

1

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

You know, this whole story is the greatest art heist in history.

2

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

Did you personally take any of the statues that were here?

3

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

It's like a thousand-year-old jigsaw puzzle.

4

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

Back in the day, there would have been sculpture everywhere, temples,

5

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

and then this huge pyramid looming over everything.

6

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

Something went wrong in this city. Something made it collapse.

7

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

No one really knows for sure what happened.

8

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

Doss, come here.

9

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

Did you find?

10

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

I found a column.

11

00:00:37,000 --> 00:00:39,000

Ah! We have an inscription!

12

00:00:41,000 --> 00:00:42,000

Long way down.

13

00:00:42,000 --> 00:00:43,000

Yeah.

14

00:00:45,000 --> 00:00:46,000

Here we go.

15

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

Definitely seen the house curving on it.

16

00:00:49,000 --> 00:00:51,000

This is literally a message from the past.

17

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

We are right now the first people to see this in a thousand years.

18

00:00:55,000 --> 00:00:58,000

Oh, f***! This is unstable.

19

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

Okay, here goes nothing.

20

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

Oh, look at this face!

21

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

Oh, my word!

22

00:01:20,000 --> 00:01:24,000

For centuries, the city of Angkor stood as the capital of Cambodia

23

00:01:24,000 --> 00:01:27,000

's mighty Khmer Empire.

24

00:01:27,000 --> 00:01:30,000

Its kings ruled there for 600 years,

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00:01:30,000 --> 00:01:33,000

except for a brief and mysterious time

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00:01:33,000 --> 00:01:36,000

when the capital was moved somewhere else entirely.

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00:01:38,000 --> 00:01:42,000

In the 10th century, a king named Jayavarman IV

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00:01:42,000 --> 00:01:45,000

decided to build a new center of power

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00:01:45,000 --> 00:01:49,000

deep in the Cambodian jungle, a place known as Gacke.

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00:01:49,000 --> 00:01:53,000

Jayavarman oversaw the construction of dozens of temples,

31

00:01:53,000 --> 00:01:57,000

reservoirs, and the tallest pyramid in the entire country.

32

00:01:57,000 --> 00:02:00,000

All of it adorned with the finest statues

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

in the history of the empire.

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00:02:05,000 --> 00:02:08,000

But then, only 20 years later,

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00:02:08,000 --> 00:02:11,000

the city was suddenly mysteriously abandoned.

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00:02:11,000 --> 00:02:14,000

Its ruins swallowed by the jungle.

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00:02:14,000 --> 00:02:18,000

But why was it built in such a remote place?

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00:02:18,000 --> 00:02:19,000

And why did it fall?

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00:02:19,000 --> 00:02:22,000

Unfortunately, the art and sculptures from the city

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00:02:22,000 --> 00:02:24,000

that could provide crucial answers

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00:02:24,000 --> 00:02:27,000

have been relentlessly looted or destroyed.

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00:02:31,000 --> 00:02:36,000

But now, an international team of investigators is on the case.

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00:02:36,000 --> 00:02:39,000

Archaeologists armed with the latest technology

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00:02:39,000 --> 00:02:42,000

are working hand-in-hand with former looters

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00:02:42,000 --> 00:02:46,000

to locate and restore these priceless masterpieces.

46

00:02:47,000 --> 00:02:52,000

So join me as I journey into the untamed jungles of Southeast Asia

47

00:02:52,000 --> 00:02:55,000

to literally piece together the statues

48

00:02:55,000 --> 00:02:59,000

and the secrets of Cambodia's lost capital.

49

00:03:02,000 --> 00:03:04,000

My name is Josh Gates.

50

00:03:04,000 --> 00:03:05,000

Hello!

51

00:03:05,000 --> 00:03:06,000

Explorer.

52

00:03:06,000 --> 00:03:07,000

Here goes nothing.

53

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

Adventurer.

54

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

Woo-hoo-hoo!

55

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

Oh, that's a long way down.

56

00:03:10,000 --> 00:03:14,000

And a guy who ends up in some very strange situations.

57

00:03:14,000 --> 00:03:16,000

I'm alive for now!

58

00:03:16,000 --> 00:03:20,000

With a degree in archaeology and a passion for the unexplained,

59

00:03:20,000 --> 00:03:22,000

I travel to the ends of the Earth,

60

00:03:22,000 --> 00:03:25,000

investigating the greatest legends in history.

61

00:03:25,000 --> 00:03:26,000

May you rock and roll.

62

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

This is Expedition Unknown.

63

00:03:34,000 --> 00:03:38,000

Cambodia, one of my favorite places on Earth.

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00:03:39,000 --> 00:03:42,000

We are steaming up the mighty Mekong River,

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00:03:42,000 --> 00:03:45,000

the lifeblood of Southeast Asia.

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00:03:45,000 --> 00:03:47,000

Beginning high in the Himalayas,

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00:03:47,000 --> 00:03:51,000

these waters travel more than 3,000 miles through six countries,

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00:03:51,000 --> 00:03:54,000

nourishing entire civilizations along the way,

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00:03:54,000 --> 00:03:56,000

including the Khmer Empire,

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00:03:56,000 --> 00:03:59,000

which blossomed into an ancient superpower.

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

For 800 years between the 7th and 15th centuries,

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

the Kingdom of Khmer controlled almost 400,000 square miles.

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00:04:10,000 --> 00:04:12,000

From its seat of power in Cambodia,

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00:04:12,000 --> 00:04:15,000

it ruled over much of Southeast Asia,

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00:04:15,000 --> 00:04:19,000

including present-day Thailand, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam.

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00:04:21,000 --> 00:04:25,000

The Empire turned its aptitude for agriculture into vast wealth.

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00:04:25,000 --> 00:04:30,000

Militarily, they were proficient in fighting on both land and water.

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00:04:30,000 --> 00:04:33,000

This river was the source of much of their power,

79

00:04:33,000 --> 00:04:38,000

allowing for trade and spreading the Empire's culture and influence.

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00:04:39,000 --> 00:04:43,000

Today, the Mekong also flows through Cambodia's modern metropolis,

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

an on-again-off-again capital founded in the 15th century.

82

00:04:47,000 --> 00:04:51,000

It's where our investigation begins, all ashore for Panang Pen.

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00:05:01,000 --> 00:05:04,000

Panang Pen is known as the Pearl of Asia,

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00:05:04,000 --> 00:05:06,000

and I've come here to begin my investigation

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00:05:06,000 --> 00:05:10,000

into both the Khmer Kingdom and the theft of its treasures.

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00:05:10,000 --> 00:05:13,000

My first stop is Cambodia's National Museum.

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00:05:13,000 --> 00:05:16,000

Waiting inside is American attorney Brad Gordon.

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00:05:16,000 --> 00:05:17,000

Brad?

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00:05:17,000 --> 00:05:18,000

Josh.

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00:05:18,000 --> 00:05:19,000

Hey, how are you, man?

91

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

Brad has been working closely with the government

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00:05:22,000 --> 00:05:26,000

and is leading a worldwide effort to locate looted art and antiquities

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00:05:26,000 --> 00:05:28,000

and bring them back to Cambodia.

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00:05:29,000 --> 00:05:31,000

I do feel slightly upstaged right now.

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00:05:31,000 --> 00:05:32,000

Yeah, this is Garuda.

96

00:05:32,000 --> 00:05:34,000

Right, Garuda is the Hindu deity of the skies.

97

00:05:34,000 --> 00:05:35,000

Yes.

98

00:05:35,000 --> 00:05:36,000

And this comes from where?

99

00:05:36,000 --> 00:05:40,000

This comes from Gakhe, an ancient royal capital of Cambodia.

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00:05:40,000 --> 00:05:41,000

So let's talk about this place.

101

00:05:41,000 --> 00:05:43,000

Gakhe is unique.

102

00:05:43,000 --> 00:05:44,000

It is a one-off, right?

103

00:05:44,000 --> 00:05:46,000

It's a capital way out in the jungle.

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00:05:46,000 --> 00:05:48,000

Yes, it's remote.

105

00:05:48,000 --> 00:05:53,000

It was only for two kings, Jaya Varman IV and his son, Harshavarman II.

106

00:05:53,000 --> 00:05:54,000

Right.

107

00:05:54,000 --> 00:05:58,000

In 921, Jaya Varman IV shocked the Khmer Kingdom

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00:05:58,000 --> 00:06:01,000

by uprooting the capital from Angkor,

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00:06:01,000 --> 00:06:03,000

where it had been established for over a century.

110

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

To the isolated jungle of Gakhe.

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

Jaya Varman and then his son, once he came of age,

112

00:06:09,000 --> 00:06:12,000

took power and ruled there for 20 years.

113

00:06:12,000 --> 00:06:18,000

But then, suddenly and inexplicably, the new capital collapsed.

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00:06:18,000 --> 00:06:21,000

During the period of less than two decades,

115

00:06:21,000 --> 00:06:25,000

you have more than 50 temples being constructed at this site.

116

00:06:25,000 --> 00:06:26,000

It's very remote.

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00:06:26,000 --> 00:06:27,000

It doesn't make any sense.

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00:06:27,000 --> 00:06:28,000

Why is it out there?

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00:06:28,000 --> 00:06:29,000

Right.

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00:06:29,000 --> 00:06:30,000

And they're carving things like this.

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

Yes.

122

00:06:31,000 --> 00:06:33,000

They're making these magnificent pieces.

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00:06:33,000 --> 00:06:36,000

They're unbelievably beautiful and they're dynamic.

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

Before the arrival of the Gakhe style,

125

00:06:39,000 --> 00:06:44,000

Khmer statues stood rigidly upright and wore stern expressions.

