

A Brief Extraterrestrial History

by Marlon Heimerl

Amid the debate over the existence of extraterrestrials (ETs), the statistics beg for an intelligent discussion that doesn't end with a Theremin rendition of the *X-Files* theme.

Consider the 2005 University of Connecticut survey in which 60 percent of Americans said they believe extraterrestrial life exists on other planets (from a sample of 1,000). Also contemplate a separate 2012 survey conducted by *National Geographic* in which 36 percent of Americans expressed a belief that aliens have already visited the Earth. The tide of public opinion alone tells a story.

Also note that an interview between Robert Krulwich of NPR and science writer David Blatner revealed that there are more stars in the universe than all of the grains of sand on the Earth's beaches and desserts combined and a sense of scale begins to take hold. According to Krulwich, a 2003 estimate puts their number at 70 thousand million, million, million stars in the observable universe, "so that [we have] multiple stars for every grain of sand."

In that light, the very vastness of the universe reveals a rather large number of possible solar systems with a planet in the "Goldilocks Zone"—that place where life and habitation are possible based on a mix of environmental factors that are "just right" for housing life.

David Kipping of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics (CfA) posted an interesting breakdown of the number of habitable planets based on the Drake equation. In this scenario, habitable planets are defined as "environments which can support complex life rather than simple microbial organisms." After a series of equations, he arrived at "50 million habitable-zone exoplanets in the Milky Way." That's 50 million in our galaxy alone! Extrapolated across the entire universe with an estimated 100 billion galaxies, this number climbs to 10 million trillion habitable-zone exoplanets.

Moreover, it's been revealed that life forms can survive in environments previously thought impossible. NASA wrote on the potential of a widening Goldilocks Zone in 2003 as a function of changing perceptions of survivable environments:



"The Pleiades on Ektachrome 100 film in 1986" Photo By distar97 on flickr

"Our knowledge of life in extreme environments has exploded. Scientists have found microbes in nuclear reactors, microbes that love acid, microbes that swim in boiling-hot water. Whole ecosystems have been discovered around deep sea vents where sunlight never reaches and the emerging vent-water is hot enough to melt lead. The Goldilocks Zone is bigger than we thought."

Take all this data for what it's worth. This does not prove extraterrestrial life exists; however, it makes a strong case for the possible existence of life in the universe outside of Earth. And that is something.

Aliens before Science

While scientific knowledge leads to compelling evidence for the possible existence of extraterrestrials, another influencer is on the rise that is worth examining. This one is more of an echo from the past and far to the fringe – belonging to a time beyond the veil of historical amnesia.

So-called ancient astronaut theorists (popularized on *History Channel's* TV show, “Ancient Aliens”) have given this argument a voice. In short, ancient astronaut theorists suggest that humans are no stranger to extraterrestrials, who have in fact visited Earth and interacted with mankind in the past as evidenced through ancient texts and artifacts.

Danger, Will Robinson!

Caution is thrown to the wind in great pluming handfuls when examining documents with thousands or even tens of thousands of years between the writer and the reader. In so much, this article does not endorse or discredit ancient astronaut theory, but is meant to examine existing tidbits of evidence.

The sands of time are corrosive and can easily strip stories of their true meanings when viewed by contemporary eyes, and moreover, one can certainly mistake myth or metaphor for a first-hand, factual account. So to the point, while the following accounts do raise some eyebrows, knowing the actual intentions of these authors is an ongoing question and debate.

Extraterrestrials through Time

The modern conception of an alien, with an elongated head, grey skin, large cranial cavity, slit nostrils and massive, black eyes is a familiar motif in popular culture today. Yet far earlier in history, ‘visitors from the stars’ took on numerous other forms.

Two of the most compelling (or if nothing else, interesting) cases found in our ancient past come from Ancient Sumerian texts and the Sanskrit texts of Ancient India.

The Annunaki of Nibiru

In *The Egg Moon: Living the Question*, author Von Goodwin points to 6,000 year old Sumerian Cuneiform tablets with historical records dating back 450,000 years. So what can tablets with records predating earliest biblical history by 445,000 years tell us about our ancient conception of visitors from above?

According to Goodwin, the tablets tell a story of a race of beings called the Annunaki, meaning those who came from heaven to earth. More literally, the Annunaki were a race of giants from Nibiru, a planet said to traverse the solar system on a 3,600 year orbit around our sun.

Goodwin outlines the moment of genesis in this account:

“The origin of the earth and the asteroid belt that lies between Mars and Jupiter was the result of a

collision, or near collision, of Nibiru and the planet Tiamat. The Annunaki survived the collision and came to earth and genetically engineered the human species. The mixing of Homo Erectus DNA with that of the Annunaki produced slaves to work the mines for necessary minerals required by those who came from heaven to earth.”



“Nibiru, Annunaki, Planet X” Photo By tortuga767 on flickr

The Sumerians were no simple Stone Age society either, having documented the presence of Pluto centuries before it was rediscovered by modern man in 1930. In fact, Goodwin points out that Sumerian knowledge of the nine planets predates modern astronomy by 2,000 years. Since Sumerian cosmology counted Nibiru as the 12th celestial body in the solar system (counting the sun, Earth’s moon, Nibiru and the other nine planets), this raises some interesting questions.

For a civilization celebrating that level of astronomical advancement, this story suddenly seems to have some level of scholarly significance. If it was a mere myth or story to Sumerians, would they include Nibiru in their zodiac? That is a good question indeed.

