ETs and Ancient Astronauts are Illuminati Propaganda

article extracted from Truth Campaign issue 25 with additional material

Foreword by Ivan Fraser

Over the last 30 years or so there has been increasing interest in the 'ancient astronaut' thesis. Although this fascination with 'real' alien visitors essentially hit mainstream consciousness with the works of Erik Von Daniken and Zecharia Sitchin, the population has been mentally prepared for the aliens since the beginning of the 20th century by science-fiction in books, comics, movies and tv shows. It is so innate to our collective psyche today that there are very few who do not relate the idea of UFOs to extra-terrestrial beings, and have an immediate mental image of the 'greys' and the similar spindly beings of Spielberg's Close Encounters, or Whitley Streiber's Communion, as their archetypal representation of these same off-world entities.

Today there are numerous TV documentaries asking the questions about whether or not we are being visited by extra-terrestrial beings, and countless books and websites promoting 'the truth' about our alien co-inhabitees of the universe. Furthermore, any amount of New Age psychics and channellers are also preaching 'the word' as 'given to them' by ET cousins.

Given that the universe is such a massive place, and given that there is so much material and evidence for ETs and their activities, isn't it verging on insanity to suggest that there may actually be another reason entirely for such things? How can all of these experiences, books, scholars, and even currently a growing number of scientists and government 'insiders' be mistaken?

Well, one could summarize that briefly, and one would make no impact on a mind that has already taken the view expressed above. But I would sincerely

hope that as it takes an open mind to accept such conventionally outlandish ideas as alien visitation, the reader would try and remain equally open-minded, in assessing the contents of what follows.

'But we've read a thousand books on the subject. There is no doubt. Even if they aren't all entirely accurate, one thing's for sure - the common element - and that is ETs exist and they are visiting this planet, have been for centuries, and probably have an agenda for our future.'

To suggest otherwise is heresy. Right?

At least it is increasingly so these days. Ever wondered about that; how something so suppressed and 'true' should be so increasingly accepted by the mainstream, when all along we have been told that 'they' don't want us to know this?

What if such a mindset has been engineered? What if it is being designed in such a way that the entire alien visitor scenario is what the powers-that-be WANT us to replace our religions and belief systems with?

But why? Surely there's a history of government and Intel suppression of this information? They wouldn't hide and suppress what they want us to believe would they?

Well, yes. Firstly, they aren't hiding it! They are steadily creating an air of mystery and allowing us to come to the very conclusions that we are. It's reverse psychology really. And the Illuminati know all about how to control mass mentality.

If all this was so secret, do you really think that all these 'insiders' would still be free and on talk shows, in magazines, and books spreading this top-secret material, having signed national security agreements? Would there be so much availability of this supposedly 'secret' subject in mainstream media? The same media that clearly manages to heavily suppress and distort most of the other material that concerns those in the 'conspiracy' area.

Why, if history shows us that the first UFO organisations that were accusing the CIA and governments of covering up the truth of alien visitors, were actually CIA and government agents, should we believe that suddenly, today, everything they told us was true?

The earliest pro-ET lobbyists were organisations such as NICAP (the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena), which were riddled with former military and Intelligence personnel, such as Donald Keyhoe, a former Pentagon Major involved in investigating the German

UFO technology during WW2, Roscoe Hillenkoetter a former CIA director, and several CIA Psychological Warfare Division personnel, such as Joseph Bryan etc. These are the people who, from the outset of the ET myth, were actively creating it!

And why should the CIA and governments have been so interested in ploughing energy into creating UFO groups and cults, if what they say is true? Clearly there's something big belying this agenda, and it certainly is not what those agents told us was going on. The one thing we can be damned sure of is that it isn't alien visitation.

For decades following WW2, the major aeronautics companies such as Boeing and Lockheed, were engaged in the development of saucer-shaped craft (this really took off, excuse the pun, after 1957) . These craft, and more conventional, though secret, craft were being tested; U2 spyplanes, and others were being mobilized, and the CIA had found a way to confuse the Soviets, and the general populace, by hiding these craft in plain sight. Eye-witnesses' stories were spun into tales of extraterrestrial encounters, the news media and magazines like Time and Life had stories planted by the CIA, wherein 'anonymous' government and intelligence sources were 'spilling the beans' on extraterrestrial visitation in saucer-shaped craft. CIA groups like NICAP (subliminally, this rearranges into PANIC!) were lobbying furiously in public and gathering a pro-ET following, actively accusing the government of covering up ET visitation. On the other side of the equation, the government and military were continually officially denying the entire UFO-ET connection, thereby giving the populace the impression that it was 'hiding the truth' about the extraterrestrial visitors.

Later, solitary eye-witnesses would be sometimes abducted and false memories and crude chip devices implanted, so that they would become star witnesses and prophets in an ever-growing new religion of extraterrestrial close encounter-based cultism. The development of ET-based cults was largely a blowback from the disinformation exercise, wherein those of a religious disposition would find other avenues to receive their saviours and satisfy their need for a 'higher power'. Other cult groups would be actively created and encouraged, such as those following the Council of Nine - a council of 9 gods channelled through 'chosen ones' - chosen ones chosen and tutored under the wing of Andrija Puharich, a psychologist formerly (?) part of the CIA's MK-ULTRA mind-control project, specialising in developing drug, radio and hypnotic methods to implant signals directly into the brain!

Despite the technicalities of Mind Control, advanced engineering etc. this really is a simple swindle - although the simplest swindles are often the most effective. The governments and the Intelligence agencies are operating at a high level in concert - the one side denying the position of the other, but both

acting by admission or omission to promote in the minds of the public the 'overwhelming evidence' that ETs are visiting Earth in UFOs. It is a swindle that has been sustained for the last half a century. Why mess with a winning formula?

Why do so many people, even those well-versed in UFO lore, not know that the alien stories ORIGINATED in the Intelligence community, when they are also being told BY THE SAME community that the Intel and Govt. arena is deliberately HIDING these truths?

What kind of mental gymnastics does it take to accept that the government is hiding the truth, whilst relying on their agents FOR the information about ETs and UFOs?

The answer is simple: our minds and opinions are being manipulated AWAY from the truth by simple sleight-of-hand magicians' tricks. Whilst we are all looking at the interesting and enthralling spectacle, we are missing the real action, and failing to notice the simple way the deception is achieved. In doing so, we are continually speculating about all manner of conspiracies and hidden technologies, as well as occult realities that vested interests certainly do not want us delving into.

Why are so many authors performing these same mental gymnastics and writing books that expose the Illuminati conspiracy whilst giving one of their conspiracies as reason behind the agenda? If we take the work of David Icke, for example, he has written thousands of pages exposing the Illuminati, but underpins it entirely with Zecharia Sitchin's erroneous and fantastical interpretations of ancient history - the evidence for which is given below. At the same time, Icke claims Sitchin to be a disinformant, as well as claiming that he has attended sacrificial Illuminati rituals in which he transformed into a reptilian. If Sitchin is one of the bad guys then why is he telling the truth about the ETs? I don't believe - as has been rumoured - that Icke is himself a deliberate disinformant, but I do believe that Icke has much to do to re-evaluate his books and understand how much of what he writes comes from disinformation sources (as I pointed out, even from sources he himself identifies as unreliable). It's no use relying on one or two authors to give you the basis of an entire all-encompassing thesis, and relying on cross-referencing authors that all sing from the same hymn sheet, unless you have done enough research into that subject yourself and can understand it sufficiently to be able to decide that those authors are actually properly representing the topic. One can read a hundred books all telling the same story and believe one is well-read in that field, and adopt that version as one's belief system. Icke is merely one example, and perhaps the most popular, of those authors and lecturers who appear to provide a massive amount of evidence and references for their theses, when in fact they are

merely replicating work of a handful of other authors who share the commonalities that fit where the author wishes to 'come from'.

The above is merely one example of how the Intelligence community set information sources against each other, providing various 'angles' on a subject to fit the reader's particular mindset, but always keeping the common factor the same. Icke, like most people, works on the basis of documenting 'commonalities', and often points out that although there are many versions of the same story, it is the 'common interconnecting themes' inherent in his documentation that are the evidence for the verity of his explanations. However, creating many 'versions' of disinformation is an integral part of the manipulation. Creating 200 variants on who, why and what, the aliens are, gives people apparent choice as to which version to believe, or whether to synthesise their own version. BUT, it isn't the one version of the scenario that the Intel community are trying to implant (at least not yet), it is merely that the people will accept the CENTRAL THEME - that is the Aliens. They provide a data-hungry audience with a jigsaw puzzle and 'challenge' them to put it together, but they remove key pieces. So the intrepid researcher nearly always ends up piecing together the picture that 'they' want him to, but usually with subtle variations on the central theme. Then, later, other authors rely on such ideas as the basis of their own, but tend to wish to take it a step further, to be a bit cleverer, more insightful, than the last. And so the myths develop many tentacles, whereas the main body remains the central and unifying factor. Of course, that central unifying factor was false to begin with, but given time, nobody bothers to check out the deductions that led to the original idea in the first place; and what we are left with is a hundred and one variations on an erroneous theme, such as found in religions and New Age beliefs. Even science and history all come down to us built upon the dogmas of our forebears. It builds up like an inverted triangle. Of those who do decide to look at things from the first principle and get to the root of the thing, most are overwhelmed by the task at hand because they spend so much time sifting through the very works of those spin-off authors and find the original documentation to be rare, out of print, or whatever, and that it's still tempting to just go along with one of the pre-prepared theories already in existence.

I am no exception to this. As a researcher, I understand how easy it is to get caught up in the red herrings, and how difficult, time-consuming and expensive it is to verify data and explore theories from the bottom up, rather than simply accept the words of others who appear to have done all the work for you. But with each passing week, I am becoming ever more aware of just how much information that is available on these subjects has simply been collated and BELIEVED without being checked out, and have become enormously popular ideas amongst those that consume them as readers. If only the readers knew how much material out there is simply unreliable, and

how much these authors only appear to have researched it for themselves, and how many people set themselves up as authorities whilst having merely a smattering of knowledge on their subject, I think the sales of books, seminars and lectures by these personalities would plummet.

People are being groomed en masse into cults of personalities of authors and lecturers pontificating about aliens and conspiracies and ascended masters and all sorts of shallow material, whilst being entirely unaware that they are being so manipulated. They have been told, therefore believe, that the personality will reveal so much, and they trust that the author or presenter has thoroughly examined the subject. But nine times out of ten, the author is merely dressing up their own belief system in apparently new clothes, from the very material that created their belief system and cult mentality in the first place. The authors often do not realise they are wrong, and that their truth is a belief-system, and so usually begin proceedings by telling their audience that they are against religion and cults and orthodoxy etc. And the audience is impressed by that, finds a kindred sceptic in their preferred source, and ends up becoming a part of an alternative belief system that believes it is now free and onto 'the truth', rather than being one of 'them', a 'straight' or an 'unawakened' or 'unenlightened' one. It all serves to make the New Age and alternative conspiracy community feel rather special.

Again, I do not divorce myself from this phenomenon. I too am at the mercy of my sources, and I too feel I have an important message for people to consider. I believe in the verity of what I believe and provide reason and evidence. Which is why I am always at pains to ask people to think for themselves and try and verify any information provided by me or anyone else. All I try and do is make sense of things as best I can and put it up for consideration. Authors, researchers, lecturers, presenters, journalists, scholars etc. are all readers too; not necessarily as wise or knowledgeable as they may appear, no matter how many pages they churn out. I've met many people who have never written an article or a book who are far more knowledgeable about such things than many recognised authors on certain topics. And yet, it is these recognised characters who are fast becoming the new authorities and priests of the new breed of New Age and related cultic movements. And most of them are singing from the same sheet. So there's little difference really, and the reader's choice is largely an illusion. Just as for centuries the West was divided fundamentally into Catholics and Protestants, and few thought to consider that there may be an alternative to Christianity in the first place, so too today there are increasingly many people who are failing to consider that there may be an alternative to the ET central core theme.

For many the issue is settled, and no amount of scepticism or 'debunking' will convince them otherwise.

If a host of cults and belief systems can be created now, it is only a matter of wheeling out the advanced technology and a bunch of 'experts' later to unite those diverse believers into a unified belief system. If all of those pre-prepared believers believe in the common theme of aliens, the process should be fairly easy. The rest of the herd will go along with it too, because who isn't going to believe a fly-by of UFO craft, combined with news footage of alien artefacts and accredited experts stating that 'we now know scientifically that ETs are visiting Earth', whilst on the other channel are a bunch of experts on ancient writings showing how the ancient texts tell us that these beings have been here for millennia, busily telling us that pictures of old art and symbolism are really spacecraft and alien life-forms? The newspapers will be full of this most amazing revelation of the age - the headlines will be unavoidable. Suddenly, everything will make sense to the man in the street, who is prone to believing anything an 'expert' tells him, and will promptly rush out and buy as many Icke, Sitchin and related books as he can find. Everything he reads in those books will reinforce the evidence he has been given and he will never think to question or look for himself. He will wonder why he never 'got it' in the first place and will bow to the superiority of all those at whom he scoffed in the past, and they will gladly provide him with everything he needs to know.

Oh the joy that will be felt around the world, when finally everyone joins the new reality and is 'awakened'. But those pesky religious types will need sorting out for the greater good of all, of course! The heretics and infidels of the old ways, those pagans and heathens who cannot understand or accept the clear Truth!

Hang on, where have I heard that before? Why am I put in mind of the Inquisition, the witchtrials and the various religious purges of the last few thousand years?

Don't assume it won't happen, because it always did before, and there's no reason to suspect that in time to come this new religion will not be exactly the same foundation for intolerance and mass mind control as those that preceded it.

Another author to influence the conspiracy and New Age community with his own version of the ET mythos, William Cooper, realised a few years before his death that he had been used in a clever scam - to convince people that aliens were visiting Earth, manipulating people through a network of conspiratorial organisations that the Earth's governments were colluding with. But still, today, his book Behold A Pale Horse remains a widely-quoted

script for the 'exposure' of the ET agenda. How many people realise that only several years after releasing that book, Cooper retracted the whole alien connection? Not only that, but many books have since been based upon this book, such as David Icke's Robot's Rebellion and its follow-up works, that maintain the exact same basis as the cornerstone of the world view represented therein. Like myself, he made the transition and broke away from the mould of the community he was essentially part of. He wasn't afraid to let go of his beliefs and dogmas and tell things as he saw them. I recommend that the reader also reads MAJESTYTWELVE by Bill Cooper.

ETs sell books - but as experience has shown me, giving the alternative, no matter how reasonable or well-referenced, does not attract much attention. It is exciting and stimulating to consider that the sci-fi we grew up with as children may actually be true. The more sensational and outlandish, the more promises that 'this book reveals more' than the others, the more people will buy them. The bigger the lie, the more people will believe it. And the Illuminati know this all too well.

We have come so far now down the ET road that the mass belief has become a NEW RELIGION; one rejected as such by its adherents. It is a belief that is now 'the truth' to so many people. Such adherents - like members of all cults - do not consider their own beliefs to be cultic or religious. How can the 'truth' be 'religion'?

We are not infallible. We can not be expected to know everything. We are ALL at the mercy of our sources, and we take on faith the accuracy of their data. If you want to find the truth in anything, never be afraid of re-evaluating your beliefs.

This conspiracy to replace the old gods and revise history with swathes of extra-terrestrial beings and introduce a new religion for a new scientific age, is so stealthy, so ingrained and so vast that I do not blame anyone for accepting such scenarios as 'the truth'. Indeed, several years ago, I too would have offered the ancient astronaut hypothesis as the most likely candidate to explain any number of mysteries and conventionally-inexplicable phenomena. Yes, I too have read these books and been fascinated since early childhood with the idea of alien visitation; many a time I have gazed at the night skies for hours in the hope that I would witness a UFO. And yes, on a few occasions I have seen them!

Towards the late 1990s I began to find many answers to those same questions that create alien beliefs, that had nothing to do with ETs. I either had to keep my own mind open and accept that I may have been wrong - which the new data showed me was the case - or I could have remained

cocooned in a belief system, and used 'the aliens are responsible' as a convenient answer to those very anomalies and mysteries.

I spoke to many people who were primarily interested in UFO and alien research, and none were aware of the data I was starting to collate, and none were able to provide answers or give as reasonable an explanation for the phenomena we were discussing. That situation has not changed.

'But aren't you just a sceptic? There are loads of debunkers who just either haven't seen all the data or are misinformationists.'

Good question, and a very common one. There are simple sceptics that take the conventional views and ridicule alternative free-thinking. I am certainly not one of them. Anyone familiar with my work will know that I have spent many years experiencing and investigating occultism, the paranormal, psychism, and of late science and history of 'unexplained' phenomena. I have always advocated such research and always accepted as normal the reality of multiple dimensions, psychic phenomena, inter-dimensional communication, and have always leaned towards the New Age modes of thought. But I have always remained sceptical of claims that I have not explored in sufficient detail for myself.

And yes, there are many debunkers and sceptics who offer the shallowest of debunking material and deserve to be discredited. However, just as Intel have agents in the field putting these alien stories into circulation, they also have a lot of those opposing that same material. This is deliberate, in order that the debunkers can be themselves debunked by the UFO community, and thereby give greater credence to the alien agenda. It is not because official sources and debunkers are bad at obscuring the truth about alien visitation that they never provide credible explanations for the UFO reports, it is because they are supposed to make such a hash of it that the average researcher or reader will feel that they have the opposition 'sussed', which reinforces their belief in the alien agenda and that the government/Intel/Illuminati are trying to keep it 'hushed up'.

People naturally feel rather chuffed when they believe they have outsmarted the opposition. This reinforces a belief system splendidly. The Illuminati know that, and they are a lot cleverer than the vast majority of us!

It is not for me to tell anyone what or how to believe, nor to impose my own beliefs on anyone else, but on this matter I do implore those readers who now wish to reject outright the following material, to read on. You may have read a thousand books on the following subjects and NEVER been presented

with the data below; even if you believe you have read just about everything going and are convinced that this is a closed subject.

If you believe that ETs are visiting planet Earth, that they founded civilisation, have an agenda for mankind or that they are merely benevolent 'watchers' of mankind (or all the above), THINK AGAIN! That's what you are SUPPOSED to believe, as far as I am concerned. I believe you have been fooled. Accept that or not, but from what I have gathered over the years, that is my firm belief. Do not reject it outright as 'but that's just your belief', but examine the data and the reasoning behind it, and decide for yourself what makes sense.

The mechanics of the inter-dimensional mind is such that it is very difficult to escape belief systems. The collective unconscious is a swarming mass of archetypes and ideas that affect us perpetually. Unless we can learn to separate the external influence of the sea of energy around us from the mind that lies within us, and truly think for ourselves, we are easily victims of those who know how to manipulate the information coming into our heads and minds through the five senses, as well as the occult fields.

What is actually being hidden from plain sight by the programming of people to see 'aliens' where they are not, is profound! Real technology, NOT back-engineered alien technology, but real technology based on physics that is over 100 years old which has been obscured and written out of the text books - if it ever managed to sneak into them at all, that is. The same physics that lies behind the engineering of flying discs is also that which would provide free and clean power. And that same physics works on principles that also explain many other so-called mysteries or 'paranormal phenomena'. No wonder it is hidden!

The science we see on show today is over 50 years behind that which exists in secret.

Concurrently, the cover-stories are being used to create a new religion that replaces and brings together the other out-dated religions, much as Christianity did 2000 years ago. Steadily, it was manufactured out of diverse religious sources across the Roman empire, and used to control those people of other religions with a 'one size fits all' Catholic one. The consequences of which have been a disaster for mankind - eons of mental and spiritual slavery, as well as the cause of genocides. Religion is the ideal tool of control, and currently 'the ETs' are the racing cert for being the basis of the next biggie.

People are already being condescended to and even ridiculed in websites and magazines for not believing in the aliens. They are already becoming a new

generation of HERETICS. It won't be too long before we start to see a more sinister mentality growing in the 'believers', as extremist factions begin to form and the course of the new religion inevitably takes the same one as that of the other main religions of history.

Are you honest enough and courageous enough to reconsider deeply held beliefs and realities? Or are you convinced that the ETs are out there and they are coming and no amount of 'debunking' will convince you otherwise?

It's your choice. I wish you well in whatever view you take.

The bigger the lie, the more people will believe it. If you know the truth, then you cannot be taken in by the lie. However, if you believe lies, then all you will find is evidence to reinforce the illusion. The only solution is a truly open mind, a willingness to shed one's dogmas no matter how dearly cherished, and absolute honesty.

The following, albeit lengthy, compilation of articles merely scratch the surface of the matter at hand. The subject is worthy of at least several volumes of books, as there are so many interrelated topics to consider.

In my own comments, I have drawn on the work of Prof. L A Waddell to explain some of the historical data of ancient Sumer. Most readers may be familiar with Waddell through the recent works of David Icke. In my view, Icke has done a great service in explaining the intricacies of the Illuminati agenda, but has made the fundamental error of combining Waddell's work with that of Sitchin to create a hybridised false version of history, and used that false history as the entire basis of his current world view. In Waddell's history there are no extraterrestrials - and to the ancients the only extra-terrestrials were the heavenly bodies, and these became the 'gods and the watchers and teachers of mankind. They were often humanized (albeit supernaturally so) or expressed in totemic animal form or hybrids of both. But the ancients did not recognise the concept of alien beings riding in ships from outer space and interacting with mankind! Waddell does indeed need to be tempered with data from other fields - especially in the region of ancient mythology, which he sometimes confused for real history despite his invaluable insights into this field. He failed to realise the full extent to which ancient historical characters became fused with cultural mythologies, and where the origins of these mythologies lay. Almost inevitably, such characters became fused in cultural histories with archetypes of ancient mythology based around the cycles of nature, ancient astronomy etc. I do not go into these elements below, but urge the reader to look at the work of

Acharya S, Gerald Massey etc. to see where these mythologies derived from and how.

One MUST study comparative mythology to understand the meaning behind the stories that are today being passed off as tales of ancient extraterrestrials. One CANNOT rely on the accuracy of the likes of Sitchin and Icke to portray these myths as they were understood by their creators. If one studies for oneself the same mythologies presented throughout the globe, one finds that there are many different versions of the same myths that clearly do not even hint at extraterrestrials, but instead reveal an early form of scientific explanation of natural phenomena using that which was visible and observed by the ancients as similes.

