

Fingerprints of the Gods Study Guide

Fingerprints of the Gods by Graham Hancock

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Plot Summary

"Fingerprints of the Gods" is a non-fiction research work published in 1995 by Graham Hancock. This book is subtitled "The Evidence of Earth's Lost Civilization." The work is challenging because of the breadth and depth of knowledge presented. However, the author writes in a down-to-earth first person storyline style to tell about the expedition he and his photographer-wife Santha undertake from Peru to the Yucatan and Egypt. Her photographs of sites they visit are interspersed among his descriptive writing about the historical, archaeological and astronomical data and theories discussed. Hancock uses simple, straightforward language to communicate his clear concepts about a lost people.

The travels of Graham Hancock and Santha Faiia take them to cultural and historical sites from mountains and plateaus of Peru and Bolivia to pyramids and monuments in Central America and Mexico with a final return to the Great Pyramid and Sphinx in Egypt and the Giza Plateau. The story begins with ancient maps showing Antarctica to once be in a temperate zone till the earth's crust displaces it to the Antarctic polar ice-cap where a lost civilization may be buried under two miles of glacial ice. From this idea they begin their research among ruins of the ancient peoples of the Andes in Southern Peru and Bolivia north through Central America, the Yucatan and Mexico. Along the way they visit ruins of other ancient civilizations including the Aztecs, Incas, Olmecs and the Mayans where they discover the Fifth Sun is predicted to mark the end of civilization on December 23, 2012. Final stop on their global itinerary is to the "near-beginning" of civilization where Manetho's third century BC texts note Ennead gods "first to hold sway in Egypt" 36,525 years before the First Dynasty in 3100 BC thereby totaling 39,625 years ago.

"Fingerprints of the Gods" is a 578 page book comprised of 52 chapters plus back matter sections titled References, Selected Bibliography and Index. Chapters are organized in eight sections or Parts consecutively numbered with descriptive subtitles. Photographs of the sites visited are presented with captions throughout the book. Content of the work is organized around a research expedition that Graham Hancock and Santha Faiia undertake from Peru and Bolivia to Central America, Mexico and return to Egypt and Giza Plateau. Parts subtitles describe subject matter of the section, which is also their itinerary to keep the reader informed of the next stop along the journey. Chapter subtitles are descriptive and lighthearted phrases like "Were there Giants Then?" "Mexican Babel" and "Like a Thief in the Night." Reference section is extensive with chapter footnote references of almost fifty pages; Selected Bibliography of eight pages by author alphabetically; and a sixteen page Index of keywords that is cross-referenced. Graham Hancock's book is an extensively researched, organized and detailed volume with full exposition of historical, archaeological and astronomical myth, data and theories from beginning and potentially to the end of civilization on December 23, 2012.



Introduction: The Mystery of the Maps

Introduction: The Mystery of the Maps Summary and Analysis

The travels of Graham Hancock and Santha Faiia take them to cultural and historical sites from mountains and plateaus of Peru and Bolivia to pyramids and monuments in Central America and Mexico with a final return to the Great Pyramid and Sphinx in Egypt and the Giza Plateau. The story begins with ancient maps showing Antarctica to once be in a temperate zone till the earth's crust displaces it to the Antarctic polar ice-cap where a lost civilization may be buried under two miles of glacial ice.

United States Air Force Commander Ohlmeyer's reply of July 6, 1960, to Professor Hapgood confirms that the Admiral Piri Reis map from 1513 AD shows coastal land under the Antarctic ice cap before its discovery in 1818 AD. Queen Maud Land is last known to be ice-free in 4000 BC, 5500 years before the Piri Reis' map is compiled from maps of the fourth century BC. Geological evidence shows that Queen Maud Land is ice-free under the Antarctic continent for at least 9000 years. Chapter 1, "A Map of Hidden Places" reveals this ice-free anomaly until 4000 BC. Hapgood claims Antarctica is warmer 2000 miles north of the South Pole in a temperate climate. He theorizes that "earth-crust displacement" shifts the earth's outer crust south and moves Antarctica to the South Pole. Glacial ice expands on it to become the Antarctic ice cap found in 1818 AD.

Hapgood researches the Oronteus Finaeus Map from 1531 that seems to be an authentic map of Antarctica. The map has ice-free mountain ranges, flowing rivers and an interior that suggests encroaching ice. The Oronteus Finaeus Map is drawn from earlier maps as projections that represent subglacial land surfaces copied with greater detail of ice-free estuaries, inlets, rivers, seas and coast. Details confirm an unknown civilization lives in the ice-free period of 4000 BC. Core sediment samples from Byrd Antarctic Expeditions and ionium-dating methods show river-deposit sediment up to 6000 years ago that proves warm conditions. Map-maker Gerard Kremer, also called Mercator, uses Oronteus and other maps to show Antarctic in a 1569 Atlas with much more ice-free terrain. Philippe Buache maps copy sources from thousands of years before Oronteus and Mercator that shows a clear waterway crossing the continent. Buache's map draws on sources from about 13,000 BC before any ice shows on Antarctica. Chapter 2, "Rivers in the Southern Continent" claims maps show "fingerprints" of a vanished civilization drawing accurate pictures of widely separated parts of the earth, from South America to Sweden. Hancock wonders if the maps are drawn by aliens from outer space or advanced human civilization in 13,000 BC that vanishes. These four maps display encroaching Antarctic glaciation from 13,000 without ice to 4000 BC before discovery by modern man in 1818 AD.

"Fingerprints of a Lost Science" in Chapter 3, define longitude as distance in degrees east or west from the prime meridian through Greenwich, London's Royal Observatory.

The instrument used for source documents in Mercator's 1538 map do not yet exist for the 1569 map of South America. Ironically cartographers and navigators cannot determine longitude until John Harrison invents the marine chronometer in 1776. Latitude can be estimated with angular measurements of sun and stars but longitude misses by hundreds of miles. The Piri Reis Map of 1513 precisely locates longitudes of South America and Africa from copies of earlier sources with accurate longitudes. Projections transfer map data from globe to flat paper without distortion. Hapgood's ancient maps are certified as "Mercator-type" projections centuries before Mercator is alive to invent the method.



Foam of the Sea: Peru and Bolivia

Foam of the Sea: Peru and Bolivia Summary and Analysis

Nazca lines are in southern Peru. Unlike maps of land drawn on paper this anomaly is land on which animal figures and other lines are drawn. Nazca plateau is a dry, barren and uninterrupted 200 square mile surface protected from blowing wind, rain and sand that serves as an artist's canvas. Images drawn on the flatland remain intact and visible forever. The earliest identifiable age is 350 BC by radiocarbon tests of pottery fragments embedded in the lines whose age remains unknown. "Flight of the Condor" described in Chapter 4 begins with commercial air flight between Lima and Arequipa in 1930 that makes animals, birds and other images on the ground a popular view in flight. Despite much study and research, no one knows why, when or by whom Nazca lines are drawn. The Nazcan is a primitive tribe in Peru with sophisticated styles of artistic self-expression who vanish hundreds of years before Incas appear. One Nazcan image is of a rare spider "Ricinulei" that astronomer Dr. Phillis Pitluga concludes is a "terrestrial diagram of the giant constellation of Orion." Straight lines to the spider's image parallel changing levels of the stars seen in Orion's Belt. Some details of the actual spider can only be seen with a microscope but are accurately drawn on its image. Many animal images are not native to the plateau like the spider, a whale, a man in boots and other men with halos around their heads. Images are drawn in hundreds of feet and all to the same scale. Some lines extend for miles over uneven land but are geometrically true and straight. The images can be identified above 500 feet in low-flying aircraft but at 1500 feet look scribbled.

In addition to a sun god, the Incas worship another god named Viracocha venerated as the Most Holy of all. Viracocha means "Foam of the Sea" and in Chapter 5, "The Inca Trail to the Past" his followers draw the Nazca lines. The male god Viracocha is worshiped by all civilizations of Peru including the Incas who build a temple at Cuzco that Hancock and Santha visit. Their trip leads to an alleyway where Hancock inspects a wall of blocks with twelve angles and sides each joined with such precision that a piece of paper cannot be inserted in any joint. Viracocha is bushy-bearded of pale complexion and Caucasian features described more fully in Chapter 6, "He Came in a Time of Chaos." Many Andes legends mention a figure of his size and bearing called different names in various places but all tales begin in flooded, darkened earth and disordered society. He declares love, kindness and charity to all as Viracocha, Huaracocha, and Kon Tiki, Tupaca or another name. He is a scientist, architect, sculptor and engineer forming terraces and fields on steep ravines and making irrigation channels flow. He is a teacher, healer, helps the needy and gentle but with a "weapon of heavenly fire" available for his defense and revered as wise in matters of state. He begins a golden age with skills for culture and production bringing medicine, writing, metallurgy, farming, engineering and architecture to Peru. Hancock concludes Inca stonework mastery in Cuzco may be skill at restoring the work of others. For example, 15,000 miles of surface



road on the coast and through the Andes are the ancient works of "white, auburn-haired men" living there thousands of years before Incas called viracochas that work in various areas.

For example, at Sacsayhuaman fortress, north of Cuzco, Hancock walks under a giant-sized, lintelled twelve-foot-high man-made stone gate that weighs over 100 tons. Boulders twenty-eight feet high, weighing 361 tons are cut, precisely-shaped and transported from tens of miles away. Chapter 7 asks "Were There Giants Then?" The author travels three hours north-westerly to the lost city of the Incas called Machu Pichu. He reads about Viracocha with Incan and Andean flood legends and recalls a Jewish Old Testament God that destroys creation by flooding. Machu Pichu is located far away and out of the way to be undiscovered until 1911 by American explorer Hiram Bingham as a pre-Columbian civilization. Site, setting, size and weight of building components are incomprehensible. For example, a monolith 12 feet long by 5 feet wide and 5 feet thick that weighs 200 tons is moved to this mountain retreat where it abuts other boulders of similar size and weight in a jigsaw puzzle-like wall of intricate interlocking angles and joints. Building estimate date is 1500 AD, but Rolf Muller calculates from 4000 to 2000 BC, or 6000 years old.

