

RANDOM HOUSE  BOOKS



Uriel's Machine

Christopher Knight and Robert Lomas

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About the Book

New geological evidence shows that in 7640 BC Earth was hit by seven comet fragments causing gigantic tidal waves. Is this the reality behind the worldwide myths of the flood? In China a cave has recently been excavated containing the remains of animals and men from around the world. Was this an 'ark' designed to survive a flood? According to Masonic tradition the Biblical character called Enoch constructed a machine that predicts the movements of the sun and moon and gives early warning of comets on an Earth collision course. The authors show that the ancient Book of Enoch, rediscovered in the eighteenth century describes how this machine should be constructed, and how Enoch's secret technology has been preserved since ancient times in Freemasonic lore.

About the Authors

Christopher Knight completed his education with a degree in advertising and graphic design. He has always had a strong interest in social behaviour and belief systems and for many years he has been a consumer psychologist involved in the planning of new products and their marketing. He is the chairman of a marketing and advertising company.

Robert Lomas gained a first class honours degree in electrical engineering before being awarded a PhD for his research into solid state physics and crystalline structures. He later worked on electronic weapon systems and has always had a keen interest in observational astronomy and the history of science. He currently lectures in Information Systems at Bradford University Management Centre.

By the same authors

The Hiram Key
The Second Messiah
The Book of Hiram

Uriel's Machine

The Ancient Origins of Science

Christopher Knight and Robert Lomas

For further information
see our website:

www.knight-lomas.com



arrow books

Dedicated to the memory of two great archaeologists:

Professor Alexander Thom.

Whose patient analysis proved the existence of the
megalithic yard.

Professor Michael O'Kelly.

Who so brilliantly resurrected Newgrange, the first wonder
of the world.

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PROLOGUE

SUPERSTITION, SKULDUGGERY AND SCIENCE

As the clocks recorded the opening second of 1 January 2000 the people on the little island of Kiribati welcomed the dawning of the third millennium. Over the next 24 hours people around the planet celebrated this special point in time with the biggest party in history.

Sydney Harbour Bridge became a blaze of fireworks, the Great Wall of China was lit from end to end, and in Jerusalem 2,000 doves were released.

However, there was one small problem: The second millennium still had 366 days left to run.

Because our calendar system did not allow for a year 0 AD, only 1,999 years had passed since the assumed birth of Jesus Christ, and the third millennium will not dawn until the beginning of January 2001.

But the powers that be had decided that they would not let this inconvenient mathematical fact prevent them from officially naming the beginning of the year 2000 to be the millennium.

This is a trivial example of the way that ideas are held to be truths when they are no more than popular conventions, unconnected to hard fact. And those who bring forward information that collides with these tribal conventions are often less than welcome.

When pre-publication copies of *Uriel's Machine* were made available to the British press, many British newspapers, such as the *Daily Express* and particularly the *Daily Mail*, reported elements of our finds objectively. Even the often

sceptical *Sunday Times* described *Uriel's Machine* as providing 'a plausible explanation of how prehistoric societies could have developed astronomical observatories such as Stonehenge for practical reasons'.

The *Guardian* dismissed the entire book in a few sentences, assuming that it must all be rubbish because it drew upon material that the journalist concerned considered to be 'obviously' unrelated.

But it was the *Daily Telegraph* that provided the most interesting response.

The small, bird-like man had sat in front of us for nearly two and a half hours. He said he had read *Uriel's Machine* and he made a series of statements to the effect that the book we were about to see published was completely wrong.

'You can't do science like this,' he shrilled repeatedly; his little hands tugging the hair at the side of his head.

'Why?' we asked.

'Because you can't. It has to be done properly. If this book was submitted as a PhD thesis it would fail.'

'I would point out that we both make our living by conducting research and, in my case, also teaching research methodology. I have a first class honours degree, a PhD in the field of physics, and I examine PhD submissions every year on behalf of my university. I can assure you that good science is simply that which makes claims which can be tested and shown to be false or otherwise,' said Robert, but to little avail.

Damien Thompson, a religious affairs correspondent, had been commissioned to write a piece on 'alternative' archaeology. We had spent most of the morning struggling to find ever simpler lay words to explain the several core claims contained in *Uriel's Machine*. Each time we received the same blank stare and the squealed mantra, 'But you can't do science like that.'

It was not so much the findings of our book that seemed to upset him, so much as the unorthodox way that we approach problems.

'You appear to have some confusion between process and results,' Chris suggested. 'Surely there can be many valid methodologies, but a result has to be fully repeatable.'