126

00:06:44,000 --> 00:06:49,000

But Gakhe showed gods and kings that danced, flew and smiled.

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00:06:49,000 --> 00:06:51,000

And yet this statue is not up at Gakhe.

128

00:06:51,000 --> 00:06:54,000

It is here in the middle of Panampe, the middle of the museum.

129

00:06:54,000 --> 00:06:55,000

How does it get here?

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00:06:55,000 --> 00:06:58,000

If we go back to 1874, the French came here.

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00:06:58,000 --> 00:07:04,000

They went up to Gakhe and they went temple to temple to collect statues.

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00:07:04,000 --> 00:07:11,000

The French incursion into Cambodia sparked a historic wave of theft that continues to this day.

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00:07:11,000 --> 00:07:15,000

Some masterpieces like this one have been repatriated.

134

00:07:15,000 --> 00:07:20,000

But when it comes to Gakhe, that's just the tip of the iceberg.

135

00:07:20,000 --> 00:07:24,000

So Josh, in this room there are many statues from Gakhe.

136

00:07:29,000 --> 00:07:31,000

These sculptures were looted.

137

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

They were taken out of Cambodia and then over the last decade they were brought back.

138

00:07:35,000 --> 00:07:37,000

So it's not just the colonial French looting out there.

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00:07:37,000 --> 00:07:39,000

There's a lot of it going on.

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00:07:39,000 --> 00:07:41,000

We have waves of looting.

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00:07:41,000 --> 00:07:46,000

When we look at the historical record, we could get into the early 70s, Vietnam wars raging.

142

00:07:46,000 --> 00:07:48,000

You have a number of statues going out.

143

00:07:48,000 --> 00:07:50,000

And then 1975 comes.

144

00:07:50,000 --> 00:07:51,000

The Khmer Rouge.

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00:07:51,000 --> 00:07:52,000

Khmer Rouge.

146

00:07:52,000 --> 00:07:59,000

The Khmer Rouge were a radical communist movement that seized Cambodia's government in 1975.

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00:07:59,000 --> 00:08:04,000

Under the brutal leadership of Pol Pot, the Khmer Rouge only ruled for four years.

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00:08:04,000 --> 00:08:10,000

But in that time they were responsible for the genocide of an estimated 2 million Cambodians.

149

00:08:10,000 --> 00:08:15,000

To isolate their people from anything that might contradict their extreme doctrine,

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00:08:15,000 --> 00:08:19,000

they also tried to destroy the existing Cambodian culture,

151

00:08:19,000 --> 00:08:25,000

toppling temples and destroying written records, leaving painful gaps in the country's history.

152

00:08:25,000 --> 00:08:28,000

But when the Khmer Rouge fell, the looting didn't stop.

153

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

Years of war and famine left people desperate for any way to feed themselves.

154

00:08:34,000 --> 00:08:38,000

And the market for Gakhe's stolen art was only getting hotter.

155

00:08:38,000 --> 00:08:41,000

In the 80s there was a lot of statues going out.

156

00:08:41,000 --> 00:08:43,000

In the 90s it ramps up.

157

00:08:43,000 --> 00:08:46,000

Temples are being totally stripped.

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00:08:46,000 --> 00:08:50,000

And a lot of that looting is being done by Cambodians at that point, right?

159

00:08:50,000 --> 00:08:53,000

Yes. Former child soldiers of the Khmer Rouge.

160

00:08:53,000 --> 00:08:54,000

Right.

161

00:08:54,000 --> 00:09:00,000

Statues and other cultural treasures worth millions on the art market were funneled to auction houses,

162

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

who sold them to museums and collectors all over the world.

163

00:09:04,000 --> 00:09:10,000

This room alone contains masterworks that were once in the Met, the Cleveland Museum of Art,

164

00:09:10,000 --> 00:09:15,000

the Denver Art Museum and the Norton Simon in Pasadena, among many others.

165

00:09:15,000 --> 00:09:18,000

Tracking all of this art down has become Brad's calling,

166

00:09:18,000 --> 00:09:23,000

making him a hero in Cambodia and the scourge of the black market.

167

00:09:23,000 --> 00:09:28,000

Do we have a sense of how many looted statues from Cambodia are still out in the world?

168

00:09:28,000 --> 00:09:31,000

So we're tracking 100 museums right now.

169

00:09:31,000 --> 00:09:34,000

There's more than 2,000 statues outside of Cambodia.

170

00:09:34,000 --> 00:09:35,000

In museums.

171

00:09:35,000 --> 00:09:36,000

In museums.

172

00:09:36,000 --> 00:09:37,000

And what about private collections?

173

00:09:37,000 --> 00:09:39,000

Maybe another 2,000.

174

00:09:39,000 --> 00:09:46,000

So how would you feel if the Abe Lincoln Monument was looted and it was here in Cambodia?

175

00:09:46,000 --> 00:09:47,000

Right. That would be insane.

176

00:09:47,000 --> 00:09:48,000

Yes.

177

00:09:49,000 --> 00:09:52,000

Josh, not everything is on display to the public.

178

00:09:52,000 --> 00:09:56,000

There's one incredible sculpture that I want to show you from Ka K.

179

00:09:56,000 --> 00:09:57,000

Here in the museum.

180

00:09:57,000 --> 00:09:58,000

Here at the museum. Follow me.

181

00:09:58,000 --> 00:09:59,000

Yeah, sure.

182

00:10:02,000 --> 00:10:05,000

Josh, this is the Stone Lab.

183

00:10:05,000 --> 00:10:06,000

Wow.

184

00:10:09,000 --> 00:10:13,000

Many important pieces that are returned to Cambodia, they come here for restoration.

185

00:10:13,000 --> 00:10:14,000

Got it.

186

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

So one of the most important statues to come back to date is this one here,

187

00:10:18,000 --> 00:10:20,000

which is Shiva the Destroyer.

188

00:10:20,000 --> 00:10:21,000

Yes.

189

00:10:21,000 --> 00:10:24,000

And his son Skanda, the god of war.

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00:10:26,000 --> 00:10:30,000

You know, the images are in the image of a god, a Hindu god,

191

00:10:30,000 --> 00:10:34,000

but they also usually reflect the image of the royal family.

192

00:10:34,000 --> 00:10:38,000

So possibly this is King Jayavarman IV.

193

00:10:38,000 --> 00:10:39,000

Oh, his face on Shiva.

194

00:10:39,000 --> 00:10:40,000

His face, yes.

195

00:10:40,000 --> 00:10:41,000

Wow.

196

00:10:41,000 --> 00:10:43,000

And his son Harshavarman II.

197

00:10:43,000 --> 00:10:44,000

When he's a young boy.

198

00:10:44,000 --> 00:10:46,000

Ka K's rulers are here.

199

00:10:46,000 --> 00:10:50,000

Their faces reflected in their depictions of the gods.

200

00:10:50,000 --> 00:10:53,000

This statue not only has immeasurable cultural value,

201

00:10:53,000 --> 00:10:59,000

but it may also be able to help unlock the secrets of the city from which it was stolen.

202

00:10:59,000 --> 00:11:03,000

This statue was out at Ka K and it was looted in 1997.

203

00:11:03,000 --> 00:11:05,000

And it went to a man named Douglas Latchford.

204

00:11:05,000 --> 00:11:09,000

You know, this whole story is the greatest art heist in history.

205

00:11:09,000 --> 00:11:13,000

And we see Douglas's fingerprints on everything.

206

00:11:13,000 --> 00:11:19,000

British art dealer Douglas Latchford practically industrialized the pillaging of Cambodian culture.

207

00:11:19,000 --> 00:11:23,000

Estimates of the number of statues that he smuggled from Ka K over the years

208

00:11:23,000 --> 00:11:26,000

ranged from 500 to well into the thousands,

209

00:11:26,000 --> 00:11:28,000

including the Skanda and Shiva statue,

210

00:11:28,000 --> 00:11:34,000

which he attempted to sell on the black market for \$25 million before his death in 2020.

211

00:11:35,000 --> 00:11:39,000

For the Cambodians, they don't like to put a price on the statues at all.

212

00:11:39,000 --> 00:11:42,000

They regard it as the souls of their ancestors.

213

00:11:42,000 --> 00:11:44,000

So they're spiritual pieces.

214

00:11:44,000 --> 00:11:46,000

They're like living beings.

215

00:11:46,000 --> 00:11:47,000

Right.

216

00:11:48,000 --> 00:11:50,000

So what's going on at Ka K now?

217

00:11:50,000 --> 00:11:53,000

We have a whole team up at Ka K of archaeologists

218

00:11:53,000 --> 00:11:58,000

and they're going to go into places that nobody's ever gone in before.

219

00:11:58,000 --> 00:12:03,000

And what would be unbelievable is if we can find more statues

220

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

Do you think there are more statues?

221

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

Personally for sure. Yes.

222

00:12:07,000 --> 00:12:08,000

Wow.

223

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

So if you really want to understand the mysteries of Ka K, you have to go there.

224

00:12:12,000 --> 00:12:14,000

And are you going back up there?

225

00:12:14,000 --> 00:12:16,000

Yes, I'll be heading up there in a couple of days. So I'll see you there.

226

00:12:16,000 --> 00:12:18,000

All right. I'll see you at Ka K.

227

00:12:18,000 --> 00:12:19,000

See you.

228

00:12:22,000 --> 00:12:25,000

It's time to see the lost capital for myself,

229

00:12:25,000 --> 00:12:28,000

but the trip is hardly a hop skip and a jump.

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00:12:28,000 --> 00:12:32,000

So in order to actually reach Ka K, we're going to have to undertake a journey.

231

00:12:32,000 --> 00:12:38,000

That will take us about 250 miles north and about a thousand years back in time.