Hancock and Santha visit La Paz in Chapter 8, "The Lake at the Roof of the World." Bolivia's capital is 5000 feet below the airport where they arrive from Lima. Lake Titicaca is 12,500 feet above sea level. Mysteries enshroud the 138 mile long, 70 mile wide and 1000 foot deep lake on the Altiplano at the top of the world. The lake area has millions of fossil sea shells and "marine ichthyofauna" i.e. salt not fresh-water creatures. The Altiplano is gradually rising and Tiahuanaco is twelve miles south of the lake and 100 feet above its shoreline. Professors Posnansky and Muller indicate Tiahuanaco is built in 15,000 B.C. and separates from the lake in the eleventh millennium BC. Chapter 9, "Once and Future King" describes boats of totora rush made only on Suriqui Island that look like the same type of craft from papyrus reeds on walls of ancient tombs. Hancock wonders how a vessel of the same design, craft and composition is made in Egypt for the Nile and here for Lake Titicaca. "The City at the Gate of the Sun" in Chapter 10 describes Tiahuanaco seen by Spanish travelers in the sixteenth century. The presumed likeness of Viracocha carved in a pillar of red rock overlooks a sunken temple. West of the sunken temple is a gateway to Kalasasaya meaning "Place of the Upright Standing Stones." To the south a 50 foot high hill named Akapana Pyramid stands. Hancock compares it to Giza pyramids in Egypt. Akapana is oriented to cardinal points and a dominant building in Tiahuanaco. Kalasasaya's twelve foot blocks are sunk in Altiplano red earth to make a 500 foot square stockade, aligned with sun and stars in 15,000 BC.

Professor Posnansky re-dates Tiahuanaco using obliquity of the ecliptic calculations to be 17,000 years B.C. Hancock compares sculptures of Kalasasaya in Chapter 11, "Intimations of Antiquity" to Babylonian and Assyrian reliefs of fish-garbed men. Another section is a frieze drawn on a monolith that weighs 10 tons and is 10 feet high. The center images Viracocha as god-king calling down fire. The frieze is undone from a "sudden and dreadful" event. Chapter 12, "The End of the Viracochas" confirms Tiahuanaco on Lake Titicaca as early as 15,000 BC. Posnansky theorizes a catastrophe occurs in Tiahuanaco 12,000 years ago from which the culture cannot recover and the

population emigrates. Hancock picks up the viracochas trail again in Mexico, 2000 miles north.



Plumed Serpent: Central America

Plumed Serpent: Central America Summary and Analysis

Another Viracocha-type character is a white-skinned, bearded god named Quetzalcoatl. He invents advanced formulas for mathematical and calendrical calculations to provide the basis for Mayan doomsday predictions. "Blood and Time at the End of the World" in Chapter 13, details Hancock's visit to Chichen Itza in Mexico's northern Yucatan. There are 91 steps on each of four sides to the top platform of the Temple of Kukulcan that total 365 counting the top platform a step. A solar year is 365 full days. Spring and summer equinoxes cause light and shadow to create the illusion of a huge snake climbing northern steps that lasts exactly 3 hours and 22 minutes. Temple of the Warriors is nearby where indigenous people practice ritual slaughter of humans 1200 years earlier. The Olmecs at Villahermosa in Tabasco Province are the earliest Ancient Mexican civilizations and Aztecs the latest that sacrifice children to delay destruction of the world. A rare collection of documents reveal Aztec belief in five cycles, called "Suns" since creation of the human race. Four Suns of duration 4008, 4010, 4081, and 5026 pass totaling 17,125 years to a Fifth Sun. The human race is destroyed in each cycle. Mankind is now in the fifth cycle, called "The Sun of Movement" during which all shall perish from movement of the earth. Human sacrifice is practiced by ancient civilizations to delay ending the Fifth Sun, which is the cycle mankind is now in. The Fifth Sun is projected to end December 23, 2012.

Quetzalcoatl is a main god of ancient Mexicans like Viracocha is of the Andes. Legend claims a mysterious, tall, bearded man comes from across the sea to instruct the people of Central America they call Gucumatz, Kukulcan, Votan and other names as a variation on "Plumed Serpent." Chapter 14, "People of the Serpent" are Mayan and Aztec in Central America who join their leader from the East to teach skills and science for civilized life. Quetzalcoatl forbids human sacrifice but rituals resume when he is vanquished by evil god Tezcatilpoca who demands human sacrifice. Quetzalcoatl is carried away on a raft of serpents but promises to return and overthrow the evil cult. Cholula's man-made mountain has a 45 acre base and four sides 210 feet high, three times the size of Egypt's Great Pyramid. Ancient civilizations add to its size and dimension to honor an unknown Central American god. Chapter 15, "Mexican Babel" compares Cholula to the Tower of Babel. Excavations near Mexico City expose a pyramid covered with lava 7000 years earlier that "fell into ruins some 8500 years ago." East from Cholula, Hancock enters the Olmecs area of Mexico's oldest and most mysterious civilization. Preceding Aztecs by 1500 years, the Olmecs homeland is overcome by oil interests destroying any civilization the Spanish leave. No evidence is left of Coatzacoalcos or "Serpent Sanctuary" Chapter 16 describes. Plumed Serpent arrives from across the sea where Quetzalcoatl departs. Their works of art include gigantic heads weighing thirty tons that appear around 1500 BC at Tres Zapotes and surrounding area. Santiago Tuxtla is the site of ten foot Negroid sculpture where no



African blacks live 2000 years ago but Negroid peoples migrate there in 15,000 BC. A stele date at Tres Zapotes corresponds to September 3, 32 BC of Olmec origin preceding the earliest Mayan date of 228 AD. The Olmecs invent the bar-and-dot calendar system from August 13, 3114 BC that predicts the world's end in 2012 AD.

Chapter 17, "The Olmec Enigma" is the mystery of quarrying huge blocks of stone in the Tuxtla Mountains for transport 60 miles overland to a site where the Olmecs carve and manipulate them into monoliths weighing 20 tons. Carved Olmec heads are at least as old as 1200 BC. Sculptures are tall, Caucasian men with full beards and flowing robes. Mystery of the "Conspicuous Strangers" is noted in Chapter 18. Caucasian and Negroid figures are assumed to be Phoenicians and their slaves, but Hancock claims they are ancient Egyptians or third party of a "common but exceedingly ancient source." If hypothetical third party theory is valid, common traits among people of Sumer and Egypt and ancient civilizations of Mexico and Central America come from the same ancestor. Chapter 19, "Adventures in the Underworld, Journeys to the Stars" note similarities like dwarves, nine deities and stellar rebirth. For example, the Orion constellation appears in Egyptian chant 4000 years earlier and the Nazcan spider is aligned to three stars in Orion's Belt. Chapter 20, "Children of the First Men" describes Hancock's visit to Yucatan's Pyramid of the Magician built by a dwarf with symbols like bearded men, serpents and crosses.

"A Computer for Calculating the End of the World" in Chapter 21 describes the origin of the Mayan's advanced learning. The First Men called "Balam" or Jaguar are wise men that Hancock compares to Adam and Eve evicted from the Garden of Eden. Like Genesis in the Bible, pre-Colombian Popol Vuh notes man's fall from grace when knowledge confers godlike powers. Genesis speaks of "good and evil" and Popol Vuh speaks of First Men who see things hidden in the distance, like astronomers viewing the arch of heaven and geographers measuring earth. With astronomy Mayans get a complex accurate calendar. Central American archaeologist J. Eric Thompson is puzzled by a lack of basic Mayan skill level compared to their advanced astro-calendrical knowledge. Hancock claims the calendar is from the Olmecs, whose source is unknown since it requires technological and scientific development beyond them. For example, sixteenth century Gregorian calendar is accurate to 0.0003 of a day, but the inherited Mayan calendar is accurate to 0.0002 of a day over a solar year. Crowning Mayan achievement is the "Long Count" that calculates dates in Great Cycles of recurrent world creation and destruction. Present Mayan Great Cycle begins in darkness on a date corresponding to August 13, 3114 BC and runs 5125 years, the time allotted in their belief for the current creation. According to Mayan Long Count the Great Cycle ends in global destruction on December 23, 2012 AD.

The fourth and immediately preceding age ends with a catastrophic flood and long period of darkness. Quetzalcoatl appears at Teotihuacán to begin the Fifth Age as a bearded white man. "City of the Gods" in Chapter 22 is northeast of Mexico City at the Citadel, Temple and Map of Heaven site. Mathematician Hugh Harleston Jr. claims structures are mathematically aligned on Teotihuacán's Street of the Dead as a precise solar system scale-model with correct orbital distances before planets and distances are "discovered" by modern science. Teotihuacán's pyramids and Egypt's Giza plateau have

similarities that suggest ancient connections to 4500 BC. Chapter 23, "The Sun and the Moon and the Way of the Dead" compare Pyramid of the Sun at Teotihuacán and Great Pyramid at Giza that use value of pi 2000 years before Archimedes is born to discover it.



The Mystery of the Myths: 1. A Species with Amnesia

The Mystery of the Myths: 1. A Species with Amnesia Summary and Analysis

Tales of a great deluge causing global catastrophe are virtually universal over all lands. These myths are themselves a record of planetary disaster. The "Echoes of Our Dreams" in Chapter 24 recount stories of Gilgamesh in Sumer and Mesopotamia's Utnapishtim saved in a boat, Noah in the Ark, and Fourth Sun destruction by torrential rain and floods in Central America, Chibcas, and Chia in Colombia, and other tales from Ecuador, Brazil and Chile. Other stories are told by Inuit in Alaska, Luiseno in California and other indigenous peoples. More than 500 stories are told through the world about mankind's near annihilation by deluge and subsequent repopulation.

Chapter 25, "The Many Masks of the Apocalypse" describes a cataclysm in the Iranian experience of a devastating winter that covers the earth with freezing ice and snow rather than floodwaters. Sudden glaciation also occurs in South America's Paraguay, Argentina and Chile called the Great Cold accompanied by darkness to thin out the population. In the time of the ancients Maya, sources recall the earth darkened for twenty-six years after the flood. Other images that accompany myths tell of the sun and moon falling from the sky, planets changing their paths and the sky falls or wars with earth. Volcanic eruptions and earthquakes are catastrophic memories as well. Hancock considers myths memories of a past man cannot clearly recall nor forget.

Chapter 26 demonstrates man is "A Species Born in the Earth's Long Winter." History of man in the last 5000 years shows he has not become extinct despite many cataclysms in myth and legend. Origin of modern humans remains a puzzle over three and a half million years of fossilized records of evolution. History of a modern man recognizable in the street may be at most 115,000 years, but is more likely only within the last 50,000 years. Records show Ice Age glaciation begins 60,000 years ago, expands to its fullest extent in the world 17,000 years ago and ends in 7000 years of deglaciation.

"Face of the Earth was Darkened and a Black Rain Began to Fall" describes the Ice Age in Chapter 27. The long period of glaciation causes much animal extinction in Ice Age years from 15,000 to 8000 BC. Alaska and Siberia fossil records show mass extinctions between 13,000 and 11,000 years ago. Hardy, cold-adapted animals, like Siberian bison and mammoths freeze in place. Ironically, of 34 Siberian species, 28 are adapted only to temperate conditions. The Arctic Circle freeze is sudden and unexpected. The freeze is so sudden that food being eaten is undigested and frozen in animal mouths and stomachs. Volcanic ash debris spreads through the region like many Krakatoa volcanoes erupting at once to extinguish the light and heat of the sun. Violent, massive flooding occurs as Ice Age glaciation melts. Sea levels rise to 350 feet. Central Europe, England and Mediterranean islands are submerged. China, South and North America

experience flooding disasters. Human remains and artifacts from 25,000 BC are found in the Yukon and from 12,000 BC in South America. Peopling of America begins 35,000 years ago. Daily earthquakes, floods, volcanoes and floods stir myths of fire, floods, creation and destruction for 7000 years of human life. Hancock wonders where Viracocha and others come from in all this.



