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00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:04,000

You think you're a gopher landing over?

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Roger, understand. Gopher landing 3000 feet.

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July 20th, 1969.

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Astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin became the first men to land on the moon.

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That's one small step for man. One giant leap for mankind.

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00:00:28,000 --> 00:00:36,000

Just like aliens visiting from another world.

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It had been the stuff of science fiction.

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Now, everything that could be imagined seemed possible.

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If mankind could travel the skies and go to other planets,

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why couldn't beings from other planets visit the Earth?

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Amidst a wave of modern UFO sightings, a new theory emerged

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that aliens visited Earth in antiquity and were regarded as gods.

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But if that were true, wouldn't there be proof?

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Perhaps there was.

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All we needed to do was open our eyes and our imaginations.

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The proof, perhaps, was all around us.

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In May of 2008, a startling proclamation was issued by the Vatican.

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For the first time in its 2000 year history, the Catholic Church acknowledged the possibility

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that intelligent life could exist on other planets

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and that a belief in extraterrestrials did not contradict a belief in God.

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Which means, of course, that we are now entering an age in which the universe is beginning to be conceived

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00:02:28,000 --> 00:02:31,000

in different ways from where it was before.

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00:02:31,000 --> 00:02:37,000

And if it is a reality for us, why could it not have been a reality for other beings in the universe

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00:02:37,000 --> 00:02:45,000

who could have visited our Earth in perhaps guided, culturally mentioned times?

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But just what sparked this sudden turnaround in religious thought?

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00:02:49,000 --> 00:02:54,000

Could the Church have been influenced by recent scientific discoveries?

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In 2002, the Mars Odyssey spacecraft detected enormous reservoirs of ice beneath the Martian surface.

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The presence of ice and the possibility of water suggested that life could be sustained

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00:03:09,000 --> 00:03:13,000

or even generated on another planet.

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00:03:13,000 --> 00:03:17,000

After decades of orbiting space shuttles and robotic rovers,

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the idea of sending man back into space to Mars and beyond ignited the imagination

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00:03:24,000 --> 00:03:32,000

and brought back the notion that mankind and alien beings had crossed paths before.

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In 1968, just one year before Neil Armstrong's epic spaceflight,

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a book was published that forever changed the way many in the scientific, religious and creative communities

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would view their home planet.

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Written by Swiss author Eric von Daniken, chariots of the gods attempted to prove

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00:03:58,000 --> 00:04:03,000

that alien explorers had visited the Earth thousands of years ago.

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When I was a young man, I was educated as a strict Catholic in a boarding school.

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And there we had to make translations of part of the Bible, Greek to Latin, Latin to German.

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For example, in the first book of Moses, before the Lord descends on the Holy Mountain,

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Moses was ordered to construct a gate around the mountain.

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Otherwise, the Israelites would be damaged.

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I was shocked. I said, this is impossible.

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00:04:30,000 --> 00:04:36,000

My God, he would never use first a gate to protect himself or to protect the Israelites.

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00:04:36,000 --> 00:04:38,000

What are they talking about?

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00:04:38,000 --> 00:04:40,000

And now the world started.

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00:04:40,000 --> 00:04:46,000

I started to read thousands of pages of the beginning of religions of every mythology.

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00:04:46,000 --> 00:04:48,000

It's always the same story.

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00:04:48,000 --> 00:04:55,000

Of course, with different names, with different heroes, somebody descends from the sky to the humans.

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00:04:55,000 --> 00:04:57,000

Our forefathers could not understand it.

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00:04:57,000 --> 00:05:00,000

They believed that these are some gods.

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00:05:00,000 --> 00:05:01,000

I was shocked.

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00:05:01,000 --> 00:05:07,000

I asked the question, were primitive human influenced by extraterrestrials?

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00:05:07,000 --> 00:05:08,000

Not gods.

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00:05:08,000 --> 00:05:12,000

And if it always, like I suggested, what is the proof?

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00:05:12,000 --> 00:05:15,000

So you start trying to find at least indications.

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That's what I have done now for at least 45 years.

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00:05:19,000 --> 00:05:22,000

You have pictorial evidence, you have artifacts in archaeology,

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00:05:22,000 --> 00:05:25,000

and you have what's come out of the old literature.

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00:05:25,000 --> 00:05:29,000

Hundreds of indications which you cannot deny anymore.

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What it means is that we need new explanations for human origins,

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that perhaps we're not alone in the universe,

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00:05:40,000 --> 00:05:46,000

and that human-like beings came to this planet from some other planet elsewhere in the cosmos.

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00:05:46,000 --> 00:05:49,000

I think that's a very good idea myself.

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And it really excited people.

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It was a new way of looking at the past, looking at ancient civilizations,

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00:05:55,000 --> 00:06:01,000

and it put this very modern space-age spin to the whole thing.

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Chariots of the gods caused a sensation,

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fueled in no small part by the popular response to books like Frank Herbert's Dune,

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television shows like Star Trek,

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and feature films like 2001, A Space Odyssey.

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The time was ripe because everybody was talking of possible space travel,

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00:06:24,000 --> 00:06:26,000

of possibility of extraterrestrials,

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00:06:26,000 --> 00:06:29,000

so it was all wonderful coming together, but it was not planned.

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00:06:31,000 --> 00:06:36,000

After a Swiss newspaper, printed excerpts of it on a weekly basis.

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More than 10,000 copies of the book were sold before ever hitting the market.

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So it was a running bestseller starting in Switzerland first,

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00:06:44,000 --> 00:06:47,000

then going over to Germany, and then the rest of the world.

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00:06:47,000 --> 00:06:50,000

They had to print and print and print and print.

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00:06:50,000 --> 00:06:52,000

Absolutely incredible.

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In 1970, a feature-length documentary was released to theaters,

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00:06:58,000 --> 00:07:01,000

followed by dozens of bestselling books,

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and growing legions of fans and supporters.

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Chariots of the gods was tremendously influential.

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It somehow spoke to people who want to believe.

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When I was a boy, Chariot of the gods was one of the books I first read.

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00:07:16,000 --> 00:07:20,000

I mean, I ripped it apart. I digested. I couldn't get enough of it.

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I just fell in love with that book, because it really opened up all kinds of new questions.

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And Vandanakon was able to point out many anomalies in history

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00:07:31,000 --> 00:07:35,000

that the mainstream archaeologists can't answer very well.

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00:07:35,000 --> 00:07:39,000

He had what was a revolutionary new idea,

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00:07:39,000 --> 00:07:43,000

that of gods from outer space coming to the planet,

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00:07:43,000 --> 00:07:45,000

helping create civilization.

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00:07:46,000 --> 00:07:49,000

When I first read Chariots of the gods,

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00:07:49,000 --> 00:07:57,000

I couldn't put that book down, because it answered a whole bunch of questions that I had.

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00:07:57,000 --> 00:08:03,000

And it was a great combination of archaeology and adventure.

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And it's just a wonderful way to see the world and pursue these ancient mysteries.

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And it truly was, I think, the catalyst for what people like I do today,

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and that is to talk about the mysteries and the unusual and the paranormal.

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00:08:19,000 --> 00:08:24,000

He paved the way for a lot of us to talk about these strange stories.

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00:08:24,000 --> 00:08:28,000

And that continues to grow, and it's going to get bigger and bigger and bigger.

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00:08:28,000 --> 00:08:34,000

People want answers to questions that they can't answer themselves.

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But in spite of the book's enormous popularity, or perhaps because of it,

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Vandanakon's theories were scorned by scientists and jeered at by theologians.

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Of course, it created a storm of controversy.

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I was completely attacked, especially by the scientific newspapers.

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They said, come on, he's just telling a story, he's a liar, or he's a fraud, or whatever.

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00:08:59,000 --> 00:09:03,000

There is not a single piece of evidence that Vandanakon puts up with the world.

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00:09:03,000 --> 00:09:10,000

There is no evidence that Vandanakon puts forward that cannot be attributed to human ingenuity, technology, and development.

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00:09:10,000 --> 00:09:14,000

Don't try to reduce the scriptures to a science book,

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00:09:14,000 --> 00:09:20,000

or don't try to reduce the scriptures to an explanation of our modern world today.

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00:09:20,000 --> 00:09:24,000

I don't expect that the scientific community now embraces and kisses me and says,

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00:09:24,000 --> 00:09:26,000

oh, wonderful, great you did.

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00:09:26,000 --> 00:09:28,000

We have to live with critics.

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00:09:28,000 --> 00:09:29,000

This is normal.

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00:09:29,000 --> 00:09:31,000

The chariot of the God was full of speculation.

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00:09:31,000 --> 00:09:35,000

I had 238 question marks.

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00:09:35,000 --> 00:09:37,000

Nobody read the question mark.

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00:09:37,000 --> 00:09:40,000

They always said, Mr. Vandanakon is saying,

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00:09:40,000 --> 00:09:45,000

and I did not say, I asked the question, would that be a possibility?

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00:09:45,000 --> 00:09:52,000

That in chariots of the God, they made clear differences between speculations and facts.

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00:09:52,000 --> 00:09:59,000

But as controversial as many of Vandanakon's theories are, believers point to tangible evidence.

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How, for example, could a century's old map chart a land mass that has only recently been discovered?