Ivan Fraser

Refuting Zecharia Sitchin's Ancient Astronauts and Planet X Theses

updated article taken from The Truth Campaign magazine issue 25

I really don't want to belabour the point re Sitchin and Planet X etc. but for the fact that these kinds of theories have taken such a dramatic hold of so many people's views on the ancients and impact upon their views of the present and future (doomsday prophecies etc). Currently, the most popular doomsday prophecy doing the rounds is the Planet X theory, which basically states that a rogue planet with a massive orbit will be returning in 2003 to cause catastrophe on Earth. This theory has developed over the years and is first to be found in the works of Zecharia Sitchin.

While there are so many people quoting the 'Sumerian texts' straight from Sitchin, or indirectly from the other sources who have also directly or indirectly replicated his bizarre interpretations, I feel we cannot simply ignore the impact this one man has had on the entire New Age movement. More importantly, we must consider the very real implications for our future if this revisionist movement continues at the pace it is going.

Amongst the popular authors who have used erroneous material from Sitchin are Graham Hancock and Robert Beauval, who relied on Sitchin's assertion that the Great Pyramid at Giza had no evidence within it to show it was built in the 3rd millennium BC. They took him at his word that essential data – an inscription inside the pyramid relating to Khufu – was actually a later piece of fraudulent graffiti. Fortunately, Hancock has now assessed this himself

and agrees that the inscription *is* of Khufu and it does prove that the pyramid was constructed no earlier than Khufu's reign.

Another author – whose current theories regarding an extraterrestrial race seeding manipulating bloodlines in the ancient world are built upon Sitchin's ideas – is David Icke. Icke has recently written two very popular books based on this theory and has in the process contaminated the superb work of Prof. L A Waddell with the disinformation of Sitchin. Again, the average reader is unlikely to have the knowledge-base with which to deconstruct the kind of mess which Icke has created of history by combining good source material with disinformation.

I too am guilty of accepting Sitchin's translations at face value and used some of them in my earlier work. Like many others, I had read the superlative commendations about Sitchin's scholarship and had not yet looked outside of Sitchin and Alford's *Gods of the New Millennium* at the wide range of sources concerning the Sumerians that are available. So I do sympathise with other readers and researchers who have also fallen naively into the same trap. I am also grateful for Sitchin's work, which initially stimulated my interest in the Sumerians, and gave me so many insights into how history and texts can be manipulated and mislead millions of people.

Today, there are many other such authors. Some are innocently taken in by the hoax, others are knowing hoaxers employed by the Illuminati's Intelligence community to deliberately spread masses of fraudulent information to hide the truth about the secret aircraft development programme. This knowledge of advanced physics could revolutionise human life if it were widely acknowledged, by not only providing advanced craft, but free energy for the world. Another reason for the maintenance of this hoax is to distort our understanding of history, religion and mythology. If we were to truly understand the meanings behind the writings of our elder cultures, which are basis for most of the world's religious beliefs, we would see and understand that our diversity of beliefs and faiths stem from common truths that have been perverted, distorted and used for dividing mankind, both from each other and from our own inner connection with our innate spiritual core. If the Truth were known, rather than beliefs bought and sold in packages of religion, then we could remove religion altogether - the greatest mind manipulation and social control tool in the Illuminati's arsenal - and live in harmony and freedom, together.

One has to be aware of the wolves in sheep's clothing. Many such authors are active in informing you that they are 'freeing' you from the mind control of religion, through deconstructing them and providing you with evidence to support their claims. However, what so many of them are actually doing is tearing down the foundations of religions (not necessarily a bad thing, in my

opinion), to replace them with the ‘alien gods’ or ‘ascended master gods’ scenarios, which the reader may never even consider to be a new religion. And far from being ‘freed’ or ‘enlightened’, such people are actually being re-herded into new pens full of manageable sheep who believe they are free.

I have already said a good deal in previous magazines about what I see as a plan to create a new religion, which will bring us up to date in technological terms, whilst at the same time coalescing the previous religions, gods and mythologies into a united ‘they were all aliens’ scenario, and minor variations upon it. Christianity amalgamated the world religions into one manageable religion for the Romans 2000 years ago, and it would appear that we are heading for the next Universal (Catholic) Church, through which they can mind control future generations.

Sitchin is certainly not the only author to distort and mislead us, but is certainly the most influential, and most of what is being said in these articles about Sitchin can be applied to countless other New Age, historical revisionist and UFO-related authors.

Most people do not have the time to investigate the complex background to information presented in books on ancient texts. In the main, people develop an interest in a particular angle on a subject – for instance the ancient astronaut hypothesis. They will then read many books of the same type, usually coming from the same angle, often by a bunch of authors who cross-reference each other incestuously. They may then consider themselves quite well-read on the subject. However, unless they have taken the time to study the same texts and histories from many other perspectives, they will not have a good perspective from which to judge whether the material they favour is reasonable.

It has struck me how much information is available, and has been for many years, which your conventional ancient astronaut author will never reference, criticise or ever try to incorporate into their work. This applies equally to any number of revisionist Egyptology, Sumerian, ancient civilisation, Atlantis etc. etc. authors too. It would appear that these authors are either extremely ignorant of the available data – which I have difficulty believing, as they usually appear very well-read in their field – or they have so narrowed their field of vision to exclude the available answers in order to create an illusion that there are far more ‘holes’ in our knowledge than there actually are.

They usually start from the proffered premise that ‘we believe’ today a certain scenario which ‘experts’ have developed, such authors usually take pains to disassemble the ‘conventional view’ of academia and reveal the glaring inconsistencies; showing us how the academic viewpoint as taught in universities simply can’t be true or is at least highly dubious. And I agree in

the main that conventional history needs to be revised, but we simply cannot ignore the mass of data which has been gathered by academia over the years, even if we do not necessarily agree with the overall picture such academics paint with this data. In the books of many of today's popular alternative authors, once the subject is rendered ambiguous and open to interpretation, the authors then go on to 'fill the gaps' with highly speculative or tentative information as evidence of their own particular theory. Again, this is not necessarily improper; all authors and theorists do this. What *is* improper is when the conventional view is artificially distorted to make it appear to the reader to be inadequate or ridiculous; something which the average reader is unlikely to recognise.

Moreover, surely, when there is a huge body of information available which *does* provide adequate explanation, we need to question both the ability and the motivation of the author who never references known evidence and proof that would negate their own theories.

Sitchin is a good example of one who ignores known data, misquotes and mistranslates, and who leaves out elements of well-known data – even parts of well-known texts – which remove the proper context, so that he can reconstruct carefully selected fragments of hand-picked data into an internally consistent book. Although the individual books may seem to be internally consistent – which is all the average reader will know and therefore accept – when viewed next to the available data, such theories are blatantly ridiculous and clearly manufactured to con a reader who unfortunately knows no better; a reader who trusts the author to have done his homework and to be reasonable with the data – especially when, as in the case of Sitchin – the author is widely acclaimed to be an 'expert' and one of a handful of people in the world who can read the ancient Sumerian texts. It is clear that Sitchin is not an expert at all. In fact, most of his 12th Planet is merely a collation of standard works such as Kramer's, which is then used as the basis of a deconstruction and 'retranslation' into the ET-gods scenario.

I fail to see where Sitchin has done any proper translation work of his own, or has revealed anything which was not already available in the standard works. The only 'new' material in the 12th Planet comes in the form of mistranslation, and distortion of known data.

Unfortunately, it is this mistranslated data that any number of books, New Age gurus and websites are quoting to support their belief in the ancient astronaut theory. Amazingly, these clearly erroneous translations and histories are also being 'channelled' by numerous New Age gurus who claim to be receiving the information directly from spirits, ascended masters or aliens! There is a mass market for such things today; naīve 'truthseekers' all over the world have been captured in the glamour and excitement of the ETs

and many have invested their entire view of reality on such paradigms as ‘the aliens will save us’, or ‘the aliens are coming’, which has replaced conventional religion as a means of explaining creation and providing answers from ‘above’ or ‘out there’.

So let’s look at the evidence and decide for ourselves if Sitchin’s particular version of history has any merit, and whether there is any reason to fear Planet X. Then we will take a brief look at one key area in mythology – astronomy and astrology – which is usually misunderstood, thereby creating a host of motifs that people such as Sitchin have speculated about and refashioned into new theories and myths over the years. I’ll run past you a few theories of my own into the bargain and you can see if they make any more sense in the light of the following information.

Ivan Fraser

A REFUTATION OF THE THEORIES OF ZECHARIA SITCHIN

by

Ian Lawton

INTRODUCTION TO SITCHIN'S THEORIES

The first of author Zecharia Sitchin's *Earth Chronicles* series of books, *The Twelfth Planet*, was published in 1976. Perhaps the most appropriate way of introducing him is to quote from the cover of the 1991 edition:[1]

Zecharia Sitchin was raised in Palestine, where he acquired a profound knowledge of modern and ancient Hebrew, other Semitic and European languages, the Old Testament, and the history and archaeology of the Near East. He attended the London School of Economics and Political Science and graduated from the University of London, majoring in economic history.

A leading journalist and editor in Israel for many years, he now lives and writes in New York.

One of the few scholars able to read and understand Sumerian, Sitchin has based The Earth Chronicles, his recent series of books dealing with Earth's and man's prehistories, on the information and texts written down on clay tablets by the ancient civilisations of the Near East. His books have been widely translated, reprinted in paperback editions, converted to Braille for the blind, and featured on radio and television programmes.

Again quoting from the cover, we will let Sitchin speak for himself in introducing his books:[2]

The Earth Chronicles *series is based on the premise that mythology is not fanciful but the repository of ancient memories; that the Bible ought to be read literally as a historic/scientific document; and that ancient civilisations – older and greater than assumed – were the product of knowledge brought to Earth by the Anunnaki, 'Those Who from Heaven to Earth Came'.*

The Twelfth Planet *[1976], the first book of the series, presents ancient evidence for the existence of an additional planet in the Solar System: the home planet of the Anunnaki. In confirmation of this evidence, recent data from unmanned spacecraft has led astronomers to actively search for what is being called 'Planet X'.*

The subsequent volume, The Stairway to Heaven *[1980], traces man's unending search for immortality to a spaceport in the Sinai Peninsula and to the Giza Pyramids, which had served as landing beacons for it – refuting the notion that these pyramids were built by human pharaohs. Recently, records by an eye witness to a forgery of an inscription by the pharaoh Khufu inside the Great Pyramid corroborated the book's conclusions.*

The Wars of Gods and Men *[1985], recounting events closer to our times, concludes that the Sinai spaceport was destroyed 4,000 years ago with nuclear weapons. Photographs of Earth from space clearly show evidence of such an explosion.*

Such gratifying corroboration of audacious conclusions has been even swifter for The Lost Realms *[1990]. In the relatively short interval between the completion of the manuscript and its publication, archaeologists, linguists, and other scientists have offered a 'coastal theory' in lieu of the 'frozen trekking' one to account for man's arrival in the Americas – in ships, as this volume has concluded; have 'suddenly discovered 2,000 years of missing civilisation', in the words of a Yale University scholar*

– confirming this book's conclusion; and are now linking the beginnings of such civilisations to those of the Old World, as Sumerian texts and biblical verses suggest.

I trust that modern science will continue to confirm ancient knowledge.

In fact this description somewhat undersells certain key elements of Sitchin's theories, especially in relation to the contents of *The Twelfth Planet*, his most widely-read and influential book. Not only does he suggest that a race of 'flesh and blood' gods who were capable of space flight visited Earth from their home planet, which the Ancients called 'Nibiru', nearly half a million years ago. He goes on to speculate that they came in order to mine precious minerals which were abundant on our planet; that they created modern *Homo sapiens* by genetic engineering, mixing their own genes with those of the primitive hominids they encountered ('in their own image'); that they did this in order to create a slave race to take over the mining and refining work; and that they lived for sometimes thousands of years, were capable of good, evil, compassion and brutality, and warred with each other and their human offspring.

Sitchin's comments on how he first embarked on this unorthodox path of research many decades ago are illuminating:[3]

My starting point was, going back to my childhood and schooldays, the puzzle of who were the 'Nefilim', that are mentioned in Genesis 6 as the sons of the gods who married the daughters of man in the days before the great flood, the Deluge. The word 'Nefilim' is commonly, or used to be, translated 'giants'. And I am sure that you and your readers are familiar with quotes and Sunday preachings, etc., that those were the days when there were giants upon the Earth. I questioned this interpretation as a child at school, and I was reprimanded for it because the teacher said 'You don't question the Bible'. But I did not question the Bible, I questioned an interpretation that seemed inaccurate, because the word Nefilim, the name by which those extraordinary beings 'the sons of the gods' were known, means literally 'Those who have come down to Earth from the heavens', from the Hebrew word nafal which means to fall, come down, descend.

This experience proved to be the prototype for one of the major cornerstones of Sitchin's work: the re-interpretation of a number of key words which appear in ancient texts in various languages. It is this approach, combined with the re-evaluation of archaeological and scientific evidence to support his theories, which led him to such a startling series of conclusions.

There is no doubt that the publication of these books has lead to Sitchin being feted by many as a visionary and scholar, with a 'guru-rating' that is

almost off the scale. Indeed his knowledge of ancient Near Eastern history and language at first sight appears so vast that few authors have even attempted to elaborate on his work, let alone dare to criticise it.

But is everything in the garden as rosy as it appears to his many followers? Let us find out by making a more detailed examination...

NOTES

1. Sitchin, *The Twelfth Planet* (Bear & Co, 1991; 1st Edition, Stein & Day, 1976).
2. For completeness it should be noted that there is a fifth book in the series, *When Time Began*, which was published in 1993 after this extract was written. It mainly examines precessional ages, and the ancient monuments such as Stonehenge and Machu Picchu which Sitchin argues were used to monitor them. Furthermore in 1990 he published a companion volume, *Genesis Revisited*, which essentially provided an update on his theories in the light of the latest scientific discoveries.
3. Extract from an interview conducted in 1993 by *Connecting Link*, and published in Issue 17.

SITCHIN'S SCHOLASTIC APPROACH

Having read *The Twelfth Planet* some years ago at a very early stage in my own research career, and in keeping with my avowed approach of not accepting the research of others at face value, I began my search for intelligent appraisals thereof. I emphasise 'intelligent', because as usual on the Internet I found many fawning tributes, many of which proceeded to expand into all manner of 'para-babble' about visitors from elsewhere and channelled messages about 'The Ancient Ones' returning which, while they may or may not be true, are usually presented in so evangelistic and faith-is-all-you-need a fashion that the more discriminating reader is left cold. I also came across similarly stomach-turning bigotry from those of orthodox persuasions, to whom any mention of advanced ancient civilisations and visitors from other planets raises their stridency and vitriol levels to unparalleled heights.

However in the midst of all this I did find a few commentators providing snippets that were sufficient to set me off on the right course. And the first criticism I found was that Sitchin’s level of scholastic ability is not all it might seem. Although it does not flow particularly well, *The Twelfth Planet* contains so many apparent gems which appear to provide an explanation for

the evidence of man's level of advancement in antiquity, that you tend to read it in a frenzy of excitement. 'At last the answers for which we have all been searching!' is the initial reaction of many readers, and was certainly mine.

But when you go back and look again, you can see that the few who have dared to criticise his work have a point. Although *The Twelfth Planet*, for example, contains many references and a reasonable bibliography, many of the more contentious assertions are presented with little or no source information. This is especially true of his textual quotes from Mesopotamian literature, which are usually his own interpretations and not taken direct from the work of other scholars. Therefore merely locating the same passage in the orthodox translations can be exasperating; and if and when you do find them, they often bear little resemblance. Similarly much of his pictorial evidence based on carvings and reliefs on tablets and stelae is in the form of hand-copied drawings; this is fine if they are properly referenced to the original piece in a museum collection, but often they are not. This makes them similarly exasperating to trace when attempting to ensure they can be relied on as accurate representations of the original.

To the non-professional researcher these criticisms may seem unduly harsh and pedantic. But as soon as one gets a sniff that all is not well with Sitchin, and that there is a good chance he is at the very least mistaken in some of his interpretations, they become all too relevant when evaluating his work. *The Twelfth Planet* is littered with textual extracts which, as well as being poorly referenced and therefore sometimes untraceable even after significant amounts of detective work, is consistently so much at odds with orthodox translations that alarm bells ring all the time.

We saw in a previous paper that even expert Sumerologist Thorkild Jacobsen admitted relatively recently that the study of the Sumerian language, while not exactly in its infancy, still allows professional scholars to produce translations which 'may diverge so much that one would never guess that they rendered the same text'. On the face of it this gives Sitchin considerable support. However there are a number of factors which mitigate against this in his case.

First, much of his 'evidence' (where it is possible to establish the source) comes from Akkadian texts which do not suffer the from the same degree of uncertainty – and yet his translations of these still diverge.

Second, even where he uses orthodox translations they are usually regarded as obsolete and, even more important, he can be extremely selective in his extracts. Nowhere is this better demonstrated that in the evidence he uses to suggest that the word *shem*, translated by modern scholars as 'name' or

'reputation', derives from a root which indicates that it means a 'sky chamber' of some sort. This is such a good example that I have devoted the entirety of the next paper ('What's in a Shem?') to a case study thereof, for those who wish to review the detailed support for my criticisms. In my view this case study indicates that, at least in some cases, Sitchin shortens and even omits intervening lines from extracts which when considered in full render his interpretation meaningless *in the context*.

Third, at least one professional linguist who has taken the trouble to examine Sitchin's work has come up with massive criticisms of his understanding of the Sumerian and Akkadian languages. These are contained in some newsgroup postings from several years ago made by a professor of Near Eastern Studies at a well-known American University. (I refuse to name him because in the course of a brief correspondence with him he made his views on Sitchin's work abundantly clear, stating that he did not want his name associated with what he regards as 'rubbish', and nor did he want to be bothered by further correspondence from people he regards as cranks. I fully respect his wishes, and have only provided the scant information about him above in order that I cannot be accused of making this important evidence up.) The gist of his criticisms of Sitchin (or at least those that are scholarly and linguistics based) is that he demonstrates a consistent lack of appreciation of even some of the most basic fundamentals of Sumerian and Akkadian grammar, even to the extent of regularly failing to distinguish between the two entirely different languages, and mixing words from each in interpreting the syllables of longer compound words. As an example, he analyses Sitchin's interpretation of the name Marduk as 'son of the pure mound',[1] and suggests that he has mixed the Akkadian word *maru,* which means 'son', with the Sumerian words *du* and *ku*, meaning 'mound' and 'pure' respectively. But, he asserts, such words from different languages were never mixed, even in a proper name; they would have used a combination of words all taken from one language or the other. Our source provides countless other examples of this type of confusion, for example in Sitchin's translation of shem, mu, naru, Enki, Enlil, Eridu, Ishkur, and Tiamat, which seem to provide compelling evidence that the bulk of his interpretations are spurious and incorrect – apparently made up from bits and pieces of different languages and with letters and syllables swapped at will. Since these examples all came from just a few chapters of *The Twelfth Planet* (before our source decided he had better things to do with his time), and there were hardly any translations that were *not* distorted, the conclusion our source drew is that *none* of Sitchin's translations and interpretations should be implicitly trusted.

Fourth, even where Sitchin's alternative interpretations might have some degree of foundation, the implications which he derives from them can be highly implausible for other reasons, unrestricted paradigms

notwithstanding. A prime example of this is his literal interpretation of the *Epic of Creation*, in which his argument that this is a literal description of the formation of our solar system is supported by assumptions which, from the perspective of cosmology and astronomy, are highly dubious. Once again this is a subject to which we will return in a separate paper.

Fifth, he shows a great deal of imagination in weaving the web of a story from all this 'evidence', which has resulted over the course of the entire *Earth Chronicles* in the creation of a highly detailed account of events on earth over several hundred thousand years. In doing so he makes an incalculable number of assumptions, the incorrectness of any one of which would invalidate whole sections of his work. As a case in point, he relies heavily on assumptions about relationships between members of the Sumerian pantheon. For example, he repeatedly uses the underlying theme of a rivalry between members of the Enki-ite and Enlil-ite clans as an explanation for a whole series of events spanning many millennia. And yet we have seen in a previous paper that it is in most cases impossible to *definitively* identify any god's parents, spouse, offspring etc. because of the extent to which they vary in the different texts. It is certainly highly dubious to make definitive assumptions about certain gods coming from a particular branch of the family tree. In my view this false assumption, combined with many similar examples too numerous to mention, undermine his *detailed* work to the extent that in large part it arguably becomes highly imaginative fiction – fascinating to read for the uninitiated, probably far more so than my own efforts which are relatively dry in comparison – but primarily fiction nevertheless.

As a final example of the quality of Sitchin's work, *The Twelfth Planet* contains a hand-copied drawing of a cylinder seal which is accompanied by the following description:[2]

That radioactive materials were known and used to treat certain ailments is certainly suggested by a scene of medical treatment depicted on a cylinder seal dating to the very beginning of Sumerian civilisation. It shows, ***without question****, a man lying on a special bed; his face is protected by a mask, and he is being subjected to some kind of radiation [my highligh].*

Anyone who cares to look this drawing up will see an ordinary looking table, a body wearing a mask with a face on each side, and three wavy lines above the body which could just as easily be flames or water (which was often depicted in this way). To use the words *without question* is, without question, exaggerating a highly dubious and subjective interpretation. This is also a prime example, of which there are many, of the complete lack of any reference as to the location and source of the original seal. Indeed none of his

books contain a separate reference section or footnotes. This is not normal practice for a supposedly scholarly reference work.

It is also interesting to note that British researcher Alan Alford, whose *Gods of the New Millennium*[3] was probably the major book that followed up on Sitchin's work, has since comprehensively rejected the idea of 'flesh and blood gods'.[4]

I should perhaps say a few words about my motivation for going to some lengths to expose what I perceive as the weaknesses of a fellow researcher's work, instead of perhaps just ignoring it and moving on. The reason is that, over the last quarter of a century, Sitchin's books have made a considerable worldwide impact, and have persuaded a great many people that the 'gods' *were* flesh and blood visitors from elsewhere. This idea has become extended by many into the belief that they will return to 'save' the human race. I believe this is a fundamentally dangerous proposition which merely perpetuates the mistaken view that mankind must look outside of itself for its eventual salvation or destruction – when in fact our fate lies entirely in our own hands via faith in our own divinity.