232

00:12:38,000 --> 00:12:41,000

First I have to do something much more dangerous.

233

00:12:41,000 --> 00:12:43,000

I have to drive through the modern capital.

234

00:12:43,000 --> 00:12:46,000

Sure. Just come on in here wherever you need to be.

235

00:12:46,000 --> 00:12:47,000

Hi. Good morning.

236

00:12:47,000 --> 00:12:48,000

Hi.

237

00:12:48,000 --> 00:12:49,000

Hi.

238

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

These people are driving on the sidewalk. Is that legal? I don't know. It doesn't matter.

239

00:13:04,000 --> 00:13:11,000

With Panam Pen behind me, I speed 200 miles north toward the Khmer Empire's capital for generations,

240

00:13:11,000 --> 00:13:14,000

both before and after Jayavarman IV.

241

00:13:15,000 --> 00:13:21,000

At the heart of the kingdom is Angkor, which takes up an area roughly the size of Los Angeles

242

00:13:21,000 --> 00:13:25,000

and which once supported a population of about 1,000,000.

243

00:13:25,000 --> 00:13:30,000

Making it the largest pre-industrial metropolis in the world.

244

00:13:48,000 --> 00:13:52,000

The city is loaded with stunning architecture, massive buildings,

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00:13:52,000 --> 00:13:56,000

and ornate walls and gates, including the Door of the Dead,

246

00:13:56,000 --> 00:13:59,000

which was only used during the funeral of a king.

247

00:14:00,000 --> 00:14:04,000

In short, this was the alpha and omega of the Khmer world.

248

00:14:04,000 --> 00:14:10,000

So why would Jayavarman relocate the capital to a rural backwater in the middle of the jungle?

249

00:14:10,000 --> 00:14:16,000

To learn the answer, I need to push past Angkor and go deep into the Cambodian wilderness.

250

00:14:16,000 --> 00:14:18,000

There goes the paved road.

251

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

Already into the jungles.

252

00:14:28,000 --> 00:14:30,000

This place is wild.

253

00:14:31,000 --> 00:14:36,000

Just a simple dirt road slicing through this endless green maze.

254

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

It's another 70 miles through the jungle.

255

00:14:43,000 --> 00:14:47,000

It's another 70 miles through the jungle to my destination.

256

00:14:54,000 --> 00:15:01,000

It looks like there's nothing here, but we are about to arrive at the once mighty capital of the Khmer Empire.

257

00:15:01,000 --> 00:15:03,000

Welcome to Gake.

258

00:15:12,000 --> 00:15:13,000

Okay.

259

00:15:16,000 --> 00:15:17,000

Okay.

260

00:15:18,000 --> 00:15:21,000

Now we just need to get to the top. Let's go.

261

00:15:21,000 --> 00:15:28,000

I'm in the remote ruins of the Cambodian city of Gake, once briefly the capital of the mighty Khmer Empire.

262

00:15:31,000 --> 00:15:33,000

Okay. Here we go.

263

00:15:33,000 --> 00:15:46,000

To learn what caused the city's mysterious downfall, I climb up the immense steppe pyramid called Prasat Pram.

264

00:15:50,000 --> 00:15:51,000

Come on.

265

00:15:51,000 --> 00:15:57,000

It's more than just the tallest pyramid in Gake. It's the tallest pyramid in all of Cambodia.

266

00:15:58,000 --> 00:15:59,000

Okay.

267

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

I got this. I got this. Just don't look up.

268

00:16:02,000 --> 00:16:03,000

Ah, it looks up.

269

00:16:05,000 --> 00:16:10,000

And waiting for my sore quads at the top of this monster is my old friend journalist Nick Ray.

270

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

Nick!

271

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

Josh Gates.

272

00:16:17,000 --> 00:16:18,000

How are you, man?

273

00:16:18,000 --> 00:16:19,000

Great. Welcome to Coocare.

274

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

It's been too long.

275

00:16:20,000 --> 00:16:21,000

Been too long, man.

276

00:16:21,000 --> 00:16:26,000

Nick literally wrote the book on Cambodia, or at least its lonely planet, Khmer.

277

00:16:26,000 --> 00:16:30,000

And he's been a vital contact for me on many adventures.

278

00:16:30,000 --> 00:16:31,000

What a view.

279

00:16:31,000 --> 00:16:32,000

What an incredible view.

280

00:16:35,000 --> 00:16:37,000

I feel like we're on top of a mountain here.

281

00:16:37,000 --> 00:16:41,000

Well, we kind of metaphorically are. This is a temple mountain. This is meant to be home of the gods.

282

00:16:41,000 --> 00:16:42,000

Right.

283

00:16:42,000 --> 00:16:47,000

Basically, in the early 10th century, this represented the largest structure the ancient Khmer's had built at that time.

284

00:16:49,000 --> 00:16:52,000

And then the real question is, what the hell's it doing out here?

285

00:16:52,000 --> 00:16:57,000

Because before this city, the real seat of power was back at Angkor.

286

00:16:57,000 --> 00:17:01,000

Absolutely. All the early capitals were there. Why? Water.

287

00:17:01,000 --> 00:17:03,000

They had the greatest lake in Southeast Asia.

288

00:17:03,000 --> 00:17:05,000

Right, because if you want to build an empire, you need people.

289

00:17:05,000 --> 00:17:07,000

And to keep them alive, you need water.

290

00:17:07,000 --> 00:17:09,000

Absolutely. And with water, you have rice.

291

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

Rice powered the empire.

292

00:17:11,000 --> 00:17:14,000

That's right. But out here, I don't see any big lakes.

293

00:17:14,000 --> 00:17:16,000

No, there's a real lack of water out here.

294

00:17:16,000 --> 00:17:21,000

Scarce water resources, they really had to manage it carefully and make it last through the dry season.

295

00:17:21,000 --> 00:17:24,000

So why go through all the effort? Why come out here and build?

296

00:17:24,000 --> 00:17:27,000

This king, Jayavarman IV, why would he move the capital here?

297

00:17:27,000 --> 00:17:30,000

This is the great mystery that is still vexing archaeologists and historians.

298

00:17:30,000 --> 00:17:33,000

We do not know enough, but we have some theories.

299

00:17:33,000 --> 00:17:38,000

One of the things we learned from the Angkor Empire was there was no primogeniture.

300

00:17:39,000 --> 00:17:43,000

Primo-geniture is a fancy word for a royal inheritance.

301

00:17:43,000 --> 00:17:46,000

A ruler dies and his oldest son automatically takes over.

302

00:17:46,000 --> 00:17:49,000

But it didn't work that way in the Khmer Empire.

303

00:17:49,000 --> 00:17:54,000

Jayavarman IV could not automatically inherit the throne in Angkor,

304

00:17:54,000 --> 00:17:56,000

which meant that he had competitors.

305

00:17:56,000 --> 00:18:02,000

Did Jayavarman build here at Gake to simply establish his own center of authority?

306

00:18:03,000 --> 00:18:04,000

And another possibility?

307

00:18:04,000 --> 00:18:06,000

He may have been from here.

308

00:18:06,000 --> 00:18:08,000

Did he want to bring the power back home?

309

00:18:08,000 --> 00:18:11,000

Was this a statement about this is where I'm from, I'm going to build up my base?

310

00:18:11,000 --> 00:18:12,000

Right.

311

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

So regardless of why Jayavarman IV comes here, he pulls off something pretty incredible in a short amount of time.

312

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

On a monumental scale, literally, he, followed by his son, Hashavarman II,

313

00:18:22,000 --> 00:18:25,000

they only actually have it as the capital for less than 20 years.

314

00:18:25,000 --> 00:18:30,000

What you look now, you only see trees and forest and occasional peaks of a small temple.

315

00:18:30,000 --> 00:18:32,000

But in its day, this was on the scale of Angkor.

316

00:18:33,000 --> 00:18:36,000

Beneath this lush canopy was once a formidable city.

317

00:18:36,000 --> 00:18:41,000

More than 50 temples, massive reservoirs and countless homes.

318

00:18:41,000 --> 00:18:45,000

A thriving metropolis that supported tens of thousands of people.

319

00:18:45,000 --> 00:18:49,000

And the most important thing, which sadly we don't see today, was statues.

320

00:18:49,000 --> 00:18:53,000

Kakea was famous for these beautiful, vivid, dynamic statues.

321

00:18:53,000 --> 00:18:55,000

Pretty much all the statues were looted.

322

00:18:55,000 --> 00:18:58,000

So back in the day, there would have been sculpture everywhere, temples,

323

00:18:58,000 --> 00:19:01,000

and then this huge pyramid looming over everything.

324

00:19:01,000 --> 00:19:04,000

As giant as this seems today, it was even bigger in its heyday,

325

00:19:04,000 --> 00:19:09,000

because according to inscriptions, there was a giant golden linga sticking out the top.

326

00:19:09,000 --> 00:19:14,000

Lingas are these spiritual stone fallacies.

327

00:19:14,000 --> 00:19:17,000

That's a very polite way of saying a giant golden...

328

00:19:18,000 --> 00:19:20,000

Yes, that's right. That's right.

329

00:19:20,000 --> 00:19:23,000

Well, it was, you know, it's a family show, Nick. It's a family show.

330

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

Lingas are found at the summits of the Khmer's most important temples.

331

00:19:27,000 --> 00:19:31,000

They're said to represent an aspect of the god Shiva.

332

00:19:31,000 --> 00:19:34,000

And apparently, this was a rather impressive one.

333

00:19:35,000 --> 00:19:38,000

There was a very large one. They believe it was 15 feet in height.

334

00:19:38,000 --> 00:19:39,000

On top of this pyramid.

335

00:19:39,000 --> 00:19:40,000

On top of this pyramid.