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00:10:06,000 --> 00:10:14,000

It would tend to indicate that the map was made at a time when Antarctica was ice free,

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00:10:14,000 --> 00:10:18,000

which would be many millions of years ago.

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00:10:18,000 --> 00:10:25,000

And how could a primitive civilization know how to harness electricity or even build a computer?

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This was tantamount to finding a jet airplane in the tomb of King Tut.

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00:10:30,000 --> 00:10:37,000

And just who were these mysterious designs only visible from high altitudes intended for?

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00:10:37,000 --> 00:10:40,000

The signs are made for somebody who flies.

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00:10:40,000 --> 00:10:42,000

There's no way out this...

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00:10:44,000 --> 00:10:53,000

Could Vandanakon's theory that ancient gods were really alien visitors contain any serious scientific merit?

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00:10:53,000 --> 00:11:00,000

The answer involves a search around the world, and even right before our eyes.

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00:11:07,000 --> 00:11:13,000

If alien beings from other planets had visited the Earth thousands of years ago,

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00:11:13,000 --> 00:11:17,000

how would our ancient ancestors have tried to communicate with them?

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00:11:18,000 --> 00:11:23,000

And wouldn't there be some physical evidence of the time they spent here?

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00:11:25,000 --> 00:11:28,000

One answer may lie in the Nazca desert of Peru.

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00:11:28,000 --> 00:11:33,000

There, atop an arid plateau that stretches for nearly 50 miles,

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00:11:33,000 --> 00:11:38,000

countless geometric patterns and figures decorate the landscape.

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The

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00:11:45,000 --> 00:11:48,000

You fly over this desert and you see some lines.

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00:11:48,000 --> 00:11:53,000

The lines look like airstrips. They start abruptly, they end abruptly.

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00:11:59,000 --> 00:12:04,000

The longest of it is 23 km, right away, not one curve.

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00:12:04,000 --> 00:12:08,000

Just incredible. And ending in one of these so-called airstrips.

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00:12:12,000 --> 00:12:17,000

In the mixture of large lines and small lines, you see gigantic figures in the ground.

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00:12:17,000 --> 00:12:25,000

Figures of fishes, monkeys, spiders, apes.

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00:12:25,000 --> 00:12:30,000

But of such over-dimensional size that you can see them only from the air.

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00:12:31,000 --> 00:12:37,000

People built them, or somebody built them, hundreds and hundreds of years ago.

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00:12:37,000 --> 00:12:40,000

Perhaps maybe even thousands of years ago.

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00:12:40,000 --> 00:12:46,000

That could be signs of hello up there. Here we are. It's something.

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00:12:49,000 --> 00:12:55,000

Various disputed explanations suggest that the lines could have been used for irrigation ditches,

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00:12:56,000 --> 00:13:02,000

giant astronomical calendars, or pathways perhaps used for religious worship.

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00:13:02,000 --> 00:13:09,000

Looking at NASCA from the air, it looks like an airport.

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00:13:09,000 --> 00:13:15,000

And it really does, because you have all these bands, wide bands,

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00:13:15,000 --> 00:13:19,000

that look like airstrips that are laid on top of each other.

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00:13:19,000 --> 00:13:27,000

But you also have these gigantic long straight lines that go for miles and miles over valleys, over mountains.

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00:13:28,000 --> 00:13:32,000

So once again, you've got this idea of like, okay, people are creating this.

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00:13:32,000 --> 00:13:41,000

But what is the reason? Is it to show these gods in aerial vehicles, land here, kind of a thing?

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00:13:41,000 --> 00:13:48,000

Because we just don't have a good idea of why people would do this.

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00:13:48,000 --> 00:13:57,000

And it really does seem that they're trying to signal people who are in the air in space or flying around our planet.

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00:14:00,000 --> 00:14:07,000

During World War II, American troops created air bases on remote Pacific islands.

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00:14:08,000 --> 00:14:15,000

To natives who had never witnessed advanced technology, the sight of giant metal birds touching down,

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00:14:15,000 --> 00:14:21,000

looked to them as if the gods themselves had turned the earth into a planetary pit stop.

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00:14:22,000 --> 00:14:28,000

They would see these big planes land, and it was all technology that just was out of the sky.

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00:14:28,000 --> 00:14:32,000

They didn't know how these things worked, but they could see them land.

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00:14:32,000 --> 00:14:38,000

And what they liked about it was they were getting free stuff. They were getting cargo.

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00:14:39,000 --> 00:14:44,000

Suddenly when the war was over, all these airstrips were abandoned and everyone left.

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00:14:44,000 --> 00:14:48,000

And the islands scratched their heads and they all said to themselves,

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00:14:48,000 --> 00:14:54,000

wow, wasn't it great when all these planes came out of the sky and gave us free cans of corned beef and stuff?

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00:14:54,000 --> 00:14:56,000

We really liked that cargo.

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00:14:58,000 --> 00:15:07,000

Entire religions sprung up from this, where priests actually said, yes, you know, that was our dead ancestors sending us cargo.

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00:15:07,000 --> 00:15:15,000

So what they did then was they began going to do the old airstrips and they would build mock wooden airplanes

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00:15:15,000 --> 00:15:22,000

to try and get those planes to come back from the sky and deliver the cans of corned beef to them again.

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00:15:22,000 --> 00:15:30,000

And so you can see how then an analogy with modern cargo cults plays exactly into the ancient

astronaut scenario

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00:15:30,000 --> 00:15:38,000

where something like this could have easily happened in the past and entire religions built around ancient astronauts.

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00:15:43,000 --> 00:15:48,000

But gigantic geoglyphs aren't the only mystery surrounding Nazca.

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00:15:50,000 --> 00:15:57,000

I was flying over Nazca for days, hanging out the aircraft with the camera and shooting and shooting and shooting.

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00:15:57,000 --> 00:16:02,000

I have more or less about 4,000 pictures about Nazca. This is really fascinating.

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00:16:02,000 --> 00:16:08,000

You see, this is one of the pictures which prove that this mountain was made flat artificially

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00:16:08,000 --> 00:16:10,000

because you compare it with the mountain around there.

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00:16:10,000 --> 00:16:16,000

There the mountains cap comes up from both sides. Here it was flat. This is absolutely incredible.

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00:16:16,000 --> 00:16:20,000

This is one of the most craziest pictures I made about Nazca.

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00:16:21,000 --> 00:16:28,000

The crazy thing is the rubble, the remains of that summit or that mountaintop, gone.

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00:16:28,000 --> 00:16:33,000

It's nowhere. It's not in the valley down below. It's nowhere in the region.

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00:16:33,000 --> 00:16:41,000

What happened to it? Because all the mountains around it have their summits. It's there.

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00:16:41,000 --> 00:16:50,000

And then you have other mountains that are as flat as a table with bands on top that look like runways.

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00:16:52,000 --> 00:16:59,000

Another question. Why would visiting ETs be drawn to the bone-dry deserts of Peru?

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Let's just say hypothetically that a spaceship arrives here on planet Earth

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00:17:06,000 --> 00:17:11,000

and you want to quickly find out what this planet consists of.

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00:17:11,000 --> 00:17:19,000

Nazca would be the perfect place to go and visit for some sampling and for some experimentation

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00:17:19,000 --> 00:17:27,000

because Nazca still today is one of the most abundant areas in the world regarding raw materials.

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00:17:27,000 --> 00:17:34,000

There you find everything. You find gold. You find uranium. What have you?

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00:17:34,000 --> 00:17:38,000

It's basically the cliff notes of planet Earth.

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00:17:38,000 --> 00:17:44,000

You go to Nazca and you immediately know everything about what our planet consists of

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00:17:44,000 --> 00:17:50,000

because all the raw materials converge there at high volumes.

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00:17:51,000 --> 00:17:57,000

Why do we have to believe that this simply could not be an expression of an artistic impulse?

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00:17:57,000 --> 00:18:10,000

Is it really that outlandish to believe that these natives in Peru might have wanted to create some large-scale work of art?

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00:18:10,000 --> 00:18:17,000

And to say that such a large-scale work of art could not have been created merely for the possibility of having created it

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00:18:17,000 --> 00:18:25,000

rather than if the Nazca lines are so inhumanly vast that they could only be admired by people who

are capable of flight?

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00:18:25,000 --> 00:18:28,000

Well, you know, you can say the same thing about the Great Wall of China.

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00:18:28,000 --> 00:18:34,000

And yet the Great Wall of China has a purpose that is political, that is martial.

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00:18:34,000 --> 00:18:41,000

Somebody might have walked the Nazca lines as a spiritual labyrinth in the shape of a spiritual totemic object

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00:18:41,000 --> 00:18:46,000

and were in their own way supposed to get a kind of epiphany from that.

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00:18:46,000 --> 00:18:52,000

The fact that we don't understand the purpose of a thing opens it to tremendous speculation.

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00:18:59,000 --> 00:19:04,000

Nazca and the Nazca figures make no sign seen from the Earth.

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00:19:04,000 --> 00:19:07,000

You have to fly over it.

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00:19:07,000 --> 00:19:10,000

The signs are made for somebody who flies.

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00:19:10,000 --> 00:19:12,000

There's no way out of this.