The Mystery of the Myths: 2. The Precessional Code

The Mystery of the Myths: 2. The Precessional Code Summary and Analysis

Chapter 28, "The Machinery of Heaven": Giorgio de Santillana states that long ago serious, intelligent people devise a way to express the technical terms of advanced astronomical science that is veiled in the language of myth. Hancock describes earth's 24 hour anti-clockwise revolution at 1000 miles per hour on its own axis. Spinning earth also orbits anti-clockwise around the sun at 66,600 miles per hour on a slight elliptic path that takes one year to complete. The earth's axis tilts so the North Pole points away from the sun for six months and towards the sun for six months, which causes seasons to occur in different hemispheres. Earth's axis tilt is technically called its obliquity and its orbit plane extended outward is called the ecliptic. The celestial equator is an extension of the equator into the celestial sphere. The axis angle is termed "obliquity of the ecliptic" and oscillates slowly within 3 degrees but takes 41,000 years to make a full cycle oscillation across the range. Gravity of the sun and other planets exert influence on earth's elliptic orbit called "eccentricity" that ranges from near-zero as a circle to its most lengthened and elliptic at six percent. When planets line up, i.e. in conjunction, greater gravitational effects occur. Modern astrologers forecast the planets to line up in an order that occurs once every 45,200 years on the same date the Mayans predict the Fifth Sun ends. Centrifugal force causes earth's equator to bulge out and the poles to flatten from the form of a perfect sphere to an "oblate spheroid." The shape, size and forces of the earth, sun and moon causes a gyroscopic effect called "precess" that forces the earth's axis to wobble slowly clockwise while it spins anticlockwise. Four points every year mark beginning of each of the four seasons to include winter and summer solstices and spring and fall equinoxes.

"The First Crack in an Ancient Code" of Chapter 29 details "precession of the equinoxes" which describes earth's regular orbital movement through the four cardinal points that mark the seasons. While earth moves through spring and summer equinoxes and fall and winter solstices, an observer on earth sees the sun "pass" twelve star constellations that comprise the zodiac spaced evenly on a 360 degree rim of the circular ecliptic around the sun. The sun is seen to be "housed" in each of the zodiacal constellation consecutively in turn for 2160 years. The cycle of precession is completed in 25,776 years. For example, the sun is ending the age of Pisces and approaching dawn of the Age of Aquarius. The sun "moves" slowly along the ecliptic so that 72 years, or a human lifetime, is required for the equinoctial sun to migrate one degree as calculated by Hipparchus in the second century BC. His "discovery" of precession is considered notable, but Hancock suggests Hipparchus just "rediscovers" a fact that ancient man knows and presents in myths from thousands of years earlier. He supports the claim with four facts of myths including that they are old being called "ancient"



already in 3000 BC, that geological evidence dates back to 15,000 BC, that the Ice Age is characterized by uniformity and convergence of myths from around the globe and that shared experience is expressed in shared language symbols. Hancock notes de Santillana and von Dechend conclude they break language code from thousands of years before scholars identify the oldest human civilizations.

Thesis of their combined study discussed in Chapter 30, "The Cosmic Tree and the Mill of the Gods" is that many ancient myths contain symbols of a "precessional message" presaging a "derangement of the heavens" that mixes catastrophe with precession in a final apocalyptic destruction. At the dawn of Aquarius the sun's vernal equinox point moves from Pisces to Aquarius and three other points of constellation, from Virgo, Gemini and Sagittarius also move to Leo, Taurus and Scorpio respectively like a celestial shifting of gears. The metaphoric heavenly mill represents a world framework that is an allegory in Norse, Mayan, Greek and Japanese myth. The heavenly machine shifts gear after 2000 years of grinding the same pattern and the mill breaks to start a new pattern.

Hancock discusses archaeo-astronomer Jane Sellers' study of the Osiris myth in Chapter 31, "The Osiris Numbers." She contends key numbers are encoded in the myth that are irrelevant to the story but these numbers can derive the exact value of times required to complete a shift of one degree along the ecliptic, for the sun to pass thirty degrees of a full zodiacal segment and sixty degrees of two full zodiacal segments, and for the sun to fulfill one complete precessional cycle to the "Great Return" or one "Great Year." Sellers interprets phrases in the myth as precessional numbers including 360 degrees in elliptic, 12 zodiac constellations, 30 degrees allocated on the elliptic for each constellation and 72 years for the equinoctial sun to complete one degree precessional shift on the elliptic. Using those numbers Sellers extrapolates 2160 years for the sun to pass through any one zodiac constellation, 25,920 years in one complete precessional cycle, 36 years for the sun to complete one-half degree shift and 4320 years to shift 60 degrees. Further extrapolation with numbers 72, 2160 and variations is used to claim deliberate embedding in the Osiris myth. An Osiris myth dates back to 2450 BC and is already considered old and evident in other cultures and times cited by Hancock. Its persistent image disputes chance as cause.

Chapter 32, "Speaking to the Unborn" describes the "intelligent imprint of a guiding hand." The convergence of these global myths and ancient stories throughout the earth provides stunning evidence of the same author. Specifically, there are three principal factors implicated in ice ages and related cataclysms and include obliquity of the elliptic, eccentricity of the orbit, and axial precession. These factors enable the forecast of ice ages based on maximum eccentricity combined with minimum obliquity and precession of equinoxes that the ancient myth-makers use to warn subsequent generations of great danger.



The Giza Invitation: Egypt 1

The Giza Invitation: Egypt 1 Summary and Analysis

Chapter 33, "Cardinal Points" describes early morning at a hotel in Egypt where Hancock and Santha enter a white Fiat at 3:30. Ali drives and promises safe entry to the Great Pyramid at Giza where he bribes guards to ignore the author and photographer for a couple hours while they investigate the site. Great Pyramid faces are aligned perfectly, within three minutes of arc for the structure built in 4500 BC. Costs to reach this degree of engineering accuracy seem to far exceed any benefit gained. The author climbs the pyramid at night to avoid detection. They measure its lengths and corner angles that are unusually accurate like its alignment. Two pits at its base contain boats of a quality that exceeds the presumed need to transport a dead king to heaven.

Hancock describes climbing the 450 foot high "Mansion of Eternity" in Chapter 34 at night while fearing both a fall and an arrest. The 203 tiers or courses of masonry on the side they climb vary in height and condition. The author imagines building the structure at this and higher levels while maneuvering limestone blocks in the whipping wind. The pyramid is estimated to have 2.3 million blocks that average 2.5 tons each. The building project alone seems staggering, but its accurate positioning requires continuous alignment hundreds of feet above ground. Ramps to move blocks high enough exceed the size and dimensions of the pyramid. Building the Great Pyramid remains a mystery as does the accurate use of pi to assure the ratio of height to perimeter of its base. They finally reach the top perimeter of the Pyramid that is 30 feet on a side and a fraction of its 755 foot side at the base. They climb for one half hour. Hancock rests atop to survey its surroundings and consider its mass. The Great Pyramid is 13.1 acres at its base and weighs six million tons. Modern Egyptology's founder says its builders "thought like men 100 feet tall."

Climbing down the Great Pyramid seems worse in Chapter 35, "Tombs and Tombs Only?" with focus on the ground that makes a fatal slip seem magnified. They reach the base at dawn and walk toward the Pyramid of Khafre, one of three built around 2500 BC. Hancock and Santha go on exploring the Second and Third Pyramids without Ali. It is unclear who builds these tombs, when and for what purpose they are constructed while they are shrouded in mystery. Chapter 36, "Anomalies" addresses why 25 million tons of stone are piled up as pyramids with empty coffins, or sarcophagi, located in empty chambers without names or identifying marks to show for whom they are built. Egyptologists are confident these are tombs and tombs only, built by different pharaohs over almost a century with no integrated site plan. Hancock however believes in celestial relations more than Egyptologists and sees the lack of site plan as an anomaly. No monument holds a dead pharaoh or royal burial and all are empty when opened. The inner chamber of the Second Pyramid at Giza has components precisely measured to match the angle in other sections with a sarcophagus to hold Khafre but not an embalmed mummy.



Climbing the Great Pyramid at night does not lessen the awe and wonder Hancock feels looking up at it in daylight. They climb six levels up to the pyramid's main entrance at Ma'mun's Hole. Chapter 37, titled "Made by Some God" details Hancock's exploration of the Great Pyramid from inside like a cave or grotto. Although the pyramid is a tomb, Hancock wonders why it is conspicuous as a beacon to advertise a pharaoh's last resting place with such precision. The author wonders what significance builders intend initial intruders to make of its precise measures and angles. The height to perimeter ratio of 2π is the same as a sphere's radius and circumference which requires an exact 52 degrees to maintain correct lengths for 2π . Similarly, Teotihuacán's Pyramid of the Sun is the only other pyramid in the world to use a variant on π , i.e. 4π , in the same manner of a sphere. Both uses of π occur before its discovery by the Greeks. Hancock explores the Great Pyramid suspecting he enters a three-dimensional puzzle. Chapter 38, "Interactive Three-Dimensional Game" describes discoveries as he goes through passageways from room to room. For example, he stoops through the entry with a 3 foot 6 inch ceiling but an antechamber ceiling four feet farther along rises to 12 feet. Internal structures like a granite portcullis pictured on page 329 seem to serve no purpose but to make an explorer wonder why and how huge stones are moved and installed in narrow passages. Hancock uses nineteenth century Flinders Petrie's survey of the site to find more puzzles in the Second Pyramid. The sarcophagus in the King's Chamber is cut with tools just now being invented according to Petrie. For example, drilling through hard granite requires a ton or more pressure but there is no evidence industrial tools have that capacity 4500 years ago. Egyptologists claim pyramid builders do these feats by chance. Hancock and Petrie agree six million tons of stone manipulated and maneuvered in precise-cut lengths and angles are a riddle.

Chapter 39, "Place of the Beginning" details Hancock's exploration of the Great Sphinx located south-east from the Great Pyramid with the Valley and Sphinx Temples. Outline of the site layout is pictured on page 343. Valley Temple is notable for the component size of its core structure. The Temple is constructed entirely of hundreds of limestone megaliths weighing 200 tons each that measure at least 18 feet long by 10 feet wide and 8 feet high with some lengths up to 30 feet. The author states the size of these blocks is incomprehensible since they could be cut smaller to maneuver. For example, Hancock claims that in 1993, only two land-based cranes in the world are capable of handling this size block. Furthermore the blocks are cut and fit together into jigsaw-puzzle patterns like those he sees in Peru's Machu Pichu. Hancock's impression of the Sphinx is that it is much older than the thousands of years expected with other monuments. The Ancient Egyptians believe the Sphinx guards the "Splendid Place of the Beginning of all Time" with great magical power over the whole region. Evidence in the area suggests the Sphinx may be from 11,000 to 15,000 years old when the Giza desert is green and fertile.