336

00:19:40,000 --> 00:19:42,000

So what happened to this golden linga?

337

00:19:42,000 --> 00:19:44,000

Well, this is still something of a major mystery.

338

00:19:44,000 --> 00:19:46,000

No one really knows for sure what happened.

339

00:19:46,000 --> 00:19:48,000

Some say that it was decapitated, if you like,

340

00:19:48,000 --> 00:19:50,000

and taken back to the seat of power and corps.

341

00:19:50,000 --> 00:19:53,000

What better way to put a rival capital in its place?

342

00:19:53,000 --> 00:19:54,000

Then to chop off its linga.

343

00:19:54,000 --> 00:19:55,000

Exactly.

344

00:19:55,000 --> 00:19:56,000

Right.

345

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

Of course, the linga might also have been another victim of Gakkei's infamous looters.

346

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

The gold stripped and sold off.

347

00:20:03,000 --> 00:20:06,000

Other theories suggest it was never removed from the site.

348

00:20:06,000 --> 00:20:07,000

It could still be here.

349

00:20:07,000 --> 00:20:09,000

At the center of the pyramid, you've got this deep pit

350

00:20:09,000 --> 00:20:11,000

going down into the heart of the temple,

351

00:20:11,000 --> 00:20:13,000

sort of door to the underworld.

352

00:20:13,000 --> 00:20:15,000

Could the linga have toppled in there?

353

00:20:15,000 --> 00:20:16,000

Nobody really knows.

354

00:20:16,000 --> 00:20:18,000

So the linga has not been found.

355

00:20:18,000 --> 00:20:19,000

So what's in there?

356

00:20:19,000 --> 00:20:21,000

To be honest, nobody knows for sure.

357

00:20:21,000 --> 00:20:23,000

It's not a place that's been fully explored.

358

00:20:23,000 --> 00:20:25,000

It's basically a place that locals avoid.

359

00:20:25,000 --> 00:20:26,000

Okay.

360

00:20:27,000 --> 00:20:30,000

Well, I'm not one to let a portal to the underworld

361

00:20:30,000 --> 00:20:32,000

stop me from finding a golden linga.

362

00:20:32,000 --> 00:20:36,000

Nick is going to try to get permission for me to enter the sacred pyramid.

363

00:20:36,000 --> 00:20:41,000

Unprecedented access to explore the crown jewel of Gakkei for answers.

364

00:20:42,000 --> 00:20:44,000

However, these things take time.

365

00:20:47,000 --> 00:20:52,000

So the next morning, I return to my bike to get my first look at the rest of the city.

366

00:20:55,000 --> 00:21:00,000

The pyramid is just the tip of the spiritual iceberg in Gakkei.

367

00:21:00,000 --> 00:21:02,000

I'm headed now to relink with Brad Borton,

368

00:21:02,000 --> 00:21:06,000

who's working with archaeologists at an incredible temple

369

00:21:06,000 --> 00:21:09,000

that might help unravel the mysteries of the capital

370

00:21:09,000 --> 00:21:12,000

and the fate of its mighty kings.

371

00:21:13,000 --> 00:21:16,000

I drive, stunned amidst the ruins.

372

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

Past ancient temples that the jungle has destroyed,

373

00:21:20,000 --> 00:21:23,000

or in some cases simply added onto,

374

00:21:23,000 --> 00:21:26,000

with towers of cloying vines.

375

00:21:26,000 --> 00:21:30,000

This, it appears, is what remains of Gakkei.

376

00:21:30,000 --> 00:21:33,000

Pretty much everywhere you look out in these jungles,

377

00:21:33,000 --> 00:21:38,000

there's construction, signs of life, signs of power.

378

00:21:39,000 --> 00:21:43,000

I pull up to reconnect with Brad Gordon at the ruins of a grand temple

379

00:21:43,000 --> 00:21:47,000

where former looters have revealed that they stole priceless statues,

380

00:21:47,000 --> 00:21:50,000

and more may be waiting to be found.

381

00:21:50,000 --> 00:21:51,000

Welcome to Gakkei.

382

00:21:51,000 --> 00:21:52,000

Ah, thrilled to be here.

383

00:21:52,000 --> 00:21:54,000

Okay, talk to me about this place.

384

00:21:54,000 --> 00:21:55,000

This is Prasakachap.

385

00:21:55,000 --> 00:21:56,000

Prasakachap.

386

00:21:56,000 --> 00:21:57,000

Yes.

387

00:21:57,000 --> 00:21:58,000

What's the significance of this temple?

388

00:21:58,000 --> 00:21:59,000

Do we know what it was used for?

389

00:21:59,000 --> 00:22:00,000

We don't know yet.

390

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

This temple is known as the Temple of Inscriptions.

391

00:22:03,000 --> 00:22:07,000

This temple has the most inscriptions of any temple in Cambodia.

392

00:22:07,000 --> 00:22:08,000

In the whole country?

393

00:22:08,000 --> 00:22:09,000

In the whole country.

394

00:22:09,000 --> 00:22:10,000

And we see one right here, right, on these columns,

395

00:22:10,000 --> 00:22:13,000

which is usually where you find them or in the doorways.

396

00:22:13,000 --> 00:22:15,000

And you would think with so many inscriptions,

397

00:22:15,000 --> 00:22:17,000

we might understand this place, but no.

398

00:22:17,000 --> 00:22:20,000

No, because it appears to be a list of names.

399

00:22:20,000 --> 00:22:22,000

Thousands of names.

400

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

Most of the inscriptions found so far have been just like this.

401

00:22:26,000 --> 00:22:30,000

The results of a census, perhaps, or a roll of honor.

402

00:22:30,000 --> 00:22:33,000

But nothing that tells us how Gakkei came to be

403

00:22:33,000 --> 00:22:35,000

or why it ceased to be.

404

00:22:35,000 --> 00:22:38,000

And have they found statues and sculptures here?

405

00:22:38,000 --> 00:22:42,000

Yes, the Lutors found an incredible number of masterpieces.

406

00:22:42,000 --> 00:22:45,000

Remember the Shivanskanda that we saw at the National Museum,

407

00:22:45,000 --> 00:22:46,000

the father and son?

408

00:22:46,000 --> 00:22:47,000

I came from here.

409

00:22:47,000 --> 00:22:48,000

That came from this temple?

410

00:22:48,000 --> 00:22:51,000

Yes, the way I learned about it was from a Lutor.

411

00:22:51,000 --> 00:22:53,000

His name was Lyon.

412

00:22:53,000 --> 00:22:54,000

Right.

413

00:22:55,000 --> 00:22:57,000

Toek Tik, also known as Lyon,

414

00:22:57,000 --> 00:23:00,000

was a former soldier in the Khmer Rouge.

415

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

He started looting temples in the 1980s

416

00:23:03,000 --> 00:23:07,000

and formed a gang of over 450 desperate men and women

417

00:23:07,000 --> 00:23:10,000

who plundered statues wherever they went,

418

00:23:10,000 --> 00:23:13,000

their take easily numbering in the thousands.

419

00:23:13,000 --> 00:23:17,000

Late in his life, though, Lyon began to have regrets.

420

00:23:17,000 --> 00:23:19,000

I became very close friends with him.

421

00:23:19,000 --> 00:23:21,000

He brought me here a couple of years ago,

422

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

and he shared with us all the secrets,

423

00:23:23,000 --> 00:23:26,000

all the places where he had looted.

424

00:23:26,000 --> 00:23:28,000

And did he steal other statues from here?

425

00:23:28,000 --> 00:23:31,000

Lyon took a dozen statues from here.

426

00:23:31,000 --> 00:23:32,000

Wow.

427

00:23:32,000 --> 00:23:35,000

The statues, though, were taken hurriedly,

428

00:23:35,000 --> 00:23:37,000

and many were damaged in the process.

429

00:23:37,000 --> 00:23:40,000

As a result, fragments remain,

430

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

fragments that could be matched with looted statues abroad,

431

00:23:43,000 --> 00:23:48,000

and used to help Brad bring those statues home to Cambodia.

432

00:23:48,000 --> 00:23:50,000

I see some hard hats back here, and I can hear digging.

433

00:23:50,000 --> 00:23:52,000

What's the mission right now?

434

00:23:52,000 --> 00:23:56,000

To find more fragments, more inscriptions, more statues.

435

00:23:56,000 --> 00:23:58,000

Everything out here is a mystery.

436

00:23:58,000 --> 00:24:01,000

We're trying to understand the story of this temple,

437

00:24:01,000 --> 00:24:04,000

and for that reason, we have to look underground.

438

00:24:04,000 --> 00:24:07,000

The temple's entrance plaza has been buried for centuries

439

00:24:07,000 --> 00:24:10,000

and has never before been excavated.

440

00:24:10,000 --> 00:24:14,000

Leading this brand-new effort is archaeologist Pin Pachade.

441

00:24:14,000 --> 00:24:16,000

What's the plan? We're going to excavate here?

442

00:24:16,000 --> 00:24:17,000

Yeah.

443

00:24:17,000 --> 00:24:19,000

So we can already see there's some sandstone sticking up here.

444

00:24:19,000 --> 00:24:21,000

What else is here, do you think?

445

00:24:21,000 --> 00:24:22,000

I don't know.

446

00:24:22,000 --> 00:24:24,000

Okay, that makes it exciting. Should we find out?

447

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

Yeah.

448

00:24:25,000 --> 00:24:26,000

Let's dig. Come on.

449

00:24:28,000 --> 00:24:31,000

We get to work digging into the ground of the temple's entrance

450

00:24:31,000 --> 00:24:33,000

with pickaxes and shovels.

451

00:24:43,000 --> 00:24:45,000

There are challenges upon challenges here at this site.