Mr Thompson finally admitted that he did not understand astronomy, or any of the basic mathematical calculations used in the book. He seemed to take pride in knowing nothing of statistics, certainly he did not know what a histogram was, and even the term 'heterodoxy' appeared to be beyond his lexicographic grasp.

This kind of attitude, where the merit of new ideas is measured not by outcomes but by adherence to convention, is unfortunately all too common. We began to wonder whether the strange 'Thompsonite' world-view might be very widespread, but then we received an invitation to deliver the 1999 John D. Mackie Memorial Lecture at the Orkney Science Festival. Being asked to give such a prestigious lecture was a great honour; especially considering that the previous year it had been delivered by Professor Lord Renfrew .

The Director of the Orkney Science Festival, anthropologist Howie Firth, was rather kinder about *Uriel's Machine* than Mr Thompson had been. He said: 'The book is superb. The argument holds together very well, and the insight that it opens in a series of varied fields, tying them in logically to each other, is very lucid.'

When the Thompson article finally appeared in the *Daily Telegraph*, it took the form of an attack on our book thinly disguised as a serious analysis of a range of 'alternative' views on the past. It was no surprise at all to find that it contained no reference to our major findings.

The attack was passionate, with a fervour of religious proportions. The problem of attacking our very down-to-earth claims was overcome by ignoring the science that we

had put forward and juxtaposing comments about our work with less than sober claims from some of the wildest books available. Thus creating the impression that we had put forward, or supported, crazy theories. The headline read:

Minoans built Stonehenge, Atlantis is based in Antarctica, Jesus was buried in France, Welcome to the bestselling world of bogus archaeology.

All pretty weird stuff; none of which we would support. Indeed, we believe that this was an attack on behalf of certain elements of the Christian establishment. It contained many inaccuracies yet it was well crafted in its aim of making serious work sound weird.

The article skipped scathingly and inaccurately through some disembodied elements of the book before making a reference to our first book, *The Hiram Key*. Thompson told his readers that the book had been ‘rubbished’ by historians and critics alike, quoting a single aggressive headline as evidence for this assertion.

The headline he chose was ‘Chris and Bob’s bogus adventure’. It did not come from any of the responsible newspapers that ran balanced coverage of our claims, but from the *Catholic Herald* – a newspaper that has repeatedly tried to savage us for putting into print our belief that the apparently supernatural events described in the New Testament may have had an altogether more prosaic meaning to the Jews of the 1st century AD.

Thompson’s full page *Telegraph* article created the impression that we had done a few month’s work to make a fortune from our writings, claiming that 1.5 million copies of *The Hiram Key* had been sold. The true number is less than this figure, and we have invested over 20 years of our time researching for our books.

Whether any reader agrees with our findings or not, they should be able to admit that there is nothing in this book that is not based upon reason. We do not believe in aliens,

flying saucers, angels, miracles, resurrected cadavers or any other imaginary nonsense.

Our problem is one of confronting entrenched tribal belief.

The whole world celebrated the coming of the third millennium after 1,999 instead of 2,000 years because that was what people wanted to believe. A religious correspondent like Damien Thompson compared our claim that a Middle Eastern man travelled to western Europe 5,150 years ago by skin-covered boat, to Erich von Daniken's belief that modern civilization sprang from alien visitations in space ships. Surely, this shows an absence of any sense of scale of likelihood?

What we are dealing with here is surely a predisposition to accept one worldview and to anathematize – and we use the word advisedly – all others as being beyond serious enquiry. Apparently it is unacceptable to believe that Stone Age man developed advanced observational astronomy but quite okay for grown men and women to believe (against all the evidence of everyday physics) that a man turned water into wine and walked upon the surface of the sea. But what is the real difference? The statistical study of ancient artefacts is a matter of analysis, which can be checked by anyone who takes the trouble to learn the mathematics needed. But the turning of water into wine and the practice of walking on water are matters of faith, which means they are not open to question.

Richard Dawkins, Professor of the Public Understanding of Science at Oxford University, made a valid point when he said:

I don't want to argue that the things a particular individual has faith in are necessarily daft. They may or may not be. The point is that there is no way of deciding whether they are or not because evidence is explicitly eschewed. The fact that true faith doesn't need evidence is held up as its greatest virtue. But it is capable of driving people to such dangerous folly that faith seems to me to qualify as a kind of mental illness.¹

In this book we have made a number of speculations based upon the latest thinking from leading experts from fields as varied as geology and biblical studies. But above all we have also made several testable claims. These are not matters of faith but scientific claims which can be, and should be, independently tested.