Lord of Eternity: Egypt 2

Lord of Eternity: Egypt 2 Summary and Analysis

Belgian construction engineer Robert Bauval discovers Orion's three belt stars are not in a straight line. The third star is off to the left which correlates to the Giza site diagram on page 355 in Chapter 40, "Are There Any Secrets Left in Egypt?" His find is significant because the Giza site arrangement mirrors the sky's appearance, not in 2500 BC when it is presumed built, but eight thousand years earlier in 10,450 BC. John West claims that specialists know the correlation suggests ancient civilization, but misinterpret or ignore it.

Chapter 41, "City of the Sun, Chamber of the Jackal" describes Hancock's trip from Heliopolis, called the City of the Sun, associated with nine solar and stellar gods. Several gods are active including Shu, Tefnut, Geb, Nut, Osiris and Isis, and others that total nine in the Ennead of Heliopolis. Sacred writings, or Pyramid Texts, offer further evidence of advanced technological skills where no technology is expected. Hancock's interpretation of myths in Pyramid Texts concludes in "Anachronisms and Enigmas" Chapter 42, that Ancient Egyptians' astronomical observation and knowledge of solar system mechanics is clearer than assumed. This extraordinary knowledge is well-regarded and protected secretly which explains its coding in metaphors and allegories. For example, Sun God Ra sits on a throne with lesser gods circling around him like a solar system, sun and planets. Another example from Pyramid Texts is Sirius named a "dual-entity" star and discovered in 1862 as visible Sirius A and Sirius B circling A but invisible to a naked eye. Hancock calls this a legacy "from the gods." Two pre-historical documents in addition to Pyramid Texts are considered by Hancock in Chapter 43, "Looking for the First Time." These documents list kings before the First Dynasty named Palermo Stone and Turin Papyrus. Another source is the third century BC historical texts of Manetho, who speaks of a time when gods rule the Nile Valley. These texts, cited by Christian commentator Eusebius, speak of Ennead gods "first to hold sway in Egypt" from 13,900 years and others totaling 24,925 years of pre-dynastic rule. Christian Eusebius resolves his dilemma of Manetho's 25,000 year history to biblical era history of 2242 years by claiming the Egyptians mean months when saying years. Manetho claims civilization exists 36,525 years before First Dynasty in 3100 BC. Commentaries confirm his assertion and estimate of 39,000 years.

In Chapter 44, "Gods of the First Time" Hancock notes this period of time may be 8000 to 40,000 years before Egypt's First Dynasty despite archaeologists' claims no material artifacts support this period. He compares mythological characters beyond Ennead gods with legends in Peru, Mexico and Central America. For example, Osiris, a superhuman has powers like Viracocha and Quetzalcoatl, the ancient civilizers of mankind across the sea. Hancock travels to Abydos to investigate mysteries that do not get close scrutiny from scholars. Chapter 45, "The Works of Men and Gods" describes Osireion near the Seti I Temple. Seti I fathers Ramesses II, who is the pharaoh during the time of biblical Exodus. Temple Gallery has a list naming 120 gods of Ancient Egypt



and 76 pharaohs from 3000 to 1300 BC ruling before Seti I, called the Abydos King List. Osireion, like the Valley Temple and the Sphinx on Giza is made of giant megaliths that resemble each other.

From 13,000 to 10,000 BC Egypt undergoes the earliest agricultural revolution identified in history. Chapter 46, "The Eleventh Millennium BC" describes this period when many commentaries concur in details of a golden age when gods rule Egypt. An agricultural feast begins in 13,000 BC but abruptly ends in 10,500 BC from a more primitive life with cycles of rain and dry conditions to 3000 BC when a dry period persists. Fluctuating climatic conditions must be considered to explain differences. For example, Chapter 47, "Sphinx" describes building the Sphinx around 2500 BC but does not account for wet enough conditions to cause weathering. The Sphinx must be built before 10,000 BC to account for wet weather erosion that wind-driven sand erosion cannot cause. Hancock and John West agree the Sphinx may be built as early as 15,000 BC or before.

Hancock explains in Chapter 48, "Earth Measurers" the Great Pyramid is an accurate scale-model of earth's northern hemisphere. The scale used in construction, i.e. 1:43,200, relates precisely to precession of 4320 years for two zodiac constellations, i.e. 60 degrees on the ecliptic. An assumption of coincidence is less with repetition of these precessional numbers in ancient myths and ancient monuments. The Piri Reis map provides Professor Hapgood evidence of an ancient civilization with comprehensive global knowledge and the Great Pyramid offers cartographic evidence to locate the center of original projection in Egypt. Hancock meets with Bauval to confirm his contention that the Giza pattern on the ground with fifteen million tons of precisely placed stone matches the same pattern in the sky as positioned by the effects of precession in 10,450 BC. Robert Bauval confirms the correlation of patterns at Giza between the pyramid's site layout and the constellation Orion's Belt. The pattern is specific and exactly perfect only at 10,450 BC as illustrated in the charts on pages 445-7 of Chapter 49, "The Power of the Thing." Hancock asks Bauval about an 8000 year gap between 10,450 and 2450 BC alignments. Bauval claims building in two stages causes it. He deems the Giza necropolis a machine that stimulates questions. By standing at the site asking questions, the author, Santha and Bauval prove the machine works. They conclude from current and prior astronomical ages the 10,450 BC era is the only time that is a perfect symbolic terrestrial and celestial alignment with the Sphinx facing east. A riddle remains why precessional markers, a Sphinx, and three pyramids weighing fifteen million tons are built to mark the eleventh millennium BC.



Conclusion: Where's the Body?

Conclusion: Where's the Body? Summary and Analysis

Chapter 50, "Not a Needle in a Haystack" tells about Hancock's researcher who resigns just after starting when he concludes there is no lost civilization because a landmass large enough to support one is too big to lose. No unmapped oceans with a lost continent sunk in their depths have the necessary supporting terrain, resources and economy. Hancock assumes a cataclysmic catastrophe, like the last Ice Age meltdown between 15,000 and 8000 BC may be the missing piece when he receives an outline about Antarctica that fits Charles Hapgood's "earth-crust displacement" theory. Chapter 51, "The Hammer and the Pendulum" describes earth-crust displacement theory on the earth's continents. Chart on page 472 shows South Pole and Antarctica locations in 15,000 BC before displacement. When the crust shifts the large Antarctic landmass that sustains an ancient civilization is displaced to center around the Antarctic Circle. The continent is buried out of sight under two miles of Antarctic ice. Chapter 52, "Like a Thief in the Night" offers the opportunity to warn mankind that does not heed prior warnings but suffers the consequences. He lists four elements of his thesis including cosmic or geological cataclysm of post-industrial civilization, its near-total impact on civilization, a need to mobilize resources to preserve a remnant for ancestry and a need to build enclosures strong enough to protect survivors and surviving information. Hancock proposes specific content-rich messages to future generations explaining details of the situation. He believes ancient civilization provides warning signs like the Giza plateau because what happens before can happen again.



Characters

Graham Hancock

Graham Hancock is author, explorer, commentator and analyst of "Fingerprints of the Gods." His knowledge is far-ranging from ancient Peruvian and Egyptian myths to modern theories of astronomy, archaeology and cosmology. Hancock travels the globe exploring, climbing and investigating remaining ruins of ancient civilizations in Peru, Bolivia, Mexico and Egypt. The starting point of his journey is a series of ancient Antarctica maps that reveal puzzles of geography and geology to pique his interest and intellectual curiosity in a lost civilization. Hancock visits sites to inspect them firsthand by hiking and climbing up, on and around the ruins. Hancock is well-versed and knowledgeable far beyond an "armchair expert."

The time he spends in the field, however, does not distract from his vast historical sense of time before history begins. Hancock is adept at skilled climbing up and around huge stone ruins and conversant with history and mythology of legendary heroes, pharaohs, kings and near-gods that construct them. The British author, correspondent and international best-seller appears regularly on television in National Geographic, BBC, and CNN productions. Graham Hancock's earlier quest in 1992 leads him on a documented search for the Ark of the Covenant. His knowledge and down-to-earth commentary reveals a believable probability that the globe was once occupied in ancient antiquity by near-gods whose fingerprints remain for contemporary man to discover and understand as his destiny.

Santha Faiia

Santha Faiia is the partner, photographer, accompanist, loving wife and mother of the six children she and Graham Hancock share. All photographs in "Fingerprints of the Gods" are taken by her. Santha's photographic contribution to the work is of major significance in clarity that brings perspective to the scale and precision Hancock writes in words. Specifically the Peruvian "jigsaw puzzle" masonry fit shown in photographs 5 and 6 is like photograph 68 from the Valley Temple at Giza in Egypt. These huge "puzzle pieces" are precisely cut to fit each other in place. Santha's photography brings size, scale and reality to "Fingerprints." Her photographic contribution to this work makes Hancock's written words realistic.

The significance of her participation in the work exceeds photos alone as the companion and partner of Graham Hancock. However, the photos provide a picture record of their expedition from Peru, Bolivia, Central America, the Yucatan, Mexico and Egypt. Similarities of construction, style and layout are more clearly presented by her photographs than Hancock's description alone. For example, her photographs of Giza numbered 42 through 56 bring a level of reality and experience to understanding construction of the Great Pyramid and Sphinx.



Admiral Piri Reis

Admiral Piri Reis draws a map in 1513 of Queen Maud Land in Antarctica compiled from earlier map sources that show the continent to be free of ice. The Antarctic continent is "officially" discovered in 1818 AD when it is covered with ice. Piri Reis is significant to "Fingerprints" because he relies on earlier sources to draw his map that conflict with common knowledge of the Antarctic ice cap. His map makes Graham Hancock question the possibility of a lost civilization.

Professor Charles Hapgood

Professor Charles Hapgood promotes the theory of "earth-crust displacement" that explains relocation of the temperate-zone continent southward directly over the South Pole. Hapgood receives a letter from Commander Ohlmeyer that authenticates Piri Reis map representation of Queen Maud Land to be ice-free as was previously unknown. Hapgood is the proponent of earth-crust displacement theory that Hancock relies on to explain a "lost civilization" that results from the movement of the Antarctic continent from a temperate zone to relocation directly over the South Pole where it becomes covered under two miles of glacial ice. His research into other ancient maps of Antarctica and other areas provides substantial supporting documentation for the claims Hancock makes in "Fingerprints."