NOTES

1. Sitchin, *The Twelfth Planet* (Bear & Co, 1991), Chapter 4, p. 105.
2. Ibid., Chapter 2, p. 42; the reference is to Figure 15 therein.
3. Alford, *Gods of the New Millennium* (Hodder and Stoughton, 1997).
4. For example, see the interview with Alford in May 2000 on *The Daily Grail* web site http://dailygrail.com/interviews/alford1.html

WHAT'S IN A SHEM?

Sitchin claims that although the word *shem* – which is used repeatedly in both Sumerian and Akkadian texts – is translated as 'name' by orthodox scholars, it in fact refers to a far older derivation which originally implied some form of 'sky-chamber'. To quote Sitchin himself:[1]

The Mesopotamian texts that refer to the inner enclosures of temples, or to the heavenly journeys of the gods, or even to instances where mortals ascended to the heavens, employ the Sumerian term mu *or its Semitic derivatives* shu-mu *('that which is a mu'),* sham *or* shem. *Because the term also connoted 'that by which one is remembered,' the word has come to be taken as meaning 'name.' But the universal application of 'name' to early*

texts that spoke of an object used in flying has obscured the true meaning of the ancient records.

He goes on to describe how the etymology of the term can be traced from 'sky chamber' to 'name'. He argues that original stone sculptures of gods inside oval rocket-shaped chambers, which were used to venerate them in places remote from their temples, were eventually copied by kings and rulers and their own images placed thereon in order that they could associate themselves with the 'Eternal Abode', and have their 'name' preserved even if they were only mortal. These objects are what we now refer to as stelae. He further examines the words used for such objects in a number of languages, arguing that they all share common connotations of 'fiery stones that rise'.

Mesopotamian scholars have indicated that this analysis is highly misleading because the term *mu* is a Sumerian verbal prefix which does not require translation. For once Sitchin admits to being aware of this criticism, and counters that scholars have deliberately invented this grammatical construct precisely because they 'sense that *mu* or *shem* may mean an object not "name"… and have thereby avoided the issue altogether.'[1]

What are we to make of all this? As most of us are not scholars of Mesopotamian language we can hardly comment definitively on this element of the debate, although it is interesting to note how easy it is to add yet more fuel to the fire to obscure the picture still further. For example Thorkild Jacobsen notes, quite independently of this theme, that *shem* can also be used to denote a 'tambourine-like drum'.[2] It would be perfectly justifiable for me then to argue that its use as 'name' or 'reputation' developed from association with this meaning of the word via the concept of 'banging one's own drum'. This example serves to show how the use of words with multiple meanings, especially in the Sumerian language, can allow all manner of interpretations and associations to be made.

As we have seen this is true of many words on which Sitchin places great emphasis. Accordingly I have chosen the word *shem* as a case study for evaluating his interpretations, mainly because in this case he backs his argument up with a large number of extracts from texts which apparently support his case. My own approach was to examine these usually condensed extracts and see if his interpretations made sense in the *context* of the texts from which they came.

Of the twelve main textual extracts which Sitchin uses, three are taken from the Bible, three are from Sumerian texts, four from Akkadian texts, while I have been unable to trace translations for the remaining two due to the lack of referencing. They are presented in this order below.

I have used the following notation in presenting the extracts: words in square brackets represent the (sometimes assumed) original word in the source text, while those in upper case represent those omitted from the beginning, middle or end of quotes by Sitchin which can distort the full context. The italics used in the extracts themselves are mine, for emphasis. For each extract I have also added my own analysis.

Text Extracts

***Genesis* 6:4**[3]

There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown [*shem*].

Sitchin's quoting here appears to be perfectly accurate, and it has to be said that the use of the word *shem* here could equally well reflect either his or the orthodox interpretation.

***Genesis* 11:2-8**[4]

And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plane in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there. And they said to one another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them thoroughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar. And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name [*shem*], lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth. And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded. And the Lord said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. So the Lord scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city.

Again, although he uses a different translation of the Bible, there is nothing wrong with Sitchin's quoting here. However he stresses the impact the actions of mankind had on the gods, especially their fear that 'nothing will be restrained from them', and goes on to suggest that the building of a *shem* would have prevented mankind's being 'scattered abroad' because, as their population increased and they spread out, a 'sky-vehicle' would have allowed them to stay in contact with one another. Although there are undoubtedly enigmatic aspects to this piece of biblical text, I would suggest that it is far

simpler and more reasonable to suggest that mankind might wish to build an impressive tower to make a lasting *reputation* for itself.

***Isaiah* 56:5**[5]

Even unto them will I give in mine house and within my walls a place [*yad*] and a name [*shem*] BETTER THAN OF SONS AND DAUGHTERS: I WILL GIVE THEM AN EVERLASTING NAME [*shem*], THAT SHALL NOT BE CUT OFF.

This is our first example of Sitchin foreshortening a quote to lose the context. As soon as one reinstates the remainder of the verse, we must ask why god would wish to provide a 'spacevehicle' 'better than that of sons and daughters'? Unless rampant material one-upmanship had already infiltrated biblical society, his interpretation makes no sense whatever, and – far more disturbing – this could not have been anything other than entirely obvious to him when he selected the extract.

***Gilgamesh and the Land of the Living*, lines 4-7**[6]

'Enkidu BRICK AND STAMP HAVE NOT YET BROUGHT FORTH THE FATED END, I would enter the land, would set up my name [*shem*], In its places where names [*shems*] have been raised up, I would raise up my name [*shem*], IN ITS PLACES WHERE NAMES [*shems*] HAVE NOT BEEN RAISED UP, I WOULD RAISE UP THE NAMES [*shems*] OF THE GODS.'

Taken from one of the original Sumerian Gilgamesh texts and not the composite Akkadian *Epic of Gilgamesh* (which does not contain this passage), this extract finds Sitchin on highly selective form once again. When the missing bulk of the first line is reinstated (at least Sitchin gives us a clue by providing an ellipsis to indicate something has been left out), we can immediately see the connection with 'brick and stamp', that is monument building and printing – the conventional method of preserving one's name. Then, with the reinstatement of the last line, it appears more likely that Gilgamesh is being mindful to respect the reputations of the gods than deciding when to use his own rocket as against theirs.

Hymn to Inanna[7]

I cannot find this extract *per se* in Jacobsen's composite version of the *Inanna* hymns, so the following is Sitchin's version:

Lady of Heaven: She puts on the Garment of Heaven; She valiantly ascends towards Heaven. Over all the peopled lands she flies in her *mu*. Lady, who in

her *mu* to the heights of Heaven joyfully wings. Over all the resting places she flies in her *mu*.

However Jacobsen's version does contain multiple references to Inanna as the Evening and Morning Star (Venus) which involve her 'lighting up', 'stepping up onto', and 'wandering in' the sky. Consequently it is possible that Sitchin has provided his own interpretation of one of these passages – and if so it may be as inventive as many of his other extracts. Since as usual he provides no reference as to his source, it is impossible to comment further.

Gudea Temple Inscriptions

Again the following extract, being so short, is hard to trace in Jacobsen's translation; this is Sitchin's version: [8]

Its *mu* shall hug the lands from horizon to horizon.

One passage towards the end of Jacobsen's version reads as follows: 'He (Ninurta) has indeed established your (Gudea's) *name* from the south to the north'.[9] However it is hard to identify this as the same passage with any certainty, and further comment is useless without a proper source reference.

***Adapa*, Tablet II, lines 57-59**

In this case Sitchin himself does not quote an extract proper, merely reporting that 'An demanded to know who had provided Adapa with a *shem* with which to reach the heavenly location'.[10] I have found two translations of this text, the first by Alexander Heidel and the second by Stephanie Dalley. To place the extract in context, An wants to know why Adapa has been allowed to visit heaven (per Heidel's translation), or alternatively how he obtained the powers to 'stop the south wind' (per Dalley's translation). Dealing with each in turn:[11]

'Why has Enki revealed to an impure man The heart of heaven and earth? He has made him strong and has made him a name.'

This older translation appears to support Sitchin in as much as it contains the word *name* at the end, but that is about all. Meanwhile Dalley's more recent translation bears little resemblance to this older version, and does not even contain the idea of a reputation or name:[12]

'Why did Enki disclose to wretched mankind The ways of heaven and earth, Give them a heavy heart? It was he who did it!'

Unless progress on the translation of this Akkadian text has gone backwards in recent years, or another set of tablets entirely was used by Heidel, we can assume the later translation is the more accurate – and once again it does little to support Sitchin's interpretation.

Epic of Etana, Tablet II, last column[13]

This extract sees Etana asking the god Shamash (Utu) to help him obtain the plant of birth: 'O Lord, let the word go forth from your mouth And give me the plant of birth, Show me the plant of birth! Remove my shame and provide me with a son [*shem*]!'

Sitchin's extract is sufficiently close in this case for it to be clear that the word he suggests is *shem* in the original is here translated by Dalley as 'son', which is slightly confusing. Nevertheless, although she does not say as much her translation would appear to use the phrase 'plant of birth' as a sign that Etana is infertile, in which case it would be quite understandable that he would want to change the situation and establish a lasting *reputation* by way of offspring. Despite the fuss that is sometimes made about Etana's subsequent description of how the earth gets smaller and smaller as he ascends towards heaven on the back of an eagle, this is separate and in any case only common sense, so once again Sitchin's interpretation appears by far the less likely and obvious.

Anzu, Tablet I, column 3[14]

Here, while Enlil is taking a bath, the evil god Anzu steals the 'Tablet of Destinies': He gained the Tablet of Destinies for himself, Took away the Enlil-power. Rites were abandoned, Anzu flew off and went into hiding.

Again Sitchin does not quote here, simply suggesting that 'Anzu fled in his *mu* (translated "name", but indicating a flying machine.)' There is no direct mention of 'name' in Dalley's translation as above, and since this is undoubtedly the same passage one may possibly conclude that here she has taken the word *mu* as a verbal prefix. It would appear therefore that once again Sitchin is on weak ground.

Epic of Creation, Tablet VI, lines 57-62

Dalley's translation reveals how, after Marduk has vanquished Tiamat and asked Enki to create man, Babylon is constructed (originally by the Anunnaki themselves):[15]

'Create Babylon, whose construction you requested! Let its mud bricks be moulded, and build high the shrine!' The Anunnaki began shovelling. For a

whole year they made bricks for it. When the second year arrived, They had raised the top of Esagila in front of the Abzu.

Meanwhile Sitchin translates the word Babili (Babylon) as 'gateway of the gods' to arrive at the following translation of the first two lines of the same passage: [16]

Construct the Gateway of the Gods Let its brickwork be fashioned. Its *shem* shall be in the designated place.

He goes on to use the subsequent lines to argue that this mirrors the subsequent attempt by mankind to build a stage tower for launching rockets at the same site in the biblical Babel story (see above). However, once again we can see that the context is far more likely to refer to the construction as being something to enhance or revere 'names' and 'reputations'.

Untraceable Passages

I have been unable to trace translations of the texts from which the final two extracts used by Sitchin are taken. The first, supposedly from a *Hymn to Ishkur*, apparently contains the line: 'Thy *mu* is radiant, it reaches heaven's zenith'.[17] The second, taken from what Sitchin describes loosely as a *Poem to Ninhursag*, supposedly contains detailed descriptions of the Great Pyramid of Giza, including the lines: 'House which is great landmark for the lofty *shem*', and 'Mother of the *shems* am I'.[18] Unfortunately neither of these texts is mentioned by Kramer, Jacobsen or Dalley in their major works which I have used as my main sources throughout.

Conclusion

We can see that much of Sitchin's textual 'evidence' in support of his claim that the words *shem* and *mu* refer to 'sky-vehicles' is badly referenced and, to say the least, somewhat creatively interpreted. His tendency in certain cases to leave out surrounding lines which would render his interpretations impossible in the context rings alarm bells which should put any reader on their guard, even if they do not intrinsically discount the possibility of flesh and blood gods with advanced technology.

NOTES

1. Sitchin, *The Twelfth Planet* (Bear & Co, 1991), Chapter 5, p. 136.

1. Jacobsen, *The Harps that Once*...(Yale University Press, 1987), Introduction, p. xiv.
2. *Authorised King James Bible*; Sitchin's comments can be found in *The Twelfth Planet*, Chapter 5, pp. 159-160.
3. Ibid.; Sitchin's comments can be found in *The Twelfth Planet*, Chapter 5, pp. 139-140.
4. Ibid.; Sitchin's comments can be found in *The Twelfth Planet*, Chapter 5, p. 138.
5. Kramer, *The Sumerians* (University of Chicago Press, 1963), Chapter 5, p. 192; Sitchin's comments can be found in *The Twelfth Planet*, Chapter 5, pp. 146–7.
6. Sitchin, *The Twelfth Planet*, Chapter 5, p. 134.
7. Ibid., Chapter 5, p. 136.
8. Jacobsen, op. cit., p. 444.
9. Sitchin, *The Twelfth Planet*, Chapter 5, pp. 144–5.
10. Heidel, *The Babylonian Genesis* (2nd Edition, University of Chicago Press, 1951), Appendix, p. 151.
11. Dalley, *Myths from Mesopotamia* (Oxford University Press, 1989), p. 187.
12. Ibid., p. 196; Sitchin's comments can be found in *The Twelfth Planet*, Chapter 5, p. 151.
13. Ibid., p. 207; Sitchin's comments can be found in *The Twelfth Planet*, Chapter 4, p. 104.
14. Ibid., p. 262.
15. Sitchin, *The Twelfth Planet*, Chapter 5, p. 141.
16. Ibid., Chapter 5, p. 136.
17. Sitchin, *The Wars of Gods and Men* (Avon, 1985), Chapter 7, pp. 143–5.

Ivan's comment:

Some of Sitchin's apparently more persuasive evidence comes from showing the cuneiform inscriptions of the texts from which he quotes. Many of these words do seem to reflect the meaning of the words given, as they are arrow-shaped and one could say 'rocket-shaped '. However, such words were in fact originally pictograms – literal drawings of the objects

– which were later inscribed using a reed stylus, thereby rendering them straight-edged with many wedge shapes – hence the name cuneiform. This is the reason why many of the words appear to be technical diagrams of what we would today be familiar with as rockets.

The early pictogram for ‘shem’ is in fact **a plant in a pot**. Considering the fact that the early Sumerian settlers – especially their founder Tur and his son Can – were ‘renowned’ throughout the area influenced by the early Sumerians as the bringers of agriculture, and later deified for this, the pictograph makes perfect sense *in context*. These historical figures were also consumed in later mythology with the attributes of the main gods and goddesses, themselves derived from natural phenomena such as the cycles of the heavens and the seasons, which were intimately associated with agriculture.

The earliest settlement, known as Eden, or Khar Sag, was an agricultural settlement. The Sumerian text ‘The Arrival of the Anunnaki’ is the story of the establishment of a mountain farmstead (see The Shining Ones – O’Brien & O’Brien). It was from the mountainous regions in the Van area that the first Sumerian king proper – Can/Kan – ‘came down’ to the plains of Mesopotamia and began his agricultural and building reformation. There is still a mountain in the Van region called Nimrud (Nimirrud being a title for Can – meaning ‘the increaser of plants’, which became the biblical Nimrod - same chap, many and diverse legends attributed to him and his mythological attributes) that commemorates Can/Cain. Just South of this area is a town still called Nod, which the Bible states was a stopover point on the journey from Eden to Shinar (Sumer).

The association later with the word ‘shem’ and ‘men of renown’ is easy to see in this respect. Also its association with ‘heights’. The plural ha shemmim came to be a popular term for ‘the heavens’, which in earlier issues I explained was also the name for the mountain farmstead, otherwise called himin. Of course, later the word would descend to us as meaning the skies/space or the place where the Creator dwells in Judeo-Christian mythology.

In the above extract from the Epic of Etana, we have the God Shamash, who is often represented as the sun-god, but is frequently associated with agriculture, and here is helping Etana seek the *plant of birth*. Sham-ash is equivalent to shem-ash, which basically translates as Lord of the Plant. Of course, he is also recognised as the sun god because he is equivalent to Asar/ Osiris – because in the early Sumerian aristocracy, like the Egyptian, the king or pharaoh was considered to be the son of the sun. As Can was renowned in Egypt as Horus – Heru – the son who is risen to become one with his father (also the sun), we find great familiarity, as this is the prototype legend which would eventually become merged into the legend of Yesu (Egyptian IUSA) – Jesus. Jesus, of course, is also associated with agriculture in the NT through numerous references to roots and vines, wine and bread, and parables on a farming theme etc.

Another ancient character from the book of Enoch (written hundreds of years after the Sumerian period) is Shem-jaza, the leader of the 'watchers', and famed teacher of horticulture. Shem-jaza is clearly derived from the same root, as aza is a variation on asa, which is consonant with ash - Lord.

The symbol of the plant in a pot was also the pictogram for the word li 'cultivation'. Later the word would be used as lil in the name En-lil, a title given to Tur *and* in some aspects to Can. One translation of Enlil is Lord of the Winds/Air. And there is a logical connection, which also fits in with the use of the word shem in relation to 'heights', and 'rising'. The sun would have been very much associated with the force which 'raises' plants. As would water; and Enki is regularly depicted as a water bearer. Our forebears would have been familiar with the action of the heat of the sun on water: turning it to vapour and raising it into the air. As both Tur and Can would later be deified as sun gods, the strong association is there between sun, raising, plants, wind and air. It doesn't have to follow, as Sitchin would have us believe that Lord of the Air has anything to do with flying through the air in spaceships. Although, ships *were* commonly depicted symbolically as the mode of transport for the sun – the solar bark which sailed through the sea of space. Again, the likes of Sitchin have ignored all of these well-acknowledged correspondences in linguistics and mythologies (which are repeated around the world and therefore make their meanings quite clear) and never refer the reader to all of these alternative, down to earth explanations, in order that they can make far more of a meal of highly selective quotations taken out of context, in order to spin them in only one dubious direction.

Both Tur *and* Can were famed for their profound influence on the lives of the Mesopotamians, and over the years, many legends regarding one would be grafted onto the other. Both were associated with many later gods, and for this reason there is a degree of confusion in many mythologies because legendary names and events associated with one will also be in myths of the other. For example, although the first king was Tur, also titled Uduin, in later Norse mythology Odin (Uduin) would be the father of Thor (Tur) and many of the aspects of his son Can were given to Odin's son Thor. More strikingly, however, titles for Tur – such as Ia, and Jah, would eventually feed into the Jewish name for God – Yahweh, whilst the very same historical character is also recorded as Adam, the first man – neither, of course are true. There was only One Adar/Adam/Tur, and he was the first Sumer-Aryan king; and like his son Can/Cain was deified and renowned throughout the ancient world in many guises, and under many names as the bringer of prosperity to mankind, largely through the agricultural reforms which the indigenous peoples of Mesopotamia inherited from their first true kingship.

The Sumerians and Babylonians were also builders of great stepped pyramid temples, some of which incorporated great agricultural works, if the legend of the Hanging Gardens of Babylon is to be believed. And it is Can/Nimirrud/Nimrod who was famed as the bringer of great agricultural reform from the mountains to Sumer, as well as for building the first great temples (recorded in the Bible under the legend of the Tower of Babel), which reflected and commemorated the original mountain farmstead, from whence these famed 'patriarchs' and 'gods' came. Later, all manner of legends and myths developed of the gods who came from 'the heights', and clearly the words such as shem developed over hundreds and thousands of years, to end up in the Bible as meaning 'renown' or 'name'.

One can understand that those who were remembered as building the first great farmstead of legend, who then came to teach the indigenous people of Mesopotamia, and thereby greatly improve their lot, were THE 'people of renown' par excellence. So it is not a great stretch of imagination to see how the word shem would naturally be intimately associated with the same biblical patriarchs who came to build mountain-shaped towers and gardens.

Shem is clearly, then, derived originally from early depictions relating to plants and agriculture. Thenceforth acquiring a secondary association with 'heights' and the people who first brought their agricultural genius from those heights, with 'men of renown' To build a tower/temple and garden etc. was a sign of achievement and nobility – something instituted by the aristocracy. To do so would certainly acquire one renown, a great reputation, a lasting memorial – a 'name'. Hence, shem became the word for 'name' in the Bible.

But shem has absolutely nothing to do with sky vehicles, rockets, spaceships or anything else from the world of 20th century technology and science fiction.

SITCHIN'S COSMOLOGY AND 'PLANET X'

The Mesopotamians' 'Twelve Planets'

We have already seen that Sitchin's starting point is to ask who were the Nefilim or Anunnaki. Convinced that they were capable of space travel (which theme we will examine in the next paper), he turns his attention to identifying the planet from which they came. He examines the evidence for the Mesopotamians having astronomical knowledge far in excess of that attributed to them by orthodox scholars, and then quotes extracts from a number of astronomical texts for which he, for once, provides references[1] –

and which, he suggests, indicate that the Mesopotamians considered our solar system to be made up of *twelve* planets. This would presuppose that not only did they know of Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto (the latter three only being discovered in modern times since 1781); not only did they typically count the Sun and the Moon as 'planets'; but also they knew of the existence of an additional *twelfth planet*.

He suggests that it is this factor which determined the number of gods in the supreme pantheon which he regards as being made up of twelve members. Further, he argues that they used this number twelve in a variety of contexts as a result – for example, dividing the heavens into twelve signs of the zodiac, the year into twelve months, and the day into two sets of twelve hours.[2]

I have not investigated the astronomical texts to which Sitchin refers for reasons which will become obvious. However it is worth considering the main piece of pictorial evidence he cites – a six-pointed star surrounded by eleven spheres of varying size, which forms part of an Akkadian seal. For once this is not a hand-drawn reproduction but a photograph, and surprisingly we are once again given a source – we are told that it is in the *Vorderasiatische Abteilung* of the State Museum in East Berlin, and even given the catalogue number – VA / 243. However we should not hold our breath. Sitchin goes on to blow up the relevant section with a drawing and compare it to a representation of what our solar system would look like if the planets were placed to scale in a circle around the Sun, in order, rather than in linear fashion as we normally depict them.[3] This reconstruction requires so much imagination and assumption that I could devote pages just to this one piece of analysis, but we do not have the time and it is not that interesting. Suffice to say that in the real version, the centres of the 'planets' are shown at varying distances from the centre of the 'Sun', for no apparent reason even if a simple circular rather than linear representation is indeed what the artist intended; and the relative sizes of the 'planets' are hopelessly inaccurate in most cases – Mercury, the Moon and Pluto being much too large, while Jupiter and Saturn are way too small.

