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Ancient monuments, precisely aligned to celestial events,

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history written in stone honoring other worldly rulers,

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00:00:13,000 --> 00:00:18,000

and a calendar accurately predicting shifts in the Earth's axis

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

every 26,000 years.

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Did the Maya of Central America really create one of the most

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advanced civilizations of ancient times?

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Or did their intelligence originate from somewhere else,

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perhaps, out of this world?

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They didn't have metal, they didn't have electricity.

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What they did have is advanced mythology, advanced language,

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and advanced religious culture.

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They understood astronomy to an incredible degree,

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more so than any of the societies at the time.

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The minds were absolutely convinced that timing was crucial

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because the gods were going to come back.

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Lord Prakal Sarkozygous was his spaceship.

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He's the original rocket man.

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Millions of people around the world believe we have been visited

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in the past by extraterrestrial beings.

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What if it were true?

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Did ancient aliens really help to shape our history?

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00:01:31,000 --> 00:01:36,000

And if so, did they plot the success and demise

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00:01:36,000 --> 00:01:40,000

of the ancient Maya civilization?

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The Maya of Central America

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The Maya of Central America

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00:02:01,000 --> 00:02:04,000

The Maya of Central America

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00:02:04,000 --> 00:02:08,000

The Maya of Central America

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Southern Mexico, surrounded by dense forests

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00:02:15,000 --> 00:02:18,000

in the foothills of the Tambala Mountains,

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00:02:18,000 --> 00:02:23,000

lie the ruins of the ancient Mayan city of Palenque.

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Established as early as 1800 BC,

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00:02:27,000 --> 00:02:30,000

Palenque was one of the key population centers

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of the ancient Maya civilization

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that dominated present-day Central America for nearly 2,000 years.

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Without metal tools, the wheel, or pack animals,

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the Maya built cities like Palenque

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across a vast region with incredible architectural precision.

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There are a number of texts around the Maya world

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that mention four cities in association with four directions.

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Palenque is recognized in these texts

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as the western capital of the Maya world.

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The southern one was Copan,

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the eastern one was Tikal,

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and the northernmost one was Kalakbool.

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What I find the most impressive about them

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00:03:20,000 --> 00:03:23,000

is that they were able to build a civilization out of the jungle.

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Jungles have really thin topsoil

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00:03:26,000 --> 00:03:29,000

and for them to be able to support a huge population,

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00:03:29,000 --> 00:03:33,000

which is 20 or 30 times what the population is in that area today,

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00:03:33,000 --> 00:03:36,000

is amazing.

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Regarded by scholars as one of the most sophisticated

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and complex civilizations in the ancient world,

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Maya triumphs included numerous scientific achievements

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in agriculture, engineering, and astronomy.

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They didn't have a lot of things that we think of

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as the hallmarks of advancement,

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but what they did have is advanced mythology,

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00:04:02,000 --> 00:04:04,000

advanced language,

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

and advanced religious culture.

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The site of Palenque is still a vast, unexcavated site.

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They think that only 10% of the city

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00:04:17,000 --> 00:04:22,000

has so far been excavated by archaeologists.

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The aqueduct system here at Palenque was very sophisticated,

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and the mines were actually able to have water pressure

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by siphoning water channels off of the main river.

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All the Mayan cities had ball courts in them

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where they played this celestial game

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00:04:40,000 --> 00:04:43,000

where the players would knock a rubber ball

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00:04:43,000 --> 00:04:47,000

through a stone or wooden hoop.

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They thought that this is a representation

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00:04:50,000 --> 00:04:53,000

of alignments of the sun.

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When you start looking at all the various cultures,

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whether it is the ancient Babylonians,

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the ancient Egyptians, or the Mayans,

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we now know that the people who were by far the most advanced

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was the Mayans.

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According to mainstream historians,

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by the 9th century, the great Maya cities were abandoned

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and the Maya people had vanished.

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But why?

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Many blame the disappearance of the Maya

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on war over population and drought.

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But might the Maya have left behind clues to suggest

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that their origin and destiny had been plotted

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00:05:38,000 --> 00:05:42,000

by other worldly forces?

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00:05:44,000 --> 00:05:49,000

1952, archaeologist Alberto Ruehwio

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00:05:49,000 --> 00:05:53,000

discovers the pyramid tomb of King Bacall,

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who ruled over the ancient Mayan city of Palenque

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from 615 to 683.