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00:19:12,000 --> 00:19:16,000

I hope archaeologists who know all later will come to a similar conclusion.

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00:19:22,000 --> 00:19:28,000

But if visitors from other planets were thought to be gods, wouldn't there be written accounts of them?

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00:19:28,000 --> 00:19:32,000

Perhaps the answer can be found right in front of us.

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00:19:32,000 --> 00:19:37,000

In one of the most shocking places of all.

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00:19:44,000 --> 00:19:51,000

Ironically, Eric Von Daniken's firm belief that Earth has been visited in the past by beings from other planets

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00:19:51,000 --> 00:19:56,000

is entirely consistent with his belief in God and the Bible.

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00:19:56,000 --> 00:20:00,000

It is merely a question of interpretation.

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00:20:02,000 --> 00:20:07,000

I want us to understand I was a very, very deep believer in God.

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00:20:07,000 --> 00:20:12,000

By the way, I'm still a believer in God. I never lost my God.

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00:20:12,000 --> 00:20:17,000

But for a young man, my God had to be almighty.

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00:20:17,000 --> 00:20:21,000

My God would never need a vehicle in which to move around.

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00:20:21,000 --> 00:20:25,000

A vehicle to go from point A to point B.

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00:20:26,000 --> 00:20:29,000

In what Christians refer to as the Old Testament,

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00:20:29,000 --> 00:20:34,000

there are in fact several accounts of God and his angels visiting the Earth.

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00:20:36,000 --> 00:20:42,000

Sometimes these visitations are accompanied by tremendous noise and clouds of billowing smoke.

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00:20:47,000 --> 00:20:54,000

In the Book of Ezekiel, for example, the prophet claims that he witnessed a visitation by heavenly

beings

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00:20:54,000 --> 00:20:58,000

coming down from the skies aboard a fantastic flying machine.

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00:20:59,000 --> 00:21:06,000

As far as Von Daniken is concerned, it's a highly detailed description of an alien sighting.

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00:21:06,000 --> 00:21:14,000

This is incredible. Ezekiel not only describes what he see, he also describes what he hears.

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00:21:14,000 --> 00:21:19,000

He describes the whole thing as being the splendor of God.

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00:21:19,000 --> 00:21:27,000

The prophet also details several four-faced winged creatures who appeared in the likeness of men

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00:21:27,000 --> 00:21:30,000

and who traveled upon a gleaming wheeled device.

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00:21:30,000 --> 00:21:34,000

Inside the splendors of God, there was something like a drone.

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00:21:34,000 --> 00:21:41,000

And on this drone was a being sitting, looking like a human in glittering clothes.

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00:21:41,000 --> 00:21:46,000

And beneath it, he saw some vehicles. He saw some wings.

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00:21:46,000 --> 00:21:52,000

He describes the noise of the wings. He describes the noise of the wings with the tundering of a waterfall.

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00:21:57,000 --> 00:22:03,000

Ezekiel saw his wheel within a wheel. This sounds more high-tech than supernatural.

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00:22:03,000 --> 00:22:13,000

And we can't suppose that people 3,000 years ago would understand the difference between the supernatural and high-tech.

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00:22:13,000 --> 00:22:21,000

But what if there is more to Ezekiel's heavenly visions than the imaginative insights of a religious man?

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00:22:21,000 --> 00:22:25,000

What if there was a scientific foundation for them?

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00:22:26,000 --> 00:22:35,000

Yes, I once had the opportunity of meeting and spending time and traveling with a gentleman by the name of Joseph Blumrisch.

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00:22:35,000 --> 00:22:42,000

He was a senior chief engineer at NASA, a person involved in the Mariner expedition to Mars.

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00:22:42,000 --> 00:22:47,000

He was also in charge of the landing gear for the Mariner spaceship.

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00:22:47,000 --> 00:22:59,000

And he told me himself that the idea of the design used for the Mariner spaceship that landed on Mars came to him from the reading of the biblical text

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00:22:59,000 --> 00:23:03,000

in which there is talk about wheels within wheels.

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00:23:03,000 --> 00:23:09,000

So here you have another example of a person of curiosity who conceives of these ideas.

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00:23:10,000 --> 00:23:19,000

Another biblical figure who continues to fascinate Vondanikon is the character of Enoch.

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00:23:19,000 --> 00:23:27,000

Enoch is not part of the Bible. In the Bible, in the Old Testament, you find maybe just one phrase about Enoch, that's all.

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00:23:27,000 --> 00:23:33,000

But among the apocryphic texts, there are volumes and volumes, if you know them.

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00:23:33,000 --> 00:23:40,000

You find the book of Enoch. Enoch is the first person in antiquity who writes in the first person,

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00:23:40,000 --> 00:23:43,000

I did, I hear, I was there.

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00:23:43,000 --> 00:23:52,000

In one of the ancient texts, this great grandfather of Noah is said to have been taken away by God for 300 years.

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00:23:52,000 --> 00:24:01,000

He was taken up to the sky. Up there he meets the highest, the so-called highest in religion they call it God.

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00:24:01,000 --> 00:24:06,000

He meets the highest and the highest these to his servants.

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00:24:06,000 --> 00:24:12,000

You teach this young man in our language and then you teach him writing.

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00:24:12,000 --> 00:24:18,000

So he writes books. Of course, he knows all these foreigners by name.

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00:24:18,000 --> 00:24:21,000

He quotes them by name. He knows their profession.

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00:24:21,000 --> 00:24:25,000

He knows which of these extraterrestrials was the astronomer.

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00:24:25,000 --> 00:24:33,000

So Enoch is the only in first person, thousands of years ago, who gives some of the names of the extraterrestrials and gives some of their professions.

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00:24:33,000 --> 00:24:40,000

How is this possible? We have an eyewitness and nobody speaks about it. So I really was confused.

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00:24:42,000 --> 00:24:46,000

That would be the argument that the followers of Fontanikin would say.

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00:24:46,000 --> 00:24:53,000

Why is it so absurd for aliens to come when it's completely acceptable for God to intervene in human history?

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00:24:53,000 --> 00:25:01,000

The difference is Fontanikin's arguing that aliens came and gave technologies to people to advance those cultures.

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00:25:01,000 --> 00:25:08,000

So basically they gave objects. They gave new ideas and new technologies and that those cultures advanced because of them.

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00:25:08,000 --> 00:25:20,000

Whereas, at least in the Bible, it's not like God gave humankind a magic watch, you know, or a new missile that they could use to defeat their enemies.

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00:25:20,000 --> 00:25:32,000

God gives instructions, at least the Bible records, that God gives instructions on how to live, but not how to build new devices that further or advance a specific culture.

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00:25:32,000 --> 00:25:36,000

Can we like an Ezekiel's chariot to a UFO?

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00:25:36,000 --> 00:25:45,000

The ancients use myth and metaphor and images to describe their experience of God.

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00:25:45,000 --> 00:25:50,000

I think what we don't want to fall to is a type of fundamental literalism.

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00:25:50,000 --> 00:25:59,000

The stories of the Old Testament emerge out of the people of that time, out of their own context, to make sense of their experience of God.

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00:25:59,000 --> 00:26:04,000

We can gain insight by reading the Old Testament and reading about Ezekiel's chariot.

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00:26:04,000 --> 00:26:09,000

But it's not to draw a strict analogy between his chariot and a UFO.

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When all of these stories were written down, writing was a fairly new invention.

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The very first thing they wrote down is something that actually happened to them.

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00:26:25,000 --> 00:26:32,000

It was so important, so compelling, so significant to them that they had to put it in writing.

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00:26:32,000 --> 00:26:40,000

Why can't modern society come to grips that these stories might be true after all?

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00:26:40,000 --> 00:26:52,000

Von Daniken's research turned up evidence of other arguably extraterrestrial phenomena, and not only in the Bible.

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00:26:52,000 --> 00:27:02,000

Almost every religion has similar stories about deities, with spectacular powers and abilities, who come to Earth and directly influence the lives of men.

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00:27:02,000 --> 00:27:08,000

Suddenly one day I said to myself, no come on. This is similar to the stories in so many old religions.

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00:27:08,000 --> 00:27:11,000

Are they talking about extraterrestrials?

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00:27:11,000 --> 00:27:18,000

These so-called gods are here, they give orders, they force the humans to do certain things,

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00:27:18,000 --> 00:27:26,000

and one day they disappear. But they always disappear with the promise to return in a far away future.

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00:27:26,000 --> 00:27:34,000

If, as I believe, people in ancient civilizations were familiar with space travel,

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people in ancient civilizations were in communication with human-like beings from other planets,

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00:27:41,000 --> 00:27:49,000

then I think we should expect to find evidence for this in their literatures, which we do find.

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Throughout the ancient Sanskrit epics of India, there are numerous descriptions of Vimanas, or mythical flying machines.

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00:27:57,000 --> 00:28:02,000

One of these accounts even dates back over 5,000 years.

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In the Bhagavad Purana, which is an ancient Sanskrit history,

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00:28:06,000 --> 00:28:13,000

there is a description of a spacecraft that was piloted by a king named Shalva.

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00:28:13,000 --> 00:28:16,000

It's described that it was made of metal.

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It was described that it sometimes appeared to be in two places at once.