The foregoing could be dismissed as inaccuracies in knowledge or simply artistic licence, since this is only a relatively rough engraving on a stone seal. However if Sitchin's analysis has any basis, Mercury is effectively shown as a satellite of Venus (with Venus lying directly between it and the Sun, just as the Earth is shown lying between the Moon and the Sun) – and this point is completely ignored by Sitchin.[4] Further Pluto is shown out of position between Saturn and Uranus – a point which Sitchin attempts to reconcile with events in the *Epic of Creation* (see below). Despite all the foregoing, Sitchin uses this seal as a major foundation for the existence of a 'twelfth' planet; for its position relative to the others – arguing that its orbit brings it

between Mars and Jupiter; for its relative size – apparently smaller than Jupiter and Saturn, but significantly larger than Mars and the Earth; and for its role in the creation of Earth (see below). In my view this supposedly major piece of primary evidence is weak, and its interpretation selective and inconsistent.

The Creation of Earth

Sitchin places a highly literal interpretation on the *Epic of Creation*. This is another of the major pieces of evidence which apparently persuades him that this 'twelfth' planet was primarily referred to as Nibiru, and was the planet from which the Anunnaki came. Ignoring for the moment whether he has any grounds for such a literal interpretation, let us review the principal elements of his analysis.[5] (Note that in the main his interpretation requires the names of gods to be substituted for those of the planets, and these are provided in brackets where appropriate.)

In brief, he suggests that originally our solar system consisted of, in order of orbit: the Sun (Abzu), Mercury (Mummu), Venus (Lahamu), Mars (Lahmu), Tiamat (a planet then orbiting in what is now the asteroid belt), Jupiter (Kishar), Saturn (Anshar), Pluto (Gaga, which was then in a closer orbit – see above), Uranus (An) and Neptune (Enki). He argues that the planet Nibiru (Marduk) came from outer space on a retrograde path (i.e., moving in the opposite direction from the rest of the planets in our solar system), was attracted by the gravitational pull of the outer planets into an ever tighter orbit around the Sun, caused a variety of initial disruptions, and then on its second pass collided with Tiamat which split into two – one half forming the Earth which proceeded into a tighter orbit inside that of Mars, the other breaking up to form the asteroid belt. The Moon (Kingu), a satellite of Tiamat, was at the same time shunted into an orbit of the Earth (and because it had originally been a planet on its own before becoming a satellite of Tiamat and then the Earth, the Moon continued to be regarded as a planet in its own right.)

There are primarily two angles from which this interpretation should be judged. First, does his interpretation hold up under the scrutiny of modern scientific understanding? Although I am no cosmologist, my research reveals that there are a number of objections to his theories:[6]

1. It would require an extraordinary series of coincidences for even one of the Earth, Moon, Pluto and Nibiru to stabilise in a different orbit after a collision without additional accelerative stimuli. It is therefore

highly unlikely that they could all benefit from such an unlikely sequence of events.

2. Sitchin's view of gravity and its effects is hopelessly inadequate. For example, he has Nibiru being affected by the pull of Neptune and Uranus, but there is no contra effect on them; gravity works both ways, especially since Nibiru is supposed to be of similar size to them, and yet their orbits remain to this day more circular than that of the Earth. Similarly, he suggests that the gravitational pull of other planets could cause 'bulges' in Nibiru sufficient to cause satellites to be ripped out of it; this is an idiotic view of how gravity works.
3. Nibiru had to make at least two orbital passes to tear Tiamat in half – and yet on the second pass it came back in roughly the same orbit, despite all the gravitational interactions it must have suffered on the first pass which should have altered its orbit considerably. From the opposite perspective, one might also ask why Nibiru managed to cause so much devastation on these first two passes, and yet cause none on the myriad of passes it has supposedly made subsequently.
4. As a corollary to the above, Sitchin uses another supposed text (unnamed) to suggest that Nibiru's orbital plane is inclined at 30 degrees to the ecliptic.[7] I am inclined to ask how, if this is the case, did it manage to come so close to so many of the planets in our solar system on its first two devastating passes? Or is he suggesting that once more unknown forces forced it to stabilise in this non-aligned orbit thereafter?
5. Nowadays the asteroid belt does not contain anything like enough mass to make up a planet the size of the Earth (i.e., the other half of Tiamat). However it must be appreciated that Jupiter would have acted like a giant suction cleaner on any debris from an exploding planet (a possibility that still cannot be written off, even if Sitchin's interpretations are wrong), and other factors would have reduced the extent of the debris remaining over time.
6. Bodes law predicts that not only should a planet have originally formed between Mars and Jupiter as Sitchin asserts (but which many astronomers believe never formed due to the gravitational effects of the massive Jupiter, leaving the asteroid belt only), but also that a planet should always have been where the Earth is now. Yet according to Sitchin the latter's position was achieved subsequent to the original formation of our solar system, so originally this space must have been empty. This law supports him in one sense but at the same time undermines him in another – although at one point he does produce what appears to be somewhat contrived evidence, involving simplification of Bode's Law, to refute this claim[8]. (However in fairness it should be appreciated that Bodes Law is not as foolproof as

it sounds, and is in reality only another 'theory' about how the solar system was formed.)

7. The idea that the Moon was originally a planet in its own right is not supported by modern discoveries; the latest thinking appears to be that, most likely, it split off from the Earth after the impact of a Mars-sized body.
8. Sitchin's initial evidence for Nibiru having a retrograde orbit appears to be purely based on the order in which it encounters the outer planets – according to him, Neptune then Uranus. Given that the relative position of these two to each other must change as they orbit the Sun at different speeds, it appears to me that this argument is pretty insubstantial. I would have thought that in a sense it could just as easily have passed them in this order while travelling in a conventional direction of orbit.
9. In *Genesis Revisited* Sitchin goes to some lengths in attempting to prove that modern scientific analysis of the Earth and its crust, the theory of continental drift, and the study of plate tectonics all support his claim that the Earth as we now know it was formed by a huge impact.[9] This may be so, but in my view his analysis does not support his theory of the Earth being formed by the splitting in two of another planet any better than it supports the more conventional idea of the Moon being split off from the Earth.

The second approach is to question the extent to which it is reasonable for Sitchin to even attempt to place a literal interpretation on this most enigmatic of texts. We have already seen that one of the motives of this relatively late Akkadian work is political – to elevate the late-emerging Babylonian god Marduk from local to national status. When criticising Sitchin's interpretation, some of the orthodox scholars tend to place most of the emphasis on this factor – suggesting that this is the text's primary purpose. While this is undoubtedly true, the issue is far more complex. Sitchin himself acknowledges the political influence, but argues that the text has far earlier Sumerian origins. In this he appears to be supported by many of the scholars, despite the fact that no Sumerian version has yet been discovered (apart from similarities in isolated passages). Furthermore the common practice of amalgamating originally separate texts and tacking on new passages is probably at work; for example, Marduk's establishment of Babylon and the extensive listing of his epithets in Tablets V to VII are likely to be late additions, while a brief version of the creation of man story is stuck in the middle of all this. Since Tablets II and III deal mainly with the search for a champion to fight Tiamat – in which role Marduk finally offers himself – this

leaves us with the likelihood that it is primarily Tablets I and IV, if any, which reflect important earlier tales.

Concentrating on Tablet IV, Marduk's battle with Tiamat – who represents primeval 'watery chaos' – in which he splits her in two to create heaven and earth and restore order to the universe, is clearly a basic creation theme which ties in closely with that of many other ancient civilisations. Alexander Heidel points out that in Egyptian legends 'the air-god Shu separated heaven and earth by lifting the sky-goddess Nut from the earth-god Geb and placing himself between the two', and that the Phoenician and Vedic legends both contain the concept of 'the cosmic egg being split to create heaven and earth'.[10] Meanwhile Sitchin is quite right to draw parallels with *Genesis* 1:6-8:

And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the water, and let it divide the waters from the waters. And God made the firmament and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven.

Sitchin goes on to argue that the Hebrew word *Tehom*, used in *Genesis* to denote the 'watery deep', stems from the word *Tiamat*, and also that the *firmament* which was called 'heaven' is in the original Hebrew 'rakia', which translates as 'hammered bracelet', and therefore argues that it actually refers to the asteroid belt.[11] However we have already seen that his etymological work is often flawed, and in any case I have little doubt that all these texts should be interpreted from an esoteric rather than a literal viewpoint. This factor, combined with the blatant cosmological flaws in his theory, in my view utterly refute his interpretation of the *Epic of Creation.*

Visitors from Elsewhere?

Even if Sitchin's account of the creation of Earth is fatally flawed, is he nevertheless right to infer that the Anunnaki were indeed visitors from elsewhere? I can find precious little evidence to support Sitchin's repeated claim that the Mesopotamian texts state that the planet Nibiru is where the Anunnaki originated. In Stephanie Dalley's translation of the *Epic of Creation* it is directly mentioned only in the brief passage which is quoted below, while the remaining references are all to Marduk – and it is only Sitchin's creativity which links the two. Furthermore I have found no reference to Nibiru in any of the other literary texts. With no supporting argument Sitchin suggests that the multiple versions of a 'winged globe', which are indeed found in great numbers on a variety of reliefs from Mesopotamia and elsewhere, represent Nibiru[14] – but most enlightened

commentators recognise this as a universal esoteric archetypal symbol. He goes on to suggest that various Babylonian astronomical texts[15] and biblical passages foretell of the events which accompany each return of Nibiru,[16] but as I have previously indicated I have not consulted these in detail because of the evident weaknesses in the other aspects of his argument.

It is in fact Sitchin's interpretation of the words Nefilim and Anunnaki which appear to provide most support for this assertion. We have already noted his argument that the Hebrew word has the Semitic derivative 'nafal' or 'nfl' which he suggests means 'to fall, come down, descend' – although, after quoting supposed backing from the 19th century Jewish biblical commentator Malbim, he exaggerates this somewhat in his books into 'those who were cast down upon Earth', and 'those who have come down, from the Heavens to Earth'.[17] As for the Sumerian term – which he translates similarly without any detailed explanation – there is no doubt that the separate word *An* is not only the name of the chief deity, but also translates as 'heaven'; similarly the word *Ki* as 'earth'. However as we have seen this does not mean that when they are combined the syllables can be neatly deconstructed to suit one's purpose, and in any case I can find no support for the remaining syllables (un.na) providing the necessary meaning of 'fall' or 'come down'. The only attempts at translation of the entire term that I have found are by John Heise[18] in which he breaks it down as A.nun.nak and translates it as 'the semen/descendants of the monarch (nun)', and by Thorkild Jacobsen who translates it similarly as 'the sons of princes'.[19]

It should also be noted that orthodox commentators suggest the alternative term Igigi is of unknown origin and meaning, while Sitchin insists it means 'those who observe and see'[20] – which ties in with his theory that they remained in orbit, and is possibly backed up to the extent that one of the meanings of the Sumerian word *igi* is 'to see'. However, even if Sitchin's interpretation is correct in this instance, it hardly represents overwhelming evidence of visitors from elsewhere.

Sitchin produces a variety of other examples of interpretations of words and reproductions of statues and stelae to support this argument. They are too numerous to be analysed individually, but suffice to say that there is strong reason to believe that they suffer from the same inadequacies as evidence as those we have already considered here and in previous papers. However he does produce one other piece of evidence that at least at first sight appears quite enigmatic, sufficiently so for us to consider it here. It is a most interesting circular clay tablet which was found in the ruins of Nineveh, and is now in the British Museum (exhibit WAK 8538). Although about 50 per cent of the surface is worn away, it is divided into eight equal triangular segments, and clearly contains an assortment of cuneiform signs along the dividing lines and elsewhere which are often repeated. More curious still are

the 'arrowed' lines which appear in several places, along with at least two diagrams which look very much like constellations. Although Sitchin's copy is hand drawn,[21] Alan Alford has reproduced a photograph which allows us to establish that Sitchin's blown-up drawing is reasonably accurate[22] (some of the cuneiform signs appear slightly different, but the scale makes it difficult to be sure of this). Sitchin quotes a number of turn of the century studies of this tablet in which a consensus that it is a planisphere of some sort appears to have developed. However these early scholars seemed to have struggled with the interpretation of what they considered, given its location and age, to be Akkadian cuneiform signs – which in this language made no sense.

He contends that it was only when he attempted to read these signs in Sumerian that they started to make sense, and revealed a 'Celestial Route Map' which records how the Anunnaki travelled to Earth via the outer planets. If he is right about the language used, based on the fact that this is a copy of an older Sumerian tablet, his interpretations of the words thereon are still open to question. Here are some examples: we have *sham* (not *shem*) translated as 'rocket', an interpretation we have already dismissed in detail; *na* translated as 'high', when the word *an* is the normal Sumerian term (because of the association with An), so this is perhaps a casual and inappropriate juxtaposition of letters; and *apin* translated as 'where the right course is set', when every use of the word that I can find clearly indicates it means 'plough'.

Sitchin's further interpretation of this tablet is a hotch-potch of ideas which mixes, for example, supposedly technical flight direction details with mundane issues such as stocking up with grain for the return journey; personally I find it unlikely that the two would be combined on one diagram of such supposed importance. Furthermore I fail to see how such a technical set of instructions would be expressed using such unspecific terms as 'high', 'sky', 'mountain', 'set', 'change' and 'glide', which according to Sitchin are repeated numerous times apparently without further detail, and which in any case *may* be distorted translations of the cuneiform signs. Despite the fact that I do not believe this tablet supports his contention that space travel was at one time familiar to the Ancient Mesopotamians, I would accept that this enigmatic disc – which as far as I am aware appears relatively unique – deserves further study by experts.

'Planet Nibiru'

Let us briefly review the remainder of the points Sitchin makes about Nibiru itself. First, he provides further evidence (in addition to that in the diagram on the seal mentioned above) that Nibiru's (retrograde) orbit takes it between

Jupiter and Mars. His support for this comes in the form of extracts from the *Epic of Creation*, in which Nibiru supposedly 'holds the central position' (i.e., he suggests that it divides the other planets, excluding the Sun, into two groups of five) and 'in the midst of Tiamat keeps crossing' (i.e., it returns to the original position of Tiamat); and also of 'astronomical texts' (unnamed) which 'list the planets in their celestial order'.[23] It is worth noting that at least the first of these, the extract from Tablet VII of the *Epic of Creation* which relates to several of Marduk's epithets, is, as so often, somewhat at odds with Dalley's version:[24]

Nibiru: he does indeed hold the crossings of heaven and earth. Neither up nor down shall they cross over; they must wait on him. Nibiru is his star which is bright in the sky. He controls the crossroads*; they must look to him, saying: 'He who* kept crossing inside Tiamat *without respite, shall have Nibiru as his name, grasping her middle.'*

All we can say is that Dalley does accept the translation of Nibiru as 'crossing place', which seems to support Sitchin's 'planet of the crossing' and his assertion that its pictographic sign is a cross (which, he claims, is the same as that for An) – although Dalley identifies it with Jupiter itself.[25]

Second, in answering the question as to why we have not yet observed such a large planet in the inner solar system, Sitchin uses a variety of textual references to suggest that it has a highly elliptical orbit which takes it deep into space at its apogee (furthest point from the Sun).[26] These are as follows: From the *Epic of Creation*, he quotes that Marduk 'established an outstanding abode' – this is so innocuous that I have not even traced it to check its accuracy against Dalley's version. From *Job*

26:10 he suggests that 'Upon the Deep he (the Lord) marked out an orbit; where light and darkness merge is his farthest limit', whereas the Authorised King James Version says 'He hath compassed the waters with bounds, until the day and night come to an end' – not much similarity there, so perhaps this is yet another of his creative translations, this time of the original Hebrew Old Testament. Finally from *Psalms* he suggests 'From the end of heavens he (the Lord) emanates, and his circuit is to their end' – I could not even trace this passage, but it is hardly conclusive even if the rendering is anywhere near accurate. Altogether then, not convincing evidence in itself.

Third, one of the chief units of Mesopotamian time measurement was the 3600-year 'sar', and Sitchin suggests that this measure derives from the periodic return of Nibiru from its deep-space orbit (because its appearance held so much significance for the Ancients that, having recorded its orbital period over many millennia and measured it at 3600 years, they designated the sar to represent this number). He further cites the apparent fact that this

number was written as a large circle, and that the similar word *shar* was an epithet for the word *planet* which translates as 'perfect circle' or 'completed cycle'. Of course this could represent a piece of brilliant intuition, but somehow I doubt it.

It would be a mercy to leave this analysis of Sitchin's cosmology here and return to something more constructive.

However, because Sitchin and his supporters make such a song and dance about it[27], we must turn our attention to some recent findings which appear at first sight to support his claims of Nibiru's existence: a number of modern astronomers have in fact gathered evidence – most of which came out after *The Twelfth Planet* was published – which suggests to them that what is in reality an additional *tenth* planet (if one ignores the Sun and Moon) might indeed exist in our solar system...

The Search for 'Planet X'

Neptune was only discovered in 1846 after astronomers had noticed perturbations in the orbit of Uranus. Similarly Pluto was only discovered in 1930 after its existence had been postulated because of irregularities in the orbit of Neptune. However observation of continued irregularities in the orbits of primarily Uranus and Neptune remained a puzzle to astronomers. It was originally believed they were caused by Pluto itself, but the discovery of its moon Charon at the US Naval Observatory in Washington in 1978 indicated that Pluto was too small to have the necessary influence on the other planets.

In fact back in 1972 discrepancies in the orbit of Halley's comet had already caused one astronomer to suggest that a tenth planet may exist – dubbed 'Planet X' to reflect the number ten and its unknown status. The later revelations about Pluto, combined with theories regarding the gravitational force required to have so disrupted Neptune's satellite system that, for example, Triton was forced into a retrograde orbit, led to a renewed search for Planet X spearheaded by two astronomers at the US Naval Observatory – Robert Harrington and Tom Van Flandern. They commenced with computer simulations which have been constantly updated, but observation was also attempted when NASA linked up with them in 1982 and announced that one of the objectives of the Infrared Astronomical Satellite (IRAS) would be to scan the skies for Planet X.

Sitchin and his supporters attached great weight to subsequent announcements made in the press, and two in particular. The first was

reported in the *Washington Post* of 30 December 1983 (the highlights in this and subsequent quotes are mine):[28]

A heavenly body possibly as large as the giant planet Jupiter and possibly so close to Earth that it would be part of this solar system has been found in the direction of the constellation of Orion… [by IRAS]… ***astronomers do not know if it is a planet, a giant comet, a protostar… or a distant galaxy… 'All I can tell you is that we don't know what it is,'*** *said Gerry Neugebauer, chief IRAS scientist… Conceivably it could be the tenth planet that astronomers have searched for in vain.'*

A proper reading of this announcement reveals it was hardly conclusive proof that Planet X had been found. However in his 1990 book *Genesis Revisited* Sitchin put what he termed the 'official denials' down to a government conspiracy to withhold information which was in fact shaping the end of the cold war, as the two superpowers combined to ward off the threat of imminent extra-terrestrial invasion. He also inferred that his own theories were ignored by the establishment as part of a cover-up, and used an assortment of contrived arguments to insist that although the multitude of satellites and probes launched in recent years and planned for the future had been officially searching for planets in neighbouring solar systems, in reality they were concentrating closer to home. However, as we will see, many teams of astronomers were involved in reviewing the IRAS data, and have written about it at great length. This does not smack of a cover-up to me.

The second announcement was reported in *Newsweek* of 13 July 1987:

NASA held a press conference last week to make a rather strange announcement: an eccentric 10th planet may – ***or may not*** *– be orbiting the Sun. John Anderson, a NASA research scientist who was the principal speaker, has a* ***hunch*** *Planet X is out there, though nowhere near the other nine.*

Hunch is the right word! On further investigation[29] we find that what Anderson had done was observe the *lack* of gravitational effects on the Pioneer 10 and 11 craft – which were by then well into the outer reaches of our solar system – and from this *negative* evidence postulated the *possibility* of a tenth planet which *would have to have* a highly elliptical and inclined orbit to produce no effect. Since this was only a supplement to the fact that he had recently become converted to the idea of a tenth planet by the theoretical 'irregular orbit' argument (having previously been a sceptic), this is about as unconvincing as 'evidence' gets.

Returning to Harrington and Van Flandern, both have been courted assiduously by Sitchin and his supporters because of the scientific backbone

their work supposedly gives to his theories, and he quotes their work as if the existence of Planet X is almost a foregone conclusion. In addition to the 'announcements' reviewed above, Sitchin detailed numerous predictions about Planet X – culminating in his suggestion that by 1990 Harrington's team believed 'that the tenth planet is about five times larger than Earth and about three times farther from the Sun than Neptune or Pluto', and that they had initiated all manner of searches of the skies, providing detailed instructions on where to look. Yet if you read Van Flandern's own book, *Dark Matter, Missing Planets and New Comets*, published three years later in 1993, you obtain a rather different picture:

*Certainly if such a 'Planet X' **were to be discovered** in a highly inclined and eccentric orbit that approached Neptune's orbit at perihelion and has a mass near the interesting range of 2-to-5 Earth masses, its existence would argue strongly for the essential correctness of the whole scenario [of the development of Neptune's satellite system] just described.*[30]

*A planet in the two-to-five Earth-mass range… **could** explain the observed irregularities in the planet orbits if it were presently located 50 to 100 times further from the Sun than the Earth's orbit.*[31]

This is as explicit as Van Flandern got in his book, and hardly suggested the definitive distance, size, and orbital plane which Sitchin would have had us believe; as far as the orbital period was concerned, all the studies seemed to work on the basis of something like 500-1000 years, substantially lower than Sitchin's 3600. Moreover Van Flandern indicated that further study of the orbits of a number of comets beyond Neptune – and possibly detailed changes to the laws of gravity – would be required before the mathematical calculations could properly predict the location in which observational searches for Planet X should concentrate 'if it exists'. Primarily because of this dissatisfaction with the theoretical data at that point, Van Flandern did not mention the IRAS observational programme at all. By contrast Harrington remained somewhat sceptical about the orbital irregularity data, and was therefore more inclined to use the 'brute force' mass computation and observational method, although with in his own words 'nothing to show for my efforts'.[32]

We should also recognise that a number of other groups have been engaged in the search for a tenth planet in recent decades. All have pursued different logic and come up with different conclusions, some convergent, some divergent. These studies were thoroughly described by Mark Littmann, former director of the Hansen Planetarium in Salt Lake City, in his 1988 book *Planets Beyond: Discovering the Outer Solar System*.[33]

In particular, Littmann at the time quoted a number of experts who feel that reliance on the apparent deviations in the orbits of Uranus and Neptune to predict the existence of a tenth planet is misguided. He himself argued that the deviations are extremely small, and their analysis relies on data which has been gathered over several centuries; since it is highly likely that the older data

– which has been collected using many different reference systems and has to be converted to a common reference frame – suffers from many potential inaccuracies, he suggests it is incorrect to rely on them to draw such conclusions. E. Myles Standish, Jr. of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory even discovered that these older observations suggest irregularities in the orbits of *all* the planets, and asks: 'Did Planet X visit each one on a grand tour'?[34] However, in fairness we should stress that Van Flandern based his beliefs not only on orbital irregularities but also on the idiosyncrasies of the Neptunian planetary system.

