavier structures having sunk to the bottom of the sea, the lighter structures - possibly made of tree trunks, reeds, peat and soil - remained floating in the area now known as the Sargasso sea, a tract of comparatively still water in the North Atlantic. The seafarers in Plato's time found the area so full of mud and vegetation that it was impossible for their ships to sail across it.

Another possibility is that Atlantis sank for the same reason that threatens, for instance, the stability of oil-drilling rigs. It is known that in the sea bottom, between layers of rock and soil sediments, huge gas domes are formed. If there is a tear in or a leak from such a gas dome, it turns the water into a mixture of water and gas; consequently the water loses its concentration and buoyancy, thereby causing anything on the surface to sink. This kind of natural disaster would have certainly caused an artificial island to sink. The author Charles Berlitz has mentioned this theory; however, he has not considered Atlantis to have been an artificial island.

How likely is this hypothesis to be proven? As much as we would like to think that ancient astronauts are a historical fact, for the time being the fact is that supporters of the ancient astronaut theory among scientists and scholars is minimal. However, a number of scientists have cautiously concluded that there is much more of the past to be researched and understood than they previously had thought. There is the puzzling physical evidence of highly-developed civilizations of millions of years ago. There still is no rational or empirical evidence about how stone structures such as the Great Pyramid in Egypt and the prehistoric sites in Peru and Bolivia were built. The mathematical and astronomical knowledge of "the ancients" is puzzling. The question remains: how did they know? The answer provided by ancient texts and oral tradition is simple: the gods did it.

The story of Atlantis has not been verifiable because there is no evidence of a sunken island, not to mention "a continent", on the sea floor in the area where Atlantis supposedly was to be found. The midatlantic ridge is quite intact and shows no signs of such a thing. However, thousands of years ago, when the sea was lower, in the ocean there probably were more small islands, but none of them could possibly count as being Atlantis. An artifi-

cial island, floating on the surface waters of the ocean and possibly attached to smaller islands by bridges, would have disappeared without leaving a mark on the sea bottom. The only sign would have been, and is, the sea of mud and seaweed floating on the spot in the sea, formerly occupied by the artificial island.

We should ask whether it is possible to build an artificial island large enough to support houses, gardens, domestic animals - a thriving community? The answer is yes, and examples can be found all over the globe. One striking example, which shows a connection to Atlantean, Egyptian and Sumerian gods, comes from Mexico: Tenochtitlán, as it existed at the time of its conquest by the Spaniards. According to the history of Mexico, the Aztecs, led by their god Huichilopochtli, arrived at Lake Texcoco around the year 1325 AD. Being a nomad tribe, they did not have much experience in farming, but soon learned from their neighbors around the lake how to build floating gardens in the shallow waters of the lake. They drove piles into the mud and built their houses on the islands enlarged in this way. In two hundred years, by the time of the arrival of the Spaniards, mud huts had given way to substantial houses, palaces and temples. Tenochtitlán was a booming city of 200,000 inhabitants, completely surrounded by water, with canals serving their transportation needs better than streets. Floating fields and gardens gave plentiful harvests of corn, vegetables and flowers. In addition to gardens and fields in Lake Texcoco, two thirds of the area of the adjoining Lake Xochimilco was covered with floating gardens. Hernán Cortés, looking at the city of Tenochtitlán, was duly impressed by the splendor of it, which scarcely could be duplicated in Europe. However, the arrival of Cortés and his men augured destruction of the magnificent city, its floating gardens and its inhabitants. Greedy for gold, supposedly hidden beneath the water, the conquistadors drained Lake Texcoco, and the "chinampas" of Xochimilco in contemporary Mexico City remain as just a tiny remnant of the fertile floating fields of the two lakes.

It is obvious that my hypothesis needs further elaboration as to technicalities; however, such research exceeds my qualifications. Therefore, it would be interesting to get some feedback from people trained in engineering and other fields to see whether the above theory is feasible.

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ABDUCTIONS PAST AND PRESENT

BY NICOLAS BENZIN* and RONALD R. RATTMANN**

Observing the current alien abduction phenomenon, we see men and women apparently being abducted to strange places by grey beings (usually) with big heads and short bodies. The bodies of the abductees are often examined by the aliens.

According to Budd Hopkins and other well-known researchers in the field, the aliens want to produce genetic material for some sort of breeding program. Several women report that embryos were taken from them during an abduction, which later appeared to be hybrid beings. So, was human genetic material combined with that of the extraterrestrials and are there beings half human and half alien somewhere outside the Earth?