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During his nearly 70-year reign,

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Bacall transformed Palenque,

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creating some of the most significant inscriptions

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and monuments of the ancient Maya civilization.

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The city of Palenque was sacked by the ruler of Kalakmur.

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00:06:20,000 --> 00:06:24,000

So this was really tragic for the city itself.

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00:06:24,000 --> 00:06:27,000

And it sets the stage for Hanab Bacall himself,

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who becomes king at a very early age,

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and then takes this city that's been destroyed

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00:06:32,000 --> 00:06:36,000

and now brings it up to what becomes one of the most important cities

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00:06:36,000 --> 00:06:39,000

of the late classic period.

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00:06:42,000 --> 00:06:45,000

This is the famous temple of the inscriptions behind me,

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00:06:45,000 --> 00:06:50,000

perhaps the most famous pyramid in all of the Mayan world.

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It was in 1948 that the French-Mexican archaeologist,

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Alberto Ruehwio, began his excavations

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at the top of the temple of inscriptions.

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00:07:02,000 --> 00:07:06,000

What he found there was the famous staircase

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00:07:06,000 --> 00:07:10,000

leading down into the depths of the pyramid.

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00:07:10,000 --> 00:07:14,000

But the staircase was completely filled in

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00:07:14,000 --> 00:07:19,000

with rubble of small stones and dirt.

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00:07:19,000 --> 00:07:24,000

It took him four years to slowly excavate,

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00:07:24,000 --> 00:07:29,000

step by step, down the pyramid until he finally came

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00:07:29,000 --> 00:07:33,000

to the tomb of Lord Bacall

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00:07:33,000 --> 00:07:37,000

and the giant sarcophagus and lid

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00:07:37,000 --> 00:07:40,000

that the pyramid were built around.

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00:07:43,000 --> 00:07:47,000

Arguably the most remarkable Mayan artifact ever found,

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the stone sarcophagus lid of King Bacall

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has produced considerable controversy.

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Mainstream scholars believe the depiction is of King Bacall

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on a journey to the underworld.

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But ancient astronaut theorists believe the king

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is portrayed seated at the controls of a spacecraft

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and have dubbed him the Palenque Astronaut.

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He appears to be going into space.

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He's the original Rocket Man.

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There, manipulating his spacecraft, going into space.

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We have maintained for a very long time

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00:08:33,000 --> 00:08:37,000

that the depiction here is of King Bacall

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sitting in some type of a spacecraft

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00:08:41,000 --> 00:08:45,000

because he is at an angle like modern-day astronauts

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upon liftoff.

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He's manipulating some controls right here.

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He has some type of breathing apparatus

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00:08:53,000 --> 00:08:56,000

or some type of a telescope in front of his face.

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00:08:56,000 --> 00:09:01,000

His feet are on some type of a pedal.

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00:09:01,000 --> 00:09:06,000

And down here, you have something that looks like

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

an exhaust with flames.

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00:09:11,000 --> 00:09:17,000

In 2011, the strange carving on King Bacall's sarcophagus lid

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00:09:17,000 --> 00:09:23,000

was translated into a 3D replica by model maker Paul Francis.

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When I saw this, I instantly said,

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00:09:25,000 --> 00:09:27,000

there's a guy in a space capsule.

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00:09:27,000 --> 00:09:29,000

You know, it doesn't need to be spelled out for me.

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00:09:29,000 --> 00:09:32,000

I don't have to find anything. It was already there.

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00:09:32,000 --> 00:09:35,000

It was carved many, many years ago.

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00:09:35,000 --> 00:09:38,000

I think this is absolutely extraordinary

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00:09:38,000 --> 00:09:44,000

because this is definitely one of the most compelling pieces

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00:09:44,000 --> 00:09:46,000

in the ancient astronaut theory.

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00:09:46,000 --> 00:09:51,000

And to finally see Bacall as a 3D sculpture,

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to me, is a dream come true.

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For the longest time, we have said that what is on this Bacall lid

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00:09:59,000 --> 00:10:02,000

is not something symbolic.

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00:10:02,000 --> 00:10:06,000

It was something that the artist saw or was told about,

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00:10:06,000 --> 00:10:11,000

and then he or she tried to recreate this on a slab.

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00:10:11,000 --> 00:10:13,000

I love the craftsmanship.