Continuing our perusal of Van Flandern's book, we find that although he supported Sitchin's ideas of a 'dynamic' evolution of our solar system – whereby collisions and interactions continually form or change the roles of planets and satellites – his own theory of the creation of the solar system was completely at odds with Sitchin's in the detail. For example he appeared to support the commonly-held view that the Moon was formed by splitting off from the Earth, and argued that the Earth itself was one of the original members of our solar system.[35] Furthermore he argued that there is evidence that a planet that has nothing to do with Planet X exploded between Mars and Jupiter about three million years ago, and – in a self-acknowledged departure into pure speculation in a book which is otherwise highly rigorous and scientific – suggested that *this* was the home planet of the gods who, knowing their imminent fate, escaped to Earth, created mankind and passed on their knowledge.[36] Again this was totally at odds with Sitchin: he was talking about a totally different planet (one which exploded), the timescales were about 2.5 million years too early, and his gods died out early on, unable to live long-term on Earth due to its different environment. Intriguingly none of these discrepancies were mentioned in the book.

Although more work has been performed in the last few years since I conducted the bulk of the research for this paper,[37] I nevertheless believe we can draw only one valid conclusion. Planet X may indeed exist, as for that matter may Planet XI and others. But it has not yet been definitively discovered and observed. Furthermore the huge variety of theoretical postulations concerning its properties do not lend great credence to Sitchin's claims that its orbital eccentricity, plane, and period are so well defined that

they confirm the details of what the Sumerians were recording 6000 years ago.

Furthermore, there remains an essential aspect of this debate which we have so far ignored: *it is only if an additional planet could support life that its existence or otherwise would be of any real relevance to Sitchin's theme…*

Life on Planet X?

In considering this question, let us first see what Sitchin himself has to say:[38]

The notion that the only source of energy and heat available to living organisms is the Sun's emissions has been discarded. Thus, the spacecraft Pioneer 10 discovered that Jupiter, though much farther away from the Sun than Earth, was so hot that it must have its own sources of energy and heat. A planet with an abundance of radioactive elements in its depths would not only generate its own heat; it would also experience substantial volcanic activity. Such volcanic activity provides an atmosphere. If the planet is large enough to exert a strong gravitational pull, it will keep its atmosphere almost indefinitely. Such an atmosphere, in turn, creates a hothouse effect: it shields the planet from the cold of outer space, and keeps the planet's own heat from dissipating into space.

What are we to make of this? For many years cosmologists had assumed that the planets in the outer reaches of the solar system would be mainly gaseous. Sitchin is right to point out that data collated by various probes over the last thirty years has proved this to be incorrect – most notably in the cases of Uranus and Neptune. Although hardly an expert, I can find no obvious fault with his assertion that distant planets can generate their own internal heat and atmosphere. However, remember that we are attempting to assess whether a race of beings who are virtually identical to ourselves (since they created us 'in their own image') could have evolved on such a planet. And in my view there are two *fundamental* objections to this.

First, both Sitchin and certain of the astronomers he cites are united in their belief that Planet X has such an elliptical orbit that at its apogee it is an extremely long distance from the Sun. Consequently, even if its core did provide sufficient heat to unfreeze the surface, *it would be in complete darkness for most of its orbit*.[39] Second, *the chances of its atmosphere being of similar composition to Earth's when it has such different circumstances are highly remote*.

Two further sources are worthy of mention. First, the apparent opinions of Harrington and Van Flandern themselves, as reported by Littmann:[40]

He [Harrington] and Van Flandern still agree that Planet 10 should be a frozen methane, ammonia, and water world somewhat like Uranus and Neptune…

Second, the following report which appeared in the *Sunday Times* of 27 October 1996:

A new planet with an egg-shaped orbit has been discovered by American astronomers. It orbits Cygni B, a star resembling our own sun. William Cochrane, the head of the team that discovered the new planet, is baffled. 'We don't understand how it could have formed like this' he says. 'The new planet has a ***wildly changeable temperature as it swoops close to the star****, then moves out into the far reaches of its solar system.' This elliptical orbit is similar to that postulated for Planet X by astronomers such as Tom Van Flandern. Its 'discovery' is mathematical rather than visible, which places it in exactly the same category as Planet X.*

The phrase which I have highlighted surely indicates that, even if it had its own internal heat source, Planet X itself would suffer from similar wild fluctuations in temperature as its orbital position in relation to the Sun varied by enormous amounts – having a massive impact on any life-forms which might inhabit it.

Once again a vital piece of Sitchin's jigsaw appears not to fit at all.

Summary

- The Mesopotamians *may* have been aware of the existence of all nine currently-discovered planets in our solar system.
- They *may* also have been aware of the existence of a tenth (or to them 'twelfth') planet, which they called Nibiru – although there is minimal support for this in the *literary* works.
- Sitchin’s theory of the creation of Earth, and of the role Nibiru supposedly played in it, is most certainly incorrect – both from a theoretical standpoint, and because it is far too literal an interpretation of the *Epic of Creation.*
- An additional 'Planet X' *may* yet be proved to exist by modern astronomers who are searching for it based on *theoretical* evidence.

- This planet has *not been discovered* as yet, and theories about its orbital properties vary widely. Therefore even if it is

discovered it is highly unlikely to support Sitchin's detailed theories.

• If this planet exists, for it to remain undiscovered by modern technology it must have a highly eccentric orbit, or an extremely remote circular one. Either would dictate that human-like life could not have evolved and prospered there. It could not therefore be the 'planet of the gods'.

NOTES

1. 1. For those who would like to investigate further, the works Sitchin quotes are: Charles Virolleaud, *L'Astrologie Chaldeenne*, 1903-1908. Ernst F. Weidner, *Der Tierkreis und die Wege am Himmel*, (date unspecified). S. Langdon, *Babylonian Menologies and the Semitic Calendar*, (date unspecified). Fritz Hommel, *Die Astronomie der alten Chaldaer*, (date unspecified). Charles F. Jean, *Lexicologie Sumerienne*, (date unspecified). F. Thureau-Dangin, *Rituels Accadiens*, 1921. These all appear to be relatively old studies; however since they do not necessarily concentrate on literary works but on perhaps lesser-studied astronomical ones, and since at least some of these authors are scholars whose work is recognised even by myself, we must not assume that their age necessarily renders them obsolete. Whether or not Sitchin's quoting from them is accurate is of course another matter – and is something I have not investigated, for reasons that will become clear.
2. These arguments are contained in Sitchin, *The Twelfth Planet* (Bear & Co, 1991), Chapters 6-7, pp. 184-188.
3. Ibid., Chapter 7, p. 189, Figures 99-101.
4. Interestingly, astronomer Tom Van Flandern (of whom more later) suggests that Mercury may indeed have been a satellite of Venus during the early development of our solar system. However this does not affect my overall impression of the evidence.
5. Sitchin, *The Twelfth Planet*, Chapter 7, pp. 191-213. Sitchin's analysis is highly detailed, and again for reasons which will become clear I have provided a brief summary only. Note also that, although I do not compare them in any detail, the many extracts from the *Epic of Creation* which he quotes are very much his own interpretations, and differ substantially from Dalley's.
6. The bulk of this information comes from a posting (www.geocities.com/Area51/Corridor/8148/hafernik.html) by Rob Hafernik, who has a degree in Aerospace Engineering and worked as a government contractor for NASA on the Space Shuttle for three years.
7. Sitchin, *The Twelfth Planet*, Chapter 8, pp. 222-3.

8. Sitchin, *Genesis Revisited* (Avon, 1990), Chapter 2, p. 39.
9. Ibid., Chapter 5.
10. Heidel, *The Babylonian Genesis* (2nd Edition, University of Chicago Press, 1951), p. 115.
11. Sitchin, *The Twelfth Planet*, Chapter 7, pp. 208-9.
12. Sitchin, *Genesis Revisited*, Chapter 3, p. 46.
13. Ibid., Chapter 1.
14. Sitchin, *The Twelfth Planet*, Chapter 8, pp. 217-8.
15. Apparently translated by R. Campbell Thompson in *Reports of the Magicians and Astronomers of Nineveh and Babylon.*
16. Sitchin, *The Twelfth Planet*, Chapter 8, pp. 218-221.
17. Taken from Sitchin, ibid., Chapter 6, p. 161, and *Genesis Revisited*, Chapter 1, p. 19.
18. Heise is a senior scientist in the High Energy Astrophysics Division of the Space Research Organization Netherlands, whose high quality Internet site indicates that Assyriology must be a serious hobby for him.
19. Jacobsen, *The Harps that Once... Sumerian Poetry in Translation* (Yale University Press, 1987), p. 240, Note 10.
20. Sitchin, *Genesis Revisited*, Chapter 4, p. 87.
21. Sitchin, *The Twelfth Planet*, Chapter 9, pp. 246-251.
22. Alford, *Gods of the New Millennium* (Hodder & Stoughton, 1997), Plate 41.
23. Sitchin, *The Twelfth Planet*, Chapter 8, pp. 215-6.
24. Dalley, *Myths from Mesopotamia* (Oxford University Press, 1989), pp. 272-3.
25. Ibid., Glossary, p. 325.
26. Sitchin, *The Twelfth Planet*, Chapter 8, pp. 216-7.
27. Sitchin, *Genesis Revisited*, Chapter 13.
28. Sitchin, ibid., Chapter 13, pp. 319-321. This is an abbreviation of Sitchin's extract, which is itself abbreviated.
29. See Mark Littmann, *Planets Beyond: Discovering the Outer Solar System* (Wiley and Sons, 1988), Chapter 13, p. 204.
30. Van Flandern, *Dark Matter, Missing Planets and New Comets* (North Atlantic Books, 1993), Chapter 17, p. 312.
31. Ibid., Chapter 18, p. 322.
32. Quoted in Littmann, op. cit., Chapter 13, p. 198.
33. Ibid., Chapter 13 and the Chronological Table on p. 258.
34. Ibid., Chapter 13, pp. 216-9.
35. Van Flandern, op. cit., Chapter 19, pp. 332-6.
36. Ibid., Chapter 19, pp. 340-2.
37. Hence my repeated use of the past tense in this section. For example, see Alan Alford's summary of Van Flandern's current 'Exploded Planet Hypothesis (www.eridu.co.uk/Author/Exploded_Planets/EPH_Intro2/TVF_EPH/tvf_eph.html – it should be

emphasised that Alford is now following this theory from an entirely non-Sitchinesque viewpoint). Also Van Flandern's own Meta Research (www.metaresearch.org/) organisation's web page (and again it should be emphasised that a new edition of his book has been published which I have not consulted).

38. Sitchin, *The Twelfth Planet*, Chapter 8, p. 229.
39. Again I am indebted to Rob Hafernik (see Note 6) for pointing this out—even though it should perhaps be obvious common sense!
40. Littmann, op. cit., Chapter 13, p. 199.

SITCHIN'S PANTHEON

We looked at the complexities of the group names given to the Sumerian Pantheon, and the various and often conflicting hierarchical structures suggested in the texts, in a previous paper. In *The Twelfth Planet* Sitchin rarely refers to the Igigi and normally uses Anunnaki as a blanket term covering all the gods (although he does separate them from the 'twelve great gods' occasionally), which we have seen is something of an oversimplification. In *Genesis Revisited* he attempts to rectify the error by acknowledging the separate roles of the two ascribed in the *Epic of Creation*, but typically he ignores the complexity associated with this and states categorically that 600 Anunnaki were installed on Earth while 300 Igigi remained in orbit in heaven[1] (which numerically is a misreading of the relevant section of Tablet VI of the text anyway, which states there were 600 in total, i.e., 300 of each), let alone the fact that it ignores the contradictory statements in separate parts of this and other texts.

However there is an underlying rationale to Sitchin's assembly of the Sumerian pantheon: he suggests the existence of a 'cryptographic numbering system' by which mechanism the 'pantheon of twelve great gods' can be established. He suggests that the names of gods are substituted in certain texts by numbers (using the quasi-sexagesimal system) which identify their numerical rank.[2] He further suggests that the pantheon had to remain at twelve, so that only when a member died could one of their offspring step into their shoes, thereby also taking over their numerical rank. Although this sounds perfectly plausible I have found no mention of such a ranking system in the work of the orthodox scholars, and of course Sitchin provides no reference as to the source of his theory. There is a passage in the *Gudea Temple Inscriptions* in which Ninurta (Ningirsu) is referred to as having been 'invested with fifty offices' by his father Enlil,[3] which given the latter's supposed ranking number of 50 would appear to support the idea of the rank being passed on. However this analysis can become more complex: in the

Akkadian *Epic of Creation*, Marduk is in a similar way given fifty titles which in this case are recorded in full[4] – and since his supposed father Enki's rank is 40 this does not appear to match the pattern; on the other hand Sitchin sites this as clear evidence of Marduk taking over the supreme role of the 'Enlilship', despite his supposedly being Enki's son.

We also looked at my reconstruction of the Sumerian Pantheon's 'family tree' in a previous paper, and noted that it must be regarded as an approximation rather than a literal set of relationships. The only other attempt at this I have come across was made by Sitchin himself,[5] but as we will see he seems to make a great many assumptions and oversimplifications, and is often extremely inconsistent from one book to the next. Among a great many other examples, perhaps the best case study of this is his treatment of Enki's supposed sons. His original family tree lists three: Marduk, Dumuzi and Nergal; we know that the first of these is a very late addition to the pantheon who is recorded as Enki's son only in the Akkadian *Epic of Creation*, while I can find little evidence to suggest that the second and third are Enki's sons at all. But worse still by the time of *The Wars of Gods and Men* (1985) he is referring to *six* sons of Enki, although he proceeds to only list five: Marduk, Dumuzi, Nergal, Gibil (who this time gets a mention) and Ninagal (a little-known deity).[6] By contrast, when we come to *The Lost Realms* (1990) we find him introducing another new son, Ningishzida, to whom he ascribes a great deal of significance by assimilating him with the Egyptian god of wisdom and knowledge, Thoth (the Greek Hermes).[7] The latter is in fact not one of the celebrated deities, which would not appear to justify such a lofty assimilation, and all we can say is that he is sometimes linked with Dumuzi – but then Sitchin always treats the latter as a separate deity in his work anyway. Meanwhile he assimilates Marduk with the equally pivotal Egyptian deity Ra.

To put this into context, Sitchin suggests that An was a remote figure who visited the Earth only occasionally (with the return of Nibiru every 3600 years), to the accompaniment of great pomp and circumstance, leaving Enlil in charge on a day-to-day basis. He further suggests that originally the first-born son Enki colonised the Earth, but that his command was subsequently usurped by Enlil – the latter being superior by virtue of having been sired by An's half-sister, and thus of purer genetic stock. According to Sitchin this lead to great animosity between the two brothers, spawning an inter-clan rivalry which continued through successive generations and shaped many of the events of the Earth's formative years. However, we can now see that if his detailed reconstructions are heavily dependent on knowing to which 'clan' any particular deity belonged, and that his 'allocations' are littered with assumptions and inconsistencies, then the entire edifice of his highly detailed reconstructions comes tumbling down.

NOTES

1. Sitchin, *Genesis Revisited* (Avon, 1990), Chapter 4, p. 87.
2. Sitchin, *The Twelfth Planet* (Bear & Co, 1991), Chapter 4, p. 119. He suggests the male ranks were as follows: 60 – An, 50 – Enlil, 40 – Enki, 30 – Nanna, 20 – Utu, 10 – Ishkur; and the female ranks were: 55 – Antu, 45 – Ninlil, 35 – Ninki, 25 – Ningal, 15 – Inanna, 5 – Ninhursag.
3. Jacobsen, *The Harps that Once…* (Yale University Press, 1987), p. 400.
4. In Tablets VI and VII; see Dalley, *Myths from Mesopotamia* (Oxford University Press, 1989), p. 273.
5. Sitchin, *The Twelfth Planet*, Chapter 4, p. 121.
6. Sitchin, *The Wars of Gods and Men*, (Avon, 1985), Chapter 6, pp. 126-7.

- Sitchin, *The Lost Realms* (Avon, 1990), Chapter 9, p. 183.

CONCLUSIONS ABOUT SITCHIN'S WORK

I have already explained that the reason I have devoted a not insubstantial amount of time and effort to refuting the theories of Zecharia Sitchin is because I believe that, over a number of years, they have misled a great many people about matters of great significance.[1] To the extent that, like his former supporter Alan Alford, I was introduced to the enigmas of Ancient Mesopotamia by his work, I do owe him some debt of gratitude. Nevertheless it seems to me a great shame that his ideas are so misplaced that such massive effort is required to correct the balance of opinion in the alternative history community. Were his vivid reconstructions presented in novel form, we could perhaps enjoy them as harmless entertainment. But they are not.

What is my own view of the Mesopotamian texts? I believe that very little, if any, of Sitchin's work deserves to be salvaged. I believe, as I have already hinted on many occasions, that there are certain texts or passages which deserve close scrutiny from an esoteric standpoint; perhaps none more so than the multiple references to the 'creation of mankind'. Although I do not believe the 'gods' were flesh and blood visitors who genetically created man in their own image, nevertheless there are enigmas in these and other aspects of the Mesopotamian texts which are mirrored around the world. However the process of arriving at the most appropriate interpretation thereof is a difficult and lengthy one, not to be undertaken lightly.

However, lest I be accused of continually refuting the theories of others without substituting something positive in return, I can assure my readers that I am currently working on just such a project. I sincerely hope it will be worth the wait...

NOTES

1. Readers should also be aware that I fundamentally disagree with Sitchin over the age of the Giza Pyramids. In order to support his revised chronology of mankind, and his contention that these pyramids were built as "ground markers" for the Anunnaki's incoming space flights, it was Sitchin who first suggested that Colonel Richard Howard Vyse faked the hieroglyphics in the Relieving Chambers in the Great Pyramid, some of which include the name Khufu. On proper investigation this proves to be one of the most appalling and distorted attacks on Vyse's character and integrity imaginable, and a full and highly detailed rebuttal of this nonsense can be found in *Giza: The Truth*, Chapter 2, pp. 94-113. Bearing in mind that it was this original attack by Sitchin which prompted so many other 'alternative Egyptologists' to repeat his accusations without question

– although fortunately now most of them have seen the light – this saga perhaps more than any other tells us a very great deal about Sitchin and his work.

AN ASTRONOMER'S ANALYSIS OF THE AKKADIAN SEAL

by

Tom Van Flandern

Astronomer, and author of *Dark Matter, Missing Planets & New Comets*.
from website of the Laura Lee Show: www.lauralee.com

Referring to Figure 101, p. 205 of Sitchin's "Twelfth Planet": a large star symbol is in the center. It is way too small in diameter relative to the planets; but we might overlook that as artist's license, if only the planets were shown to scale.

Next we note that nine raised circular impressions ("orbs") surround the star in roughly a circle, located weaving in and out among the star's rays. However there is no obvious beginning or ending place along the circle. Nothing appears to mark the place where "Pluto" is followed by "Mercury". (Sitchin's arrow marker is not part of the original Seal.) Indeed, nothing identifies any of the orbs. Their identities must be guessed by inference. Two additional orbs appear farther out than the close circle of nine. Their relationship, if any, to the orbs in the inner circle is unclear.

It was said that the third orb could be identified with the Earth because it was accompanied by another orb which represented our Moon. This is far from obvious. First, there is nothing whatever to suggest that the orb at about one o'clock is the "third" in any sequence. Next, its diameter is distinctly smaller than the diameter of the next clockwise orb, which the text associates with Venus. Venus and Earth should be about the same size, or Earth slightly larger; but the Seal as interpreted has it the other way around.

The orb associated with the Moon is one of the two outer orbs, and the smallest overall. Although it is about the right size relative to the Earth (1/4), it's association with the Earth is not obvious, since its spacing from the Earth-orb is about the same as the spacing between any of the orbs. Specifically, it is farther from the Earth-orb than the Mercury-orb is from the Venus-orb. If the outer orbs are supposed to be moons, then "Mercury's" presence there would suggest that it was a moon of Venus. That might be acceptable, because there is some evidence that Mercury did start out that way billions of years ago. But in saying that I am clearly stretching to accommodate the depiction. Tighter logic would dictate that a Mercury-orb farther from the Sun than a Venus-orb, yet closer to the Venus-orb than the Moon-orb was to the Earth-orb, was simply incorrect in both respects.

Things do not improve after that. The Mars-orb is too large in diameter relative to both Venus and Earth: it should be half of Earth's

diameter. Then we come to the three largest orbs more or less in a line, each progressively larger than the last. Associating Nibiru with the first of these is easy, since the solar system has a gap filled with asteroids there; so any orb whatever could be argued to be the missing parent of the asteroids. But we do not have that kind of freedom with the solar system's two giant planets. Jupiter is larger than Saturn in reality, but the reverse is true of the orbs. Moreover the relative sizes are way off. Jupiter should be over ten times the diameter of the Earth.

Both Jupiter and Saturn have other identifiers as well. Between them they have several of the solar system's largest moons. And Saturn has rings, arguably the most distinctive feature of any planet. But nothing whatever appears to support the association of these two orbs with the giant planets we know. The relative sizes are wrong with respect to the other planets and with respect to each other; and no moons or rings are suggested.