Here are two entirely testable discoveries that we have made as a result of our multidisciplinary approach to understanding the past:

First, we have demonstrated that some of the most important megalithic sites of the British Isles were painstakingly engineered to measure the long-term movements of the planet Venus, which provided the people who built them with a time-keeping system accurate to a few seconds over a forty-year period. The largest of these structures is nearly 1,000 years older, and physically more massive than the Great Pyramid in Egypt.[2](#)

Second, we have solved the mystery of Professor Thom's 'megalithic yard'.

In the 1960s this non-archaeologist incurred the wrath of the establishment by identifying that ancient sites from northern Scotland to Brittany all exhibited the use of a standard unit of measurement that was accurate to a fraction of a millimetre. It took years for the discovery to become accepted beyond the confines of the Royal Statistical Society, who first published the proof. But neither the good professor, nor anyone else since, has been able to understand how on Earth the megalithic builders established and repeated such a perfect measurement.

In *Uriel's Machine* we show beyond all reasonable doubt, that this prehistoric unit was created entirely from observational astronomy. We show exactly how the unit was derived and explain how it can be duplicated by anybody who wishes to repeat our experiments. By reconstructing an ancient observing machine, from instructions recorded thousands of years ago we recreated the megalithic yard.

Simple, observable factors taken from the mass of the Earth, the spin of the planet on its axis plus its annual rotation around the sun reproduced this ancient unit of length for us, just as they had once done for the ancient inhabitants of western Europe.

Science began in western Europe, not in the late middle ages as people casually believe but in the fourth millennium BC. Religion has been trying to control it ever since.

¹ Dawkins, R.: *The Selfish Gene*, OUP, 1999 p 330

² O'Kelly M. J.: *Archaeology, Art and Legend*, Thames and Hudson, 1998 p115

Chapter One

THE PROBLEM OF PREHISTORY

THE COLLAPSE OF THE FIRST PARADIGM

MAN KIND IS AN enigma in search of its own solution.

The little planet we occupy has orbited a minor star on the fringes of a rather average galaxy in a universe of unimaginable vastness for over 4.5 billion years, yet our particular species of primate arrived on the scene very recently indeed. It is humbling to realize that, when we liken the age of the earth to the life-span of an average person, mankind has existed for less than the time it takes to say '*Homo sapiens*'.

Most people imagine that mankind evolved slowly and progressively from humble primate to advanced technologist, but there is no accepted theory for the development of the world we inhabit today. Lord Renfrew, when Disney Professor of Archaeology at Cambridge University, stated that the study of prehistory is in a state of crisis:

Archaeologists all over the world have realized that much of prehistory, as written in the existing textbooks, is inadequate. Some of it is quite simply wrong . . . What has come as a considerable shock, a development hardly foreseeable just a few years ago, is that prehistory as we have learnt it is based upon several assumptions which can no longer be accepted as valid. Several commentators have spoken recently of a 'revolution' in prehistory, of the same fundamental nature as a revolution in scientific thinking. It has been suggested, indeed, that the changes now at work in prehistory herald the shift to a 'new

paradigm', an entire new framework of thought, made necessary by the collapse of the 'first paradigm'.¹

The previously accepted paradigm of the origins of civilization assumed that advanced ideas sprang out of nowhere approximately 10,000 years ago. Across the world organized communities suddenly emerged, dogs became domesticated, boats were built, animal husbandry began, crops were planted, cities started to be erected and trading commenced.

This is all very recent indeed when we consider that manufactured stone tools recently found in the Gona River region of Ethiopia have been dated at between 2.5 million and 2.6 million years old. Knowing that tool technology has been around for such a huge period of time, the question we have to ask is: Why, after at least 100,000 generations of stagnating technology, did these 'ignorant cavemen' turn so suddenly into smart social creatures that gave rise to the great civilizations of the world? Roger Lewin, writing in *New Scientist* magazine, focused on the strangeness of the situation:

The invention and spread of agriculture is central to the history of humanity. For more than 100,000 years, humans subsisted in widely varied environments by foraging for food. Then, in a brief moment of prehistory starting about 10,000 years ago, people began to domesticate animals and plants in half a dozen 'centres of origin' in the Old and New Worlds.

Clearly, something is very wrong. The old theory of the development of civilization was formed out of assumptions made by Victorian observers and then built on by various experts at the beginning of the 20th century. The paradigm that became accepted grew and changed over time but a number of key points in human development were generally accepted until very recently. These beliefs included:

- Around 40,000 years ago modern man (*Homo sapiens sapiens*) appeared.