Gerard Kremer

Gerard Kremer is also known as Mercator for the invention of map projection which is an artificial and complex mechanical and mathematical device to enable transfer of map data from spherical globes to flat paper with minimal distortion. He is relevant to Hancock's research work because his invention, the Mercator projection, appears in ancient source maps drawn thousands of years before he is born to invent them. Specifically, some of Hapgood's ancient maps are certified by MIT as "Mercator-type," which adds credibility to Hancock's hypothesis that there is an ancient advanced civilization that is subsequently "lost" or vanished.

John Harrison

John Harrison invents the marine chronometer in 1776. His invention enables making accurate maps by its ability to calculate precise longitude. Prior to his invention, the measure of longitude is estimated and typically off by hundreds of miles. Despite the relative accuracy of latitude estimates map-making without the marine chronometer produces inaccurate maps. Piri Reis' Map of 1513 precisely locates longitudes of South America and Africa from earlier sources with accurate longitudes that add further credibility to Hancock's hypothesis of an advanced civilization that vanishes. Accurate ancient maps prove geographical knowledge and global wisdom of an ancient civilization.



Viracocha

Viracocha is the name of a god who is venerated by the Incas as the Most Holy of all other gods. His name means "Foam of the Sea." Viracocha is also known by other names including Huaracocha, Kon Tiki, Tupaca and Thunupa. Despite the name differences, his character appears as bearded, tall or medium, wearing white robe, tunic or cloak belted at the waist. He is white, multi-lingual and revered as wise about matters of state. Viracocha teaches skills for culture and production, medicine, writing, metallurgy, farming, engineering and architecture.

Viracocha is an archetype of the god-like ancient civilizers. He is a symbol in the myth of civilizations from Peru to Egypt where he is named Osiris. Spanish explorers, like Cortez, are celebrated as returning viracochas by natives. The presumed size of these giant near-gods makes monuments like the pyramids and Machu Pichu seem possible but still a puzzle. Osiris is an ancient Egyptian god that Hancock compares to Thunupa. They share seven characteristic events in common. Quetzalcoatl is the main god of the ancient Mexicans like Viracocha is of the Andes. He is also called Gucumatz, Kukulcan, Votan and other names that reference the plumed serpent in Central America's Mayan and Aztec civilizations

The Astronomers

The Astronomers including Drs. Phillis Pitluga, Rolf Muller and Arthur Posnansky are archaeo-astronomers who research the parallels between star constellations and earth-bound structures. For examples, they try to prove scientifically that the third star-belt of constellation Osiris is represented on earth by the layout of Giza and Mexico pyramids. They also calculate precise mathematical movements of the solar system in order to determine the age of monuments. Rolf Muller claims Peru's Machu Pichu is 6000 years old rather than the conventional few hundred years since the fifteenth century. Along with Professor Posnansky he concludes Bolivia's Tiahuanaco is constructed about 15,000 BC. Posnansky concludes that a catastrophic cataclysm occurred 12,000 years ago with seismic and flood events.

First Men

First Men are also called "Balam" in the Popol Vuh, a text like biblical scripture that Hancock compares to wise men evicted from the Garden of Eden, in Genesis, a book of the Bible. First Men see things hidden in the distance, i.e. astronomers that give them godlike powers. The Mayans receive their complex and accurate calendar through them according to legend.



J. Eric Thompson

J. Eric Thompson is the name of a Central American authority on archaeology who disputes ability of the Mayan to devise a calendar based on their low level of skill achievement in other areas. The Mayan calendar requires skills beyond that of Greek or Roman mathematicians. For example, a sixteenth century Gregorian calendar is accurate to 0.0003 of a day compared to the Mayan calendar accurate to 0.0002 of a day over a solar year.

Archimedes

Archimedes is the mathematician who discovers "pi" in the third century. This discovery is problematic because pyramids, specifically at Teotihuacán and Giza, both use the value of pi in their construction over 2000 years before Archimedes is born. No other pyramids use this value in their construction, which provides Hancock with further support in his claim of an advanced vanished civilization.

Giorgio de Santillana

Giorgio de Santillana is a History of Science Professor who claims that long ago, serious, intelligent people devise a way to express technical terms of advanced astronomical science veiled in the language of myth. For example, Hipparchus calculates "precession" in the second century B.C., but Hancock suggests he just "rediscovers" what ancient man knows and presents in myths from thousands of years earlier according to de Santillana. He supports the claim with four ancient myths containing symbols of a "precessional message" presaging a "derangement of the heavens" catastrophe with precession in a final apocalyptic destruction.

Jane Sellers

Jane Sellers is the name of an archaeologist-astronomer who interprets myth mathematically as a function of specific numbers relating to the precessional. Sellers interprets phrases in the myth as precessional numbers including 360 degrees in ecliptic, 12 zodiac constellations, 30 degrees allocated on the ecliptic for each constellation and 72 years for the equinoctial sun to complete one degree precessional shift on the ecliptic. Sellers relies on those numbers to extrapolate further values, i.e. 2160 years for the sun to pass through one zodiac constellation.

Flinders Petrie

Flinders Petrie is the name of a nineteenth-century surveyor. Hancock uses his survey of the site to find more puzzles in the Second Pyramid. The sarcophagus in the King's Chamber is cut by craftsmen using tools just now being invented according to Petrie.



For example, drilling through hard granite takes a ton or more of pressure. Hancock agrees with Petrie that it is a riddle why and how six million tons of stone are manipulated and maneuvered in precise-cut lengths and angles.

Egyptologists

Egyptologists refers to the name of a group of professional researchers and students of ancient Egypt. Hancock disputes many of their "discoveries" as based on less than rigorous science despite self-proclaimed expertise. For example, they claim pyramid builders drill through hard granite and other feats by chance.

Robert Bauval

Robert Bauval is a Belgian construction engineer who discovers Orion's three belt stars are not in a straight line. The third star is off to the left correlating to a Giza site diagram on page 355 in Chapter 40. His find is significant because the Giza site arrangement mirrors the sky appearance, not in 2500 BC when it is presumed built, but eight thousand years earlier in 10,450 BC.

John West

John West is the name of an expert on the early Egyptian dynastic period. West claims that Egyptologists know that the Giza correlation suggests existence of an ancient civilization, but misinterpret or ignore it. West agrees with Hancock that the Sphinx may have been built in 15,000 BC.

Manetho

Manetho is the name of a third-century B.C. priest and author of historical texts about a time when gods rule the Nile Valley. Those texts, cited by Christian commentator Eusebius, note Ennead gods who are "first to hold sway in Egypt" ruling from 13,900 years and others that total 24,925 years of pre-dynastic rule.

Eusebius

Eusebius is a Christian historian and commentator. His bias towards biblical scripture and its presumed 2200 year age is an absolute fact to him. He acts on that bias to misinterpret Manetho's commentary about 25,000 years by claiming the ancient Egyptians mean months when they say years.



Ennead

Ennead is the name of nine gods ruling the Nile called City of the Sun, associated with nine solar and stellar gods. Several gods are active including Shu, Tefnut, Geb, Nut, Osiris and Isis, and others that total nine in the Ennead of Heliopolis.



Objects/Places

Piri Reis Map

Piri Reis Map is a map drawn by Admiral Piri Reis in 1513 A.D. showing coastal land named Queen Maud Land that underlies the Antarctic ice cap before the ice covered continent is discovered in 1818 AD. The map is an anomaly because it shows Antarctica on a map dated before it is discovered and in a condition, i.e. partially ice-free, that it is unknown to ever be.

Antarctica

Antarctica is the name of the continent over the South Pole. The continent is fully covered with ice, or glaciated, after 4000 B.C. Before that date and back to 13,000 B.C., maps of Antarctica show flowing waterways, mountain ranges and coastal and hinterland to be virtually ice-free.

Earth-crust Displacement

Earth-crust displacement mechanism is a theory derived by Professor Hapgood that the outer crust of the earth shifts. Antarctica is once located in a temperate zone but shifts south to relocate at the South Pole from earth forces involved with the displacement theory.

Oronteus Finaeus

Oronteus Finaeus, Mercator's 1538, and Philippe Buache's are the names of maps that taken together with the Piri Reis map illustrate the continent of Antarctica at various stages before and during encroaching glaciation from 13,000 to 4000 BC. Eventually glaciers cover Antarctica with a two mile deep coat of ice by the time of its discovery in 1818 AD.

Marine Chronometer

The marine chronometer is the name of an instrument invented by John Harrison to provide an accurate measure of longitude in degrees east or west from a prime meridian running through Greenwich in London, England's Royal Observatory.



Nazca

Nazca is the name of an area in southern Peru that refers to a plateau, lines, people and environs. The plateau is a flatland that presents a 200 square mile protected surface that is covered with various images of unknown origin and age. Lines on the plateau are called Nazcan lines and the area is once populated by a primitive tribe called Nazcan that disappear centuries before the Incas appear. Drawings are to scale that can only be seen clearly over 500 but less than 1500 feet above. Ricinulei is the name of a rare spider from out of the local area. Details of the actual specimen that can only be seen with a microscope are reproduced faithfully in the Nazcan drawing to the same scale as other pictures on the plateau.

Viracochas

Viracochas is the name of followers of Viracocha that go off to various areas to work as his disciples. One of the work areas, called Sacsayhuaman fortress, north of Cuzco, is an area that legend claims is built by viracochas. The construction is notable for the size and weight of stones and boulders used in construction. For example, stone gates weigh over 100 tons and 361 ton boulders are transported to the site from tens of miles away to be precisely cut and shaped by its builders.

Machu Pichu

Machu Pichu is the name given to the lost city of the Incas, which are an ancient tribe in Peru. The site of Machu Pichu is high up and away in the mountains. Its remote location offers a unique, undisturbed view of pre-Columbian civilization. Like other sites, the size, weight and precisely-cut components of its construction are incomprehensible. For example, 200-ton boulders are moved to this mountain retreat where they are precisely cut and fit in a jigsaw puzzle-like wall with other similar size and weight building components. The six thousand year-old Peruvian city is not discovered until 1911 by the American explorer Hiram Bingham.

La Paz

La Paz is the capital of Bolivia and unique for its location two miles above sea level at the bottom of a plunging mountain ravine and 5000 feet below its airport. The author's expedition lands there from Lima, Peru to explore Lake Titicaca and its environs. The 138 mile long lake is 12,500 feet above sea level and 1000 feet deep. Despite its height above sea level, the area has millions of sea shell fossils. The city-port of Tiahuanaco on the lake is 12 miles south of the lake and 100 feet above its current shoreline. Professors Posnansky and Muller claim Tiahuanaco is built in 15,000 B.C. and separates from Lake Titicaca in 11,000 B.C. Totora rush boats once used on the Lake are made on Suriqui Island with the same methods Egyptians use to build papyrus reed boats on the Nile.