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00:10:13,000 --> 00:10:17,000

I love how you, you know, at the bottom of the Polenque slab,

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00:10:17,000 --> 00:10:19,000

you see something like the flames.

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00:10:19,000 --> 00:10:21,000

It looks like fire. Exactly.

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00:10:21,000 --> 00:10:23,000

I had to do a little interpretive.

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00:10:23,000 --> 00:10:25,000

I put engine bells on instead of the flame.

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Of course. But that's the thruster stage.

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00:10:28,000 --> 00:10:33,000

I also love the detail that you have underneath his right foot,

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00:10:33,000 --> 00:10:37,000

where his foot is resting on a pedestal.

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

And that is exactly what we can see on the Polenque slab.

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00:10:43,000 --> 00:10:47,000

And how his hands are manipulating some controls.

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00:10:47,000 --> 00:10:49,000

And also this kind of breathing apparatus

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00:10:49,000 --> 00:10:52,000

that's going on in front of his nose.

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00:10:52,000 --> 00:10:56,000

The breathing apparatus is actually a very neat piece.

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It's called the giver of life.

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00:10:58,000 --> 00:11:01,000

The soul transfers through this.

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00:11:01,000 --> 00:11:05,000

And a giver of life to me would be air.

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00:11:05,000 --> 00:11:07,000

I mean, we breathe air.

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00:11:07,000 --> 00:11:10,000

This is a guy who needs this mass to survive.

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00:11:10,000 --> 00:11:13,000

Because where is he?

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00:11:13,000 --> 00:11:15,000

Outer space.

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00:11:16,000 --> 00:11:20,000

Put the carving on the sarcophagus lid of King Bacall

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really provide confirmation of the complicity

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between Maya rulers and extraterrestrial forces

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as ancient astronaut theorists believe.

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Perhaps further evidence can be found.

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Etched in stone throughout Mesoamerica.

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The Palace of Polenque

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00:11:48,000 --> 00:11:52,000

Discovered in the late 18th century by Spanish explorers,

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00:11:52,000 --> 00:11:56,000

this royal compound is the largest and most complex

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00:11:56,000 --> 00:11:59,000

of those found in the ancient city.

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00:11:59,000 --> 00:12:03,000

Researchers believe a four-story tower

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00:12:03,000 --> 00:12:05,000

in the middle of the palace was built

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00:12:05,000 --> 00:12:07,000

so Mayan kings and priests

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00:12:07,000 --> 00:12:11,000

could observe the celestial movement of the sun and stars.

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00:12:13,000 --> 00:12:16,000

This is the main palace here at Polenque.

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And one of the unusual features is this observatory,

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huge tower to watch the stars.

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Also throughout the palace are these unusual T-shaped windows.

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And they've baffled archaeologists for centuries.

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It's thought that perhaps they represent the wind god.

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00:12:38,000 --> 00:12:42,000

But it's also possible that these T-shaped windows

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00:12:42,000 --> 00:12:44,000

are pointing to the sky.

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00:12:44,000 --> 00:12:48,000

What was it that the rulers of Polenque were looking for?

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The tower at the Palace of Polenque is just one

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00:12:56,000 --> 00:12:58,000

of many celestial observatories

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built throughout the ancient Maya territories.

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00:13:04,000 --> 00:13:08,000

Their practical system of astronomy was an observational one.

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00:13:08,000 --> 00:13:11,000

And so the design and construction of a lot of buildings

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

was intended to create these sight lines,

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

to create these vanishes for observation,

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

to see and mark important astronomical events.

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00:13:20,000 --> 00:13:24,000

We see that temples were aligned to specific moments in time.

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00:13:24,000 --> 00:13:27,000

And the equinoxes and the solstices

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00:13:27,000 --> 00:13:30,000

are the most important moments in time.

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00:13:30,000 --> 00:13:33,000

So wherever we look, we see how this knowledge of astronomy

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00:13:33,000 --> 00:13:36,000

is incorporated into these monuments.

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00:13:36,000 --> 00:13:39,000

Plazas were great places where people stood

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00:13:39,000 --> 00:13:43,000

and paid reverence to particular times of the year.

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00:13:43,000 --> 00:13:47,000

These were places that were aligned from time and memorial.

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00:13:47,000 --> 00:13:51,000

Hundreds and hundreds of years to make these specific observations.