In the end, if a Nibiru collision is sounding annoyingly familiar, that’s because doomsayers expected a Nibiru-Earth collision would occur in 2012 (amid a spectrum of other failed apocalyptic predictions). NASA spent a great deal of time assuaging fears, highlighting the total lack of scientific backing behind the delusion, but perhaps the passage of the date unabated was the best medicine.

While its failure to arrive on schedule does not necessarily disprove the existence of Nibiru, it is certainly a ding in the armor for anyone hoping to see the return of the Annunaki any time soon.

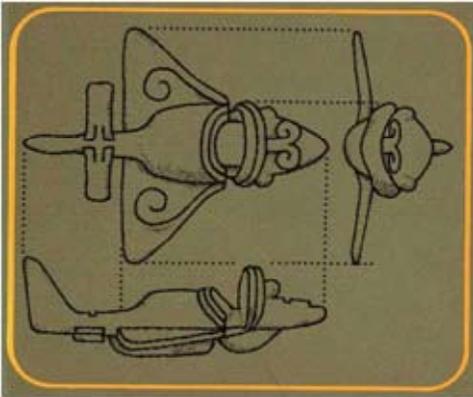
Ancient Sanskrit Texts of India

To find a pulse on the vein of ancient astronaut theory, you simply cannot escape the presence of the Vimana in the Sanskrit texts of ancient India. The Vimana are associated with modern unidentified flying objects (UFOs) and according to texts from the era, were very much capable of manned flight.

In her book, *Voices from Legendary Times: We are a bridge between past and future*, Ellen Lloyd discusses the Vaimanika Satra, a 4th century BC text written by Maharishi Bharadwaja. The amazing Vaimanika Satra sheds some light on the technical and mechanical earmarkings of the craft observed by Bharadwaja. This is an excerpted list of Vimana capabilities Lloyd highlighted from the ancient text:

1. *Goodha—permits the pilot to make his Vimana invisible to the enemies.*
2. *Paroksa—enables the pilot to paralyze other Vimanas and put them out of action.*
3. *Pralaya—pushes an electrical force through the “five-limbed aerial tube” so that the pilot may “destroy everything as in a cataclysm.”*

4. *Roopaakarshana*—enables the pilot to obtain a television view of things inside an enemy's plane.
5. *Taara*—provides the pilot with yet another means of avoiding contact with an enemy or hiding from observers. “By mixing the ethereal force 10 parts of air force, 7 parts of water force, and 16 parts of solar glow, and projecting it by means of the star-faced mirror through the frontal tube of the Vimana, the appearance of a star-spangled sky is created.”
6. *Jalada roopa*—instructs the pilot in the correct proportions of certain chemicals which will envelop the Vimana and give it “the appearance of a cloud.”



“Vimana” Photo By doctorserone on flickr

Indeed, the level of technicality, use of chemicals and weapons and the general matter-of-fact tone taken by the writer makes it sound much like an instruction manual for something similar to a modern fighter jet (yet with some serious enhancements, such as a ray gun and an invisibility cloak).

Other Sanskrit texts referenced by Lloyd, like the *Samarangana Sutradhara*, discuss the unmistakably mechanical nature of the Vimana. In the words of Lloyd, “It describes start procedures, cruising for thousands of km, normal, and emergency landings, and even possible collisions with birds.”

It is also written in the *Samarangana Sutradhara* that:

“Strong and durable must the body of the Vimana be made, like a great flying bird of light metal. Inside one must put the mercury engine with its iron heating apparatus underneath. By means of the power energy in the which (sic) sets the driving whirlwind in motion, a man sitting inside may travel a great distance in the sky.”

While the possible existence of these craft is very intriguing, perhaps their purported occupants are most fascinating. Within the *Samarangana Sutradhara*, it is written that “the heavenly beings can come down to Earth” in the Vimana. Given that bit of information, the stance ancient astronaut theorists often take is simple: The beings depicted were not heavenly or ethereal, but rather, flesh and blood aliens visiting the Earth through mechanical implements of travel.

Big Questions, Lost Answers

We may never have answers to the questions surrounding ancient texts or even fully comprehend our world today as we gaze upon the ever-expanding sky. But we can continue digging and discussing findings as evidence rolls in. Why just this last month, reports surfaced in BeforeItsNews.com and other outlets about the discovery of an alleged 300 million year old piece of machinery in Russia.

The “tooth metal rail” in question was discovered in a piece of coal by a resident of Vladivostok. Yet the findings aren’t infallible yet. BeforeItsNews.com reports, “Knowing that the coal deposits of this re-

gion date 300 million years back, Russian experts inferred that the metal detail found in these deposits must be an age-mate of the coal.”

While certainly, carbon dating of the actual metal would be far more definitive than dating the metal by association, just the prospect of the finding is exciting for the study of ancient astronaut theorists or anyone with an axe to grind in the arena.

With more questions than answers, we live in a time of great frontier: The frontier of possibly rediscovering or reframing pivotal points in our history while at once, writing the future through 21st Century scientific discovery.

It is a good time to be alive for the inquisitive mind, indeed.

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Marlon Heimerl is a writer for www.HalloweenCostumes.com, a leading online retailer of Halloween costumes, accessories and decor. A passionate student of the paranormal and fringe science, Marlon takes a skeptical and empirical approach to his research to better understand the world’s remaining mysteries.