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Paleo-contact and the Ancient Astronauts Hypothesis

A pseudo-scientific or gender debate?

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A Return to the Heavens

Since the time of the Old Kingdom (2600 – 2150 BCE) in Egypt there has been a theme of returning to the sky. The ascent of the king's soul was a return to his rightful place, his immortal life with the divine.[1]

Plato carried this idea forward with his discourse on the human soul, defining it as a spark of the divine and thus its natural desire was to return and reunite with the heavenly divine. In the natural history of the soul, its native environment was thus the sky. [*Timaeus* 30a-b, 41e-42b]

In this way the return to the heavens, the ascent of the soul, became a religious principle.

However in the 1960s a different heavenly discourse emerged in the popular press.

1. see, Davis, Whitney M., 'The Ascension-Myth in the Pyramid Texts', *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*, 36 (1977), 161-179.

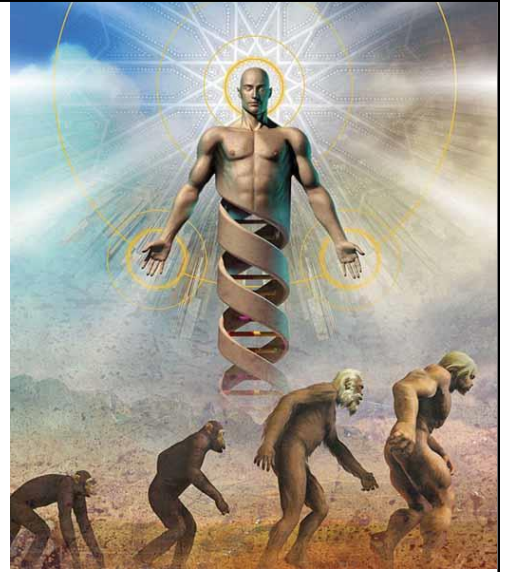
OUR ORIGINS – EARTH OR SKY?

Natural Theology

Charles Darwin in the 19th century pointed to the Earth and proposed that life evolved on earth and thus did not require a god.

Contrary to popular belief this did not really challenge the Intelligent Design (ID) theory.

In 1802 William Paley (1743-1805) formulated a version of ID which he called *Natural Theology*, and used a watchmaker analogy to argue that complexity and adaptation in nature demonstrated God's benevolent and perfect design, for the good of humans.



The Intelligent Design (ID) theory. God has a plan and oversees evolution.

1960s

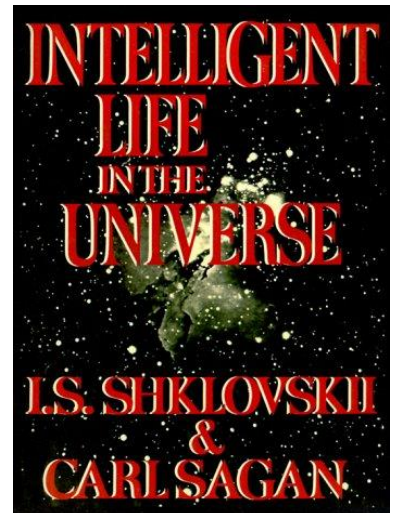
**God was replaced as the architect of ID.
Paleo-contact and the ancient astronauts hypothesis.**

In 1966 Carl Sagan and I. S. Shklovskii published, *Intelligent Life in the Universe*.

In this they proposed the possibility of paleo-contact and extra-terrestrial visitation.



One of the 'logos' of this idea is this New Kingdom Egyptian image – sources unknown.



Intelligent Life in the Universe, I.S. Shklovskii co author, Random House, 1966, (note: republished in 1998 by Emerson-Adams Press)

Paleo-contact and the ancient astronauts hypotheses.

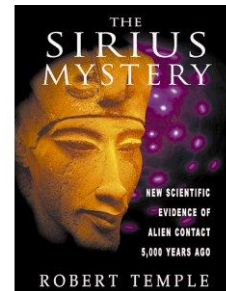
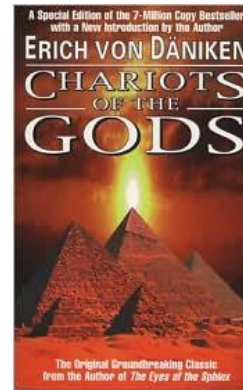
The theory gained great popularity by the work of:
Erich Anton Paul von Däniken. Author of *Chariots of the Gods* published in 1968

Around the same time, Peter Kolosimo (1922-1984) wrote in Italian
Not from Earth, published in 1969

Other notable paleo-contact theory authors are :

- Giorgio A. Tsoukalos (1978 -) - TV presenter and director of the Erich von Danken Center for Ancient Astronauts Research.
- Zecharia Sitchin (1920 – 2010) Russian author who claimed that Sumerian mythology reflected contact with aliens.
- Robert K. G. Temple(1945 -) Author of the *Sirius Mystery* (1976).

The Paleo-contact web site - <http://paleocontact.com/>



OUR ORIGINS – EARTH OR SKY?

Paleo-Contact

Thus in the 1960s, at the time of the Apollo missions, the Paleo-contact and the ancient astronauts hypothesis emerged.