Also to be mentioned is the so-called "missing time effect", which often occurs during abductions by extraterrestrials. Until now, there can only be temporary statements about the "how" and the "why" of today's abduction phenomenon. The task of the Paleo-SETI-research is to find and examine evidence of extraterrestrial interference in the past. The question arises: When did the abduction phenomenon begin and have there been similar events in past centuries?

For our present research there are several sources related to the period of the European Middle Ages:

- Chronicles, which contain extraordinary reports that have to be classified as non-historical (according to the point of view of the historical-critical method), but, on the other hand, like legends, contain interesting motives according to Paleo-SETI-topics. Fairy tales can also be of interest, if there are motives in them that lead to further research in the collection of legends and chronicles. European fairy tales cannot be used as a reference in this case, because they are strongly defamiliarized, edited and altered according to terms of literature.

- Traditional customs with celebrations and rites. While studying numerous German legends, parallels with the present abduction phenomenon occurred to us. For example, a legend from northern Hessa, a German state, tells us:

In the valley of the Werra River, the goblins did mischief and pursued men and women. One day they kidnapped a young girl while she was making hay and brought her to their subterranean dwellings. They wanted her to marry a goblin and to be the mother of a new tribe. The girl did not like that at all, and so the goblins had to get her back to the meadow. She did not realize that in the meantime seven years had gone by!

What kind of goblins were these? The older inhabitants of Hessa describe them as humanoid, but they appear to be little grey men in miner's clothing. Around the villages of Wolfhagen and Volkmarzen stories are told about the "gute Hollen" (good holls). Rumour says they are brownies with big heads who try to kidnap the children of the humans. They often abducted children to marry them and to breed their own people to a larger size.

These are just a few examples of numerous similar legends from Hessa, which have their equivalents in many other regions of Germany. Summarizing all this, we can say that German legends contain motives which today can be found together with the abduction phenomenon:

1. Goblins abduct men and women and take them to strange places.
2. Goblins want to establish a kind of sexual union with humans.
3. A breeding program is intended during which hybrid creatures come into being.
4. Babies are stolen (parallel to the missing embryo syndrome).

5. There are time anomalies as a side effect of the abductions (missing time effect).
6. The goblins are humanoid beings with grey skin and big heads, wearing some kind of uniform (spacesuit?).

These ascertained parallels give support to the assumption that the "kidnappers" in former times and today are the same beings who interfere with our reality, our history. A program, planned for the long term, seems to be still running throughout the centuries, and therefore it comes within the research work of the Ancient Astronaut Society. To fathom the intentions and the aims of the aliens, it has to be determined if there are similar legends in other countries and other cultures. We would like to ask all members to search the legends of their home countries for indications of abductions in former centuries, and, in case something interesting is found, to send copies of texts dealing with this matter to Nicolas Benzin.

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ULRICH DOPATKA has compiled an anthology of most of the lectures presented at the Ancient Astronaut Society's World Conference held in Bern, Switzerland in 1995. The book, entitled Sind Wir Allein? (Are We Alone?) features articles by Erich von Daniken and many others. It is available in hardcover in German from ECON VERLAG, Düsseldorf, Germany.

ROBIN COLLYNS outlines a persuasive scenario for the "seeding" of life on Earth in his article in Ancient Skies 23:2. As the intermediate forms predicted by the hypothesis of evolution have never materialized, fresh approaches such as this are needed for interpreting ensuing patterns of life on this planet.

The possibility that the object found in a layer of limestone sediment about 360 million years old could be a fossilized human brain prompts me to offer the following for consideration:

A. The ancient Maya recorded dates into the remote past on several of their monuments. The oldest known recorded date appears on Stela D at Quirigua in Guatemala - approximately 400 million years into the past. (1) Scholars attribute this to a Mayan pre-occupation with time. We ought to be asking - what is significant about this specific period?

B. A dramatic event apparently resurfaced the planet Venus some 300 to 400 million years ago. (2) Since then the planet has apparently been relatively calm geologically.

For some years now I have been kicking around the idea that our remote ancestors came to Earth from neighboring Venus to escape a marked deterioration in conditions there. On the basis of dating, the spaceman postulated by Robin Collens could be interpreted as supporting such a scenario. I find his material encouraging. Dr. Stuart W. Greenwood, 9670 McAlpine Road, Silver Spring, Maryland 20901 USA

(1) "Maya Calculations Far into the Past and into the Future", Appendix IV to Maya Hieroglyphic Writing: an Introduction, by J. Eric S. Thompson, Third Edition, University of Oklahoma Press, 1971, pp314-316.

(2) "Magellan Reveals Venus" by Cordula Robinson, Astronomy, February 1995, pp 32-41.

24/1/96
DROPA, HOAX OR DRIED CORNSTALKS?