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00:13:56,000 --> 00:14:01,000

But what, or perhaps who, were the Maya looking for in the sky?

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00:14:03,000 --> 00:14:06,000

According to ancient astronaut theorists,

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

the answer can be found carved in stone.

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In Kirigwa-guitimala, there is a national park featuring zoomorphs.

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Zoomorphs are these giant boulders

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that were carved into different shapes.

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Some of them depict crocodiles, some of them depict turtles.

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But at the same time, the carvings are very reminiscent

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00:14:32,000 --> 00:14:35,000

of something technological in nature.

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00:14:39,000 --> 00:14:42,000

In fact, there is one boulder that we can see

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00:14:42,000 --> 00:14:47,000

where this guy is essentially sitting inside some type of cockpit.

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00:14:48,000 --> 00:14:53,000

Is it possible that this is nothing else but an artist's rendering

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00:14:53,000 --> 00:14:56,000

of something that they didn't understand?

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00:14:56,000 --> 00:14:59,000

Because their technological frame of reference

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00:14:59,000 --> 00:15:03,000

was less advanced than our technological frame of reference

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00:15:03,000 --> 00:15:05,000

we have today.

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00:15:11,000 --> 00:15:14,000

In the present-day Mexican state of Tabasco,

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near the Gulf of Mexico,

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lie the ruins of a ceremonial center called La Venta.

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Here, in 1862,

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00:15:26,000 --> 00:15:30,000

oil rigors discovered four very large stone heads

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00:15:30,000 --> 00:15:33,000

in the Olmec area of Mesoamerica.

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Since then, archaeologists have unearthed 13 more similar sculptures

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00:15:42,000 --> 00:15:46,000

that were carved as early as 850 BC.

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Known as the Colossal Heads,

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00:15:50,000 --> 00:15:53,000

scholars believe they depict the Olmecs,

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an ancient civilization that many consider to be the ancestors of the Maya.

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One of the most striking aspects of Olmec art and archaeology

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00:16:03,000 --> 00:16:06,000

are these Colossal Heads sculptures.

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And one of the hypotheses that's been put out to explain these

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00:16:09,000 --> 00:16:12,000

is that they were portraits of important rulers,

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

kings, shamans, important people in their society.

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

But ancient astronaut theorists contend

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00:16:19,000 --> 00:16:24,000

the mysterious stone statues are proof of extraterrestrial intervention

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00:16:24,000 --> 00:16:27,000

in the distant past.

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00:16:30,000 --> 00:16:33,000

Huge stone heads were found in the Olmec area,

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00:16:33,000 --> 00:16:36,000

which were beautifully made, but then ritually buried.

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00:16:36,000 --> 00:16:39,000

One asks, what is that?

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00:16:39,000 --> 00:16:42,000

Are these heads of rulers or priests?

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00:16:42,000 --> 00:16:45,000

Or were they maybe aliens that they wanted to portray

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00:16:45,000 --> 00:16:48,000

because they had unusual facial features?

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00:16:50,000 --> 00:16:53,000

These guys are often wearing strange helmets,

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00:16:53,000 --> 00:16:55,000

and they look to be foreigners.

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00:16:55,000 --> 00:16:59,000

They appear to be from Africa and the Middle East and other areas like that.

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00:16:59,000 --> 00:17:02,000

So what are they doing here in Central America?

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00:17:02,000 --> 00:17:07,000

You have this curious mix of different racial groups.

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00:17:07,000 --> 00:17:10,000

Are they coming with the sky gods?

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00:17:10,000 --> 00:17:13,000

Perhaps they too are the alien ETs.

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There is one statue that we can find that clearly shows an Olmec

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00:17:19,000 --> 00:17:22,000

wearing some type of a flight suit.

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To me, this depicts nothing else but someone from Africa

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00:17:27,000 --> 00:17:31,000

having visited Central America in a type of a flight suit

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and with some type of craft.

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

You've got the legs here, like in a modern-day astronaut suit,

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00:17:38,000 --> 00:17:42,000

and there's also some type of a life support pack.

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That's on his chest.

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00:17:47,000 --> 00:17:50,000

There are six wings,

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00:17:50,000 --> 00:17:57,000

and the head is clearly enclosed by a skullcap similar to modern-day astronauts.