It doesn't get any better, because next we have an orb which does not correspond to anything known in the solar system, in a location which would be unstable for anything to form. Moreover the association of anything with Pluto is questionable, since Pluto would remain unknown even to advanced interstellar visitors, unless they carefully scanned the skies checking every tiny spot of light among hundreds of millions of brighter star images.

This is true even for advanced interstellar travellers. The volume enclosed by Pluto's orbit is so vast that the galaxy's 200,000,000,000 stars could be placed inside its orbit without touching! Pluto is smaller than many solar system moons (including our own), and in any case is a "double" object, since its moon Charon is fully half its diameter and relatively close. Pluto's orbit crosses Neptune's; and there is good reason to suspect that Pluto & Charon are escaped moons of Neptune, not true planets. Nothing about the Pluto-orb suggests an identification with Pluto. It is merely that both are "left over" after discussions of the eight major planets are done.

An association of the stray orb with asteroid or possible comet Chiron (not to be confused with Pluto's moon Charon), which is in an unstable orbit between Saturn and Uranus, would be easier to support than the Pluto identification. But from its relative size and spacing, why not associate this orb with Titan, Saturn's largest moon and the largest moon in the solar system? It seems as entitled to that status as is the orb associated with the Earth's moon. The non-uniqueness of any of the associations is plainly evident.

The orbs associated with Uranus and Neptune look about equally large, and are intermediate in size. That is as much as one can say for them, since the sizes relative to inner or other outer planets are not correct; and the next object around the circle is the Venus-orb.

In summary, the Seal does not, by itself, suggest anything more to an astronomer than an artistic rendition of a star surrounded by planets. There are simply no instances where consecutive identifications of orbs with real planets support one another. Each must be argued ad hoc, and each is problematic.

Given the lack of easy recognition of familiar solar system bodies, the extension to unfamiliar ones (based on the Seal alone) must be regarded as an act of pure faith. Perhaps the Akkadian Seal depicts some other planetary system around some other star; but it seems most unlikely to refer to our own solar system.

William R Lyne on Sitchin and The Illuminati's Re-writing of History

William Lyne was born in Big Spring, Texas, and raised in West Texas oil boom towns and ranching country. He had a Top Secret clearance in Air Force Intelligence, earned a B.S. degree with a double major in Art and Industrial Technology from Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas, acquired an

M.F.A. in Studio Arts from the University of Texas at Austin in 1969, and has lived in New Mexico for over 28 years. In 1975, he rejected a high-paying and prestigious executive CIA position offered by then director George Bush, because he believes the National Security Act of 1947 is an illegal betrayal of American Sovereignty and liberty, and that the flying saucer, as man's greatest invention, should be enjoyed by all. He believes that the USA government should be prohibited from engaging in covert and illegal mind-control of the American people, because it fraudulently violates our bill of (Human) Rights, by circumventing our right to fully informed consent or refusal. He began research leading to this book over 48 years ago, and recognized the "Roswell Incident" as a bungled hoax when it was created in 1947 by military intelligence personnel at Holloman A.F.B., in Alamogordo, New Mexico, and perpetrated in the vicinity of nearby Roswell.

Lyne's book Pentagon Aliens reveals the history of how the monumental discoveries in ether physics by Nikola Tesla, over 100 years ago, were being used to build and develop UFO saucer craft throughout the 20th century. This understanding of how energy can be tapped from the ether and used to provide free energy, anti-gravity propulsion and super-advanced aerial and space-craft, has been one of the Illuminati's biggest secrets. In order to keep the development of such craft secret, a monumental hoax was engineered by

the Illuminati's top military and Intelligence community, resulting in the alien visitation belief system which is currently rampant in the world today.

The following extract from Pentagon Aliens relates Lyne's own experiences in being approached by Illuminati agents to fraudulently author the same kind of material which Zecharia Sitchin has also produced.

"M.I.B." is an acronym for "Men In Black", the Secret Government spooks who often show up to harass witnesses. My reference to a so-called "Friend", is to a man who is and was *one* of them. He also created some of the hoax scenarios for the CIA/OSI, involving pseudo-linguistics, pseudo-archaeology (ala Zecharia Sitchin), as well as the *O.S.I.R.I.S.* group used to 'smokescreen' the cattle mutilation/ stealth weapons test program. This archaeology/linguistics brand of government lie has always angered me, because of the tendency to blur and confuse the work of those who are engaged in responsible linguistic inquiry and archaeology, yet which may be vulnerable because they are divergent and *out* of the mainstream. The flaky and irresponsible fabrication of 'extraterrestrial' interpretations, tends to put a blight on new breakthrough work being done, as if it were also false. For example, around 1977, I had begun to make headway with petroglyph research indicating connections between American Indians and specific, ancient Middle Eastern, Indo-European, Semitic, Asian, Norse, and Celtic writings, languages, cultures and peoples, about which I was contemplating a book.

I was astounded when the "Friend" (whom I had known for several years), paid me a visit in 1977, and announced his intent to institute a program attributing the petroglyphs to "ancient space aliens". He was the M.I.B. who had lived in Santa Fe with and trained the couple of government-paid

U.F.O. shamsters known as "The Two" in 1972 (Marshall Herff Applewhite and Bonnie Lu Nettles). He later exploited the mentally disturbed daughter of the inventor of *The Formula.* I realized at that time, that his fraudulent work was being sponsored by the intelligence community, for whom he had worked for years, and continued to do 'contract work' for.

I noticed that, in my presence, he wore a Shriner ring. This was to gain my trust--or better still, to shut me up---on the erroneous assumption that, since CIA files showed I came from a "Masonic family", I would feel compelled to "keep the secrets". This, in spite of the fact that he was a graduate of a Catholic school (U. of Denver). One of the primary tenets of the *Masonic Oath* is *never to betray* a *trust.* To me, it wasn't my trust he sought, but rather my complicity in a secret betrayal of the trust of the American people.. Even if I had been a Mason, which I am not, gaining my trust through such a fraud

would have nullified the oath. He erroneously thought that he was 'motivating me at my own level.'

It angers me that the intelligence spooks exploit entire fields of knowledge and professions, sacrificing them to government 'expediency', by generating knowingly false programs designed to conceal technology from the public and to brainwash them in BIG LIE mass-psychology programs *ala Hitler*. These programs are to subliminally control people by propagating fantastic, ignorant and twisted lies which elevate insane and irrational elements of society, at the expense of knowledge, reason, and truth. It astounded me that the "Friend" could hypocritically look me straight in the eye, while my life was all the while being cruelly tom apart by their covert harassment. It occurred to me that a committee had worked this all out on paper somewhere, and that individual rights and human life didn't matter to them, so long as they fabricated the 'right' interpretations of things which helped them to control society.

While in graduate school in art at U.T., I was appalled to learn that the fields of art and art history were cynically considered 'expendable' to the CIA people, who referred to artists as "...just a bunch of paranoids..." They had permeated both the faculty and the student body of the university art department. To them, the "cover" of artists and art historians were ideally suited for deceitful, intelligence-gathering foreign travel, photographing strategic defense areas, picking up and delivering data, acting as couriers, etc., and little else. It was my judgment that the people who do that are no better than the closet homosexuals who marry in order to present a false image of themselves to society as being heterosexuals. There were no less than six CIA professionals on the art faculty at U. T. in 1969, and several CIA and military intelligence operatives posing as art students. I wondered how many operatives they had in other departments of the university. Those who posed as students seemed to be spies on the students and the faculty. Since the Viet Nam war was in full swing, 'draft counsellors' seemed to be among their prime targets, but I suppose that any excuse could have served as a pretext to continually meddle with and control what would otherwise have been a natural, and more just flow of the affairs in a supposedly "educational" institution.

In the fall of 1977, the Friend made the trip to my home for the specific purpose of dissuading me from publishing this book, and had the gall to layout the phoney hypothesis for HIS book, which he expected me to write. At that time, he had apparently become disturbed not only by my plans for a flying saucer book, but because I had also begun to branch off into petroglyph research, which threatened to interfere with his official Big Lie plan to interpret the petroglyphs as the "writings of extraterrestrials".

He had apparently dreamed up the alien petroglyph hoax, and enticed me with a lucrative CIA contract, to draw me away from my saucer book, thinking that, once I had collaborated in the false "alien archaeology" lies, I would be "hooked", to be compelled by my published change in position, to fit in with the "alien saucers" lies. This opportunity to prostitute my intellect for cash, included the guarantee that the publishing contacts were already set up and ready to go, in Sedona, Arizona.

I hit the ceiling, saying that I had personal knowledge that flying saucers are man-made, that the government's program of spreading the gospel of *E.S.P., Edgar Cayce, and extraterrestrial origin of flying saucers,* was a Big Lie originating with the Nazis, and that I would never cooperate in the spreading of such trash. I told him of my broad-daylight sighting, that my parents were present among more than seven witnesses, and that they had often seen whole squadrons of saucers in the Dakotas. This information on my parent's sightings turned out to be a serious mistake, as I underestimated the extremes to which the CIA would go to suppress witnesses. Besides, why argue with someone who already knew the truth, and only wanted me to join into the lies to conceal it for fun and profit?

He then attempted to intimidate me, and even threatened me, recounting some of the bad things which had happened to some of those who had refused to cooperate, or had "gone too far" (presumably by doing such things as revealing the secret manipulations I am telling you about in this book).

(Pentagon Aliens – WR Lyne. P127-129)

Click on book cover for purchase details.

Lyne's website see: http://members.tripod.com/~lyne4lyne/index.htm

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THE PLANET X THEORY

Extracted from www.planet-x.150m.com

(it is recommended that the reader view the website's extensive background information and links to articles which cannot be replicated in this short article)

Introduction: What is this all about?

This site is about information regarding a mythical Planet X (called Nibiru by some) and an encounter with Earth in 2003 and a shifting of the Earth's poles which is supposed to cause an end to our civilization. This is a very silly theory backed by bad science and old news articles that unfortunately some people believe.

When I was very young, I was given a book titled "The Search for Planet X". It was primarily about Clyde Tombaugh and the search for the planet Pluto in the 1920's. It also gave a history of other searches for Planet X, including the ones for Uranus and Neptune which were both called Planet X for a time. After the discovery of Pluto in 1930, Tombaugh had continued the search for 13 more years photographing and examining almost the entire sky visible from the northern hemisphere for another dim and distant planet with no results.

I have always been fascinated by this topic and have followed science and astronomy over the years with much interest. I am an amateur astronomer and spend many hours out under the stars with my 8" dob telescope.

I heard about this Planet X when an astronomy group was flooded with messages on Planet X early in 2001. The topic caught my interest, then I was quickly disappointed when I read the first post and realized the details given of Planet X were impossible, and not by a small margin. Members of the group asked the poster(s) to stop posting to sci.astro.amateur as that is a group about amateurs astronomers and our telescopes. I soon learned that this wasn't new, these silly ideas had been circulating the net for years.

Many people in the astronomy group and in several other forums patiently explained the facts regarding a pole shift to the posters of the Planet X nonsense. I saw the same questions asked and the same answers given in many groups. Some of the claims by the Planet X people were so outlandish I just had to look into the topic further. Some are actually shocked when they hear that this fantasy planet is impossible. The initial impression of most is of a secret inbound planet and many are unaware of the scientific impossibility of Planet X and the pole shift.

I decided to put this site together to collect the information regarding the scientific facts and science related news stories on Planet X in one place. I am not a scientist. Much of the information on this site was posted on sci.astro and sci.astro.amateur to counter the bad science of the Planet X 2003 posts. Other information was gathered from around the internet to answer some of the odd claims. I have verified all the information by as many sources as possible.

If you have any additions/corrections, please E-mail me at pxfacts@hotmail.com

Where do these ideas come from?

The majority of the 'Planet X in 2003' idea is from Nancy Lieder and her Zetatalk web site (www.zetatalk.com). Nancy claims to receives her information from beings from Zeta Reticuli.

Nancy Lieder

Nancy started posting to astronomy newsgroups in 1995, about the time comet Hale Bopp was discovered, claiming that there was no comet. Hale Bopp, she claimed, was simply a nova used as a distraction so people wouldn't see Planet X. In the spring of 1997 comet Hale Bopp put on a spectacular show even moving across the Orion area, very near where the mythical Planet X was supposed to be. Pretty strange for a distraction to move across the area it is supposed to be distracting people from! Now 7 years after this claim was made we still don't see Planet X, even without a distraction.

After her failed prediction that NASA would say Hale Bopp had fragmented, Nancy claimed NASA tracked comets until they found one they could say was Hale Bopp. Oddly NASA seems to have found the comet of the century to match the predictions, yet the advanced Zetans didn't see this spectacular comet coming and embarrassed themselves by saying "Mark our words!"

Some of the more dishonest of the Planet X proponents actually claim that Hale Bopp was a non-event! This is a rather sad attempt at revising history to explain the failures of Nancy and Zetatalk.

After flooding internet astronomy groups with this silly talk, a group of amateur astronomers went to show Nancy the beautiful comet that didn't exist.

Nancy still frequently posts her silly ideas in the astronomy groups on USENET.

Nancy's ideas are not new. A comment frequently repeated by followers of Zetatalk is that one person could not come up with all the information on the site. The reality is that one person did not. The content of Zetatalk is comes from many different sources. A few are listed below.

Ben Goldman, a 1960's and 70's horror movie producer claimed to be in contact with beings from Zeta Reticuli. He also speaks of Planet X and Orion. Possibly Nancy watched too many bad horror movies?

The theory of a pole shift is also an old one. Dr. Immanuel Velikovsky proposed this in his book Worlds in Collision in 1950. His suggested that the earth recently had an encounter with a cometary Venus which was hauling around a tail of rocks, very similar to the tail of debris that Zetatalk claims follows their Planet X.

Zecharia Sitchin in his book the 12th Planet discusses the planet Nibiru on a long, elliptical orbit, reaching the inner solar system every 3600 years and can cause pole shifts. (Nancy even calls her planet the 12th and Nibiru) Sitchin is a linguist and archeologist who has spent extensive time studying the ancient Sumerians. He interprets mythology as fact and comes to some very wild conclusions. His theories are not well accepted by the scientific community.

Nancy also uses input from members calling it the Troubled Times Hub. Many items that are posted to the Zetatalk Yahoo! groups such as tt-watch (http://groups.yahoo.com/group/tt-watch) are incorporated into Zetatalk and Nancy Lieder takes credit for the items. The information is not verified and is often incorrect.

Note * the group tt-watch has been under heavy moderation for most of 2002. If you wish to find out about bad weather, tt-watch is the place. Otherwise the moderators have stopped any topic that might show how silly Zetatalk really is. Grab the ideas from Goldman, Velikovsky, Sitchin and others, mix in every weird science idea (the Earth Twin article is a good one) and conspiracy theory and you have ZetaTalk.

Mark Hazlewood, a Zetatalk Clone?

Others have picked up on Planet X, including Mark Hazlewood with his book Blindsided. Hazlewood has probably been the most visible person pushing the Planet X in 2003 scenario over the last year. He has made a number of radio appearances (including a Jan. 16th appearance on the Art Bell show) and spoken at several UFO conferences.

Hazlewood's book is a bit light on information, he doesn't even include the actual articles for the news stories referenced. Instead he gives his opinion of what the article said, calling it a summary, then editorializes on what he has just said. Many of his facts are incorrect and in discussing this with him it is obvious that he did not research the material. There is a large amount of editorial and innuendo and the primary theme of the book is about the evil government conspiracy to hide Planet X.

While many people question the sanity of Nancy Lieder, it is the honesty of Mark Hazlewood that is often questioned.

Hazlewood was previously a member of the Zetatalk E-groups and was banned for get rich quick schemes he tried there.

Hazlewood seems to have taken the majority of his information from Zetatalk including the May 2003 date. He claims many different sources and years of research yet most of his sources are also on the Zetatalk website, usually in more detail.

Hazlewood knew that channelled information from aliens would not be believed by many, so he minimized the whole "Zeta" part of Planet X in 2003. He was right, by hiding the alien source of the information many believe him and not Zetatalk!

He even tried to make a deal with Nancy offering to split the profits from his book if she would keep him updated on information. Nancy Lieder rejected his offer. Nancy Lieder has obviously not been happy about Hazlewood selling a book based on her Zetatalk Planet X.

Marshall Masters of YOWUSA.COM said "The only piece of original work that Hazlewood has done is to open a bank account".

Skeptical Mind.com has a good summary of the Mark Hazlewood Planet X story.

Hazlewood often passes out 2nd hand and very questionable information he claims to receive. Mysterious VIPs seem to frequently contact him confirming the wild claims he makes about Planet X in 2003!

One of these odd stories regarding Russian Scientists tracking Planet X prompted Mitch B a ttros of ECTV (www.earthchangestv.com) to call Hazlewood a "clone" of Zetatalk and his claim of Russians tracking Planet X "fake".

Hazlewood spent time in several E-groups discussing Planet X late 2001 to early 2002, but quit them when he couldn't answer many questions about Planet X and accusations of "government disinformation agents" failed to stop the questions. To avoid these difficult questions he now has a group where only he can post and he primarily rants about the conspiracy to keep his book off the market and posts very suspect reports confirming his claims.

Soon after Hazlewood left the E-groups, one of his supporters, Sherwood Ensey, going by the name of Tuatha, actually lied about the author of this website claiming he traced *this website* to the government!

Ensey was rewarded by accompanying Hazlewood on a radio appearance that week. Amazingly many people believed him, convinced that government agents were the ones challenging the wacky Planet X in 2003 scenario. Of course Sherwood Ensey ran from the discussion group when his lies were exposed by many internet knowledgeable group members. This is typical behavior for these people, making wild claims that are untrue and then cowardly running from any confrontation when their lies are exposed.

If there is a conspiracy involving Planet X, it is probably on the side of those pushing the Planet X in 2003 scenario while selling books or videos.

In a bizarre twist to this already bizarre story Mark Hazlewood has incorporated Planet X 2003 in the state of Florida. Hazlewood's new lady friend, Cindy is also president of Planet X 2003 INC. a Florida for-profit corporation. She claims that this corporation is not being setup for tax purposes but for protection from lawsuits. It is curious since lawsuits would not come about until after the May 2003 passing of Planet X is shown to be false, so why would they need protection? Because they *know* that nothing will happen, they will still be here and are trying to insulate themselves to protect the money they have made playing chicken little, scaring people and preaching doom.

What is Planet X (Nibiru?)

Does Planet X exist? Yes, as an idea only. Planet X has always been the name for the unknown planet. Neptune was Planet X for a time. Pluto was Planet X for many years. After Pluto was discovered, the search continued. Planet X was a hot topic in the 70's and 80's. This is the real Planet X, just a name given to an idea, such as the missing link or the unknown soldier.

The Planet X this site is about is a fantasy Planet X, also called the 12th planet or Nibiru. This was first proposed in the book The 12th Planet by Zecharia Sitchin. He studied the ancient Sumerians and based on their writings and seals felt they had advanced knowledge about the solar system. Taking the stories of their gods and other myths as actual fact, he determined that they were in contact with an alien race living on a 12th planet in our solar system that comes into the inner solar system every 3600 years. Yes, there are only 9 planets, but to make the Akkadian Seal seem like advanced knowledge of our solar system, the sun and moon were also called planets.

Note: Zecharia Sitchin DOES NOT support the idea of his Nibiru returning in 2003.

Zetatalk took the Sitchin's information and added a lot of silly things, including a May 2003 date for the return of Planet X or the 12th planet. It is sometimes referred to as a comet. It is supposed to be an inhabited brown dwarf star, covered with oceans! We are told it is in orbit between our Sun and the Sun's dead twin sun. This orbit brings it through our solar system every 3600 years.

I have seen several believers in Planet X say they asked an astronomer if he knew about Planet X. The answer is always yes, and the astronomer abruptly leaves. An admission by an astronomer who was obviously frightened to talk about it and ran! Actually anyone with a basic knowledge of astronomy has heard of Planet X and the astronomer was probably thinking , "Oh, no, not another one of those Planet X people".

IRAS 1983 What's the story there?

IRAS (infrared Astronomical Satellite) was launched on January 25, 1983. During its ten months of operation, IRAS scanned more than 96 percent of the sky four times at four infrared bands.

On November 9th, 1983 in Washington DC a press conference was held discussing objects which were seen in infrared but had no recorded visible

counterpart. On December 30, 1983 the Washington Post published an article based on this press conference. This was not especially a newsworthy item and it was 7 weeks before the article was printed.

This article is used as the main piece of "evidence" of Planet-X Although the author clearly sensationalized a bit, the specifics of the article are clear. Every Planet X book and website proclaims "they spotted it in 1983!"

Other than the attention grabbing headline and the exciting lead paragraph, the facts of the article are fairly routine.

The article tells us something was found that could be "a planet, a giant comet, a nearby "protostar" that never got hot enough to become a star, a distant galaxy so young that it is still in the process of forming its first stars or a galaxy so shrouded in dust that none of the light cast by its stars ever gets through." "All I can tell you is that we don't know what it is," Dr. Gerry Neugebauer, IRAS chief scientist for California's Jet Propulsion Laboratory and director of the Palomar Observatory for the California Institute of Technology, said in an interview. "I believe it's one of these dark, young galaxies that we have never been able to observe before."

Not very concrete evidence of a mystery planet, just a scientific mystery that astronomers couldn't identify at the time. Mark Hazlewood in his book Blindsided even thanked Neugebauer for coming forward saying: "he publicly spoke to 6 daily newspapers informing everyone they had found the 10th planet, the last day in 1983." This is definitely not what Neugebauer said, but is normal for the badly pieced together book Blindsided. Hazlewood did not even know the date of the press conference and as Zetatalk had an incorrect date for the article (12/31/83), Hazlewood was sure to make the same mistake.

Others talk about the conspiracy to cover-up IRAS. What cover-up you ask? 18 years of silence after the 1983 announcement of course! They actually consider no follow-up story as a cover-up.

What is really zany is that the article states that the object IRAS spotted was extremely cold, "no more than 40 degrees above "absolute" zero". The proposed Zeta planet is supposed to be a brown dwarf, definitely not a cold object.

Also the object IRAS spotted did not move in the 6 months between images. The Zeta planet is a moving object as illustrated by a map on the Zeta web site. IRAS would have easily detected this much movement over a 6 month period.

Zany Zeta logic, IRAS spotted something unknown, extremely cold and not moving that could be a planet, and this is proof of the Zeta hot, moving planet/brown dwarf.

What did IRAS find?

