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Search out an ancient site. They dig up shards of pottery and hand tools and desiccated bone.

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And then with these fragments of civilization they build the jigsaw puzzle that we call history.

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But a newly discovered piece of the puzzle just doesn't seem to fit.

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Thousands of carved rocks called the ecostones suggest that eons ago,

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humankind had already mastered astronomy, medicine and even aerodynamics.

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If the ecostones are genuine, every history book in the world will have to be rewritten.

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I traveled to the small bustling town of Ica in central Peru

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and was surprised to find that perhaps the greatest archaeological discovery of the 20th century

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was not being kept in a garden vault or an illustrious university,

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but in the private museum of Dr. Javier Cabrera.

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There I found these carved stones, about 15,000 of them.

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Dr. Cabrera claims were largely discovered in the nearby mountains in the mid-1960s.

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The ecostones depict knowledge that ancient peoples are not supposed to possess.

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Here a prehistoric astronomer studies a comet through a telescope.

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This is a view of the earth, complete with all seven continents as seen from space.

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There are scenes of sophisticated medical procedures as performed by ancient surgeons.

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Dr. Cabrera, this is obviously a surgery here.

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What is it?

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What do we see here?

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Plast Plan of the Brain.

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How old are these stones, which so accurately depict modern procedures like this heart transplant?

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It has been impossible to scientifically date them,

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but this carving of a man riding a pterodactyl seems to indicate a time well before humankind was known to walk on earth.

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Paleontologists and anthropologists tell us that the dinosaurs disappeared 65 million years ago

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and that man appeared during the last million years, and the stones tell us something else.

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The energy of the human being.

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Dr. Cabrera, a physician and professor of biology and anthropology at the University of Ica,

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has been vilified and ridiculed by many of his more mainstream colleagues.

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They contend that the Ica stones must be fake because they contradict the known timeline of history.

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But adventurer and author David Childress believes that the Ica stones are not the only potential evidence

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that points to the existence of an advanced prehistoric culture in Peru.

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Archaeologists are starting to find out that civilizations in South America are incredibly old.

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Yearly they keep pushing back history and civilization in South America.

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I think we're going to find that there are even older civilizations and those have been discovered so far.

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Evidence of an advanced prehistoric civilization is supported by the legend of Veracoccha,

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a mysterious stranger who was said to travel from town to town spreading secret knowledge.

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The Peruvian story of Veracoccha is that Veracoccha landed in the area of Ica.

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Perhaps someone from Atlantis or some other lost civilization is now a refugee from his own homeland

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because it's gone and he literally walks the earth going from town to town city to city

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and nation to nation teaching these civilized arts of his ancient country.

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If they are genuine, the Ica stones will provide scientific support for what is now only legend.

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But to date, not one single mainstream scientist has been willing to take any serious steps toward authenticating the stones.

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Dr. Cabrera's collection is so fantastic, so amazing that official archaeologists just simply refuse to have a look at them.

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They're just impossible by normal historical standards.

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Yet what we have with Dr. Cabrera may be something that is so important in a historical way with Peru

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that we've got to look at it and we've got to either authenticate once and for all these stones or disprove them.

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Why do you think some scientists have been so skeptical, so slow to accept the story of the stones?

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Are they threatened by them?

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Archaeologists have said these stones are falsifications.

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If there's one thing I regret, it is not having someone who seconds my opinion.

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I am simply an isolated investigator whom others attack by saying that these images are things in

reality that I myself ordered engraved.

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Skepticism about the origin of the Ica stones began with the discovery itself.

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Newspaper accounts were vague, describing the stones as part of a secret horde found in an undisclosed location.

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The police, suspecting grave robbing or antiquities smuggling, interrogated Basilio Mendoza,

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who was said to be selling similar stones to tourists.

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When questioned by police, Mendoza claimed that he had carved all 15,000 of the stones himself.

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He also sent a confession to the newspapers.

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Case closed, as far as archaeologists are concerned.

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But before you return a verdict to guilty, consider this.

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If Mendoza had stuck to his original story of finding the Ica stones at an ancient burial site,

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he would have been charged with a violation of the country's strict antiquities protection law,

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a crime punishable by a lengthy prison term.

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By claiming he had manufactured the stones himself,

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Basilio Mendoza was able to both keep out of jail and continue selling the stones.

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When the stones are put in their proper order,

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the message I read has not only to do with Peru and its territories, but with the world.

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And although this sounds like an exaggeration, the universe.

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Dr. Cabrera believes that his interpretation of the stones offers a challenging message.

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About not only the past, but also the future.

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And that is why traditional scientists have rejected the legitimacy of the stones.

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We are living in apocalyptic times. Why?

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Because man has reversed the purpose of life,

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and selfishness is causing him to lose the balance of the planetary ecosystem.

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All the wise men of the world know that we are headed towards a cataclysm.

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Author of Fingerprints of the Gods Graham Hancock

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has found this same apocalyptic message among the ruins of many other ancient civilizations.

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We have inherited a remarkable legacy of knowledge

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from what appears to be a highly sophisticated and advanced civilization

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that was destroyed in an enormous cataclysm.

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And what this legacy repeatedly and urgently warns us of

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is that the cataclysm will recur.

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These warnings may sound extreme, but there is scientific evidence that through the millennia

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major earth changes have significantly altered our planet.

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What artifacts could survive this kind of global cataclysm?

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Not wood, not paper, but stone.

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Many researchers like Graham Hancock believe in the existence of an advanced civilization predating the stone age,

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but do not believe that the Ica stones are genuine.

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Others, like Dr. Javier Cabrera, adamantly believe in the legitimacy of the stones

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and insist that they are among the most important artifacts ever discovered.