452

00:24:45,000 --> 00:24:48,000

First of all, the top layer of the soil in some areas is so hard,

453

00:24:48,000 --> 00:24:50,000

you might mistake it for rock.

454

00:24:50,000 --> 00:24:53,000

And intertwined with all the ruins are massive roots

455

00:24:53,000 --> 00:24:55,000

that have to be chopped through.

456

00:24:57,000 --> 00:25:00,000

Just getting a few inches into the ground is hard labor.

457

00:25:07,000 --> 00:25:10,000

I'm working with archaeologist Tak Panet

458

00:25:10,000 --> 00:25:12,000

when we make our first discovery.

459

00:25:12,000 --> 00:25:14,000

So something coming into view here.

460

00:25:14,000 --> 00:25:15,000

This is carved, yeah?

461

00:25:15,000 --> 00:25:16,000

Two human bodies.

462

00:25:16,000 --> 00:25:19,000

Oh, a human body here and here.

463

00:25:19,000 --> 00:25:20,000

Wow.

464

00:25:20,000 --> 00:25:24,000

Pakkade joins us as we carefully expose more of the carving.

465

00:25:24,000 --> 00:25:26,000

Oh, it's his face.

466

00:25:26,000 --> 00:25:27,000

Yeah, it's his face.

467

00:25:27,000 --> 00:25:28,000

It's my face.

468

00:25:28,000 --> 00:25:30,000

I mean, face and another face.

469

00:25:30,000 --> 00:25:32,000

Oh, my word.

470

00:25:39,000 --> 00:25:41,000

Oh, hands are up?

471

00:25:41,000 --> 00:25:42,000

Yeah.

472

00:25:42,000 --> 00:25:43,000

Their hands are up there.

473

00:25:43,000 --> 00:25:44,000

They praying?

474

00:25:44,000 --> 00:25:45,000

Yes.

475

00:25:45,000 --> 00:25:49,000

I'm in the ruins of the ancient Cambodian city of Gake.

476

00:25:49,000 --> 00:25:54,000

Mysteries about its construction and collapse persist after a thousand years.

477

00:25:54,000 --> 00:25:57,000

But archaeologists here are seeking answers

478

00:25:57,000 --> 00:26:01,000

by restoring cultural treasures that have been relentlessly looted.

479

00:26:01,000 --> 00:26:05,000

Now, we found a remarkable slab of sandstone

480

00:26:05,000 --> 00:26:09,000

that no one has laid eyes on since the glory days of the Khmer Empire.

481

00:26:09,000 --> 00:26:14,000

And the exquisite carving on its front is literally divine.

482

00:26:14,000 --> 00:26:15,000

And so who are they praying to?

483

00:26:15,000 --> 00:26:18,000

Is this a person or is this an animal?

484

00:26:18,000 --> 00:26:19,000

I think it's animal.

485

00:26:19,000 --> 00:26:21,000

It should be a fit of elephant.

486

00:26:21,000 --> 00:26:23,000

Are they praying to somebody on the elephant?

487

00:26:23,000 --> 00:26:26,000

Probably, because elephant is a vehicle of the intra gods.

488

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

Indra is the god of the west, east, east, east, the god of the east.

489

00:26:31,000 --> 00:26:34,000

And so maybe they're praying up to Indra seated on the elephant.

490

00:26:34,000 --> 00:26:35,000

There's a whole scene here.

491

00:26:35,000 --> 00:26:37,000

There's a story being told here.

492

00:26:37,000 --> 00:26:40,000

And that story will tell us more about this temple.

493

00:26:40,000 --> 00:26:41,000

Yeah.

494

00:26:41,000 --> 00:26:42,000

Okay, let's read the next chapter.

495

00:26:42,000 --> 00:26:43,000

Come on.

496

00:26:46,000 --> 00:26:50,000

The tools of the trade here consist of brushes and soft bamboo sticks,

497

00:26:50,000 --> 00:26:53,000

which push dirt away without damaging the sandstone.

498

00:26:55,000 --> 00:26:56,000

We have more people here, yes?

499

00:26:56,000 --> 00:26:57,000

Yeah, yeah.

500

00:26:57,000 --> 00:26:58,000

St. Paul's praying?

501

00:26:58,000 --> 00:26:59,000

Yeah.

502

00:26:59,000 --> 00:27:02,000

If this is Indra, god of the east, would this be facing east?

503

00:27:02,000 --> 00:27:03,000

Yes.

504

00:27:03,000 --> 00:27:04,000

And east is?

505

00:27:04,000 --> 00:27:05,000

Which way?

506

00:27:05,000 --> 00:27:06,000

This way.

507

00:27:06,000 --> 00:27:08,000

So this stone would have been up and facing east.

508

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

Therefore, we should have carvings on the outside facing west, right?

509

00:27:11,000 --> 00:27:13,000

And that would be the entrance here.

510

00:27:13,000 --> 00:27:15,000

Very important entrance.

511

00:27:15,000 --> 00:27:21,000

The long carving here was almost certainly part of an entryway to the temple known as a pediment,

512

00:27:21,000 --> 00:27:26,000

which is an ordinate triangular feature that would have presided over the doorway here.

513

00:27:26,000 --> 00:27:29,000

So there should be really fine carvings on the other side.

514

00:27:29,000 --> 00:27:30,000

Very fine carving.

515

00:27:30,000 --> 00:27:31,000

Wow.

516

00:27:35,000 --> 00:27:38,000

The whole crew kicks into a new gear to excavate the carving.

517

00:27:38,000 --> 00:27:42,000

More huge blocks of stone emerge from the earth all around us.

518

00:27:42,000 --> 00:27:47,000

These could be more pieces of the entryway, a major find that would help explain more

519

00:27:47,000 --> 00:27:50,000

about the origins and a downfall of Gakke.

520

00:27:53,000 --> 00:27:57,000

And it turns out that Pin Pachade is the man with the lucky hand.

521

00:27:57,000 --> 00:27:58,000

Just come here.

522

00:27:58,000 --> 00:28:00,000

I found a column.

523

00:28:00,000 --> 00:28:01,000

Column piece?

524

00:28:01,000 --> 00:28:02,000

Yeah.

525

00:28:04,000 --> 00:28:07,000

We have decoration up here, but no writing.

526

00:28:08,000 --> 00:28:11,000

We have an inscription.

527

00:28:11,000 --> 00:28:12,000

Yeah.

528

00:28:13,000 --> 00:28:15,000

My word.

529

00:28:15,000 --> 00:28:16,000

Wow.

530

00:28:20,000 --> 00:28:21,000

It's ancient Khmer.

531

00:28:21,000 --> 00:28:22,000

Yeah, it's ancient Khmer.

532

00:28:25,000 --> 00:28:32,000

So this has been completely buried, which means right now, in this instant, we are the first

533

00:28:32,000 --> 00:28:36,000

people to see this inscription in a thousand years.

534

00:28:36,000 --> 00:28:41,000

This is literally a message from the past reaching out to us right now.

535

00:28:41,000 --> 00:28:44,000

Pachade cleans out the inscriptions to make them legible.

536

00:28:44,000 --> 00:28:46,000

This column keeps going, yeah?

537

00:28:46,000 --> 00:28:48,000

It's underneath this huge root.

538

00:28:48,000 --> 00:28:53,000

The column has been buried for so long that a massive root system has grown across the

539

00:28:53,000 --> 00:28:54,000

top of it.

540

00:28:54,000 --> 00:28:57,000

To get the full inscription, we'll need to get chopping.

541

00:28:57,000 --> 00:28:58,000

Yep.

542

00:28:58,000 --> 00:28:59,000

Okay, good.

543

00:29:02,000 --> 00:29:04,000

It's still beautiful.

544

00:29:04,000 --> 00:29:09,000

It's not broken much, so it can be translated by its book.

545

00:29:09,000 --> 00:29:14,000

We'll be photographing and scanning the inscriptions to send to the National Museum, where experts

546

00:29:14,000 --> 00:29:16,000

can translate them.

547

00:29:16,000 --> 00:29:18,000

So, what about on the sides?

548

00:29:20,000 --> 00:29:22,000

So this just looks smooth, nothing here.

549

00:29:22,000 --> 00:29:23,000

Yeah, it's smooth.

550

00:29:23,000 --> 00:29:24,000

And this side?

551

00:29:24,000 --> 00:29:25,000

Flank here too?

552

00:29:25,000 --> 00:29:26,000

It has inscriptions here.

553

00:29:26,000 --> 00:29:27,000

There's inscriptions?

554

00:29:27,000 --> 00:29:28,000

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

555

00:29:28,000 --> 00:29:31,000

Look at that, there's writing on this side.

556

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

Dude!

557

00:29:32,000 --> 00:29:33,000

Wow.

558

00:29:33,000 --> 00:29:34,000

It's legible!

559

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

And it's the column from the front of the temple.

560

00:29:37,000 --> 00:29:40,000

So it should tell us a lot about this building, right?

561

00:29:40,000 --> 00:29:41,000

Information of the temple.

562

00:29:41,000 --> 00:29:42,000

New discovery.

563

00:29:42,000 --> 00:29:44,000

The Pachade column?

564

00:29:45,000 --> 00:29:46,000

What do you think?

565

00:29:46,000 --> 00:29:47,000

The Chewosh.

566

00:29:47,000 --> 00:29:49,000

The Josh columns?

567

00:29:49,000 --> 00:29:51,000

I mean, it does have a nice ring to it.

568

00:29:51,000 --> 00:29:53,000

I won't argue with that, Pachade.

569

00:29:55,000 --> 00:29:57,000

I love this!

570

00:29:57,000 --> 00:29:59,000

This is incredible.

571

00:29:59,000 --> 00:30:01,000

Guys, more inscription here.