BY JOYCE M. SACHS*

In Ancient Skies 23:2 Jörg Dendl makes mention of the Dropa, decendants of an alien race which still might be existing as the Dzopa tribe of China. Mention of the Dropa was also made by Hartwig Hausdorf in Ancient Skies 22:6.

I came across an oddity in the "Million Dollar Museum" located in White City, near Carlsbad, New Mexico. (See Fig. 1) This could be a construction, or perhaps even a near-term aborted fetus; however, the development seems too mature to indicate a fetus. Notice the large head, and the fact that the rest of the body seems of an adult configuration. These mummified "remains" were found "in the mountains" near Calsbad, and have been kept in the Museum in a glass case for some years. It might be interesting to have it medically studied; unless, of course, it is a cleverly designed construct. On the surface it appears to be mummified remains of some kind.



Fig. 1. Mummified "remains" on display in museum at White City, New Mexico. Photo by George Pollard.

If the Dropa were an advanced race, their journeys could have taken them some distance from China, and the climate in the New Mexico area is very hot and dry, thus aiding in the preservation and mummification of bodies. There are mummified remains in the same museum purportedly found in the "mountains" around the vicinity.

I am submitting this photo and information in the event someone might want to pursue this further, or if someone is to be in the general area of Carlsbad, New Mexico, they might want to take a look at these remains. I do not want to pursue this too aggressively on my own, in the event that the exhibit might "disappear," as some exhibits have been known to do, either because they lack authenticity, or because persons in authority desire to suppress certain truths.

In addition, if a craft crashed 12,000 years ago, that time period would correspond to the age of the "Clovis Man" found near Blackwater Draw, some several hundred miles from Carlsbad. However, "Clovis Man," thought to be the first prehistoric resident of the area, appeared to be of earthly origin. Could the 12,000 year time factor yield some connection?

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WALTER-JORG LANGBEIN's latest book is now available in German in hardcover from LANGEN MULLER VERLAG, Munich, Germany. The title is Bevor die Sintflut kam (Before the Deluge).

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CHILDREN OF GOD?

BY MARTIN BRUIJNS**

While watching a television program about unborn children and pictures of them, suddenly I saw a fetus of about 8 weeks old. To my surprise its appearance was exactly the same as that of extraterrestrial visitors as they are described by a lot of people who claim to be visited or abducted by them. This description being: a white figure with no hair, very big almond-shaped black eyes, no real mouth or nose, and with hands which do not seem to be fully grown. Is this a coincidence, or is there more to it? Are those people who claim to have met aliens all suffering from a pre-birth trauma of some kind (which I doubt), or is there in space a civilization where babies get born after a pregnancy of 8 weeks with the result that their bodies do not develop into the human form as we know it, but stay in that stage and only grow in size? Is this to enhance the use of mental powers? This could also explain why the aliens use telepathy as a form of communication - they have no working vocal cords.

In his book Intruders: The Incredible Visitations at Copley Woods, Budd Hopkins describes how women became pregnant after an abduction or a visit by aliens and, to their surprise were no longer pregnant after a period of two months. A lot of the abductees claim to have met their children in following abductions.

The big question is: Why? Are these children meant to become the messengers of the future (angels) or middlemen, when the aliens are going to contact the people of Earth, or are they going to be planted as "moles" in the system, to prepare Earth for the coming of extraterrestrials to Earth? Aliens with a human appearance and the ability to speak?

Maybe this has been done once before. We know that Jesus was only half human and when he told his disciples to be to follow him, they just dropped anything they were doing and without hesitation they followed him on his tour throughout the Holy Land, just like they had been waiting for a signal.

In the Holy Bible (Genesis:6) we read that when men began to multiply on Earth and daughters were born to them, the "sons of God" took for themselves as wives all the daughters of men which they chose, and their children were giants, "mighty men of old, men of renown." As I read this the first thing that comes to my mind is whether this is a reference to the mythology of Greece, India, Norway, or even Atlantis and Mu? Are their descendants the people with paranormal capabilities, such as telekinesis, clairvoyance, extrasensory perception, precognition, and mindreading?

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BUDD HOPKINS, author of Intruders, will be the featured speaker at THE UFO EXPERIENCE Conference to be held on October 12-13, 1996 at the Holiday Inn in North Haven, Connecticut. Info: John White, 60 Pound Ridge Road, Cheshire, CT 06410. Tel. 203-272-2151. Fax. 203-250-0501.

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ANCIENT SKIES is published bi-monthly by the ANCIENT ASTRONAUT SOCIETY, 1921 St. Johns Ave., Highland Park, Illinois 60035-3178 USA, for distribution to its members. Tel. (847) 295-8899. Fax. (847) 295-0868.

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