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00:28:21,000 --> 00:28:26,000

It was described as having a motion similar to that of a butterfly.

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00:28:26,000 --> 00:28:33,000

And these descriptions are consistent with what people who observe UFOs today report.

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In other Sanskrit texts, such as the Mahabharata, the Rig Veda, and the Ramayana,

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there can be found descriptions of Vimana measuring as wide as 100 feet,

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00:28:46,000 --> 00:28:53,000

and often equipped with the capabilities of modern aircraft.

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One Vimana produced a Shaft of Light, which when focused on a target, consumed it with its power.

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It's like a Buck Rogers or Flash Gordon movie from the 30s.

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They read like the wildest science fiction.

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00:29:08,000 --> 00:29:19,000

People are flying around in airships called Vamanas, blasting each other and having aerial fights, destroying entire cities.

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00:29:19,000 --> 00:29:27,000

And the crazy thing is that all of those stories are totally accepted in the Mahabharata.

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I don't think we can say that these descriptions are simply imagination,

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00:29:34,000 --> 00:29:37,000

because even though they were written thousands of years ago,

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they match what many people today report in terms of observing the actions of UFOs.

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Were they just mythological tales that they're making up fantasy?

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00:29:48,000 --> 00:29:55,000

Or these physical real events, and they're trying to describe them as they're just a mythological tale?

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00:29:55,000 --> 00:29:59,000

Or these events, and they're trying to describe them as the best that they could?

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00:29:59,000 --> 00:30:02,000

That seems to make more sense to me.

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00:30:02,000 --> 00:30:05,000

I gotta tell you this, I would be out of a job in India,

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00:30:05,000 --> 00:30:09,000

because there, if I were to talk about ancient aliens and ancient gods,

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00:30:09,000 --> 00:30:13,000

they would say, OK, so what else is new?

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00:30:18,000 --> 00:30:22,000

When backing up their claims of extraterrestrial visitation,

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ancient alien theorists draw upon two kinds of examples.

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There's the evidence you can read, such as that found in ancient texts,

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00:30:32,000 --> 00:30:37,000

and then there's the evidence you can actually see.

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Among the earliest types of physical specimens, numerous cave and rock drawings,

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00:30:42,000 --> 00:30:46,000

and stone sculptures found all over the globe.

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You know, pictures are worth a thousand words. Absolutely.

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And you see pictures depicted, for example, on a cave in Italy

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00:30:53,000 --> 00:30:56,000

that show two astronauts with helmets on.

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00:30:56,000 --> 00:30:59,000

What the heck could it be? What could it be?

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00:30:59,000 --> 00:31:06,000

Each of these ancient illustrations or statues depict figures dressed in strange attire for the times,

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00:31:06,000 --> 00:31:09,000

and sporting unusual headgear.

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00:31:09,000 --> 00:31:13,000

But could they really be representations of alien astronauts,

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visitors from other worlds who touched down upon the Earth thousands of years ago?

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00:31:20,000 --> 00:31:26,000

All over the world, we have statues and sculptures and paintings and depictions

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00:31:26,000 --> 00:31:29,000

of these extraterrestrial beings.

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00:31:29,000 --> 00:31:32,000

Even in the United States, at Sego Canyon, Utah,

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00:31:32,000 --> 00:31:37,000

we have petroglyphs of very weird-looking creatures

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00:31:37,000 --> 00:31:41,000

that have antennae on their heads, helmets,

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00:31:41,000 --> 00:31:43,000

and have for you around the world.

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00:31:43,000 --> 00:31:47,000

In Kimberly, Australia, for example, we have the exact same depictions

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00:31:47,000 --> 00:31:51,000

of these helmeted beings with a halo around their heads.

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00:31:51,000 --> 00:31:55,000

And the question I have is, what did our ancestors see

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00:31:55,000 --> 00:32:00,000

that compelled them to put this on their cave walls?

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00:32:00,000 --> 00:32:04,000

On yet another continent in Guatemala City,

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00:32:04,000 --> 00:32:10,000

we have a sculpture that looks eerily reminiscent of a modern-day astronaut.

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00:32:10,000 --> 00:32:14,000

That thing is wearing a helmet, there's some type of a mouthpiece,

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00:32:14,000 --> 00:32:20,000

and on his chest are some type of controls or a breathing apparatus.

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How is this possible?

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1,500 years ago.

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And in Colombia, there were thousands of tomb artifacts

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00:32:30,000 --> 00:32:33,000

that look like modern-day airplanes.

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00:32:33,000 --> 00:32:37,000

It has fixed wings, it has a fuselage,

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00:32:37,000 --> 00:32:44,000

and it has an upright tail fin, which is not intrinsic to nature,

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but it is intrinsic to modern-day aerodynamics.

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Did our ancestors see something similar flying in the air?

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00:32:53,000 --> 00:32:54,000

Absolutely.

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00:32:55,000 --> 00:32:59,000

Another compelling artifact that was found was at the Istanbul Museum,

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00:32:59,000 --> 00:33:06,000

where you have this headless spaceman sitting inside some type of a space vehicle.

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00:33:06,000 --> 00:33:12,000

You can see his hands, and you can see tubing that go to some sort of devices.

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00:33:12,000 --> 00:33:15,000

He's wearing a suit, his legs are crammed in there.

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00:33:15,000 --> 00:33:20,000

I mean, even to the untrained eye, this looks very aerodynamic,

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00:33:20,000 --> 00:33:25,000

and it looks something that, you know, came from outer space.

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These people witnessed something, they were told something,

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00:33:31,000 --> 00:33:34,000

and they tried to depict it the best way they could

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with the kind of technology they had at the time,

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and that was simple tools and simple artwork.

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Many of these ancient civilizations were widely separated in space and time.

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00:33:46,000 --> 00:33:49,000

They weren't in communication with each other,

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but still they have the same kinds of accounts.

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00:33:53,000 --> 00:33:57,000

I think it's because they all experienced these things,

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00:33:57,000 --> 00:34:02,000

and they all have the idea that we're part of a cosmic hierarchy of beings.

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00:34:02,000 --> 00:34:07,000

So I think we can't explain things away so easily.

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00:34:09,000 --> 00:34:14,000

But for Eric Vondanikin and other proponents of his ancient astronaut theories,

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00:34:14,000 --> 00:34:19,000

perhaps the most significant illustration can be found in Mexico.

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00:34:20,000 --> 00:34:25,000

The Mayan archaeological site of Felenke had been abandoned for centuries

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00:34:25,000 --> 00:34:28,000

before it was stumbled upon by Spanish explorers.

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00:34:29,000 --> 00:34:37,000

We sort of get to the top of this, and suddenly here are the great pyramids of Felenke.

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00:34:38,000 --> 00:34:44,000

Here, deep within a secret tomb, under one of the age-old temples,

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00:34:44,000 --> 00:34:50,000

lies the seven-ton sarcophagus of Felenke's seventh-century ruler, Picale the Great.

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Lord Picale apparently died here at Felenke.

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00:34:55,000 --> 00:34:59,000

He was apparently this mysterious Mayan leader.

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00:34:59,000 --> 00:35:03,000

He was a giant, seven or eight feet tall, actually,

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00:35:03,000 --> 00:35:08,000

and then they built this pyramid around his tomb.

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00:35:08,000 --> 00:35:12,000

The Mayans literally worshipped him as some kind of a god.

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00:35:14,000 --> 00:35:17,000

King Picale's sarcophagus is adorned with a carving

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00:35:17,000 --> 00:35:21,000

that has become a famous example of classic Mayan art.

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00:35:22,000 --> 00:35:27,000

Most believe the illustration shows Picale descending into the Mayan underworld,

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but ancient astronaut theorists interpret the carving a vastly different way.

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On this lap, an incredible inchisling.

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00:35:36,000 --> 00:35:40,000

You see a man, and he is sitting in a sort of capsule.

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00:35:40,000 --> 00:35:46,000

He has some sort of mask on his nose, and you see his upper hand, he's manipulating some controls.

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00:35:46,000 --> 00:35:48,000

From the lower hand, he's turning something on.

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00:35:48,000 --> 00:35:51,000

The heel of his left foot is on a kind of pedal,

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00:35:51,000 --> 00:35:55,000

and outside of the capsule you see a linking flame.

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00:35:55,000 --> 00:35:59,000

This is incredible. This is absolutely a proof for extraterrestrials.

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00:36:06,000 --> 00:36:09,000

If we look at the similarities of what our astronauts look like

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00:36:09,000 --> 00:36:13,000

when they are in a rocket ship or in the space shuttle and have gear attached to them,

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00:36:13,000 --> 00:36:15,000

there are similarities being shown.

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00:36:15,000 --> 00:36:21,000

So one just has to ask the question of, you know, is this just an artifact symbolically showing something,

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00:36:21,000 --> 00:36:26,000

or are they trying to depict with their own limited understanding of the time what was taking place?

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00:36:27,000 --> 00:36:31,000

Was Lord Picale just some Mayan king that everyone liked?

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00:36:31,000 --> 00:36:36,000

Was he some important visitor from some far-off land?

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00:36:37,000 --> 00:36:42,000

Or was he even possibly some extraterrestrial from another planet?