Kalასasaya

Kalასasaya, Gateway of the Sun and environs is the name of an area that functions as a sophisticated celestial observatory where ancient civilizations fix equinoxes and solstices to predict the various seasons of the year. Kalასasaya means "Place of the Upright Standing Stones" as translated in the Aymara language. To the south a 50-foot high artificial hill named Akapana Pyramid stands. Hancock compares it to Giza pyramids in Egypt. Akapana is oriented to cardinal points and is a dominant building in Tiahuanaco. Kalასasaya's twelve foot high blocks are sunk in Altiplano red earth to form the 500 foot square stockade. Scholars call it a stone calendar aligned with sun and stars in about 15,000 BC. Posnansky plots key structures in the Kalასasaya that look "out of true" to identify obliquity of the ecliptic to conclude it is built in 17,000 BC.

Chichen Itza

Chichen Itza and environs is the name of a site including Temples of Kukulcan and Warriors located in Mexico's northern Yucatan. The Temple of Kukulcan has 365 steps, which is the number of days in a solar year. Shadows are thrown by spring and summer equinoxes to create an illusion of a huge snake climbing the steps for exactly 3 hours and 22 minutes. Temple of the Warriors is nearby where indigenous people practiced ritual slaughter of humans 1200 years earlier.

Hypothetical Third Party Theory

The hypothetical third party theory is a theory based upon the assumption that similarities and differences among peoples of Sumer and Egypt and the ancient civilizations of Mexico and Central America come from a legacy of the same ancestor. Hancock suggests ancient civiliziers that form cultures in Egypt and Sumer experience setbacks in Mexico and Peru and do not recover until 1500 BC

The Mayan Great Cycle

The Mayan Great Cycle is the name of the present age or cycle that begins in darkness on a date that corresponds to August 13, 3114 BC, and runs for 5125 years, which is the time allotted in their belief for the current creation. The crowning Mayan accomplishment is the "Long Count" that calculates dates in Great Cycles of recurrent world creation and destruction. According to the Mayan Long Count this Great Cycle ends in global destruction on a date that corresponds to December 23, 2012 AD.

Teotihuacán

Teotihuacán is the name of the site where Quetzalcoatl appears to begin the Fifth Age as a bearded white man like Viracocha in the Andes. The city-site is located northeast of



Mexico City along with the Citadel, Temple and Map of Heaven. Teotihuacán is laid out geometrically in a straight line degrees east off a direct north-south axis. Structures are mathematically aligned on the axis called Street of the Dead. The site is a precise scale-model of the solar system with correct orbital distances among planets that is designed and laid out before many planets are "discovered" and orbital distances are calculated. Teotihuacán pyramids and Egypt's Giza plateau display similarities making it logical to assume there is an ancient connection back to around 4500 B.C.

Pi

Pi is the name of a mathematical number that relates the circumference of a circle to its diameter. Pyramid of the Sun at Teotihuacán and the Great Pyramid at Giza both incorporate the value of pi the same way to calculate construction. However, Archimedes in the third century is the first known man to calculate pi. Pyramids are constructed more than 2000 years before his birth. No other pyramids either side of the Atlantic incorporate pi in the same way. Hancock theorizes that these pyramids are designed with pi to focus attention on the sphere called earth.

Great Cold

Great Cold is the name of a catastrophic cataclysm that occurs at the first epoch in the Iranian experience. The event refers to a devastating winter that covers the earth with freezing ice and snow. Sudden onset of glaciation also occurs in South America's Paraguay, Argentina and Chile and accompanies darkness. Ancient Maya sources recall the earth darkened for twenty-six years after the flood. Other images show sun and moon falling from the sky, planets changing their paths and the sky falls or wars with earth. Volcanic eruptions and earthquakes are common.

Obliquity of the ecliptic

Obliquity of the ecliptic, eccentricity, oblate spheroid, precession of the equinoxes are the name of terms ascribed to various functions of the solar system Hancock uses to describe planetary motion. "Obliquity of the ecliptic" is the axis angle of the earth that oscillates slowly within 3 degrees and takes 41,000 years to make a full cycle oscillation across the range. "Eccentricity" is the extent to which gravity of the sun and other planets influence earth's elliptic orbit that ranges from near-zero as a circle to most lengthened and elliptic at six percent. "Oblate spheroid" is the shape formed by centrifugal force that causes earth's equator to bulge out and poles flatten from the form of a perfect sphere. "Precession of the equinoxes" describes earth's regular orbital movement through the four cardinal points or directions that mark the seasons.



Osiris myth

Osiris myth is the name of a myth that Jane Sellers researches. Sellers contend key numbers are encoded in the myth that is irrelevant to its story line. However, they can be used to derive exact values of time required to shift one degree on the ecliptic and other celestial movement. For example, it takes 72 years for the sun to complete one degree shift. These numbers can then be interpreted as part of the precessional cycle to the "Great Return" or one "Great Year."

Great Pyramid

Great Pyramid is the name of the pyramid located in Giza, Egypt that Hancock relates to the Pyramid of the Sun at Teotihuacán because they both incorporate use of pi in the same way. Great Pyramid faces are aligned perfectly, within three minutes of arc for the structure built in 4500 BC. Costs to reach this degree of engineering accuracy seem to far exceed any benefit gained. The author climbs the pyramid at night to avoid detection. He measures lengths and corner angles that are unusually accurate like its alignment. Two pits at its base contain boats of a quality beyond the presumed need to transport a dead king to heaven.

Great Sphinx

Great Sphinx and environs is the name of the site including Valley Temple, Pyramid Texts, Palermo Stone and Turin Papyrus that are located south-east from the Great Pyramid. Outline of the site is pictured on page 343. Valley Temple is notable for component size of its core structure. The Temple is constructed of hundreds of limestone megaliths weighing 200 tons each that measure at least 18 feet long by 10 feet wide and 8 feet high with some lengths up to 30 feet. Ancient Egyptians believe the Sphinx guards the "Splendid Place of the Beginning of all Time" with magic power over the whole area. Evidence suggests the Sphinx may be built 11,000 to 15,000 years earlier when the Giza desert is green and fertile.

Temple Gallery

Temple Gallery and environs including Osireion and Abydos is the name of the site that Hancock visits in the city of Abydos, Egypt to investigate two mysteries that do not receive close scrutiny from scholars. He describes the Osireion, which is a monument adjoining the Seti I Temple built for Seti I, the father of Ramses II, the pharaoh during the time of the biblical Exodus. The Temple Gallery has a list naming 120 gods of Ancient Egypt and another list of 76 pharaohs from 3000 to 1300 B.C., who rule before Seti I, named the Abydos King List. Osireion, like Valley Temple and Sphinx on Giza plateau is constructed of giant megaliths that do not resemble other architecture as much as they resemble each other.



Eleventh Millennium BC

Eleventh Millennium B.C. is the name of a period of time from 13,000 to 10,000 B.C. during which Egypt undergoes the earliest agricultural revolution identified in history. Many commentaries converge in details of a golden age when gods rule Egypt. An agricultural feast begins about 13,000 B.C. but abruptly ends in 10,500 B.C. in a more primitive life with cycles of rain and dry periods to 3000 B.C. After that date dry periods continue persistently.

Themes

Periods of Time, Precession, and Prediction

Christian historian Eusebius tries to reconcile Manetho's 25,000 year history with a 2242 year bible history by claiming Egyptians mean months by their term "years." However, Hancock relies on archaeology and astronomy to support his hypotheses many times the few biblical "years" in the period Eusebius is willing to consider. Hancock describes earth's orbital path in Chapters 28 and 29 that claims one full cycle earth axis oscillation, called a "nod," takes 41,000 years. Gravity of the sun and planets influence earth's elliptic orbit called "eccentricity." Planets aligned, or in conjunction, exert greater gravitational effects. Modern astrologers forecast the planets to be in perfect conjunction, occurring once in 45,200 years, on the same date Mayans predict the Fifth Sun ends. The zodiac, charted on page 240 is spaced evenly on a 360 degree circular ecliptic rim around the sun observed as "housed" in zodiac constellations consecutively for 2160 years each. The sun's precessional drift through 12 houses makes a complete circuit in 25,920 years. For example, at present, the sun is leaving Pisces and approaching dawn in the Age of Aquarius. The sun "moves" slowly on the ecliptic for 72 years, the length of a human lifetime, to complete one degree shift. It takes 2160 years for the sun to pass through one zodiac house and 25,776 years for the earth's axis to complete one precessional cycle.

Angle between the plane of the earth's orbit and plane of the celestial equator defines the "obliquity of the ecliptic." That angle, caused by the axis "wobble," called precession, changes in cycles of 41,000 years. Posnansky calculates the angle as it changes from century to century. Solar alignments of key structures in the Kalasasaya ruins that seem "out of true" are plotted to identify obliquity of the ecliptic value. That value determines the age of its construction to be 15,000 B.C. Other scientists including Dr. Muller analyze and confirm Posnansky's outcome is "well within the bounds of possibility." Tiahuanaco is a city-port on Lake Titicaca's shore that is now twelve miles south of the lake and 100 feet above its shoreline. Mathematical and astronomical calculations of Posnansky and Muller indicate Tiahuanaco is built in 15,000 B.C and separates from the lake in 11,000 B.C. Posnansky re-dates Tiahuanaco using obliquity of the ecliptic to be 17,000 years old.

Many ancient myths contain embedded symbols of a "precessional message" warning of "derangement of the heavens" that mixes catastrophe with precession in final apocalyptic destruction. At the dawn of Aquarius, the sun's vernal equinox point moves from Pisces to Aquarius at the same time as three other points of constellation, from Virgo, Gemini and Sagittarius move to Leo, Taurus and Scorpio—like shifting celestial gears. The heavenly machine shifts gears after thousands of years grinding out the same pattern when it breaks out in a new pattern. Three principal factors function in cataclysmic events that include obliquity of the ecliptic, eccentricity of orbit and axial precession. These factors facilitate prediction as a function of maximum eccentricity,



minimum obliquity, and precession of equinoxes that is used by ancient myth-makers to warn of great danger.

Dimensions of Displacement

Hancock initially believes a catastrophe, like the Ice Age meltdown between 15,000 and 8000 B.C. may be a missing piece to the puzzle of a lost civilization. He later receives a manuscript outline about Antarctica, however, that fits Charles Hapgood's "earth-crust displacement" theory. That theory combined with the Piri Reis and other ancient maps describes how earth-crust displacement may affect the earth's Antarctic continent. The chart on page 472 illustrates the location of the South Pole and Antarctica in 15,000 BC before displacement. The large Antarctic landmass is initially situated 2000 miles farther north with an edge of the continent touching the Antarctic Circle. That location places the continent in a temperate zone well-suited to sustain a civilization. However, when the earth's crust shifts the large Antarctic continent is displaced to center directly above the Antarctic Circle. The encroaching glaciation over time illustrated in Oronteus, Mercator and Buache maps covers the continent. When Antarctica is "discovered" in 1818, any lost civilization is buried out of sight under two miles of the Antarctic ice cap.