572

00:30:01,000 --> 00:30:03,000

Look, look, look.

573

00:30:05,000 --> 00:30:07,000

Another sense down here.

574

00:30:07,000 --> 00:30:09,000

More there.

575

00:30:10,000 --> 00:30:12,000

Oh, it's my one.

576

00:30:12,000 --> 00:30:15,000

Oh, look at that, more writing!

577

00:30:15,000 --> 00:30:16,000

More here.

578

00:30:16,000 --> 00:30:17,000

Wow.

579

00:30:18,000 --> 00:30:20,000

So somewhere on here, maybe down here.

580

00:30:20,000 --> 00:30:21,000

Yeah, down here.

581

00:30:21,000 --> 00:30:23,000

Maybe this piece right here, look at this.

582

00:30:24,000 --> 00:30:27,000

It's like a thousand-year-old jigsaw puzzle.

583

00:30:28,000 --> 00:30:30,000

That's incredible.

584

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

So, do you guys have any super glue?

585

00:30:32,000 --> 00:30:34,000

No.

586

00:30:38,000 --> 00:30:41,000

For an archaeologist, this is a field of dreams.

587

00:30:41,000 --> 00:30:45,000

We're finding literally tons of amazing material.

588

00:30:45,000 --> 00:30:48,000

And one of the most momentous finds

589

00:30:48,000 --> 00:30:50,000

is right under our feet.

590

00:30:54,000 --> 00:30:55,000

Wow, I hate sensing.

591

00:30:55,000 --> 00:30:57,000

Oh, sandstone.

592

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

Yeah.

593

00:31:01,000 --> 00:31:03,000

It's like bumpy, look at that.

594

00:31:03,000 --> 00:31:04,000

What is it?

595

00:31:04,000 --> 00:31:05,000

I don't know.

596

00:31:05,000 --> 00:31:06,000

Oh, no, what is it?

597

00:31:08,000 --> 00:31:09,000

Broken here.

598

00:31:10,000 --> 00:31:12,000

Looks like fish skin almost.

599

00:31:12,000 --> 00:31:13,000

I see.

600

00:31:13,000 --> 00:31:15,000

A part of the lion.

601

00:31:16,000 --> 00:31:17,000

A lion?

602

00:31:17,000 --> 00:31:18,000

Yeah.

603

00:31:18,000 --> 00:31:20,000

This is the hair from the lion, the mane?

604

00:31:20,000 --> 00:31:22,000

Yeah, it should be connected to the head.

605

00:31:22,000 --> 00:31:23,000

Head is here?

606

00:31:23,000 --> 00:31:24,000

Yeah.

607

00:31:24,000 --> 00:31:25,000

And the body?

608

00:31:25,000 --> 00:31:26,000

Yeah.

609

00:31:26,000 --> 00:31:27,000

Get out of here.

610

00:31:27,000 --> 00:31:28,000

This is amazing.

611

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

Often outside of these temples, you see lions,

612

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

guardians of the temple.

613

00:31:33,000 --> 00:31:35,000

It's a tradition that carried on for centuries.

614

00:31:35,000 --> 00:31:37,000

We see it in Europe, even in America.

615

00:31:37,000 --> 00:31:39,000

Lions guarding libraries and museums,

616

00:31:39,000 --> 00:31:44,000

guardians of knowledge, or of sacred spaces.

617

00:31:44,000 --> 00:31:46,000

This fragment is invaluable.

618

00:31:46,000 --> 00:31:48,000

If the rest of the lion is here,

619

00:31:48,000 --> 00:31:51,000

the fragment can restore the full piece.

620

00:31:51,000 --> 00:31:53,000

And if the rest of the lion has already been looted,

621

00:31:53,000 --> 00:31:56,000

the fragment can be matched to the larger statue

622

00:31:56,000 --> 00:31:59,000

and used as evidence to help repatriate

623

00:31:59,000 --> 00:32:01,000

one of Gacke's masterpieces.

624

00:32:02,000 --> 00:32:04,000

And it's just been sitting here,

625

00:32:04,000 --> 00:32:08,000

waiting silently for a millennium.

626

00:32:09,000 --> 00:32:10,000

Awesome.

627

00:32:10,000 --> 00:32:12,000

Do you want to leave this for a photo?

628

00:32:12,000 --> 00:32:13,000

Yeah.

629

00:32:13,000 --> 00:32:15,000

Each piece that we find has to be photographed

630

00:32:15,000 --> 00:32:18,000

and scanned in situ before being moved for preservation,

631

00:32:18,000 --> 00:32:21,000

a process that will take several hours.

632

00:32:21,000 --> 00:32:23,000

While Pakode's team does the hard work

633

00:32:23,000 --> 00:32:25,000

of cataloging the finds,

634

00:32:26,000 --> 00:32:29,000

I receive word that Nick Ray has come through.

635

00:32:29,000 --> 00:32:33,000

We have permission to explore the city's massive pyramid.

636

00:32:33,000 --> 00:32:35,000

Pakode joins me to see for himself

637

00:32:35,000 --> 00:32:37,000

if the missing Golden Linga statue

638

00:32:37,000 --> 00:32:40,000

is hiding inside what the locals believe

639

00:32:40,000 --> 00:32:42,000

is a portal to the underworld.

640

00:32:43,000 --> 00:32:45,000

I see you've got some climbing experts here.

641

00:32:45,000 --> 00:32:46,000

Yeah.

642

00:32:46,000 --> 00:32:48,000

And what do you think is down there?

643

00:32:48,000 --> 00:32:49,000

I don't know.

644

00:32:49,000 --> 00:32:50,000

Hmm.

645

00:32:50,000 --> 00:32:51,000

Okay.

646

00:32:51,000 --> 00:32:52,000

So are you going down?

647

00:32:52,000 --> 00:32:53,000

No.

648

00:32:53,000 --> 00:32:55,000

You just want someone to go first to look for snakes.

649

00:32:55,000 --> 00:32:56,000

Is that what's happening here?

650

00:32:56,000 --> 00:32:57,000

Yes.

651

00:32:57,000 --> 00:32:58,000

Okay.

652

00:32:59,000 --> 00:33:01,000

Pakode has called in a rigging team,

653

00:33:01,000 --> 00:33:05,000

which has prepared a way for me to get safely into the shaft.

654

00:33:05,000 --> 00:33:06,000

One hopes.

655

00:33:06,000 --> 00:33:09,000

After all, it's a 50-foot dead drop surrounded

656

00:33:09,000 --> 00:33:11,000

by unstable stone walls.

657

00:33:18,000 --> 00:33:22,000

I gear up and get ready to descend into the underworld.

658

00:33:22,000 --> 00:33:23,000

Okay?

659

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

Let's get crazy.

660

00:33:25,000 --> 00:33:29,000

A task which Pakode and his crew take incredibly seriously.

661

00:33:29,000 --> 00:33:32,000

You have to pray for spirit to protect you.

662

00:33:32,000 --> 00:33:34,000

Please pray here.

663

00:33:34,000 --> 00:33:35,000

Okay.

664

00:33:35,000 --> 00:33:36,000

Yeah.

665

00:33:42,000 --> 00:33:44,000

Pakode is a trained archaeologist,

666

00:33:44,000 --> 00:33:47,000

but his veneration of this sacred place transcends science.

667

00:33:47,000 --> 00:33:50,000

After this ceremony, he will remain above

668

00:33:50,000 --> 00:33:52,000

while I enter the pyramid.

669

00:33:52,000 --> 00:33:53,000

Okay.

670

00:33:53,000 --> 00:33:56,000

With the protection of the Cambodian spirit secured,

671

00:33:56,000 --> 00:33:59,000

it's time for me to go over the edge.

672

00:34:03,000 --> 00:34:04,000

Long way down.

673

00:34:08,000 --> 00:34:10,000

All right, I'm out over the edge.

674

00:34:11,000 --> 00:34:13,000

Okay, heading down.

675

00:34:20,000 --> 00:34:22,000

Good luck, Kios.

676

00:34:22,000 --> 00:34:25,000

In the middle of the largest pyramid in Cambodia

677

00:34:25,000 --> 00:34:29,000

is a 50-foot deep shaft said to lead directly to the underworld.

678

00:34:29,000 --> 00:34:31,000

So naturally, I'm jumping in.

679

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

The stones are really mossy and overgrown.

680

00:34:34,000 --> 00:34:36,000

I'm terrified to think of what might be living

681

00:34:36,000 --> 00:34:38,000

in the cracks between them.

682

00:34:38,000 --> 00:34:41,000

Scorpion snakes, things like that are very common here.

683

00:34:41,000 --> 00:34:43,000

I'm not over the edge.

684

00:34:43,000 --> 00:34:45,000

Okay, heading down.

685

00:34:45,000 --> 00:34:47,000

Good luck, Kios.

686

00:34:47,000 --> 00:34:49,000

Things like that are very common here.

687

00:34:59,000 --> 00:35:01,000

Nice and slow.

688

00:35:04,000 --> 00:35:05,000

Are you okay, Kios?

689

00:35:05,000 --> 00:35:07,000

Yeah, I'm good.

690

00:35:07,000 --> 00:35:09,000

No golden linga yet.

691

00:35:09,000 --> 00:35:11,000

Let me have a little more slack.

692

00:35:11,000 --> 00:35:12,000

Whew.

693

00:35:12,000 --> 00:35:16,000

A 15-foot tall gold statue known as a linga

694

00:35:16,000 --> 00:35:19,000

once stood within a shrine at the top of the pyramid.

695

00:35:19,000 --> 00:35:22,000

It may have been taken by Gakhe's looters.

696

00:35:22,000 --> 00:35:25,000

Or fragments of it could be directly below me.