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00:36:45,000 --> 00:36:49,000

Although most scientists and archaeologists discredit

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00:36:49,000 --> 00:36:52,000

Von Daniken's interpretation of the Polenke carvings,

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00:36:52,000 --> 00:36:59,000

visitors to the site are often treated to stories and offered souvenirs that support his claim.

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00:36:59,000 --> 00:37:03,000

This is Eric Von Daniken's theory, the Charits of the Gods.

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00:37:03,000 --> 00:37:11,000

You see, Picale's supposed to be driving the rocket, holding the controls, the pedals,

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00:37:12,000 --> 00:37:15,000

the engine, and the fire of the rocket.

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00:37:15,000 --> 00:37:17,000

This will be the cabin.

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00:37:17,000 --> 00:37:19,000

And this is the oxygen.

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00:37:20,000 --> 00:37:25,000

Mainstream archaeologists claim that it's really a depiction of Lord Picale

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00:37:25,000 --> 00:37:27,000

and his journey to the underworld.

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He's going underground rather than out into space.

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Both are interesting theories and either could be right in my mind.

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In recent years, Picale's tomb has been closed to tourists and casual visitors.

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Although the sarcophagus is off limits, ancient astronaut theorists can still find a wealth of evidence

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in the carvings along the walls of Polenke.

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00:37:52,000 --> 00:37:57,000

This is very similar to what's on the lid of Lord Picale of his tomb.

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00:37:57,000 --> 00:38:03,000

The way he's got his left hand right here in an odd position and his wrist,

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00:38:03,000 --> 00:38:08,000

also some kind of rocket exhaust or something is coming out of him.

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00:38:10,000 --> 00:38:16,000

But Lord Picale may not have been the only alien who once walked the Polenke ruins.

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00:38:16,000 --> 00:38:21,000

The Mayans had such an advanced calendar and mathematical system.

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Why were they so obsessed with the stars?

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00:38:24,000 --> 00:38:27,000

One of the most advanced of any ancient cultures.

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And yet the Mayans just vanished around 500 AD.

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We don't know where they went.

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And one explanation is that the Mayans were some kind of extraterrestrials

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and they literally left our planet.

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But ancient cave drawings and stone carvings aren't the only types of illustrations

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00:38:50,000 --> 00:38:53,000

that fascinate ancient alien theorists.

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In 1929, historians discovered a map which had been painted onto a piece of gazelle hide.

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They traced the document back to a 16th century Turkish admiral named Piri.

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00:39:06,000 --> 00:39:11,000

But in stark contrast to other maps dating back to that time,

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00:39:11,000 --> 00:39:16,000

the map depicts land masses that were still, as yet, unexplored.

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00:39:16,000 --> 00:39:25,000

It shows the coast of Antarctica as it exists under the current ice cover.

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00:39:25,000 --> 00:39:32,000

Now that's really pretty amazing because it would tend to indicate that the map was made at a time

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00:39:32,000 --> 00:39:39,000

when Antarctica was ice free, which would be many millions of years ago.

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00:39:39,000 --> 00:39:44,000

The map also accurately charts the coasts of Europe and North Africa.

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00:39:44,000 --> 00:39:51,000

But it's the illustration of northern Antarctica that truly astonishes ancient astronaut theorists

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00:39:51,000 --> 00:39:56,000

because this region wouldn't even be discovered for another 300 years.

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00:39:56,000 --> 00:40:00,000

We have to remember that Antarctica is covered by at least a mile thick ice.

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00:40:00,000 --> 00:40:04,000

We didn't have ground penetrating radar until 1958,

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00:40:04,000 --> 00:40:09,000

so for a map to exist in 1531 accurately showing the topography is pretty interesting.

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When cartographers superimposed the Piri map over a modern map of the world,

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00:40:17,000 --> 00:40:25,000

they were amazed to discover that the ancient chart was fantastically accurate in the most minute of details.

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But how could the creators of a centuries-old map have known of mountains or rivers that had yet to be discovered?

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In 1531, I really don't know of anyone who was flying above the surface of the Earth high enough

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00:40:37,000 --> 00:40:41,000

to map topography and how would they see underneath the ice?

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00:40:41,000 --> 00:40:44,000

Their maps were so accurate.

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00:40:44,000 --> 00:40:49,000

I mean, we know that they didn't go to Antarctica and explore it,

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00:40:49,000 --> 00:40:52,000

but yet they were able to draw these maps of it.

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But if ancient aliens possessed the technology to travel the universe,

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would the only evidence of their journey be in the form of a few carvings or a mysterious map?

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Wouldn't there also be signs of a highly advanced technology?

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Signs that might be too large to overlook.

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You mean to tell me that people of that time period did this by hand?

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I don't think so.

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When it comes to searching for evidence of ancient aliens,

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Eric Von Daniken literally leaves no stones unturned.

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I have collected for more than 40 years information,

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and there are two sorts of evidences to support my hypothesis.

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The one source is literature.

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This might be archaeological or mythological literature,

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and the other sorts are practical objects.

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For example, the pyramids are linked to the gods.

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The gods who once descended from the sky to us earthlings.

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Without a little interplanetary help,

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how else could early Egyptians have learned to stack

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the nearly two and a half million limestone and granite blocks that create the Great Pyramid?

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How could prehistoric man move the immense boulders at Stonehenge?

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And how could ancient builders at Kusko fit stones so closely together

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that even a razor blade can't fit between them?

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As you travel around the world trying to piece together this puzzle of the ancient world,

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there's not that much to really get a good grasp on,

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but what there is is giant blocks of stone,

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huge articulated granite or basalt blocks in many cases.

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Sometimes they weigh a thousand tons.

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These things are the size of railway cars,

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and you find them in Peru and Bolivia and Mexico and ancient Egypt.

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You have to ask yourself, why and how could ancient people have dragged these railway car-size blocks of stone,

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stacked them up together into these giant buildings?

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Perhaps the most familiar and most mysterious megalithic structure in all the world

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is the Great Pyramid of Giza,

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the oldest and largest of Egypt's three Great Pyramids.

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This miracle of engineering is believed to have been constructed during a 20-year period,

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ending around 2560 BC.

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But to ancient alien theorists, those numbers just don't add up.

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The Great Pyramid was not built in only 22 years,

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because logistically speaking, you would have to cut, transport, and put into place one stone every nine seconds.

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And there are modern engineers who have come forward and said,

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we couldn't do this in 22 years either.

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There are all kinds of theories on how the Great Pyramid of Giza was built.

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So many theories, you just sit back and shake your head.

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And that includes ET visitations, levitating the blocks with some kind of sound system, anti-gravity,

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thousands of workers pulling long ropes on a ramp that had to be almost two miles long to get it up to where it is.

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All I know is that they are so finely aligned and that the architecture is so precise

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that even modern people today with great technology would have a difficult time being that good.

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How, for example, in the inside of the pyramids and the tombs, could they build granite in marble areas

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00:45:20,000 --> 00:45:23,000

that were just so perfect and so clean?

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00:45:26,000 --> 00:45:30,000

You mean to tell me that people of that time period did this by hand?

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I don't think so.

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The enormous size and weight of the stones, multiplied by the sheer number of them, makes one thing certain.

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The construction of the Great Pyramid remains one of the greatest marvels and mysteries of architectural engineering.

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I don't want to discount human ingenuity because I do believe that we do have the ability to do these things over a longer period of time,

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but the knowledge to build some of these monuments, there had to have been some type of intervention or some type of knowledge

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given to ancient man to carry out those instructions. They couldn't have just come up with it on their own.

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In Egypt, there are all traditions saying the Great Pyramid was constructed by a pharaoh with the name of Saurid.

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And then they say Saurid is the same which the Hebrew community calls Inok.

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Inok is a prophet in the Old Testament. There are books of Inok called the Apocryphic Texts.

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You make a connection with Inok to these extraterrestrials.

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He clearly says he met these extraterrestrials.

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Now we have writings in the book of Inok and he gave the order to construct a building which cannot be destroyed by the thousands of years of the future.

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And the ancient Egyptian texts speak that the pyramids were built by human beings with the assistance of the guardians of the sky, meaning the gods.

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And so we have proposed that the pyramids were built by human hands, but with the assistance of extraterrestrial technology.

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As one of the seven wonders of the world, the Great Pyramid remains not only an archaeological mystery, but a geographical marvel.

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In 1877, author and theologian Joseph Seiss demonstrated that the Great Pyramid resides at the intersection of the longest line of latitude and the longest line of longitude, the exact center of all the landmass in the world.

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Also, each of its four sides aligns almost precisely with the four points of the compass, though such an instrument wasn't even designed until thousands of years later.

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But is it just mere coincidence that pyramid construction, very similar to that practiced in

ancient Egypt, was also evolving halfway around the world?

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There are pyramids on remote Pacific islands, and in India, and in Mexico.

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So this is something that's all over the world. Archaeologists haven't really been able to explain why dissimilar cultures, separated by huge oceans, are building the same structures, and in many ways the same way.

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Here in central Mexico stands an ancient city that dates back more than 2,000 years. Its name, Teotihuacan, literally means city of the gods.

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And located at its center is the Pyramid of the Sun.

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Incredibly, this pyramid's perimeter is virtually the same as that of the Great Pyramid of Giza.