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So what we have here, in my opinion, is nothing else

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00:18:03,000 --> 00:18:07,000

but depictions of physical extraterrestrial encounters,

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00:18:07,000 --> 00:18:11,000

hundreds, and yes, even thousands of years ago.

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There is considerable evidence linking the Mayans and the Olmecs

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to extraterrestrial beings.

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You have at LaVenta many of the Olmecs wearing curious masks.

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Also at Tikal, they're wearing, look like, space masks with respirators.

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You've got also flying beings who are hovering above certain objects

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00:18:40,000 --> 00:18:43,000

and things like that in the Mayan world.

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These are the birdmen, the people who can fly.

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But do the stone sculptures really provide proof

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00:18:53,000 --> 00:18:57,000

that the Maya had early contact with star travelers

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as ancient astronaut theorists contend?

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And might further evidence reveal a shocking truth

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00:19:05,000 --> 00:19:09,000

that some ancient Maya rulers were themselves of otherworldly origin?

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Central America.

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Here, in western Honduras, lie the impressive ruins

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of the ancient Maya city of Copan.

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And though Copan's temples, pyramids, and monuments

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00:19:36,000 --> 00:19:40,000

rank among the most important of any Mayan sites,

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researchers looking to explain the incredible achievements of the Maya

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have been drawn to a 72-step structure known as the hieroglyphic stairway.

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The hieroglyphic stairway at Copan was constructed in the early 700s A.D.

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with the intent of writing out the history of Copan at that time.

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00:20:05,000 --> 00:20:11,000

And so it was designed as a public monument to the glory and success

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00:20:11,000 --> 00:20:16,000

of all the kings from Yashkukumo all the way to the 13th one

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00:20:16,000 --> 00:20:19,000

who commissioned it to be built.

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Carved into 1200 stones in the massive monument,

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the ancient Maya symbols known as glyphs

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00:20:28,000 --> 00:20:32,000

make up what historians believe is one of the oldest

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00:20:32,000 --> 00:20:35,000

and most sophisticated systems of writing.

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But for centuries, the glyphs found throughout Mesoamerica were undecipherable.

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Then in 1880, German librarian and anthropologist Ernst Forzmann cracked the code.

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Ernst Forzmann was a librarian at Dresden,

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and in his desk he kept one of the four Maya books, the Dresden Codex.

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He was a brilliant mathematician and extremely logical

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00:21:08,000 --> 00:21:10,000

and had enormous insights,

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00:21:10,000 --> 00:21:14,000

and at a time when we couldn't read a single Maya hieroglyph,

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00:21:14,000 --> 00:21:18,000

he was able to figure out the Maya calligraphy.

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Maya hieroglyphic writing is very robust,

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and that's because it uses really two components.

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00:21:24,000 --> 00:21:26,000

There are low graphs.

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Low graphs are really pictures that represent entire words.

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00:21:29,000 --> 00:21:32,000

So Balam, for example, which is jaguar,

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00:21:32,000 --> 00:21:35,000

could be written with just the head of a jaguar.

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00:21:35,000 --> 00:21:38,000

On the other, we have these things that we call phonetic compliments,

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00:21:38,000 --> 00:21:42,000

and these are glyphs, they're images that represent sounds.

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According to interpretations of the hieroglyphic stairway,

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the glyphs chronicle not only the history,

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00:21:51,000 --> 00:21:55,000

but also the origin of the ancient Maya rulers.

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The hieroglyphs are really attached to what was important to royalty at the time,

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00:22:01,000 --> 00:22:04,000

and that was lineage and the genealogies of the kings.

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00:22:04,000 --> 00:22:09,000

They went out of their way to demonstrate how they were connected to their ancestors

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00:22:09,000 --> 00:22:14,000

and the gods of their ancestors to establish their right to rule.

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This is a picture I took of a close-up of a sculpture of Washak Lajun Ubaqa'uul,

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00:22:25,000 --> 00:22:28,000

the 13th ruler of Kopan,

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00:22:28,000 --> 00:22:32,000

and he's depicted here on the front in all of his finery,

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00:22:32,000 --> 00:22:37,000

and then the sculptor put a hieroglyphic passage on the side.

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00:22:37,000 --> 00:22:43,000

We don't think commoners could read, but all the elites could, and the king could.

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00:22:43,000 --> 00:22:49,000

So he or another elite individual could come here and impress people by saying,

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00:22:49,000 --> 00:22:58,000

this demonstrates the semi-divinity of our king and his power to intercede between us and the heavens.