697

00:35:25,000 --> 00:35:27,000

Down, down, down.

698

00:35:29,000 --> 00:35:31,000

Okay, I'm approaching the bottom.

699

00:35:31,000 --> 00:35:33,000

Keep going.

700

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

Okay, I'm down.

701

00:35:36,000 --> 00:35:38,000

Take care, Kios.

702

00:35:38,000 --> 00:35:41,000

Let's have a look down here and see what we see.

703

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

Did you find any snakes?

704

00:35:48,000 --> 00:35:49,000

Not yet.

705

00:35:52,000 --> 00:35:54,000

A piece of ceramic here.

706

00:35:54,000 --> 00:35:56,000

It's a porcelain.

707

00:35:56,000 --> 00:35:58,000

It looks like it's terracotta.

708

00:35:58,000 --> 00:35:59,000

It's like earthenware.

709

00:35:59,000 --> 00:36:00,000

Really?

710

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

Yeah.

711

00:36:01,000 --> 00:36:02,000

Wow.

712

00:36:02,000 --> 00:36:04,000

It's probably a roof tile.

713

00:36:05,000 --> 00:36:08,000

The ceramic could be from the roof of the original shrine

714

00:36:08,000 --> 00:36:10,000

that was here over the golden linga,

715

00:36:10,000 --> 00:36:12,000

which means that this artifact here,

716

00:36:12,000 --> 00:36:14,000

about a thousand years old.

717

00:36:14,000 --> 00:36:15,000

Amazing.

718

00:36:16,000 --> 00:36:20,000

Just a single piece and some very nasty-looking spiders.

719

00:36:22,000 --> 00:36:24,000

Other than that, nothing here.

720

00:36:24,000 --> 00:36:26,000

But there may be a reason we're not seeing that linga.

721

00:36:26,000 --> 00:36:30,000

I don't think that where I'm standing is actually the bottom of this shaft.

722

00:36:30,000 --> 00:36:31,000

Look at this.

723

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

So we can see here, the bottom, this is all compacted dirt.

724

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

Underneath me, there could be much more to this pit.

725

00:36:40,000 --> 00:36:42,000

This pyramid's over 100 feet tall.

726

00:36:42,000 --> 00:36:44,000

I've only gone down about half that distance.

727

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

Folklore is that this pyramid shaft goes all the way down to the underworld itself.

728

00:36:49,000 --> 00:36:51,000

And since we can't get any further,

729

00:36:51,000 --> 00:36:53,000

who's to say, maybe it does?

730

00:36:55,000 --> 00:36:58,000

The ancient pyramid structure is precarious,

731

00:36:58,000 --> 00:37:00,000

so digging further down into the shaft

732

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

could cause the walls to collapse.

733

00:37:03,000 --> 00:37:04,000

I'm coming up.

734

00:37:12,000 --> 00:37:13,000

This is unstable.

735

00:37:18,000 --> 00:37:19,000

Are you good?

736

00:37:20,000 --> 00:37:21,000

It's like terrifying.

737

00:37:22,000 --> 00:37:24,000

They're very slippery and one just almost fell out.

738

00:37:25,000 --> 00:37:29,000

I'm hesitant to put too much of my trust in those blocks.

739

00:37:29,000 --> 00:37:31,000

The shaft is clearly unsound,

740

00:37:31,000 --> 00:37:35,000

which makes being inside it even more dangerous than it was a minute ago.

741

00:37:36,000 --> 00:37:38,000

The shaft is clearly unsound,

742

00:37:38,000 --> 00:37:42,000

which makes being inside it even more dangerous than it was a minute ago.

743

00:37:42,000 --> 00:37:44,000

I just don't want to pull in these blocks now.

744

00:37:44,000 --> 00:37:46,000

Okay, new system.

745

00:37:46,000 --> 00:37:48,000

I'm just going to go up the sides this time with my feet.

746

00:37:53,000 --> 00:37:54,000

Okay.

747

00:37:56,000 --> 00:37:58,000

Bracing my feet against the rock wall,

748

00:37:58,000 --> 00:38:01,000

I ascend as fast as I can.

749

00:38:05,000 --> 00:38:06,000

Can I put my weight on this?

750

00:38:06,000 --> 00:38:07,000

It's okay?

751

00:38:07,000 --> 00:38:08,000

Okay.

752

00:38:15,000 --> 00:38:16,000

I'm very scared.

753

00:38:19,000 --> 00:38:20,000

Never again.

754

00:38:21,000 --> 00:38:26,000

Exploring further here will be impossible without some major league engineering.

755

00:38:26,000 --> 00:38:28,000

Along with a missing linga,

756

00:38:28,000 --> 00:38:33,000

there could be other statues that would fill in some of the blanks of Gacke's hazy history.

757

00:38:33,000 --> 00:38:37,000

But when it comes to this pyramid, perhaps that's where they belong,

758

00:38:37,000 --> 00:38:41,000

in between the world of the living and that of the spirits.

759

00:38:47,000 --> 00:38:50,000

The next morning, I returned to Prasat Khrichap Temple,

760

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

where Pakode's dig team is ready to extract the huge stones

761

00:38:53,000 --> 00:38:56,000

that were once part of the temple's magnificent entrance.

762

00:38:56,000 --> 00:38:59,000

Once we get the stones out of the ground,

763

00:38:59,000 --> 00:39:02,000

we hope to be able to reassemble the ancient pieces

764

00:39:02,000 --> 00:39:05,000

and reconstruct the temple's entrance.

765

00:39:07,000 --> 00:39:08,000

You're going to hold this?

766

00:39:08,000 --> 00:39:09,000

Yeah.

767

00:39:10,000 --> 00:39:13,000

Step one is erecting a system of scaffolding and pulleys

768

00:39:13,000 --> 00:39:16,000

that will hopefully make light work of the heavy rock.

769

00:39:19,000 --> 00:39:21,000

First thing we're going to try to move is this?

770

00:39:21,000 --> 00:39:22,000

Yeah.

771

00:39:29,000 --> 00:39:30,000

You got them?

772

00:39:30,000 --> 00:39:33,000

Lifting pieces like this is hugely stressful

773

00:39:33,000 --> 00:39:35,000

because even though these blocks are massive,

774

00:39:35,000 --> 00:39:38,000

they can still crack in half, and we have incredible art

775

00:39:38,000 --> 00:39:40,000

on this side and maybe underneath.

776

00:39:40,000 --> 00:39:42,000

The challenge is getting the straps underneath it

777

00:39:42,000 --> 00:39:45,000

and getting it balanced so it doesn't swing out of control and break.

778

00:39:46,000 --> 00:39:50,000

The pulleys work by redirecting the force of the stone's weight.

779

00:39:50,000 --> 00:39:51,000

Okay, here goes nothing.

780

00:39:53,000 --> 00:39:55,000

In this case, about two tons,

781

00:39:55,000 --> 00:39:59,000

allowing us to quickly lift what would take a dozen of us by hand.

782

00:39:59,000 --> 00:40:01,000

It's clear.

783

00:40:01,000 --> 00:40:04,000

It's crucial that we do this carefully.

784

00:40:04,000 --> 00:40:07,000

If the stone falls, or if the rigging collapses,

785

00:40:07,000 --> 00:40:10,000

it would do more than damage a major archaeological find.

786

00:40:10,000 --> 00:40:12,000

It would be potentially deadly.

787

00:40:21,000 --> 00:40:24,000

The first piece of the temple's entryway is out of the earth.

788

00:40:24,000 --> 00:40:26,000

Now we need to get to the rest of the stones

789

00:40:26,000 --> 00:40:29,000

before trying to put the puzzle together.

790

00:40:41,000 --> 00:40:43,000

Yeah! Good!

791

00:40:43,000 --> 00:40:45,000

Okay, another one!

792

00:40:45,000 --> 00:40:47,000

Good job, everybody.

793

00:40:49,000 --> 00:40:50,000

Is that lunch or...?

794

00:40:50,000 --> 00:40:51,000

No.

795

00:40:51,000 --> 00:40:52,000

No, okay.

796

00:40:53,000 --> 00:40:57,000

Next on our list is the slab that Pakode and I exposed earlier

797

00:40:57,000 --> 00:40:59,000

near where our lion fragment was found.

798

00:40:59,000 --> 00:41:03,000

One side was elaborately carved with the image of an elephant,

799

00:41:03,000 --> 00:41:07,000

which the team believes belongs to the Hindu god of the east, Indra.

800

00:41:08,000 --> 00:41:10,000

We think there might be more carvings underneath, yeah?

801

00:41:10,000 --> 00:41:11,000

Yeah, exactly.

802

00:41:11,000 --> 00:41:12,000

So what's the plan?

803

00:41:12,000 --> 00:41:14,000

Lift it by the corner and then get another support?

804

00:41:14,000 --> 00:41:15,000

Get another support.

805

00:41:15,000 --> 00:41:16,000

Right, okay.

806

00:41:23,000 --> 00:41:26,000

We're gonna rotate this whole thing 90 degrees now,

807

00:41:26,000 --> 00:41:28,000

see if there's anything carved underneath it.

808

00:41:28,000 --> 00:41:30,000

Here we go. Here we go.

809

00:41:30,000 --> 00:41:32,000

Careful. Careful.

810

00:41:34,000 --> 00:41:36,000

Ah! Look at this!

811

00:41:43,000 --> 00:41:48,000

This putt-putt course in Siam Reap boasts incredible miniature versions

812

00:41:48,000 --> 00:41:51,000

of the Khmer Empire's greatest achievement.

813

00:41:51,000 --> 00:41:55,000

And if that's not enough, a hole in one on any hole gets you a free drink,

814

00:41:55,000 --> 00:41:58,000

and yes, that includes beer, so let's do this.