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A structural coincidence? Or could it be that both were inspired by the same designers?

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A couple theories for that. Okay, one, maybe they were all taught the same thing by an extraterrestrial race.

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Two, there were ancient travelers from within this planet who went from one area to another over the thousands of past years.

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And then there's some skeptics will say, hey, that's the greatest archaeological way to make it, so they just knew it. I don't think that's the case.

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At Teotihuacan, here you have a giant pyramid of the Sun and a giant pyramid of the Moon.

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According to the legends, these things were built by gods who were giants at the end of one of the destructions of the world.

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Civilizations such as the Aztecs and the Mayans and the Hopi Indians of Northern Arizona, they believe that the world has been destroyed four times in the past.

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One time by ice, once by fire, once by water.

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Each time, mankind rebuilds again. And Teotihuacan supposedly was built just at the beginning of one of these four worlds.

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You may ask the question, why build these huge, huge structures? For what purpose?

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Well, in Egypt, for example, either the pharaohs had incredible egos and they wanted to outdo themselves, right?

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So they built these huge museums for themselves. Or it's also possible that these ancients wanted to leave behind something for us.

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It is written in ancient Egyptian texts, the purpose, why the pyramid was built, was to store knowledge.

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Three hundred books which allegedly contained the knowledge of the universe, dictated by the guardians of the sky.

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Of course, the pyramids aren't the only ancient monuments that continue to baffle scientists and archaeologists.

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There are literally hundreds of them and they can be found in every corner of our world.

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In a remote area of the Pacific Ocean lies one of the most isolated yet inhabited locations in the world, Easter Island.

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Here, over 800 stone guardians called Moai stand watch over the island's coastline.

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But are they primitive native carvings or eerie portraits of alien visitors from thousands of years ago?

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Whatever they were for, they're made to last for thousands of years, they're built out of blocks of stone that weigh many, many tons.

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Not only are people building structures out of these huge, megalithic blocks of stone,

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but this was going on around the world.

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And yet, supposedly it's just primitive people doing this for no really good reason, it would seem.

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I think one of the things that comes into our considerations of what ancient cultures could have accomplished is whether they were able to write it down or not.

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We're very tied to if we have evidence that they wrote down how they did it, then we believe we know how they did it.

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So, Egypt, we have a lot more writings and drawings that show them building the pyramids, give us an idea of the technology.

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If you go somewhere like Easter Island, we don't have any real written evidence of what they did, and sometimes that leads us to question their innovativeness.

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3,000 miles away, in the Republic of Bolivia, stonework exists, which is amazingly similar to the statues of Easter Island.

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Tijuanaco is, in fact, so ancient that it defies modern dating techniques.

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It is estimated to be over 17,000 years old, perhaps the oldest city in the world.

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And somehow, the sculptures at Tijuanao were constructed in the same style and with the same enigmatic expressions as their distant cousins on Easter Island.

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A lot of the stuff with Tijuanao you can see in earlier civilizations.

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All the way back before, into the centuries BC in Peru, you see some of these same patterns, some of the same iconography, imagery, and you can see the ancestry of this.

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But while tourists flock to the ruins of Tijuanao, perhaps the most mystifying of all ancient sites lies just a few hundred yards away.

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Of relatively little interest to most visitors, Puma Puncu is a field of stone ruins that both thrills and stimulates the imaginations of ancient alien theorists.

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In my opinion, the most significant piece of evidence that we have in this entire ancient, asynod puzzle is Puma Puncu in the Highland of Bolivia.

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While the pyramids at Giza are incredible feat of achievement, compared to Puma Puncu, the pyramids are child play.

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Logic does not exist at Puma Puncu because there we have megalithic structures which just lie about this entire site as if ripped apart by some sort of a great force.

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The blocks of Puma Puncu were so finely cut that they once perfectly interlocked, like the pieces of an elaborate puzzle.

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But with the nearest quarry over ten miles away, how did these colossal stones, some weighing hundreds of tons, even get here?

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We are talking about the place 4000 meter overseas level. That means there are no trees up there which you could use for rollers.

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Nothing grows except a few grasses and bushes.

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I have stood in front of many monuments, however Puma Puncu takes the crown because what we find there is so inexplicable, so inachievable that the question remains how was it done and for what purposes.

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Mainstream archaeologists say that Puma Puncu was built by the Aymara Indians and we would all have to agree that in order to build something like Puma Puncu, you need writing, you need planning and you need some sort of an idea where which piece goes and how it ultimately all fits together.

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But there is one thing that all the mainstream archaeologists agree upon that the Aymara didn't have any writing. So how was it possible that they built all of this without plans?

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What's really amazing and why the ancient astronaut theorists are so drawn to Puma Puncu and Tijuana Co is that the quality of the stonework and the immense size of these blocks is so incredible and perfect that there's actually evidence of machining and that they were using machine tools to cut these blocks.

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One of these platforms is 800 tons and they are so smoothly polished. You have some stone megalithic stones with grooves which are just a few millimetres inside which definitely cannot be made with stone age chisels.

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It doesn't work with stone age chisels. So there is another technology behind it.

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The lines cut into these rocks are exactly straight and precisely the same depth from one end to the other.

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It's as if only master builders were allowed to work there because everything is so precise, everything is so perfect. You wonder how any of this was even possible.

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One of the most intriguing things there is that the stones that were used there aren't sandstone, they're granite and diorite.

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The only stone that's harder than diorite is diamond. So the only way that this could have been achieved is if the tools were tipped with diamonds.

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American professors who were up there with their computer and modern measurements, they were really shocked. In their literature they say it is impossible to reconstruct Puma Puncu. It's absolutely impossible.

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But is it really difficult to believe that ancient peoples could have so precisely carved these stones or could build such an incredibly intricate structure from them?

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If it was ancient astronauts teaching them these building techniques, why don't we see just perfect almost skyscraper like vertical edifices? Everything was all pyramid like?

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Stone cutting techniques have been invented and reinvented and independently invented all over the world. If you think of yourself as a god king and you want to have a structure built that's going to last thousands of years, it's much better to build it out of perfectly fitting stones without mortar that degrades and decays and has to be maintained.

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So we see mortarless structures, megalithic structures all over the world.

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We have an anomaly here where on one hand these people are supposed to be very primitive. They're just one step out of the stone age. Yet what they're doing are things that we couldn't even do today apparently.

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Or would have extreme difficulty. And that is building with these giant blocks of stone, perfectly fitting them together with other blocks, interlocking them.

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The ancient people of our time on this planet truly saw strange things. They witnessed bizarre events.

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But those stories other than in depictions and some artwork and things like that, they're gone for some reason. They're just gone.

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But left behind are incredible things that we have that make you wonder how in the heck were these things built? Those are great mysteries and I think one of the things that keeps people just continuing to push for the answers are the fact that these things are so out there that they can't figure it out.

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But uncovering the mystery of just how these incredible structures were built would only solve one piece of the puzzle. Finding out why they were built and how they were used poses equally compelling questions. Questions that may not be answerable here on Earth.

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Did aliens really inspire our ancestors to build ancient temples and pyramids? And if they came here, did they leave behind any advanced knowledge of physics, astronomy or mathematics?

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If so, is there any evidence that remains to this day? One example might be this one, often described as the world's first mechanical computer. It dates back over 2,000 years.

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The Antikythera device was found in 1900 by sponge divers diving off a small island in the Aegean called Antikythera. There was a shipwreck there and in it was a coral encrusted box and it was made of metal alloys.

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And it then went to the Athens Museum where a good 50 years later they were able to x-ray this box and they were able to discern cog wheels that were interconnected and give us a very good depiction of what this thing was.

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And it is a computer. It's a really sophisticated machine.

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It's a very interesting piece of technology because it serves two purposes. One was that it was an astronomical device where you could by using it chart your position to the stars and navigate your way through the seas.

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It was also an astrological device so that someone could tell you, ah, if you were born on this date and your planet sign is this, then certain things are going to happen to you when the planets are in this alignment.

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So it was a very interesting piece of technology that literally had more complicated gears and inner workings than a modern day Swiss watch.

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And it's found to be dated, I think, like 200 BC. So it's really an anomaly as to who could have created that and what it was being used for.

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When archaeologists first started to examine this thing in the 1950s, they said that they never could conceive of the ancient Greeks having such complicated machinery.

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And in fact they said this was tantamount to finding a jet airplane in the tomb of King Tut.

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Even older than the Antikythera mechanism, are these carvings on a wall at the Dendera Temple complex in Egypt?

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To some, the strange designs look eerily similar to objects very much in use today.

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In Egypt, there is this underground crypt at Dendera that was always secret and only the high priests had access to that crypt.

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And it's very hot in there, very narrow, low ceiling.

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And on the walls, you have these reliefs of what looks like ancient light bulbs.

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Because we have to question one thing. How did the ancient Egyptians light the inside of their tombs?

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According to most mainstream archaeologists, torches were used by the ancient Egyptians to light the pitch black chambers of tombs and temples.

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Yet nowhere on the ceilings is there even the slightest evidence of soot or smoke residue.

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But if torches weren't used, how else could these ancient rooms and hallways have been illuminated?

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Another theory that was proposed is that the light was directed from outside by copper mirrors.