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But just what was the real source of power and authority behind the Maya priests and kings?

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00:23:08,000 --> 00:23:16,000

Do the hieroglyphs reveal an otherworldly truth to their origin, as the Maya themselves maintain?

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Ancient astronaut theorists believe the answer is yes.

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What we have to think about today is where did the origin of the priesthood come from,

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and the origin is nothing else but that they, the initial cabal of priests,

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00:23:35,000 --> 00:23:41,000

they were all in contact with extraterrestrials, and that's why they were revered.

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00:23:41,000 --> 00:23:51,000

Our ancestors thought they were gods because they didn't understand the nuts and bolts aspects behind those visits,

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00:23:51,000 --> 00:24:02,000

but when it all comes down to it, it was all a huge misunderstanding and a way to keep the common people in place.

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In the beginning, the first ruler were gods, real descenders from the sky, extraterrestrials.

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But later the priests and the rulers took the names of their ancestors' gods,

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so they made a secret and the kind of conspiracy around them,

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because the normal people should give them offerings, should give them gold, metal, all kinds of gifts, etc.,

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00:24:33,000 --> 00:24:37,000

as they did some centuries before for the real gods.

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So it was a kind of conspiracy among the priests and among the kings.

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Mayan hieroglyphs specifically say that the Mayans were absolutely convinced about the existence of otherworldly beings,

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and that they actually believed that these beings manifested themselves regularly at preordained moments of time.

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Perhaps further evidence of the Mayan belief in the existence of extraterrestrial beings

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may be found in their daily rituals of human sacrifice.

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Scholars believe that blood offerings were seen as an act of devotion to the Maya rulers, who were assumed to be descendants of the gods.

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We know that the Maya practice blood sacrifice because they were still doing it when the Spanish came.

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We have images on wall paintings, on vases, and in sculptures that show people letting their own blood and sacrificing other people.

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The Mayans had a complex pantheon which involved gods from the sky, and the rulers were supposed to be descendants of these gods.

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And they believed that these gods demanded sacrifices of them, and that their blood, the blood of their kings, was the ideal sacrifice for the gods.

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Later, the Mayans began to take captives, particularly other royal captives, and execute them using their blood as the gift to the gods.

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The ancient Maya were particularly worried that Jaguar gods had come to earth from somewhere else, and had instructed them, and in return they had to make sacrifices to the Jaguar gods, in particular heart sacrifices.

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We see hundreds and thousands of people being dragged up the pyramid and really sacrificed.

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Definitely there is this absolute belief that the Mayans needed the intervention of the gods, and they believed that somehow sacrificing human beings was going to bring back the gods.

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It's very possible that this civilization, as cultured as they seem to have been, were also pretty barbaric. And this could have been their way of trying to offer the gods something.

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Blood sacrifice was nothing else but an act of desperation to bring about the return of the extraterrestrials, because one thing is crystal clear. In every single ancient culture there is a promise of a return in the future of those gods.

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Blood sacrifice was something that we humans did ourselves because we didn't understand that what we dealt with was nothing else but flesh and blood space travelers instead of real or actual gods.

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But why did the Maya believe they were connected to the gods by blood?

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Might there have been evidence within their DNA that could link the lineage of Maya kings to other worldly beings, as ancient astronaut theorists believe?

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And if so, is it possible that other worldly visitors may have stayed behind and assumed the role of Maya kings?

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Perhaps the answer can be found, not by examining the ancient remains of the Maya, but by studying their creation myths.

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Chicago, Illinois

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Housed here in the Newberry Library is the Mayan manuscript known as the Popovu, literally translated as the Book of the People. It is a collection of Maya oral histories passed on through the ages.

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Written in the mid-16th century, this incredible book encompasses a range of subjects, including those involving Mayan creation myths.

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The Popovu talks about the creation of the universe. It talks about the fact that in the beginning all was darkness, there was a primordial sea.

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And then these creators, male and female, spoke the word. And with the word, the earth was created and animals were created.

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It's sort of like the combination of the book of Genesis and the book of Chronicles in the Bible.

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It's the story of battles between the gods, and then it connects the creation of the world with the present day through the kings of the Kiche.

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It's really the only complete Maya creation myth that we have.

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What they were saying was that a framework was created that certain deities manifested themselves physically and made decisions as to what was going to happen.