This theory basically suggests, in different ways, that the modern human is the result of interbreeding of aliens with either proto-humans already on earth or that earth was colonised by aliens which we now call humans.

Thus humans, as an animal, are not a product, or not the sole product, of the earth.



The Apollo Missions started in 1961
– completed in 1975

OUR ORIGINS – EARTH OR SKY?

Fred Hoyle's (1915 – 2001) 'junkyard tornado' argument made in 1981 against Darwinism:

The chance that higher life forms might have emerged in this way is comparable to the chance that a tornado sweeping through a junkyard might assemble a Boeing 747 from the materials therein.'

The **Junkyard Tornado** argument challenges Darwinism and has been used to support to the idea of some style of intervention (God) or impregnation (Alien) was required to enable life on earth, or inject into life on earth a level of intelligence.

Fred Hoyle(1983): "The Intelligent Universe", p. 17. The Boeing 747 metaphor was first reported in Nature, 294 (1981), p.10

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SO MUCH FOR THAT ARGUMENT



HUMAN ORIGINS

ARE WE:
A DIVINE DESIGN?
CHILD OF THE EARTH?
CHILD OF THE SKY?

Earth Sha-Man

From:

<http://www.meetup.com/Philadelphia-Shamanism-Metaphysics-and-Spirituality/files/>

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Panspermia

This is the theory that life exists thought out the universe and arrived on earth through micro organism on meteorites.

Life was a seed
planted into the
earth from space.



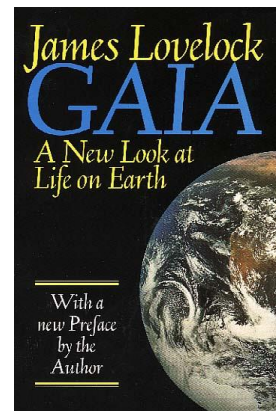
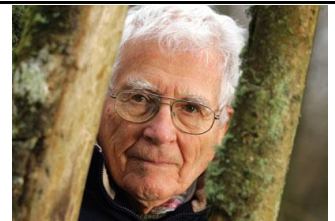
Sir Fred Hoyle and Chandra Wickramasinghe were influential proponents of panspermia suggest that earth was 'injected' with life from space and that even outbreaks of new diseases could be due to this continual injection of life forms from space.

OUR ORIGINS – EARTH OR SKY?

Gaia Theory – another point of view

The Gaia hypothesis (James Lovelock) first formulated in the 1960s, postulates that the biosphere is a **self-regulating entity** with the capacity to keep our planet healthy by controlling the chemical and physical environment.

The Gaia theory supports the notion of Complexity that the Earth, having been created from the cosmos, was now acting as 'mother' which produced and nurtured all life independent of outside influences. This is reflective of **parthenogenesis in nature** – no external entity need to add a vital component.



Lovelock, James (2000) [1979]. *Gaia: A New Look at Life on Earth* (3rd ed.). Oxford University Press.

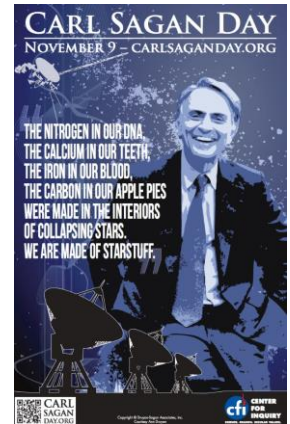
OUR ORIGINS – EARTH OR SKY?

Sagan's Star Stuff

*The nitrogen in our DNA
The calcium in our teeth
The iron in our blood,
The carbon in our apple pies
were made in the interiors of
collapsing stars.
We are made of starstuff.*

Carl Sagan 1980.

Sagan considered
the origin of the
elements rather
then their
arrangement in life.



*Our loyalties are to the species and the planet. We speak
for Earth. Our obligation to survive is owed not just to
ourselves but also to that Cosmos, ancient and vast, from
which we spring.*

Sagan, C. (1980). *Cosmos*, London, Macdonald Futura, 1981. p.345

OUR ORIGINS – EARTH OR SKY?

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Issue Date: June 10, 2013 | Web Date: June 7, 2013

Ancient Rocks Suggest Meteorites Brought Life's Phosphorus To Earth

Origins of Life: Reactive phosphorus compounds
eventually became part of DNA, RNA, cell
membranes

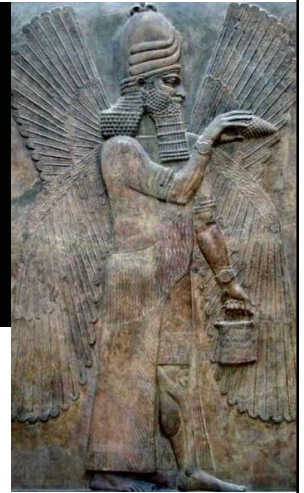
By **Carmen Drahl**

<http://cen.acs.org/articles/91/i23/Ancient-Rocks-Suggest-Meteorites-Brought.html> accessed 30 June 2013.





Is earth our mother?
Is space our father?
Are these arguments gender stereotypes?



If we have a 'father' and popular culture sees this as space
does 'father' just add life seeds or does 'father' provide
fully formed humans – aliens?

Some references on paleo-contact

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