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And then there was light.

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Hey, that is a neat trick.

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And they've actually tried to recreate that theory, but unfortunately they failed because only after a few corners, the sunlight dissipated because the copper mirrors were too weak.

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Also, there isn't enough oxygen inside those tombs with which to support or feed a flame of a torch.

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I was once inside the king's chamber, inside the pyramid of Giza, and somebody turned off the lights and immediately we were in pitch darkness.

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And I said no problem, I'll just take out my lighter from my satchel and I turned on the lighter and it didn't work.

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So how were the insides of their temples lit?

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I mean, the only remaining solution is by some sort of an artificial light source.

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And that is, for example, a light bulb.

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So as an underground crypt at Dendera, we find reliefs of such light bulbs.

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Egyptologists' explanation of this, and they have to have some explanation.

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There's got to be one.

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01:07:23,000 --> 01:07:24,000

It has to be pretty mundane.

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01:07:24,000 --> 01:07:26,000

It can't be that it's an electrical device.

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01:07:26,000 --> 01:07:31,000

Their explanation is that it is a lotus flower.

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And what appears to be a bulb around is the aroma of the lotus flower.

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01:07:39,000 --> 01:07:43,000

And so it's just a very odd depiction of a flower.

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But another explanation, of course, would be they actually had electrical lights.

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But if the ancient Egyptians had used some kind of electric light to illuminate their passageways,

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why does the visual evidence exist only in the temple at Dendera?

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In Egypt you had different areas of specialty.

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And Dendera was the area where the knowledge of the light-giving source was kept.

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And this secret knowledge was kept by the high priests.

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01:08:19,000 --> 01:08:24,000

And they're the only ones who were privy to this type of information.

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01:08:24,000 --> 01:08:34,000

Because Dendera was the special place where this specific knowledge was guarded and kept.

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The scientific community is not saying, oh, there aren't extraterrestrials, or they never did it.

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They are judging whether or not this is a valid scientific theory.

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And what do I mean by that?

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01:08:45,000 --> 01:08:51,000

For something to be a scientific theory, it really needs to be something you can test with an

obvious experiment.

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But how could the ancient Egyptians have used anything resembling a modern-day light bulb without access to electricity?

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After all, electricity wouldn't be discovered for thousands of years.

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That is, of course, with the exception of what scientists call the Baghdad battery.

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The Baghdad battery was discovered in ancient Iraq.

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Scholars today say there's no way that ancient man was using electricity or light bulbs.

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So they look at this Baghdad battery and there's about a dozen of them that have been found in Iraq.

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And the only mainstream theory is that they were using it for electroplating jewelry.

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Two major proponents of ancient alien theory, Jason Martel and Georgiosucholos,

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demonstrate just how the Baghdad battery could generate electricity.

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Using a modern mock-up of the device.

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Well, basically this is made out of a clay pot.

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Clay just found naturally in that region in southern Iraq.

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And then they would use a small copper lining and something along the lines of an asphalt stopper wrapped around an iron rod.

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And these all applied together.

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And the combination of some weak acidic acid, vinegar, grape juice, orange juice, in this case wine,

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01:10:02,000 --> 01:10:07,000

would be able to generate a charge by combining these elements with the iron rod and the copper.

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01:10:07,000 --> 01:10:11,000

And the combination of that creates an abundance of electricity.

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So what we're going to do is basically just fill the clay pot with some orange juice here.

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I'll try not to spill it too much.

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And then we'll go ahead and put the copper rod back in there.

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Copper and iron rod.

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We'll give it a moment to kind of fill that copper area there.

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And then by turning on the voltmeter and applying this to each side, we should be able to generate a charge.

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And there it goes.

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Into the positive.

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01:10:38,000 --> 01:10:45,000

And if we give it some time to get the electrolytes really buzzing in there, you'll see that this volt will actually continue to rise.

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But while some see the Baghdad battery as evidence that man was sparked on by extraterrestrial wisdom,

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others look at it and simply say, so what?

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01:10:56,000 --> 01:11:00,000

You could take some ancient technology like the Baghdad battery,

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01:11:01,000 --> 01:11:08,000

which probably was used for something like metal plating in which you just mix chemicals and it has certain chemical reactions to it

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that they're using for this reason.

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01:11:10,000 --> 01:11:14,000

And we can take and put a voltmeter on it and go, oh look, we're able to get a reading out of it.

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01:11:14,000 --> 01:11:16,000

Well, so what?

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01:11:16,000 --> 01:11:18,000

That's just a chemical reaction.

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01:11:18,000 --> 01:11:25,000

If they were using it, say this battery to operate other machines, where are the other machines?

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01:11:25,000 --> 01:11:31,000

If they were sending the electricity down wires, where are all the wires that would have been all over the culture?

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In other words, it's not likely a one-off invention like that is going to survive without all the other inventions that would have been there at the same time.

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It is a battery. Everybody agrees with that, but nobody knows why they made it and how they made it.

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What mind would think of that?

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01:11:49,000 --> 01:11:53,000

You know, electrical current that several thousand years ago?

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01:11:53,000 --> 01:11:56,000

It's very strange, but it's clearly a battery.

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01:11:56,000 --> 01:12:06,000

The whole idea that ancient civilizations actually had knowledge of electricity and used electricity is an accepted archaeological fact today.

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01:12:06,000 --> 01:12:17,000

Just like in our own civilization where about 200 years ago Benjamin Franklin and other scientists began experimenting with simple electrical devices,

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we now have evidence that over 3,000 years ago people were also experimenting with electrical devices.

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Where might it have led them? What other electrical devices would they have been able to create?

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01:12:33,000 --> 01:12:38,000

I believe they probably created all kinds of electrical devices.

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01:12:38,000 --> 01:12:44,000

Tombs, temples, ancient light bulbs, even electricity.

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01:12:44,000 --> 01:12:53,000

Here on Earth exists evidence of architectural and technological wonders centuries before we ever believed them possible.

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01:12:53,000 --> 01:12:59,000

But if evidence of ancient astronauts exists here on Earth, what about elsewhere?

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Might we find what we are looking for by looking in the sky?

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01:13:06,000 --> 01:13:22,000

Here at the ancient city of Tehuotihuacan in Mexico, evidence suggests that ancient cultures possessed an incredibly accurate knowledge of our neighboring planets.

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Some scholars have even interpreted the number and orientation of its pyramids to perfectly reflect a model of our own solar system.

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Along the Avenir de los Muertos, the Avenue of the Dead, the pyramids there align in perfect distance of each of the orbits of our planets in our solar system.

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Perhaps significant is the fact that the large pyramid of the Sun is positioned at the center of the other structures,

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reflecting the fact that the Sun is at the center of our solar system and that the planets revolve around it.

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It was a known fact back then already that the Sun was at the center of our solar system,

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which Western science didn't find out until much, much later.

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But just how could Tehuotihuacan's designers have known so early on that the planets in our solar system revolved around the Sun?

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01:14:37,000 --> 01:14:44,000

Didn't that take many more centuries of scientific progress and investigation to figure out?

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Interestingly enough, debunkers will say, oh, this is just coincidence that these pyramids are aligned with the planets of our solar system.

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But if we go on the other side of the planet to Stonehenge, we have another ancient site, which is way older, by the way, than Tehuotihuacan,

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01:15:08,000 --> 01:15:17,000

where if you look at Stonehenge from a bird's eye view, you see that these are all concentric circles.

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And each of these circles corresponds exactly with the orbit of all of our planets in our solar system,

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01:15:28,000 --> 01:15:33,000

so we have two places on Earth where we have the same thing.

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In recent years, Stonehenge has also been interpreted by some archaeologists to be a kind of astronomical calendar,

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one which could be used to calculate events such as solar eclipses.

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But if that were true, whoever aligned these massive stones on the barren English landscape would have to have had precise astronomical knowledge of the path of the Sun.

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Built between the 7th and 9th centuries, the stone temples of Tikal tower more than 200 feet above the Guatemalan rainforest.

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Tikal is home to one of the largest excavation sites in the world, one where thousands of structures still remain buried beneath the jungle.

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According to most scientists, Tikal's pyramids played an essential part in helping the Mayans devise their calendar.

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By aligning the sightlines between the highest points of the structures,

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01:16:44,000 --> 01:16:52,000

ancient astronomers could pinpoint the most important dates of the year, such as an upcoming equinox or solstice.

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01:16:53,000 --> 01:17:07,000

But what also excites ancient astronaut theorists is how perfectly the layout of Tikal's pyramids correlate to the star map of the Pleiades Orion region of the sky.

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An overhead view of the structures almost exactly mirrors the alignment of the constellation.

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This same outline has been spotted in an area far from Tikal, much, much farther.

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01:17:22,000 --> 01:17:32,000

Recently discovered on Mars is a cluster of landforms that offers a near-perfect replication of the pyramid pattern of Tikal.

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Three distinct locations, one unique pattern.

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Coincidence or design?

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01:17:44,000 --> 01:17:59,000

At Tikal, the legends and the mythologies that we have all speak of a time when the gods intermingled and interconnected with our ancestors.

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01:17:59,000 --> 01:18:12,000

So Tikal also was built as a message for future generations to see that a long, long time ago we were visited by extraterrestrials.