The conspiracy theory of IRAS is primarily due to there not being any follow-up news reports. NASA obviously put a lid on the news according to the Planet X supporters. In reality what IRAS found was not an exciting or newsworthy discovery. Nothing unknown and mysterious for sensational headlines as in the case of the 1983 story.

According to Dr. Mike Dworetsky, Director University of London Observatory, "The object in question was eventually identified as a denser knot of "interstellar cirrus" in Taurus (not in Orion but a bit to the west) while the other objects the team were interested in were identified as infra-red-bright galaxies."

"The object was designated as 0412+085 in Houck J.R. et al, Astrophysical Journal Letters vol 278, p L63, 1984 and reported as infrared cirrus in Houck, J.R. et al, Astrophysical Journal Letters vol 290, p. L5, 1985. The other objects, as the article stresses, were identified as very faint galaxies."

So what did IRAS find? A knot of interstellar cirrus, which is simply an area of dust grains between the stars. This would not make a very exciting news story, certainly not up to the 1983 Washington Post story.

Why can't we see it?

In 1995, Zetatalk described the visibility of Planet X in a passage called Comet Visible. It claimed that "The 12th Planet is now visible to the human eye, though only the educated eye would see it."

Later Comet Visible states:

"The naked eye will begin to register increased brightness approximately 1 year 7 months before the cataclysms, or late in the year 2001. This appearance will be discounted by most, who will point to the distortions in the atmosphere as a cause or will explain this as an exploding star, the light rays of which are just becoming visible on Earth. "

It was no surprise to anyone that in October 2001 or 1 year and 7 months before the predicted arrival this passage was changed. In very small letters, at the top of the page it states:

"When the Zetas state it is visible with the naked eye, they are referring to being visible by the eye, as aided by telescope or magnifying equipment. The planet will not be visible, unaided by equipment, until 7 weeks before the passage."

One would think that with excuses such as this, Planet X in 2003 would lose all supporters. Surprisingly this didn't seem to bother many believers in Planet X.

So what about viewing it with a telescope? In 1995 and 1996 Zetatalk repeatedly told amateur astronomers that they should be able to see Planet X. Here is a portion of a reply from Nancy to an amateur astronomer:

"It is YOUR statement that the 12th Planet is not visible as you and others have "seen nothing". It was OUR statement that with the RA and Dec given, the 12th Planet would be "within your scopes". " It is now 7 years later and Zetatalk claims that it takes an observatory telescope to see the planet until mid-2002. This is another contradiction as the planet is supposed to be magnitude 10 or 11, something almost any amateur astronomer could see.

It is especially amusing that in 1995 Nancy Lieder went public with her silly Hale Bopp conspiracy theory. Hale Bopp, she claimed, didn't exist. It was simply a distraction to draw attention away from her Planet X.

Now 7 years later, with no distraction it still hasn't been seen.

Why can't we see it? Because the Zetatalk Planet X doesn't exist.

Nancy Lieder and Zetatalk claimed that Planet X would finally be visible to amateur astronomers in mid 2002. Her coordinates are now visible before dawn.

Nancy Lieder is now backpedalling on her claims and withholding new coordinates until September!

“In that there is a Campaign to have amateurs look too early for this inbound brown dwarf, no larger than a one of your distant planets and thus not yet reflecting sunlight, diffuse and without the intense pinpoint of sunlight that stars have at their center, in the astronomical dawn when the skies are hardly dark enough to see even small stars clearly, when it is close to the horizon and not high enough in the night sky to be clearly delimited, we are

withholding our coordinates until the time that astronomers Not on a disinformation campaign of discouragement and ridicule have stated. Coordinates will be provided on mid-September, 2002, as those looking prior to that time will be guided into discouragement, quite deliberately, by NASA chronies."

Nancy has provided coordinates for years. She first claimed Planet X could be seen by amateurs back in 1995, then flip-flopped and decided it couldn't. Now she withholds the coordinates claiming there is a "Campaign" to discourage amateurs who she claims wouldn't be able to see it due to the dawn. The link above by Open-minded shows that on July 13th the Zetatalk coordinates were visible before astronomical dawn from Hawaii and Florida.

It is no surprise that we have more excuses from Zetatalk. There obviously will be many more excuses for her fantasy planet between now and May 2003. It will be interesting to see how she and Hazlewood react over the next few months as it becomes obvious that Planet X is a no-show for 2003. Probably more pathetic claims of sightings from Hazlewood and excuses why we can't see it from Nancy Lieder.

What about the sightings of Planet X?

In late May 2002 Mark Hazlewood came up with a new "sighting" of Planet X.

I just spoke with a triple Doctorate that thanked me for writing my book. He said if it wasn't for me he would have not found out about Planet X. This past Thursday 5-23-02 right outside of Boston he went to the Museum of Science. They had a large scope with filters. There were 24 people there including several government officials. He personally had a look at 2001 KX76 and Planet X. He was told not to tell anyone this but because of my efforts he phoned my son down in Florida first and told him that he saw Planet X. I phoned my son and asked for my messages and then he told me a Doctor called and said he saw PX personally. I said to him "How does it feel getting first hand information before me, I usually get it first?" My 22 year old son was not impressed, he'd heard it all before and didn't understand the significance of this sighting I believe.

I then phoned the Doctor back from up here in Toronto and had a 12 minute conversation with him before he had to take a patient. He said right away that he saw Planet X and it is 100% confirmed. He ended the phone call saying 100% confirmed twice. He said the government is very worried about what PX will do when it passes. They said to him that last time PX passed the majority of the objects from the asteroid belt cratered the moon and went into our oceans. That this was the time (every 3600 years during PX's

passing) when most of the cratering gets formed on our moon. The additional worry was that some of these asteroid type objects might get deflected this time and would not land in the ocean. He said the whole meeting was very hush hush.

He said they said at it's present speed that it would arrive in

3.5 years but said that could be disinformation and may not take into account that it could be increasing in speed. [From my understanding PX is increasing in speed exponentially and there's nothing but basic Newtonian physics that is causing this and nothing preventing it from reaching ANY speed and will be here between early June to early July 2003.]

He said also that he heard from the group there that Hubble is being used to monitor this situation with PX very closely and an observatory in Killoway (spelling) Hawaii. [I'm sure there's a lot more scopes viewing this] Also, the point was made that THEY know it's inbound and are very worried about what it will do when it passes because of its size. He said it could be very devastating.

This is obviously a fake report by a very desperate Hazlewood in an attempt to increase interest in Planet X. Why is it so obviously fake?

1. On May 23, 2002 the given coordinates for Planet X were very close to the sun and not visible.
2. The Boston Museum of Science is a leaning center and the largest telescope there is a modest 12 inch instrument, which many amateurs also have.

When Hazlewood heard about the mistake he had made his story changed to "non-traditional" viewing. As more questions came in the story changed to a computer link to the Hubble Space Telescope. Unfortunately for Hazlewood the Hubble cannot view objects close to the sun. Oops!

So this "100% confirmed sighting" as Hazlewood called it changed from a "large telescope with filters" to "non traditional viewing" to a computer link to Hubble.

This is probably why Nancy Lieder wanted nothing to do with Hazlewood, he is not smart enough to tell a good lie!

There were supposedly 3 sightings of Planet X in 2001. They have been called "documented", "confirmed" and "verified" sightings. These sightings

are extremely doubtful and apparently many believers in Planet X 2003 don't believe in these sightings either. There are several good reasons.

At Lowell the telescope used was a 16 inch telescope used for public viewing. No filter was used and the observatory staffer supposedly agreed that it was a magnitude 11 object.

At Vancouver, a 19 inch telescope was used, again with no red filter. PX was supposedly seen easily.

In both cases, people without any experience with telescopes using moderate sized instruments simply looked and there it was. These were very nice instruments, although not the huge observatory telescopes we read about and see pictures of.

The problem is that there are many thousands of amateurs who could see what were seen at these 2 sightings. There are many amateurs with smaller scopes with CCD cameras that could image beyond what could be seen visually with these scopes. Nothing has been seen by amateurs, and the Zetans now say that nothing but an observatory scope can see it until mid 2002. The object was confirmed as an 11th magnitude object, something that could be seen with a small telescope. Either these were not true sightings or a few hundred thousand amateurs worldwide should be able to see it.

The 3rd sighting was at Neuchatel. This was reported by someone with tt-france that "the daughter of the astronomer reports that they suspect a comet or a brown dwarf".

Oddly it turns out that Neuchatel no longer does professional observations.

Neuchatel is now open for amateur use only. The French message also states that the object was found near the arm of Orion. The Zeta Map shows Planet X to be in Taurus in early 2001.

Quite a stretch to call these "documented", "confirmed or "verified".

For more thorough debunking of the Planet X myth I recommend astronomer Phil Plait’s website www.badastronomy.com which supports the material presented here.

One Key to deciphering religion, New Age and Illuminati-sponsored

Revision of Mythology – the Zodiac

by

Ivan Fraser

It is extremely interesting also that Christianity – the Messianic movement of the Christ – began 2000 years ago, in light of what I am about to present of the hidden codes in mythology and religion relating to the zodiac. Because the references in the Bible to Jesus's prophecies and promise to be with us until the end of the aeon are essentially references to the astrological New Age, as it was then. The aeon is the astrological age, as defined by the twelve houses, represented popularly since Babylonian times by animal symbols such as Cancer the crab, Leo the lion etc. The New Age being heralded at the end of the Old Testament and into the New Testament was the Age of Pisces. Whereas, today, we are heading into the Age of Aquarius. As the next 'New Age' dawns we are seeing a re-emergence of the same ancient motifs and beliefs and fascinations which combined to produce the last 'one religion fits all' cult of Christianity.

Astronomical and astrological references, motifs and codes abound in ancient mythologies and 'mysteries'. They play a monumental role in shaping religious beliefs, but have for thousands of years been encoded into stories which have been massively misinterpreted through the ages, leading to any number of religious dogmas and misunderstandings. Furthermore, the Illuminati of the ages has deemed such knowledge to be beyond the wit of the common people and have suppressed the truth of the origins of these religious dogmas, thereby making them falsely mysterious. The Bible even demonises astrology, which led to murderous suppression by the Church in its purge of the 'heretics' down through the ages.

This understanding will, I am sure, reveal a good part of the picture to those who are still in two minds about this subject due to the many ambiguities (or apparent ambiguities) in ancient texts that appear to *need* an alien or mystical explanation. However, armed with these insights, so much of the speculative and 'way out' theorising can be disregarded as wishful thinking, overactive

imagination, over-complication, or even deliberate fraud designed to confuse, distort reality and manipulate our minds.

The situation is not helped by the fact that there is indeed an unseen reality of paranormal phenomena which has been experienced since the dawn of man, a great deal of which has been *assumed* to have been the underlying meaning behind many elements of mythology, which actually refer to much more down to earth (or up in the skies) phenomena. When old names and titles of deified historical figures were combined with emerging man-made models of natural phenomena, the mythologies began to branch into new emerging mythologies and religions which were built upon the foundations of them. For example, the very word we use to name the Creator – God – is an ancient term for the original nationality of the Sumero-Babylonian kingship – Gutti/Gotti. Angels is a word derived from En-ge-li, an old title for King Can, (basically meaning 'Lord of Cultivation of the Earth) whose title Mikli became the name of a Judeo-Christian figure – Archangel Michael, who has inspired any number of esoteric and New Age interpretations. The Vedic name for a class of demons – Asuras – originally had the opposite meaning of 'divine' and was derived from a Sumerian name for the sun – Ashira. All of these terms – and very many more – have since become terms associated with 'occultism' and paranormal phenomena and ideologies. It is extremely unwise to assume that popular meanings of words from today or recent history are equivalent to the original understanding of the same words or their roots. The same goes for entire meanings behind many global mythologies.

Certainly, astronomy and astrology are not the entire answer to ancient 'ambiguous' myths. As I have shown in the previous editions of the magazine, genuine histories and characters have been recorded and later altered, or misinterpreted to fit in with the beliefs and politics of vested interests, whilst others have been used as a template to illustrate 'hidden' ideas, or moral lessons. Some texts *do* reveal knowledge of the unseen worlds and of things we call today 'paranormal', but many which are assumed to do not.

A great deal of confusion arises through the fact that most people do not know the origins of the ideas which became myths, and how these myths were gradually misinterpreted and added to by succeeding scribes through the ages. What may have once been a simple history tale, could later become an esoteric text with the names of historical characters used as titles for states of mind, planes of existence, powers of nature etc. One tale can launch a hundred mythologies which will be further interpreted and incorporated into the cultural heritage of other nations and cultures around the world.

Having studied the mythologies of numerous and diverse cultures across the world, I have been impressed by the many similarities and common themes and motifs to be found in cultures often thousands of miles apart, speaking an entirely different language, and showing evidence of remarkably different cultural heritage.

One reason for this is the rise of the Sumerian aristocracy, which pioneered the art of seafaring and took their knowledge, histories and myths around the world in search of new lands, knowledge and mineral resources. The oldest texts began as histories. The histories were largely prehistoric folk memories, some of which became parables and means to explain unexplained phenomena like why do plants grow and why do they do so in seasons, what causes the seasons etc? Then at the introduction of writing, those who first wrote – i.e. the Sumerians – were writing about what their aristocracy had done, and began to make ongoing records. Years down the line, new writers reinterpreted the writing – a process which continues up to this very day. Writers embellished, mistranslated (especially in the case of ancient Hebrew, which was always ambiguous, having no clearly defined beginning and end of sentences, or vowels to define the exact meaning of the work), added bits to make sense of what they only partly understood, or were deliberately altered for local religious or political reasons etc. And so these developments spread around the world and continually transformed.

However, amongst a very large proportion of the commonalties, is to be found a fundamental and relatively simple reason for the many similarities. That is, all people since the dawn of humanity have lived on the Earth and gazed up at the sky and witnessed essentially the same passage of the heavens. And they have all tried, in their own way, to explain that which they could not fully explain any other way, through the use of symbolism.

The obvious questions in the minds of our predecessors were why do the heavenly bodies appear to die and come back, why do the stars and sun do that in the sky everyday and will they do so again tomorrow and in the future?

Around 2000 BC, the priests in Babylon had begun to seriously map the heavens. They named the cosmic bodies after the names and titles of the early Sumerian aristocracies who had been later deified as heroes and gods for helping the lot of mankind (through the introduction or transformation of farming and education, science, building, metallurgy etc.).

They named the cosmic bodies after their gods and they realised that time was defined by the kinetic movement of the heavens around the Earth, in a time when it was not recognised that the Earth moves around the sun. Therefore, the gods lived 'up there', constantly revolving around the ‘lower’

realm of mankind’s earthly dwelling. What they did 'up there' affected man – brought seasons – life and death etc. So man had started to develop the first star maps and noted their relation to the seasons.

Having defined the movements of the heavens and their relationship with the seasons and agriculture etc., it was assumed that everything in ‘heaven’ was absolutely ordered. Everything happened at the same time every day, and every day the cycle would repeat; and every year the solar cycle and seasons would repeat as it was believed it had always done. Eventually, however, they began to notice that the heavens were not constantly progressing in the same order. Something had shifted over time. Given enough time – generations – to observe the heavenly cycles – the imperceptibly slow progression of greater cycles began to be noticed. Order was shifting – which they saw as a developing chaos.

All that had happened was the effect of the precession of the equinoxes. The sun was gradually rising in a different position – apparently moving backwards through the astrological houses – as the years progressed. Their star maps – i.e. the daily and seasonal activity of their ‘gods’ – was increasingly becoming inaccurate. Therefore, reasons had to be found to explain this. Consequently new mythologies developed to give reason to what seemed inexplicable at the time.

Today, we know where the stars are, where they go, how they move progressively over time. We can predict the positions of the heavens well into the future and we can accurately map where they have been throughout our history. We know that we move around the sun, and the precessional cycle takes us through an apparent 25,920 year retrograde journey through the houses of the zodiac, in each of which we reside for 2160 years.

The early astronomers however were not in possession of such facts. They did not know that their ‘perfect’ ordered heavens and gods were constantly shifting over thousands of years and would not return to their ‘original’ state of ‘order’ in theirs or their immediate descendants’ lifetimes.

But they had enough mathematical knowledge to realise that the heavenly circle could be evenly divided into 12 sections of a 360 degree circle, each of which occupying 30 degrees of arc, defined by one discernible constellation in each house. Obviously, a correlation between this dial-like ring around the Earth which shifted through an entire circuit each year, was observed in relation to the regular waxing and waning cycles of the moon. So, early calendars were developed; some based on the moon cycles and others on the sun, whilst attempts were made (for many hundreds of years) to synchronise the lunar and solar cycles. However, because both cycles do not correlate and gradually move out of synch, myths developed to explain the tensions

between the moon and sun, and why they ‘ruled’ time in different ways. Reconciliation myths developed to explain also the fact that cycles of heavenly bodies not only moved out of synchronisation (into chaos), but also would eventually come back into a period of apparent synchronisation (order).

So began the idea that ‘in the beginning’ (i.e. from the point at which they had created their maps, which they had assumed was an eternal order) was a ‘golden age’, when man and gods lived in harmony. There was harmony in ‘heaven’, and also because of this, on earth. Historically, of course, the rise of the Sumerians *had* been a ‘golden age’, wherein the lot of mankind had been enormously benefited by new emerging technologies and understanding, the suppression of indigenous barbarism etc. which the early Sumerian kings had brought to Mesopotamia.

By then, old tales of great god-men and women who brought culture, began to be re-written as the 'gods' rebelling in the heavens – creating increasing disorder, chaos, from a time of 'perfection' (the original star map which they thought was fixed). The lesser gods were rebelling, the orbits were changing their once apparently ordered synchronisation. The Golden Age was gone; when would it be restored? Astrological calculations were made as to when the order and reconcilliations would re-occur in the large precessional cycle as well as the smaller yearly solar, lunar and planetary cycles. The events on Earth would reflect the activities in the heavens, and so the heavens were observed for portents of good and ill.

This was also a time of a relative decline of the power of the Sumerian aristocracy in Babylon, which saw the rise of the power of the indigenous Semitic priesthoods. Warfare with other countries and tribes was increasingly troubling the land, and was attributed to the course and plight of the gods and fates in the ‘heavens’.

In the attempt to create a unified explanation of the relationship between heaven and earth, all kinds of motifs were being written

– the world serpent spinning the earth (in the Vedas), the world mill spinning the heavens (the zodiac) etc. The world mill would grind sustenance for the people and so bread became a common astronomically-related motif (as in the biblical reference to ‘manna from heaven’). Other myths had the mill grinding salt, because of the view that the heavens were a huge salty sea. The gods now had fights with bows (the archer) and shot dogs (Sirius, the Dog Star) etc. The corn/sun god Osiris/Ra went underground at night to fight the evil serpent, to be resurrected in his solar bark – shining back into the sky. The ‘shining ones’ travelled in celestial chariots – **ships of light travelling through space and the sky –** who were the 'watchers' of man and the Lords

of man's fate – interfering and interacting 'as above, so below'. THEY could do that to man and the environment – bring life and death and fate – but man could not affect THEM. They had their own rules, could die and return, commit crimes, incest etc. but were intrinsically 'allowed', as the rules of the gods were absolutely outside the realm of mankind to affect and could be judged only by each other, and ultimately by the Supreme Judge – i.e. whoever happened to be seen by the people and priests as the ultimate head of their pantheon.

One of the most prominent motifs in mythologies throughout the world is the idea that the heavens are suspended upon an axis, around which they revolve. There are many world axes, including heavenly mills, sacred mountains, pillars and ladders to the heavens. The heavens are also frequently symbolically classed as a 'sea' in which the gods either swim (the fish symbol of the sun/Jesus) or upon which the gods sail in their eternal travels, or adventures and wars. Some temples – such as Sumerian ziggurats (in which the priestess/goddess would be placed in the apex) and perhaps the Egyptian pyramids – which were often astronomical observatories, incorporating earthly and cosmic mathematics and geometry into their design, were seen as earthly 'bonds' between heaven and earth, and were also 'world pillars', like the fabled Tower of Babel. The motif of the goddess looking down from a high window, such as in a castle, is a common theme and indicates to those 'with eyes to see' that the tale is an astronomical/astrological one. Hence mythologies including the motifs of the princess (the Mother Goddess/sea of space/moon) captured (fixed) in a tower (the world axis) being rescued by a noble son/prince/hero (the sungod), who slays the dragon (the force of darkness and opposition/chaos).

As is the case today in Islam, the circle is associated with the Oneness of God, and the square with the Earth, or earthliness. This derives from the symbolism of the circular zodiac and the old Babylonian maps which defined the known world as a square area. Numerous motifs can be found in mythology in which a stone (temples and Neolithic observatories and calendars such as Stonehenge were made of stone) symbolises the bond between heaven and earth, and when the stone is removed or destroyed, then 'the waters' come flooding out causing a catastrophe. For example, this myth was associated with ancient Jerusalem, where it was believed the 'waters' of 'the earth' (in mythology, 'the earth' is frequently a symbol of the heavens) all gathered beneath Jerusalem's temple (astronomical/ astrologically aligned bond of heaven and earth) and must be kept in place to prevent another great flood. The motif of a stone falling from heaven or pillar being removed, resulting in a 'fall, catastrophe or flood would represent the movement from order to chaos and the end of an astrological aeon; a pillar being erected

towards heaven being symbolic of the establishment of order and the beginning of entry into a new astrological age.

If we consider a prominent example of the world-pillar motif – Jacob of the Bible – we find that the original Sumerian rendering of his name is IA-A-GUB, which means ‘standing stone, or pillar’. Jacob is said to have erected a pillar at Beth-El, devoted to his god. He also experienced a vision of a stairway to heaven which allowed the angels (gods) to ascend and descend to Earth. However, the biblical tale clearly overshadows the fact that the Jacob myth is a later rendition of a common theme in which Jacob *is* a god, a sungod, surrounded by the 12 houses of the zodiac – which became the origin of the legend of the 12 tribes of Israel. Pantheons of 12 gods exist in mythologies all over the world, for obvious reasons.

Every 2160 years, the sun would rise in a particular house of the zodiac. So the sun (symbolised as the ‘son’ of god) was ‘born’ of a virgin (the Virginal pre-existent void of space – the sea called Mery/Mary, Tiamat etc.) into a New Age at the beginning of each era and would traverse through the childhood phase to adulthood, to eventually die on the cross (the symbol of the sun and the 4 major divisions of the world and sky) and be reborn at the beginning of the succeeding astrological sign – i.e. at the point where it left the 30 degrees or arc of that particular house. Consequently, we have numerous ‘saviours’ or sungods, or sons of god being born of a virgin (the void/sea of space) and dying at the ‘age’ of 30, of whom Jesus is a very late and contrived example.