815

00:42:02,000 --> 00:42:03,000

Good start.

816

00:42:07,000 --> 00:42:08,000

Ah!

817

00:42:08,000 --> 00:42:13,000

Fortunately, I found some local kids who know this course like the back of their hand.

818

00:42:13,000 --> 00:42:14,000

Hold on.

819

00:42:15,000 --> 00:42:17,000

Yes! Nice work!

820

00:42:17,000 --> 00:42:18,000

Nice work! Okay, shh.

821

00:42:18,000 --> 00:42:20,000

Now get a beer over here, I just got a hole in one.

822

00:42:22,000 --> 00:42:24,000

And suddenly, it's a new game.

823

00:42:26,000 --> 00:42:27,000

Another beer, please.

824

00:42:30,000 --> 00:42:31,000

The kids are talented.

825

00:42:34,000 --> 00:42:35,000

Josh, it's your turn.

826

00:42:35,000 --> 00:42:39,000

I'm gonna sit this hole out. Feel free to miss one, okay?

827

00:42:49,000 --> 00:42:50,000

It's all carved.

828

00:42:50,000 --> 00:42:51,000

No, that's sculpture.

829

00:42:52,000 --> 00:42:55,000

In the ancient ruins of the Cambodian city of Gakei,

830

00:42:55,000 --> 00:42:59,000

I'm helping a team of archaeologists rebuild the entrance to a temple,

831

00:42:59,000 --> 00:43:04,000

which may explain why this one-time capital was built in the middle of the jungle,

832

00:43:04,000 --> 00:43:06,000

and then suddenly collapsed.

833

00:43:07,000 --> 00:43:09,000

Look at how deeply this is carved.

834

00:43:09,000 --> 00:43:13,000

Mostly when we see these on the outside of temples, they're all weathered away,

835

00:43:13,000 --> 00:43:17,000

but you can see here the depth of this sculpture, it's incredibly vivid.

836

00:43:17,000 --> 00:43:18,000

There, look.

837

00:43:18,000 --> 00:43:19,000

Look at that.

838

00:43:20,000 --> 00:43:21,000

The head of God.

839

00:43:21,000 --> 00:43:23,000

The head of the god Varuna.

840

00:43:25,000 --> 00:43:28,000

Varuna was the Hindu god of the west.

841

00:43:28,000 --> 00:43:32,000

We already found the elephants of the god of the east, Indra,

842

00:43:32,000 --> 00:43:34,000

on the opposite side of this stone,

843

00:43:34,000 --> 00:43:37,000

so it makes sense that Varuna is here.

844

00:43:37,000 --> 00:43:38,000

Oh, speechless.

845

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

This is about as well preserved as you can get,

846

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

it's just been face down in the sand, just waiting for a thousand years.

847

00:43:48,000 --> 00:43:50,000

Anxious to begin reassembling the pediment,

848

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

we next turn our attention to the largest slab of stone we've uncovered.

849

00:43:54,000 --> 00:43:57,000

Now for the big mama-chama.

850

00:43:57,000 --> 00:43:58,000

Yes, the big block.

851

00:43:58,000 --> 00:44:00,000

Okay, how much do you think this piece weighs?

852

00:44:00,000 --> 00:44:02,000

Three and a half tons.

853

00:44:03,000 --> 00:44:04,000

Here we go.

854

00:44:04,000 --> 00:44:05,000

Good.

855

00:44:05,000 --> 00:44:06,000

Mug saipong.

856

00:44:08,000 --> 00:44:09,000

Three and a half tons.

857

00:44:09,000 --> 00:44:11,000

This thing weighs more than a moving truck,

858

00:44:11,000 --> 00:44:14,000

and we're lifting it with a contraption made out of spare parts.

859

00:44:33,000 --> 00:44:36,000

Finally, we're left with only one more stone to turn,

860

00:44:36,000 --> 00:44:39,000

what appears to be the very top of the pediment.

861

00:44:39,000 --> 00:44:40,000

We're going to try and lift this way?

862

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

Yeah.

863

00:44:41,000 --> 00:44:42,000

Okay.

864

00:44:42,000 --> 00:44:46,000

One, two, three, go!

865

00:44:51,000 --> 00:44:53,000

Unbelievable, look at this.

866

00:44:53,000 --> 00:44:55,000

We have a figure here, yes?

867

00:44:55,000 --> 00:44:56,000

Yeah.

868

00:44:56,000 --> 00:44:57,000

And here?

869

00:44:57,000 --> 00:45:00,000

The god here with this framing.

870

00:45:00,000 --> 00:45:01,000

Beautiful.

871

00:45:01,000 --> 00:45:02,000

Okay.

872

00:45:06,000 --> 00:45:09,000

We've managed to pull all of the stones from the ground.

873

00:45:10,000 --> 00:45:13,000

Now it's time to see how they all fit together.

874

00:45:13,000 --> 00:45:15,000

Watch your fingers.

875

00:45:15,000 --> 00:45:18,000

We start by placing one of the site's thinner slabs

876

00:45:18,000 --> 00:45:21,000

on top of the piece with the elephant carving.

877

00:45:21,000 --> 00:45:24,000

We lock the upper stone into place

878

00:45:24,000 --> 00:45:29,000

and rejoin a sculpture that has been divided for a thousand years.

879

00:45:29,000 --> 00:45:31,000

Oh, look at that, the elephant is back together.

880

00:45:31,000 --> 00:45:34,000

Now with this middle section here, we can see our elephant.

881

00:45:34,000 --> 00:45:35,000

Yeah.

882

00:45:35,000 --> 00:45:36,000

Beautiful, right here.

883

00:45:36,000 --> 00:45:39,000

Second elephant, third elephant.

884

00:45:39,000 --> 00:45:41,000

So three different elephants here.

885

00:45:41,000 --> 00:45:44,000

The elephant is whole and it even has a name,

886

00:45:44,000 --> 00:45:49,000

Eravada, mount of the Hindu god of the east, Indra.

887

00:45:49,000 --> 00:45:50,000

This is amazing.

888

00:45:50,000 --> 00:45:53,000

But the archaeologists are concerned that this stack

889

00:45:53,000 --> 00:45:57,000

is too fragile to build upon.

890

00:45:57,000 --> 00:46:00,000

Instead, we use the next layer as our new base

891

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

and work upwards, now with the west side of the pediment facing us.

892

00:46:05,000 --> 00:46:07,000

Alright, since this piece is really stable,

893

00:46:07,000 --> 00:46:11,000

we try to stack this piece on top of it in its original position.

894

00:46:11,000 --> 00:46:14,000

Despite having been in the ground for hundreds of years,

895

00:46:14,000 --> 00:46:17,000

the stones lock together in place perfectly.

896

00:46:17,000 --> 00:46:19,000

Good.

897

00:46:19,000 --> 00:46:24,000

Another one.

898

00:46:27,000 --> 00:46:31,000

All that remains now is to place the ornate triangular capstone

899

00:46:31,000 --> 00:46:33,000

of the pediment.

900

00:46:33,000 --> 00:46:36,000

In just moments, we're going to get our first look

901

00:46:36,000 --> 00:46:40,000

at a reconstructed entrance of a temple of Gake.

902

00:46:40,000 --> 00:46:42,000

Okay.

903

00:46:42,000 --> 00:46:45,000

An ancient masterpiece that could tell us the full story

904

00:46:45,000 --> 00:46:47,000

of this doomed capital.

905

00:46:47,000 --> 00:46:49,000

Up, up, up, up, up, up.

906

00:46:49,000 --> 00:46:51,000

More, more, more, more, more.

907

00:46:51,000 --> 00:46:54,000

Almost there.

908

00:46:54,000 --> 00:46:56,000

Alright.

909

00:47:02,000 --> 00:47:04,000

Next time.

910

00:47:04,000 --> 00:47:07,000

The conclusion to my expedition unknown event

911

00:47:07,000 --> 00:47:10,000

in the jungles of Cambodia.

912

00:47:10,000 --> 00:47:13,000

A lot that we still don't know, which is what makes this really exciting.

913

00:47:13,000 --> 00:47:16,000

To restore priceless cultural treasures,

914

00:47:16,000 --> 00:47:20,000

I'll explore some of the most dangerous corners of Southeast Asia.

915

00:47:20,000 --> 00:47:22,000

Back up, back up, back up.

916

00:47:22,000 --> 00:47:25,000

And come face to face with the former Khmer Rouge soldiers,

917

00:47:25,000 --> 00:47:27,000

responsible for their destruction.

918

00:47:27,000 --> 00:47:31,000

So there may be priceless statues here underwater?

919

00:47:31,000 --> 00:47:32,000

Oh, there it is.

920

00:47:32,000 --> 00:47:33,000

Yep, right there.

921

00:47:33,000 --> 00:47:37,000

Then, I'll answer one of history's most persistent questions.

922

00:47:37,000 --> 00:47:41,000

Why did this miraculous city collapse into ruin?

923

00:47:41,000 --> 00:47:43,000

I don't see a huge structure here.

924

00:47:43,000 --> 00:47:44,000

Like, where is it?

925

00:47:44,000 --> 00:47:45,000

It's gone.

926

00:47:45,000 --> 00:47:49,000

It's an urgent rescue mission with an incredible conclusion.

927

00:47:49,000 --> 00:47:51,000

On the next, Expedition Unknown.

928

00:47:51,000 --> 00:47:53,000

You think it's part of a pedestal?

929

00:47:53,000 --> 00:47:54,000

I recognize it.

930

00:47:54,000 --> 00:47:57,000

It's like we found a corner of a Picasso.

931

00:47:57,000 --> 00:48:00,000

Ah! Just interlocked into place.