There are two dimensions to the Ice Age meltdown riddle and earth-crust displacement theory that Hancock considers. Hapgood's theory claims the earth's outer layer, called a lithosphere, is a relatively thin but rigid crust that can move in one piece. For example, he compares the lithosphere to the loose skin of an orange that can shift in one piece over the fruit inside. Gravitational and centrifugal forces are generated by orbital movements that exert powerful influences on continental land masses. Einstein claims polar ice-cap weight is unequally distributed and can shift as well towards the equator. Any movement of the earth's surface generates further influence on future movement. Consequently, the earth-crust displacement factors into Ice Age meltdowns. Specifically, large landmasses shift to polar areas where they become glaciated from encroaching glacial ice and polar area ice-caps shift towards the equator, become warmer and their glacial ice melts.

Since these influences take place over eons of time, the consequences of displacement is discovered in archaeological and astronomical clues that require research and reflection. Hancock predicates his study on the assumption that advanced ancient civilizations did exist but are lost through the destructive effects of cataclysms including ice ages, floods and other natural phenomena. The civilizations experience disasters leading to recurrent patterns that they employ as embedded symbols in myths and other legends that persist throughout the world. The earth-crust displacement theory developed by Einstein seems to describe a recurrent pattern of countervailing influences from ice-age to meltdown that operates eternally in cycles from eon to eon without end.



Timetable of the Mayan Ages, Man and the Earth

A rare collection of documents show an Aztec belief in five cycles, called "Suns" since creation of the human race. The human race is destroyed in each cycle by cataclysmic events of cold, hurricanes, fire, lava, torrential rains and floods. The Mayan calendar serves as a timetable listing of events that illustrate the underlying premise of Hancock's "Fingerprints of the Gods." Specifically, 17,125 years account for the four past Suns to mankind's current cycle in the Fifth Sun. Each of the Four Suns lasts 4008, 4010, 4081, and 5026 years to a Fifth Sun. The current "Sun of Movement" ends as mankind perishes from movement of the earth. The Olmecs invent a bar-and-dot calendar system from August 13, 3114 BC that predicts the world's end. The Mayan Great Cycle begins in darkness on that date and runs for 5125 years, which is the time allotted in their belief for the current cycle. According to the Mayan Long Count, this Great Cycle or Fifth Sun is forecast to end in global destruction on December 23, 2012 AD. Rough approximation of 17,125 past cycle-years plus 5125 years of the current cycle totals 22,250 years.

The origin and evolution of modern humans is still a puzzle despite three and a half million years of fossil records. A recognizable "modern man" may exist 115,000 years but is more likely to be 50,000 years ago. Ice Age glaciation begins 60,000 years ago and extends its farthest global reach to 17,000 years before 7000 years of deglaciation ends. Hancock's focus covers from 8000 to 40,000 years before Egypt's First Dynasty. Third century B.C. texts of Manetho note Ennead gods "first to hold sway in Egypt" rule 13,900 years and with others total 24,925 years of pre-dynastic rule. Manetho claims civilization exists 36,525 years before the First Dynasty in 3100 BC and totals 39,625 years. The commentaries confirm this date and estimated civilization of 39,000 years. Peopling of America begins 35,000 years ago. Human remains and artifacts from 25,000 B.C. are found in the Yukon and from 12,000 B.C. in South America. Examples include Santiago Tuxtla where no African blacks are 2000 years ago but evidence shows Negroid peoples migrated there in 15,000 B.C., and a Tres Zapotes stele's date corresponds to September 3, 32 B.C. prior to the earliest known Mayan calendar date of 228 A.D. China, South and North America all experience daily earthquakes, floods, and volcanoes stimulating fire, flood, creation and destruction myths for 7000 years of human life.

Maps show "fingerprints" of a vanished ancient civilization that draws accurate pictures of widely-separated parts of the earth, from South America to Sweden. Hancock claims these maps may be drawn by advanced human civilization in 13,000 B.C. Four of these maps show glaciers encroaching on the Antarctic subcontinent from 13,000 without any ice to 4000 B.C. when it is covered with a glacial ice cap. Fossil records of Ice Age years from 15,000 to 8000 B.C. in Alaska and Siberia show mass animal extinctions 13,000 to 11,000 years ago. Hardy, cold-adapted Siberian bison and mammoths freeze in place indicating the Arctic Circle freeze is sudden and unexpected. Posnansky theorizes that a catastrophe occurs in Tiahuanaco with seismic events and flooding over 12,000 years ago from which the Altiplano culture is unable to recover. Excavations

south of Mexico City find a pyramid covered with lava seven thousand years earlier and archaeologists confirm the structure "fell into ruins some 8500 years ago."

Style

Perspective

Graham Hancock is the author, explorer, commentator and analyst of "Fingerprints of the Gods" published in 1995. He is a British correspondent and international best-seller who appears regularly in National Geographic, BBC and CNN television productions. His work includes seven other books discussing Pakistan, Ethiopia and Africa. Hancock's earlier quest in 1992 leads him on a documented search for the Ark of the Covenant. His interest in this book ranges from ancient Peruvian and Egyptian myths to modern theories of astronomy, archaeology and cosmology. Hancock travels to Peru, Bolivia, Mexico and Egypt with his wife and photographer, Santha Faiia. The apparent starting point of this journey is a series of ancient Antarctica maps that pique his interest and intellectual curiosity in a lost civilization. The author is a writer and researcher by profession who travels the globe exploring, climbing and investigating subjects of interest.

His knowledge and down-to-earth commentary reveals a believable probability that the globe is once occupied in ancient antiquity by near-gods whose fingerprints remain for contemporary man to discover and understand as destiny. His style displays perspective of a professional truly interested in understanding the mysteries of his subject research to share questions and answers he finds with readers. Anyone interested in the mysteries of creation, solar system, civilization, Sphinx and pyramids can benefit from "Fingerprints."

Tone

This is a challenging work from the breadth and depth of knowledge and wisdom that Graham Hancock demonstrates. His erudite work is presented in a down-to-earth first person, subjective treatment of objective historical, archaeological and astronomical data and theories. He uses simple, straightforward language in an apparent attempt to clearly communicate. However, the subject matter requires a substantial level of background knowledge, history and curiosity from the reader. Hancock writes in a friendly, first person singular or plural, when commenting on joint efforts, manner.

His relaxed style is disarming, and the reader must remain alert to the quiet, understated humor in his written word. For example, when hailed in Arabic by a "tiny turbaned man dressed in a billowing kaftan" halfway down at the base of the Great Pyramid who had "unslung his shotgun and was preparing to take aim at us" Graham notes "we were in a potentially tricky situation." A few pages later he shows a "sight-gag" from inside the Great Pyramid by his pose in the King's Chamber sarcophagus for photograph 45. The subject is serious and earth-shattering considering the December 23, 2012 prediction for Mayan end of the Fifth Sun. However, Hancock's warning of

mankind's final cataclysm leaves the reader with a sense of wonder and mystery rather than fear and foreboding.

Structure

"Fingerprints of the Gods" authored by Graham Hancock is subtitled "The Evidence of Earth's Lost Civilization." Hancock's 578 page book with Copyright date of 1995 is comprised of Acknowledgment and Contents pages, 52 Chapters, back matter including References, Selected Bibliography and Index. Chapters are further organized into eight sections called Parts. Parts size ranges from three to eleven chapters. Parts and chapters are consecutively numbered and both have descriptive titles. Parts use Roman numerals I through VIII, and Chapters are numbered 1 through 52. Photographs of the sites visited with appropriate commentary are presented throughout the book, interleaved among chapter subjects. Content of the work is organized around a research expedition that starts and ends with abstract sections about Antarctica in the first part and earth-crust displacement theory in the last part. The six parts between tracks the travels of Graham Hancock and Santha Faiia from Peru and Bolivia to Central America and Mexico with a final return to Egypt and the Giza Plateau.

Notable in Hancock's Acknowledgment are the compliments he pays to his wife, children, other family members and the appreciation he shows to many professional professors, researchers and colleagues that support his effort. Parts titles describe the subject matter of the section which also is the itinerary of their expedition to keep the reader informed of the next stop along the journey. Chapter titles are both descriptive and lighthearted with phrases like "Were there Giants Then?" "Mexican Babel" and "Like a Thief in the Night." Reference is extensive, organized and footnoted by chapter from page 507 to page 554. Selected Bibliography runs eight pages and is organized by author, alphabetically. A sixteen page Index of keywords provides page number references and sub word cross-references. The book is an extensively researched, organized and detailed volume with a full exposition of historical, archaeological and astronomical myth, data and theories from beginning and potentially to the end of civilization on December 23, 2012.



Quotes

"The Piri Reis Map seems to contain surprising collateral evidence in support of the thesis of a geologically recent glaciation of parts of Antarctica following a sudden southward displacement of the earth's crust. Moreover since such a map could only have been drawn prior to 4000 BC, its implications for the history of human civilization are staggering. Prior to 4000 BC there are supposed to have been no civilizations at all." Chapter 1, pg. 11

"If we are to go along with orthodox geologists and accept that millions of years have indeed elapsed since Antarctica was last completely free of ice, then all the evidence of human evolution, painstakingly accumulated by distinguished scientists from Darwin on, must be wrong. It seems inconceivable that this could be the case: the fossil record makes it abundantly clear that only the unevolved ancestors of humanity existed millions of years ago - low-browed knuckle-dragging hominids incapable of advanced intellectual tasks like map-making." Chapter 2, pg. 19

"There are many different kinds of projection. Mercator's, still used in atlases today, is perhaps the most familiar. Others are dauntingly referred to as Azimuthal, Stereographic, Gnostic, Azimuthal Equidistant, Cordiform, and so on, but it is unnecessary to go into this any further here. We need only note that all successful projections require the use of sophisticated mathematical techniques of a kind supposedly unknown in the ancient world (particularly in the deepest antiquity before 4000 BC when there was allegedly no human civilization at all, let alone one capable of developing and using advanced mathematics and geometry." Chapter 3, pg. 31

"However, until commercial airlines began to operate regularly between Lima and Arequipa in the 1930s no one seems to have grasped that the largest piece of graphic art in the world lay here in southern Peru. It was the development of aviation that made the difference, giving men and women the godlike ability to take to the skies and see beautiful and puzzling things that had hitherto been hidden from them." Chapter 4, pg. 41

"Could the 'giants' buried in the biblical sands of the Middle East be connected in some unseen way to the 'giants' woven into the fabric of pre-Colombian native American legends? Adding considerably to the mystery was the fact that the Jewish and Peruvian sources both went on, with many further details in common, to depict an angry deity unleashing a catastrophic flood upon a wicked and disobedient world." Chapter 7, pg. 55