- Around 12,000 years ago, Asiatic hunter-gatherers wandered across a land-bridge that then connected the Bering Strait, and settled an empty America.
- Around 10,000 years ago, organized farming communities began, dogs were domesticated, boats were built and trading started.
- Around 5,000 years ago, cities were invented in Sumer, and from there all the arts of civilization – architecture, specialization of labour, writing, mathematics, astronomy and record-keeping – spread out to civilize the rest of the world.

Over recent years archaeology has undergone a major revolution, with new scientific methods of analysis now available to replace the hypotheses of experts. Particularly important has been the huge improvement in our ability to date artefacts, which has shown that the key points above are simply incorrect. As a result, there is now a vacuum in our knowledge of prehistory.

OUT OF THE APES

So, where did human life start? Well, current thinking suggests that we started out as a microscopic blob that caught a cold!

Lynn Margulis of Boston University developed a theory that life as we know it first started as a disease, and that the genes we carry within us contain a symbiotic parasite.² The very first life on Earth was simple single-celled creatures which were too inefficient biologically ever to develop into complex modern life-forms such as mammals. However, when they were infected by a simple bacterium, the combined inner chemistry of the two organisms allowed them to extract energy from oxygen. The breathing single-cell entities now had access to enough energy to grow into new organisms that were made up of many cells.

This breathing combination of cell and parasite has been immensely efficient at producing the essential components of cell growth. Every multi-cellular plant and animal on the planet today has mitochondria which can all be traced back to those original infected host cells, and both the human egg and sperm cells contain mitochondria. During fertilization, the mitochondria of the sperm are not incorporated into the fertilized egg and consequently, mitochondrial genes are transmitted to offspring only by the mother, whose fertilized egg contains about 200,000 molecules of mitochondrial DNA (mDNA).

Over time, mutations occurred, so that the mitochondrial chromosomes of various human families gradually diverged and differences became more and more distinct over thousands of years. Because mDNAs do not recombine with each other, every human female retains an inbuilt coded record of her evolutionary history back to the dawn of our species, and beyond.

Geneticist Wesley Brown of the Howard Goodman Laboratory of the University of California realized that it should be theoretically possible to use mDNA to trace back all the linkages in the human species until he found the great-grandmother of all mitochondrial chromosomes, from which all others had descended. It also occurred to him that, in the process, he might reach so far back in time that the creature carrying the ancestral chromosome would not be human at all. Brown built his mitochondrial family tree and was surprised to pinpoint a relatively recent common female ancestor for all living humans. According to his calculations, every person on the planet today evolved from a small, mitochondrially monomorphic point somewhere between 180,000 and 360,000 years ago. In simple terms, this means that there was a single female from which all of mankind is descended. Understandably, Brown dubbed this unknown woman 'Mitochondrial Eve'.[3](#)

This was a staggering result. Human evolution is known to have taken many millions of years, yet just 200,000 or 300,000 years ago, there was a woman from whom all 6,000,000,000 people today have sprung. Allen Wilson, the leader of the research group which made this discovery, has always emphasized that this 'Mitochondrial Eve' had a small but unknown number of companions of both sexes who had contributed copies of their nuclear DNA to our gene pool but the implication is clear: all races of man are very close family members.

Our extended family is also much closer than most people realize. Molecular biologists have now identified from the study of DNA that our genes are about 98 per cent the same as the African apes. Sociologists have also established that every aspect of human social behaviour, from child beating to ice-cream craving is linked to some hidden evolutionary motive with a counterpart among every mammal, from lemurs to zebras.⁴ Yet clearly we are very different.

Anthropologist James Shreeve explained the problem well when he said:

The fact is, human beings - modern humans, Homo sapiens sapiens - are behaviourally far, far away from being 'just another animal'. The mystery is where, how, and why change took place. There are no answers to be found in the vast bulk of hominid time on the planet. The gartel has been raised higher. An 'all-important transition' did occur, but it happened so close to the present moment that we are still reeling from it. Somewhere in the vestibule of history, just before we started keeping records on ourselves, something happened that turned a passably precocious animal into a human being.⁵

The first creature officially categorized as 'man' - *Homo erectus* - appears to have migrated out of Africa between 1.7 and two million years ago, spreading out across the warm temperate zones of southern Europe and Asia as far as Indonesia. By 300,000 years ago, our ancestors had reached the colder areas as far north as the British Isles.

THE CAVEMAN MYTH