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In the case of the Mayans, this was a choice as to where the Mayans were going to live, as well as the selection of certain sacred sites.

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Throughout the ancient world, there have been numerous similar myths of other worldly beings coming to earth and interacting with some of the earliest humans.

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Most mainstream historians believe these stories represent only religious and spiritual beliefs.

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But is it possible, as ancient astronaut theorists believe, that the Popel Vuh, as well as other ancient creation tales, represents actual evidence of contact with extraterrestrials in the distant past?

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According to the translations of hieroglyphs found at numerous ancient Mayan cities,

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Kukul Khan, or the great feathered serpent, was the god who brought knowledge to the Maya.

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When we talk about the Mayan gods, we know that the most important god to them was the Plume serpent, or Kukul Khan.

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We see his image all across the Mayan world. We see it on great carved images on stone.

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Kukul Khan is often depicted as a plume serpent, some would say a dragon or a snake with wings.

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That leads some to believe that Kukul Khan may have descended from the sky.

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Now the Maya were living in the jungle. The Maya knew that the snake could not fly, but this snake, this serpent, could fly.

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The oldest Maya histories tell that Kukul Khan was the teacher of young Maya.

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He had chosen eight boys in the age between 7 and 12, and he'd teach these eight boys in mathematics, in astronomy, in all kinds of science.

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And later Kukul Khan disappeared with the promise that he will return in a faraway future.

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These boys had become the first priest and the first teacher again for the Maya.

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Some of the legends state that he appeared along the Gulf Coast on a raft of serpents, and he spread his high knowledge through that part of the country.

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Even today in some of the Mayan cultures, he's revered as his great god that brought all these teachings and civilization to their part of the world.

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And yet no one knows who he was or where he came from.

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Strangely, depictions of a winged serpent god can be found all around the ancient world.

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In India, the epic text the Mahabharata details the ancient account of sky beings known as Nagas.

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Dating as far back as 2500 BC, the half-human and half-serpent entities look nearly identical to the Mayan Kukul Khan.

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An ancient Chinese mythology from the 5th millennium BC described flying dragons that are eerily similar to the serpent god depicted in Mesoamerica.

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To the peoples that preceded the Inca emperor, similar ideas were put upon characters like Quatsikah Atul, the feathered serpent, who was this wisdom bringer.

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Sometimes said to have come down from the sky world and once again bring in the rudiments of civilization to the peoples of Central America.

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There is a common thread among many ancient cultures of the Americas when it comes to plume serpent god.

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The Cherokee, for example, believed that time, their calendar, is based upon a rattlesnake that they can see in the night sky, perhaps a constellation.

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So the idea of a serpent or a snake or a dragon is common among many ancient cultures and not just the Maya or the Mesoamericans.

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The snake is the giver of wisdom in so many cultures and it gives the tools of civilization, working with metals, working with other instruments, certain knowledge, certain aspects of life, and that it really gives this knowledge to certain people and that he places these people in a position whereby from their social position they are able to give this to the rest of their

culture.

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All these cultures were far apart from each other, sometimes by thousands and thousands of miles.

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So how is it possible that all these societies came up with not similar but identical stories?

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Was it really flying snakes or gods that were snakes?

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Of course not. It was misunderstood technology. Some types of vehicles were witnessed at the center from the sky, out of which people came, astronauts, that instructed people of different cultures and different societies in certain scientific disciplines.

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This is not coincidence. This is evidence for ancient alien encounters in the remote past. There is no other way.

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Can the ancient creation myths and legends of flying serpent gods really be interpreted as factual accounts of extraterrestrial visitors as ancient astronaut theorists contend?

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And if so, might such celestial travelers have given the Maya both the tools and the knowledge to help advance their civilization?

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Perhaps further evidence can be found by looking at the Mayans' very profound connection to the stars.

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In the Mexican state of the Yucatan lie the ruins of the ancient Mayan city of Chichen Itza.

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Here, in the 10th century, the Maya built what has become known as the El Caracol Observatory.

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It has four doors on the bottom that can be used as observation points and it had a number of windows up on top. But most of those have fallen. We only have two and a half of those left.

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But looking at those, we can see that they're definitely looking at the sun, probably at the moon.

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There are hints that they could have been using them for stars and planets.