"In terms of orthodox history, this was a heresy of audacious proportions. If Muller was right, Machu Pichu was not a mere 500 but could be as much as 6000 years old. This would make it significantly older than the Great Pyramid of Egypt (assuming, of course, that one accepted the Great Pyramid's own orthodox dating of around 2500 BC.)" Chapter 7, pg. 60



"My background research had made me especially curious about the Gateway of the Sun and, indeed, about the Kalasasaya as a whole. This was so because certain astronomical and solar alignments which we review in the next chapter had made it possible to calculate the approximate period when the Kalasasaya must originally have been laid out. These alignments suggested the controversial date of 15,000 BC - about seventeen thousand years ago." Chapter 10, pg. 77

"Why is the Fifth Sun known as 'The Sun of Movement'? Because, 'the elders say: in it there will be a movement of the earth and from this we shall all perish.'" Chapter 13, pg. 99

"No documents, only dark and menacing sculptures, have come down to us from the Olmec era. But the Mayas, justifiably regarded as the greatest ancient civilization to have arisen in the New World, left behind a wealth of calendrical records. Expressed in terms of the modern dating system, these enigmatic inscriptions convey a rather curious message: the Fifth Sun, it seems, is going to come to an end on 23 December, AD 2012." Chapter 13, pg. 100

"The Olmecs were much, much older than the Maya. They'd been a smart, civilized, technologically advanced people and they did, indeed, appear to have invented the bar-and-dot system of calendrical notation, with the enigmatic starting date of 13 August 3114 BC, which predicted the end of the world in AD 2012." Chapter 16, pg. 122

"Consider the crowning jewel of Maya calendrics, the so-called 'Long Count'. This system of calculating dates also expressed beliefs about the past - notably, the widely held belief that time operated in Great Cycles which witnessed recurrent creations and destructions of the world. According to the Maya, the current Great Cycle began in darkness on '4 Ahau 8 Cumku', a date corresponding to 13 August 3114 BC in our own calendar. As we have seen, it was also believed that the cycle will come to an end, amid global destruction, on '4 Ahau 3 Kankin': 23 December AD 2012 in our calendar. The function of the Long Count was to record the elapse of time since the beginning of the current Great Cycle, literally to count off, one by one, the 5125 years allotted to our present creation." Chapter 21, pg. 161

"For example, archaeo-astronomers making use of the latest star-mapping computer programmes had recently demonstrated that the three world-famous pyramids on Egypt's Giza plateau formed an exact terrestrial diagram of the three belt stars in the constellation of Orion. Nor was this the limit of the celestial map the Ancient Egyptian priests had created in the sands on the west bank of the Nile. Included in their overall vision, as we shall see in Parts VI and VII, there was a natural feature - the river Nile - which was exactly where it should be had it been designed to represent the Milky Way." Chapter 22, pg.168

"Not everyone perished, however. Like the Aztecs and the Mechoacanese, the Maya of the Yucatan and Guatemala believed that a Noah figure and his wife, 'the Great Father and the Great Mother', had survived the flood to populate the land anew, thus



becoming the ancestors of all subsequent generations of humanity." Chapter 24, pg. 191

"On the other side of the world, Greek mythology too is haunted by memories of a deluge. Here, however (as in Central America) the inundation is not viewed as an isolated event but as one of a series of destructions and remakings of the world. The Aztecs and the Maya spoke in terms of successive 'Suns' or epochs (of which our own was thought to be the Fifth and last). In similar fashion the oral traditions of Ancient Greece, collected and set down in writing by Hesiod in the eighth century BC, related that prior to the present creation there had been four earlier races of men on earth. Each of these was thought more advanced than the one that followed it. And each, at the appointed hour, had been 'swallowed up' in a geological cataclysm." Chapter 24, pg. 195

"Like the flood of Deucalion, the flood of Manu, and the flood that destroyed the Aztecs' 'Fourth Sun'. the biblical deluge was the end of a world age. A new age succeeded it: our own, populated by the descendants of Noah. From the very beginning, however, it was understood that this age too would in due course come to a catastrophic end. As the old song puts it, 'God gave Noah the rainbow sign; no more water, the fire next time.'" Chapter 25, pg.197

"In summary, human beings like ourselves, whom we could pass in the street without blinking an eyelid if they were shaved and dressed in modern clothes, are creatures of the last 115,000 years at the very most - and more probably of only the last 50,000 years. It follows that if the myths of cataclysm we have reviewed do reflect an epoch of geological upheaval experienced by humanity, these upheavals took place within the last 115,000 years, and more probably within the last 50,000 years." Chapter 26, pg. 209

"So our fragile planet nods and spins while soaring along its orbital path. The orbit takes a year and the spin takes a day and the nod has a cycle of 41,000 years. A wild celestial dance seems to be going on as we skip and skim and dive through eternity, and we feel the tug of contradictory urges: to fall into the sun on the one hand; to make a break for the outer darkness on the other." Chapter 28, pg. 229

"Let us also note that modern astrologers who have charted the Mayan date for the end of the Fifth Sun calculate that there will be a most peculiar arrangement of planets at that time, indeed an arrangement so peculiar that 'it can only occur once in 45,200 years. . . From this extraordinary pattern we might well expect an extraordinary effect.'" Chapter 28, pg. 231

"Investigating this kind of material, one sometimes has the spooky sense of being manipulated by an ancient intelligence which has found a way to reach out to us across vast epochs of time, and for some reason has set us a puzzle to solve in the language of myth." Chapter 31, pg.265



"Three principal factors, all of which we have met before, are now known to be deeply implicated in the onset and the retreat of ice ages (together, of course, with the diverse cataclysms that ensue from sudden freezes and thaws). These factors all have to do with variations in the earth's orbital geometry." Chapter 32, pg. 271

"Covering a full 13.1 acres at the base, it weighed about six million tons - more than all the buildings in the Square Mile of the City of London added together, and consisted, as we have seen, of roughly 2.3 million individual blocks of limestone and granite. To these had once been added a 22-acre, mirrorlike cladding consisting of an estimated 115,000 highly polished casing stones, each weighing 10 tons, which had originally covered all four of its faces." Chapter 34, pg. 290

"Not for the first time when confronted by the mysteries of the pyramids I knew that I was looking at an impossible engineering feat which had nevertheless been carried out to astonishingly high and precise standards. Moreover, if Egyptologists were to be believed, the construction work had supposedly been undertaken at the dawn of human civilization by a people who had not accumulated any experience of massive construction projects." Chapter 37, pg.310

"The crux, therefore, was that the most remarkable monument of Ancient Egypt and the most remarkable monument of Ancient Mexico both incorporated pi relationships long before and far away from the official 'discovery' of this transcendental number by the Greeks. Moreover, the evidence invited the conclusion that something was being signalled by the use of pi - almost certainly the same thing in both cases." Chapter 37, pg. 319

"Confidently and efficiently fooling around with more than six million tons of stone, creating galleries and chambers and shafts and corridors more or less at will, achieving near-perfect symmetry, near-perfect right angles, and near-perfect alignments to the cardinal points, the mysterious builders of the Great Pyramid had found the time to play a great many other tricks as well with the dimensions of the vast monument." Chapter 38, pg. 338

"At present there are only two land-based cranes in the world that could lift weights of this magnitude. At the very frontiers of construction technology, these are both vast, industrialized machines, with booms reaching more than 220 feet into the air, which require on-board counterweights of 160 tons to prevent them from tipping over. The preparation-time for a single lift is around six weeks and calls for the skills of specialized teams of up to 20 men." Chapter 39, pg. 342

"However, the real surprise revealed by Bauval's astronomical calculations was this: despite the fact that some aspects of the Great Pyramid did relate astronomically to the Pyramid Age, the Giza monuments as a whole were so arranged as to provide a picture of the skies (which alter their appearance down the ages as a result of precession of the equinoxes) not as they had looked in the Fourth Dynasty around 2500 BC, but as they had looked - and only as they had looked - around the year 10,450 BC." Chapter 40, pg. 356



"The total of all these periods adds up to 24,925 years and takes us far beyond the biblical date for the creation of the world (some time in the fifth millennium BC). Because it suggested that biblical chronology was wrong, this created difficulties for Eusebius, a staunchly Christian commentator. But, after a moment's thought, he overcame the problem in an inspired way: 'The year I take to be a lunar one, consisting, that is, of 30 days: what we now call a month the Egyptians used formerly to style a year. . .'" Chapter 43, pg. 383

"This, in itself, was a remarkable discovery, suggesting a far higher level of observational astronomy, and of surveying and setting-out skills, than scholars had attributed to the Ancient Egyptians. Even more remarkable, however - and the reason that I had arranged to meet him at Giza the next morning - was Bauval's contention that the pattern traced out on the ground (in almost fifteen million tons of perfectly dressed stone) matched exactly the pattern in the sky during the epoch of 10,450 BC." Chapter 48, pg. 441

"The second connection the Flem-Aths made followed logically from the first: if there was such a recurrent, cyclical geological phenomenon as earth-crust displacement, and if the last displacement had shifted the enormous landmass we call Antarctica out of temperate latitudes and into the Antarctic Circle, it was possible that the substantial remains of a lost civilization of remote antiquity might today be lying under two miles of ice at the South Pole." Chapter 50, pg. 469

"It's my guess that their underlying objective could have been to transmit a warning to the future, and that this warning could be to do with a global cataclysm, perhaps even a recurrence of the same cataclysm that so clearly devastated mankind at the end of the last Ice Age when 'Noah saw that the earth had tilted, and that its destruction was near, and cried out in a bitter voice: 'Tell me what is being done on the earth that the earth is so afflicted and shaken. . .'" These words are from the Hebrew Book of Enoch, but similar afflictions and shakings have been foretold in all the Central American traditions that speak of the demise of the present epoch of the world - an epoch, as the reader will recall, in which 'the elders say [that] there will be a movement of the earth and from this we shall all perish.'" Chapter 52, pg.499



Topics for Discussion

Identify, list and present five reasons why Hancock thinks maps provide evidence of prior well-developed civilizations.

Explain and discuss the significance that commercial airline flights over southern Peru in the 1930s reveal about the drawings seen on the Nazca plateau.

Compare major elements in orthodox history about Machu Pichu and the Great Pyramid of Egypt to Rolf Muller's theory about their origin and layout.

Identify, describe and discuss the Maya message provided via their enigmatic inscriptions and why the author calls it "rather curious."

Identify and describe three characteristics that the Popol Vuh and Genesis share in common.

Define and describe the Mayan "Long Count" and discuss its significance to our current lifestyle.

Describe and discuss how you might go about planning and constructing a project of the same size, weight and dimensions that the Egyptian pyramids have.

Identify, list and describe three factors in the ice age process that are caused by variations in the earth's orbital geometry.

Define pi and explain why it is significant in the monuments of Ancient Egypt and Ancient Mexico relative to the Greeks who discovered its calculation.

Identify, describe and discuss the significance of Robert Bauval's astronomical calculations as they relate to the Giza monuments.