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01:18:12,000 --> 01:18:18,000

Someone who had seen this had to have actually relayed the information to them because they couldn't have just guessed.

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01:18:18,000 --> 01:18:25,000

So it really starts to raise the question of saying this ancient astronaut theory really needs to have more light shed on the topic.

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It's certainly possible that the ancient people not only measured all of these astronomy events,

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but were able to come up with a mathematical theory to put them together and then to predict new things.

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01:18:43,000 --> 01:18:46,000

We shouldn't think that the ancient people were dummies.

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01:18:47,000 --> 01:18:53,000

Early man, people in ancient times, didn't have dashboard-mounted GPS units.

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01:18:54,000 --> 01:19:00,000

They had the path of the sun through the sky, the path of the moon through the sky.

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01:19:00,000 --> 01:19:02,000

They could see the stars at night.

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01:19:02,000 --> 01:19:06,000

These were permanent fixtures that they could navigate from.

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So it's not surprising at all that almost every culture recorded astronomical phenomenon.

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01:19:15,000 --> 01:19:18,000

We never look up at the sky and enjoy the beauty of it.

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01:19:18,000 --> 01:19:23,000

Ancient people, the skies would be so dark and the stars would be so bright.

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01:19:23,000 --> 01:19:32,000

Not only that, but they relied on the sky for directions, for seasons in which to plant, and for a variety of things.

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01:19:32,000 --> 01:19:40,000

Today, with our GPS units and navigation systems and computers, we don't need to look at the sky.

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01:19:41,000 --> 01:19:49,000

I want to be very clear about one thing, that our ancestors were as smart as we are today.

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01:19:49,000 --> 01:19:55,000

However, I don't believe that ancient astronauts visited the Earth in a remote past.

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01:19:55,000 --> 01:20:03,000

I am convinced of it, because of all the countless indications and pieces of evidence that we can find

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01:20:03,000 --> 01:20:09,000

from all around the world in different ancient cultures, in different mythologies and legends.

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01:20:09,000 --> 01:20:19,000

I know it happened, because if you look at all the pieces, it's the only conclusion that you can draw.

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01:20:21,000 --> 01:20:27,000

But just why were ancient people so focused on the sky and the stars in the first place?

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01:20:28,000 --> 01:20:36,000

Were they waiting for something to happen? Or perhaps, for something, or someone to return?

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01:20:44,000 --> 01:20:52,000

Four decades may have passed, but the ideas put forth by Eric von Daniken are still captivating his followers

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01:20:52,000 --> 01:20:56,000

and frustrating his skeptics to this day.

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01:20:56,000 --> 01:21:06,000

Like an Old Testament prophet or an ancient shaman, the author is still out there, spreading his firmly held message that we are not alone.

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01:21:06,000 --> 01:21:12,000

The time of the stone has not crossed over thousands of kilometers, it has just drawn a line, partly across the mountains.

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01:21:12,000 --> 01:21:20,000

And our stone-time friends have not laid thousands of stones in geometric shapes. Here the regime was led.

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01:21:37,000 --> 01:21:43,000

The classic Battle Star Galactica series started with a narration that said,

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01:21:43,000 --> 01:21:48,000

there are those who believe that life here began out there with tribes of humans far across the universe,

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01:21:48,000 --> 01:21:51,000

that may have been the forefathers of the Egyptians and the Toltecs and the Mayans.

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01:21:51,000 --> 01:21:55,000

You know, that's straight out of von Daniken as in that kind of belief, you know.

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01:21:55,000 --> 01:22:02,000

It puts us in contact with an idea of a mythological intelligence, and that is one of the things that we as human beings crave desperately,

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01:22:02,000 --> 01:22:07,000

is to know that we are not alone in the world and that somebody else out there is either looking after us

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01:22:07,000 --> 01:22:10,000

or coming to fight for us and that will unite us against a common enemy.

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01:22:15,000 --> 01:22:24,000

I was reading a lot of books from Eric von Daniken and I can imagine that's the true what he wrote in his books.

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01:22:25,000 --> 01:22:32,000

And so I can imagine this, that we had help from aliens, but I don't know, I'm not sure.

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01:22:34,000 --> 01:22:39,000

We only know so much in this world and what we do know is so limited and every day we're finding more.

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01:22:39,000 --> 01:22:43,000

That requires us to ask more questions and bigger questions and think bigger.

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01:22:44,000 --> 01:22:51,000

It's possible that something from another planet came, some other life form, intelligent life form came and did this.

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01:22:52,000 --> 01:22:58,000

I mean, who knows? It could be because the origins of many things are lost in antiquity.

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01:22:58,000 --> 01:23:03,000

All we have are remnants and shreds of evidence to suggest what might have happened.

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01:23:04,000 --> 01:23:11,000

Someone told me that it was proven that aliens had a part in this. I wouldn't be that surprised. Why not?

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01:23:12,000 --> 01:23:20,000

To be honest, ancient astronaut theory has never cropped up in a discussion with my colleagues.

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01:23:20,000 --> 01:23:30,000

I don't care how many pints into it we've been, we have never discussed ancient astronaut theory in any credible way whatsoever.

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01:23:31,000 --> 01:23:36,000

One of the good things about ancient astronaut theory is that it makes us think.

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01:23:36,000 --> 01:23:41,000

It brings out the, what about this? What about that?

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01:23:41,000 --> 01:23:43,000

We need explanations for all these things.

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01:23:43,000 --> 01:23:58,000

And I think that one of the main reasons why mainstream archaeologists get a real knee-jerk reaction to the ancient astronaut theory is that it's very disturbing to them because they don't have all the answers.

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01:23:58,000 --> 01:24:05,000

Now some of them may believe that life could exist in the universe, but their bottom line is, show me the proof.

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01:24:05,000 --> 01:24:11,000

Show it to me for real. I want to see the spaceship. I want to see something concrete.

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01:24:11,000 --> 01:24:16,000

Not just a few pictures that everybody can interpret as being this or that.

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01:24:21,000 --> 01:24:25,000

Far-fetched, ridiculous, insane.

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01:24:25,000 --> 01:24:33,000

Ancient aliens visiting Earth centuries ago, building monuments, influencing scripture.

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01:24:34,000 --> 01:24:37,000

But what if it all turned out to be true?

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01:24:38,000 --> 01:24:48,000

What would happen if just one piece of evidence turned up, one stone, one key, that proved that Fontanacan had been right all along?

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01:24:49,000 --> 01:24:53,000

And if he is right, what does that suggest about our future?

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01:24:54,000 --> 01:24:59,000

If alien visitors had come here before, would they come again?

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01:25:04,000 --> 01:25:11,000

Even I think the idea of aliens and them visiting us is very exciting and interesting and it would be really cool if that happened.

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01:25:11,000 --> 01:25:15,000

So it gets people excited about the question, maybe they start thinking about it.

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01:25:15,000 --> 01:25:21,000

And like many things, they might ultimately come to thinking about the physics or the archaeology and get involved in the scientific process.

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01:25:21,000 --> 01:25:25,000

So that can be a positive side effect of these theories and their popularization.

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01:25:26,000 --> 01:25:36,000

If it turns out that the ancient astronaut theory is wrong, I will be the first one to say, okay, no problem.

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01:25:36,000 --> 01:25:42,000

But so far, certain pieces of evidence have not been debunked.

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01:25:42,000 --> 01:26:02,000

If the ancient alien astronaut theory is somehow proven to be true, this would be a huge boon to my work and to the search for other planets like Earth with life on them.

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01:26:02,000 --> 01:26:08,000

Because if alien astronauts have visited Earth in the distant past, it means they're pretty nearby.

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01:26:08,000 --> 01:26:13,000

And it means that we don't have to look very far to find planets like Earth with signs of life on them.

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01:26:14,000 --> 01:26:21,000

But evidence has to be treated with a great deal of caution because it has different meanings.

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01:26:22,000 --> 01:26:27,000

I'm not sure what the reaction of the population will be.

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01:26:28,000 --> 01:26:38,000

It will strengthen the general concept that our history of religions in the world needs to be looked at again with more respect and also with more wonder.

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01:26:38,000 --> 01:26:43,000

Meaning, what are we supposed to make of this now and what are we supposed to be doing with this now?

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01:26:44,000 --> 01:26:56,000

If science detects life on Mars, if science detects a UFO, then we need to take what science is saying to us and begin to rethink about ourselves.

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01:26:56,000 --> 01:27:03,000

In light of the possibility of new life, does that change our understanding of God?

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01:27:03,000 --> 01:27:06,000

It should have anything broadened it.

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01:27:06,000 --> 01:27:10,000

If we do find alien life, we should rejoice.

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01:27:12,000 --> 01:27:19,000

And honestly, the way things are going on this planet right now, I would welcome a visitation every once in a while. A little help.

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01:27:20,000 --> 01:27:29,000

There is no doubt that my hypothesis will be accepted by the mainstream. It's maybe a question of just five or ten years.

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01:27:31,000 --> 01:27:38,000

Sooner or later we will have contact with someone out there and then the thinking, they will return.

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01:27:38,000 --> 01:27:44,000

And if you don't listen to Eric von Denneken, you will have the shock of the gods.