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They were tracking in particular Venus, the phases of the moon, eclipses. We know that because we have books that record these things.

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Most researchers agree that from 250 to 900 A.D., the Mayans were the most advanced astronomers of their time. But why were they observing the cosmos so intently? And what might they have been looking for?

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The Maya were very sophisticated in terms of what they watched in the heavens and in the calendars that they kept track of.

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The ability to understand that Venus as morning star and Venus as evening star are the same star was very rarely done in the history of humankind.

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They were often time seen as two different entities. The idea that they could predict the cycles of the heavens reflects their sophistication.

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The Maya were one of the only ancient people that invented a mathematical system that we use, which is called place value and zero.

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And using place value and zero allows you to make enormous calculations, numbers that are very, very large.

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They could probably calculate things thousands years into the past.

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Did the Maya develop such mastery of astronomy and mathematics on their own? Or is it possible, as ancient astronaut theorists believe, that the elite rulers of the Maya had received help from star travelers?

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The Maya, for example, had the knowledge of the planet Venus, surrounding our solar system in such a precise way that within 6,000 years the difference was a few hours.

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Now the Maya itself did not live for 6,000 years.

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So they had no time 6,000 years to observe if their calculation concerning the Venus rotation is correct or not.

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Because they had their information from their gods.

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The Mayans could not possibly have developed these systems on their own because it takes thousands, some of them tens of thousands of years of observation.

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So it is clear that they were given to them by aliens out there who have made contact with the Mayan people.

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Perhaps the most intriguing astronomical accomplishment of the Maya concerns their understanding of the slow change in the Earth's rotational axis in space.

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Called precession, it's a process that takes more than 26,000 years to complete.

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But how could the Maya have tracked events over such an extreme time span?

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Is it possible that like modern scientists, the Maya had been using knowledge of the Earth's movement in space to track time?

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And if so, for what purpose?

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The Maya developed these time keeping skills by monitoring the movements and predicting the movements of not just the sun, but the moon, Venus, in some cases Jupiter, and the moon.

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Mars, Saturn, some of the constellations.

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Though most people consider the Egyptians as the ultimate pyramid builders, ten times as many pyramids were constructed in Mesoamerica than in Egypt.

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But why did the Maya build so many of their monumental structures in absolute precise alignment with solar, lunar, and stellar events?

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Well, it seems as if they were paranoid that if they did not do this, something bad would happen.

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They were on the fifth epoch, and each of these earlier epochs they believed had ended in catastrophe.

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And it seemed as if they had to synchronize their rituals, their events, their games, their activities with these specific celestial events because if they didn't, something bad would happen and the epoch would end prematurely.

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Mines were absolutely convinced that timing was crucial because the stars were revealing when the gods were going to come back. And obviously that meant the gods were coming from the stars.

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But where, or from whom, did the ancient Maya learn to accurately track time by tracing the celestial movements of our solar system and the universe beyond?

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Could the ancient Maya have actually conspired with extraterrestrial visitors to plan the future? And even the very end of our world?

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Perhaps a further examination of the infamous Mayan calendar and its so-called doomsday prophecy is required.

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There are several legends in the Mayan world which suggest that this end day of the Mayan calendar in December 2012 is actually an apocalypse day.

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The Popol Vuh discusses it as a possible destruction of the planet.

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The Tortuguera monument, which is a site near Palenque, is the only inscription in stone that mentions the 2012 end date of the calendar.

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And that talks about nine gods descending to Earth, but no one really knows exactly what that means.

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Some people suggest that may cause a cataclysm. Others suggest it may be a whole dawn of a new age where we're actually moving to a more conscious way of life.

453

00:43:05,000 --> 00:43:14,000

If the truth is that the Mayans were in contact with extraterrestrial beings and now their calendar is ending on December 21st, 2012,

454

00:43:15,000 --> 00:43:22,000

this might be the return of the gods themselves, of the extraterrestrials coming back to Earth to the Mayans as they promised.

455

00:43:23,000 --> 00:43:37,000

Given the sophistication of the Mayan calendar, is it really possible that the Maya could have accurately predicted the exact date of some sort of Earth-changing event?

456

00:43:38,000 --> 00:43:49,000

Might such an event usher in a new era of human enlightenment? Or might it mark the end of mankind in the form of a cataclysmic doomsday?

457

00:43:50,000 --> 00:43:54,000

Perhaps only time will tell.