Central to religious beliefs of the ages is the concept that the sungod messiah will ‘come again’ and a New Golden Age be restored to rule over the new order of the heavens/gods, and consequently of the affairs of man. There have been numerous ‘sons of the waters’ motifs from Moses, to Jesus’s baptism, or portrayal through the symbol of the fish etc; from the Vedic fire god Agni and sun god Karna (who, like Moses is a royal babe drawn from the waters).

But the idea of a heavenly sea or space suspended on an earthly pillar, which ends in cataclysm and warfare of gods has been portrayed in many more ways than those with which we are mainly familiar through the symbolism of the Bible.

For example, Plato’s Atlantis myth revolved around a discussion with the **astronomer** Timaeus. The text is initially at great pains to emphasise Timaeus’s position as the premier astronomer, and proceeds to tell us of a legendary island (world pillar motif) which was established by the gods (planets and stars) in a Golden Age, which then was involved in a ‘fall’; into warfare, and finally destruction by crumbling into the sea (order into chaos

and destruction into the sea of the heavens prior to a re-establishment of a New astrological Age). The 'gods' in this case are said to dwell 'outside the **pillars** of Hercules', which are usually taken to mean the Straits of Gibraltar, but in accordance with the ancient code, most likely refer to the pillars or gates through which the 'Milky Way' flows, or some such similar astronomical reference. Why would Plato spend so much time impressing upon us that the character of Timaeus was an astronomer, and that they were speaking in symbolism, if the text were not primarily concerned with the course of the heavens? One thing the texts of Critias and Timaeus make clear is that they are not to be taken literally. So why do people today read them so and see them as the first records of an ancient island kingdom populated by gods or aliens? Certainly, there are many submerged once-populated areas of the world and sunken landmasses, but it does not mean that *any* of them were Atlantis, or populated by advanced people, aliens or gods before the end of the last Ice Age. Especially when we consider that the fabled gods of Atlantis were also associated with the cosmic bodies, and their names were derived from the titles of the ancient historical kings of Sumer, which dates them no earlier than the late 4th millennium BC.

(The sheer mass of such astronomical/astrological symbolism throughout world mythology is the subject of Hamlet's Mill by de Santillana and Von Dechend, and is highly recommended to all readers in ancient mythology.)

The activities of the gods created fear in the minds of men. The gods fought each other and moved – apparently – out of the harmony of the Golden Age, bringing calamity to the people on Earth. Man was taught to fear the gods, and to observe them, to **worship** them and their (in reality the priests') edicts, in order to ensure a certain future. The gods could strike down upon them famine, flood, wind or earthquake, should the people displease them. In reality, the idea of 'god's punishment' derived from a need to explain why natural disasters occurred to people, and many elements of religion were later derived from scribes inserting their own explanations as to why such things should occur. They thereby turned many ancient characters into 'sinners', who were not originally considered to have been so.

One also should consider the enormous power which early astronomer-priests had over the ignorant masses by knowing when and where certain cosmic events were going to occur. When the people needed to be persuaded one way or the other, they would be told to look to the skies for a 'sign from the gods'. If such a sign was to occur, as opposed to another, then the 'gods' had decreed such a thing. Of course, the priests and their kings knew exactly what would be happening, and would be merely conning the general public into handing over their power and consent. Such devious

priestly machinations are also recorded in popular myth, such as the ‘prophecies’ of Merlin, the archetypal king’s shaman/priest.

Numerous myths developed on the theme of the Golden Age, ‘the beginning’ which was perfect, and moved into a period of strife in which gods and men experienced a ‘fall’ into chaos or sin and eventually a catastrophe – usually a great flood (the sea motif again representing whole of visible space) from which emerged another cycle, replete with a new messianic figure or hero (the sun emerging into another zodiacal house). And countless variations on this basic story have been told throughout the ages.

But only the early priests philosophers and educated aristocracies knew that the gods were the stars and planets. The general working classes were not educated enough to understand the complexities of geometry, maths and science needed to map, record and predict the cycles and seasons of earth and sky. So they were given superficial tales of gods and wars of the ages. And these tales would eventually coalesce into the religions we know today.

The earliest secret societies and mystery schools derived from the early scientific associations of these elite individuals, who grew to savour the power they maintained over the people because they possessed advanced knowledge which they passed down to their successors, whilst the general populace toiled in ignorance, and were effectively controlled by the priests and kings who could more effectively control them with a threat from the gods, than with a threat of physical force. Today, we are still ‘ruled’ by those who have had such advanced knowledge passed on to them through aristocratic bloodline heritage and inheritance via secret society networks which go back to Egypt, Babylon and Sumer.

An early branch of the secret societies was the early seafarers who were sent to new lands to exploit the mineral wealth of other countries, to bring it home and increase the wealth and prosperity of their kings and queens. Such ancient mariners needed to understand the nature of the heavens and the seasons to effectively navigate and return with their booty. This knowledge could be effectively encoded into popular tales and myths, whilst keeping rival cultures in the dark. (Zecharia Sitchin would treat this entire subject as evidence that the ‘alien gods’ used mankind as slaves to mine mineral wealth all over the world, and the fact that this occurred in areas as remote as South America and Sumer is also taken as evidence that they must have travelled in advanced craft – rather than the true explanation: they simply went in boats.)

The early Sumerians, Egyptians and Phoenicians, for example, sailed to the British isles to mine tin, gold, jet etc. Here they found a country populated by people who did not yet know the wealth of such minerals, and had not created an empire like theirs which depended upon such materials. They

were organised into a great mining workforce by the early argonauts and were thus influenced by their beliefs and ‘mysteries’. The seafarers then would return to their own lands replete with mineral wealth, whilst guarding their secret sources jealously from other seafaring merchants and traders. As French researcher Gilbert Pillot revealed in his book, The Secret Code of the Odyssey, encoded into Homer’s Odyssey, is a detailed astronomical navigational manual for early mariners on how to sail from the Mediterranean to Britain and back.

One of the facts which one never sees in popular books on ancient monuments, leylines and New Age books on the ancient ‘masters’ etc. is the fact that all the ancient monuments in Britain are to be found in the ancient mining districts, where the early seafaring traders came to exploit the minerals of Britain. The reason why academia and New Age theorists cannot reconcile the advanced knowledge of how the primitive indigenous population came to build accurate cosmic clocks and maps such as Stonehenge, is because they were not the inventors of this technology. They also ignore the fact that Sumerian astronomical inscriptions were found on the altar stones of both Castlerigg and Stonehenge stone circles. How many times do we hear the repeated mantra that ‘nobody actually knows for sure who built these monuments and why’? Total rubbish!

We know that the Mesopotamians and Egyptians were far more advanced in that era than those in Britain, and it was *they* who needed and designed these monuments in the areas they had travelled hundreds and thousands of miles to exploit the local people’s manpower, in order that they could reap the minerals and return by sea to their homelands. These ancient travellers would, over time, travel as far as India, via the Indus, Peru, to Australia and New Zealand (where Egyptian and Phoenician inscriptions have been found), and China, where traces of the Sumerian/Egyptian cultures have been found in the shape of common mythologies and god names, the global use of ancient Sumerian ‘megalithic yard’ in building projects, pyramids, stone monuments, linguistic similarities etc.

There is absolutely no need to theorise and speculate that advanced beings or aliens erected these monuments, that they needed advanced spacecraft to travel such distances, nor that they are remnants of ‘pre-flood’ Atlantean culture etc.

So it is plain to see how massively important it was to create and maintain secret orders and disguise astronomical and astrological knowledge in coded myths and legends. The aristocratic bloodlines of old have continued to maintain their secret societies and secret knowledge up to the present day. They are still fermenting erroneous beliefs and religions to disguise the knowledge which would deliver their power into the hands of the masses.

Today, we are well aware of the motions of the stars and planets and how to navigate the oceans, and yet the very myths created to secrete such knowledge in ancient times is still the subject of confusion and the source of religious and cultic belief systems, which are evolving into new religions and myths day by day.

So how does all this relate to Sitchin et al?

The Curious Ages of the Ancient Kings

The two main factors upon which Sitchin has based his theory of the coming of ancient ET gods are the evidence that the Sumerians knew about the outer planets and the unknown planet 'Nibiru' (dealt with above), and the long lengths of reign given in the various king lists to the early kingships (see Readers' Forum, previous issue of this magazine). These early kings with huge life-spans are deemed by Sitchin to be equivalent to the biblical Nephilim, and who came to earth originally from the Twelfth Planet 445,000 years ago, led by Enki. Sitchin's chronology is reliant upon the Sumerian king list being an accurate record of the regnal lengths of the pre-flood kings.

As I showed in the previous magazine, this part of the king list was created in Babylonian times, and disagrees with the earlier Sumerian lists which not only give realistic dates for the early kings, but which also do not include a flood or pre-flood list. The pre-flood list was shown by Prof LA Waddell to be actually a later variation on the post-flood king list which was prefixed by the Isin priests of Babylon to itself and separated by the then newly created flood myth.

The reason for which seems to have entirely escaped Sitchin, and just about everyone else who has looked upon the king list as an historical document (as many have the Atlantis myth).

All of the eight lengths given in the Babylonian king list (see issue 24) are multiples of 3600, a number known as a 'sar' in the Babylonian tongue and according to Sitchin also means 'a completed cycle' (so the clues are there!). Another Sumerian list details 10 antediluvian kings; again all regnal lengths are multiples of 3600. This is no coincidence. Neither are these numbers relating to the actual life-spans of the kings (especially as the same kings are recorded later in the lists with much shorter life-spans), but to **astronomical and astrological measurements related to relative positions of the heavenly bodies**. These Babylonian priests were also the same astronomers that I mentioned earlier, who took extant histories and texts and used them to

record their data concerning the positions of the stars and planets, and the cycles of the zodiac.

The number 3600 was arrived at, not because of the 3600 year cycle of Sitchin's mysterious 'planet' Nibiru, but because it is an early measurement mathematically related to the 360 degrees of the circle, used to calculate the cycles of the zodiacal year, and the various divisions of the stars and planets into their associated constellations. This was the age of the birth of astronomy and astrology as we know it today, as well as the age of the birth of the great world religions. For example, the Brahmans of India inherited much from Babylon and took this knowledge in their own direction and incorporated it into the great work called the Vedas. The Jews would collate such myths and interweave them into a loose historical framework and create the Bible.

The following extract by Donald Mackenzie illustrates the derivation of the familiar 360 degrees in a circle (or the 3600), from ancient mathematical systems, and how they have influenced Babylonian and Vedic astronomy and astrology, as well as their relationship with the Vedic and Babylonian king lists:

Of special interest among the many problems presented by Babylonian astronomical lore is the theory of Cosmic periods or Ages of the Universe. In the Indian, Greek, and Irish mythologies there are four Ages – the Silvern (white), Golden (yellow), the Bronze (red), and the Iron (black). As has been already indicated, Mr. R. Brown, jun., shows that "the Indian system of Yugas, or ages of the world, presents many features which forcibly remind us of the Euphratean scheme". The Babylonians had ten antediluvian kings, who were reputed to have reigned for vast periods, the total of which amounted to 120 saroi, or 432,000 years. These figures at once recall the Indian Maha-yuga of 4,320,000 years = 432,000 x 10. Apparently the Babylonian and Indian systems of calculation were of common origin. In both countries the measurements of time and space were arrived at by utilizing the numerals 10 and 6.

When primitive man began to count he adopted a method which comes naturally to every schoolboy; he utilized his fingers. Twice five gave him ten, and from ten he progressed to twenty, and then on to a hundred and beyond. In making measurements his hands, arms, and feet were at his service. We are still measuring by feet and yards (standardized strides) in this country, while those who engage in the immemorial art of knitting, and, in doing so, repeat designs found on neolithic pottery, continue to measure in finger breadths, finger lengths, and hand breadths as did the ancient folks who

called an arm length a cubit. Nor has the span been forgotten, especially by boys in their games with marbles; the space from the end of the thumb to the end of the little finger when the hand is extended must have been an important measurement from the earliest times.

(In India "finger counting" [Kaur guna] is associated with prayer or the repeating of mantras. The counting is performed by the thumb, which, when the hand is drawn up, touches the upper part of the third finger. The two upper "chambers" of the third finger are counted, then the two upper "chambers" of the little finger; the thumb then touches the tip of each finger from the little finger to the first; when it comes down into the upper chamber of the first finger 9 is counted. By a similar process each round of 9 on the right hand is recorded by the left up to 12; 12 X 9 = 108 repetitions of a mantra. The upper "chambers" of the fingers are the "best" or "highest" [uttama], the lower [adhama] chambers are not utilized in the prayer-counting process. When Hindus sit cross-legged at prayers, with closed eyes, the right hand is raised from the elbow in front of the body, and the thumb moves each time a mantra is repeated; the left hand lies palm upward on the left knee, and the thumb moves each time nine mantra have been counted.)

As he made progress in calculations, the primitive Babylonian appears to have been struck by other details in his anatomy besides his sets of five fingers and five toes. He observed, for instance, that his fingers were divided into three parts and his thumb into two parts only; four fingers multiplied by three gave him twelve, and multiplying 12 by 3 he reached

36. Apparently the figure 6 attracted him. His body was divided into 6 parts – 2 arms, 2 legs, the head, and the trunk; his 2 ears, 2 eyes, and mouth, and nose also gave him 6. The basal 6, multiplied by his 10 fingers, gave him 60, and 60 x 2 (for his 2 hands) gave him 120. In Babylonian arithmetic 6 and 60 are important numbers, and it is not surprising to find that in the system of numerals the signs for I and 10 combined represent 60.

In fixing the length of a mythical period his first great calculation of 120 came naturally to the Babylonian, and when he undertook to measure the Zodiac he equated time and space by fixing on 120 degrees. His first zodiac was the Sumerian lunar zodiac, which contained thirty moon chambers associated with the “Thirty Stars" of the tablets, and referred to by Diodorus as “Divinities of the Council". The chiefs of the Thirty numbered twelve. In this system the year began in the winter solstice. Mr. Hewitt has shown that the chief annual festival of the Indian Dravidians begins with the first full moon after the winter festival, and Mr. Brown emphasizes the fact that the list of Tamil (Dravidian) lunar and solar months are named like the Babylonian constellations. "Lunar chronology", wrote Professor Max Muller,

"seems everywhere to have preceded solar chronology." The later Semitic Babylonian system had twelve solar chambers and the thirty-six constellations.

Each degree was divided into sixty minutes, and each minute into sixty seconds. The hours of the day and night each numbered twelve.

Multiplying 6 by 10 (pur), the Babylonian arrived at 60 (soss); 60 x 10 gave him 600 (ner), and 600 X 6, 3600 (sar), while 3600 x 10 gave him 36,000, and 36,000 X 12, 432,000 years, or 120 saroi, which is equal to the "sar" multiplied by the "soss" X 2. "Pur" signifies "heap" – the ten fingers closed after being counted; and "ner" signifies "foot ". Mr. George Bertin suggests that when 6 X 10 fingers gave 60 this number was multiplied by the ten toes, with the result that 600 was afterwards associated with the feet (ner). The Babylonian sign for 10 resembles the impression of two feet with heels closed and toes apart. This suggests a primitive record of the first round of finger counting.

In India this Babylonian system of calculation was developed during the Brahmanical period. The four Yugas or Ages, representing the four fingers used by the primitive mathematicians, totalled 12,000 divine years, a period which was called a Maha-yuga; it equalled the Babylonian 120 saroi, multiplied by 100. Ten times a hundred of these periods gave a "Day of Brahma ".

Each day of the gods, it was explained by the Brahmans, was a year to mortals. Multiplied by 360 days, I2,000 divine years equalled 4320000 human years. This Maha-yuga, multiplied by 1000, gave the "Day of Brahma" as 4,320,000,000 human years.

The shortest Indian Yuga is the Babylonian 120 saroi multiplied by 10 = 1200 divine years for the Kali Yuga; twice that number gives the Dvapara Yuga of 2400 divine years; then the Treta Yuga is 2400 + 1200 = 3600 divine years, and Krita Yuga 3600 + 1200 = 4800 divine years.

The influence of Babylonia is apparent in these calculations. During the Vedic period "Yuga" usually signified a "generation", and there are no certain references to the four Ages as such. The names "Kali", “Dvapara”, “Treta”, and “Krita” "occur as the designations of throws of dice". It was after the arrival of the "late comers", the post-Vedic Aryans, that the Yuga system was developed in India.

In *Indian Myth and Legend* it is shown that the Indian and Irish Ages have the same *colour* sequence: (1) White or Silvern, (2) Red or Bronze, (3)

Yellow or Golden, and (4) Black or Iron. The Greek order is: (1) Golden, (2) Silvern, (3) Bronze, and (4) Iron.

The Babylonians coloured the seven planets as follows: the moon, silvern; the sun, golden; Mars, red; Saturn, black; Jupiter, orange; Venus, yellow; and Mercury, blue.

As the ten antediluvian kings who reigned for 120 saroi had an astral significance, their long reigns corresponding “with the distances separating certain of the principal stars in or near the ecliptic" it seems highly probable that the planets were similarly connected with mythical ages which were equated with the “four quarters” of the celestial regions and the four regions of the earth, which in the Gaelic story are called “the four red divisions of the world”.

(Donald A Mackenzie – Myths of Babylonia & Assyria)

Those who believe the Vedas to be the original and supreme authority and given to man by God need to consider the evidence and proof assembled by numerous scholars such as Mackenzie and more so LA Waddell, who proved the Sumerian origin of Sanskrit and the Vedic histories, which were largely transferred to India in their early form from Babylon, where they merged with local beliefs and developed over time into the monumental corpus of ‘The Vedas’.

In the Rig Veda – the earliest Vedic source – the term Yuga refers to an ‘age’ or ‘generation’, and only later came to mean the specific 12000 divine years equal to 4,320,000 years (identical to the total of ‘ages’ of the Sumerian kings in the Babylonian king list X 10), which is the generally acknowledged scheme according to Vedic scholars today. So it is quite clearly a development of the Babylonian astrological system, which was a development of early astronomy which had used pre-existant god names to apply to planets and stars, which were, in turn, derived from the names and titles of actual kings of Sumer who reigned in the mid 4th millennium BC. For example, the Sumerian king Tur, also titled Indara, became the Vedic god Indra.

So Sitchin’s ET ‘scientist’ Enki clearly did not arrive 445,000 years ago. Enki was not even originally a Sumerian god, but a title given to the second Sumerian king Can, whom the Bible records as Cain. This title is one of many which only later in Mesopotamia became the name of an individual god (see Origins of the Biblical Genesis in issue 19). In fact, the central characters portrayed by Sitchin in his theories – the alien ‘scientist’ god

Enki, and the ‘son of Enki’/‘planet’ Marduk are historically the same person – King Can.

What is Nibiru?

Clearly the late Babylonian text of Enuma Elis, is concerned with explaining the Creation and clearly it has astronomical references. But Nibiru is a word that appears merely a few times in the entire text, and is therefore obviously not considered to be of such great import as would the very planet which created the world be, if that was ever the intended meaning.

But is Nibiru a planet at all?

According to the translations of many Sumerian scholars, Nibiru is a ‘station’ or a ‘star’. The meaning of which has often been thought of as ‘planet’, and yes, many of the ‘stations’ are planets – points of astronomical reference.

But Nibiru/Neberu only makes an appearance in the tale **after** the creation of the universe and the world by the god Marduk. The first thing Marduk does after his great achievement is ‘fashion stands (stations) for the great gods…set up constellations corresponding to them…marked out its divisions. Appointed three stars each to the twelve months…’ and then ‘… founded the stand of Nibiru to mark out their courses.’ (Dalley’s translation).

Does this not sound more like the deified memory of a king who is attributed to be the founder of astronomy, who founded a **place** from which to observe?

Over a thousand years before this epic was written, King Can came to Mesopotamia and founded the first Sumerian sun temple at Nippur. The temple was later dedicated to the god Enlil, who we have seen is a deified form of King Can. Marduk, is also deity based upon King Can. Essentially, Enlil ‘lived’ there as a cult statue. This place *was* Enlil/Marduk in the religious sense.

Nippur was an astronomical observatory and the temple was called Duranki (bond of heaven and Earth). The name Nippur is a modern rendering of Nibiru.

Could Nibiru not, then, merely be a word designated to the place from which the heavens were observed – a **centre** of astronomy – a ‘crossing place’. The full title was nibiru-ki – ‘crossing place of earth’? Surely a perfect title for a place where the heavens were observed from the earth, for a culture which

believed that the earth was a reflection of the heavens and that their god reigned from the centre of both Earth (at Nippur) and heaven in a world pillar (temple) – *as* the bond of heaven and earth?

Marduk became the Creator – 'maker' of the heavens and earth – when in fact, this tale merely symbolises the mapping and observance of the order of the heavens.

Later in the text, Nibiru is given as a name of Marduk – one of 50 titles given to Marduk. But here Nibiru is named as 'his star which is bright in the sky'. The meaning of which, although rather ambiguous, could easily be a reference to fixing one's observations on a particular star of reference – the most common 'fixed' star of reference is the Pole Star. Another title of Marduk is given as Jupiter, though there are simply too many names and associations for Marduk to conclude that Nibiru was seen as any one thing specifically. Jupiter was in fact named after the first Sumerian king, who was the legendary 'All-Father', who was also associated with the sun. It isn't difficult to see how this important planet would also be associated with Marduk, the god who replaced previous gods derived from the same source.

The Babylonians were keen astronomers, whose view of the heavens was intimately connected with their gods, whose heavenly places and activities were seen as being directly mirrored by places on Earth and mankind's activities and destiny. When the cult of Marduk became the official state religion, a temple to Marduk was built in Babylon. His statue was considered to hold him on Earth, he was the Lord of everything – heaven and Earth – he *was* the 'bond of heaven and earth', also the *centre*, the crossing place (nibiru) of everything. Is there really any more to it than that?

Whether or not Nibiru will ever be definitely identified with one particular star, or planet, or astronomical reference point, or observatory – or more likely, all of them at once – the case is clear that Nibiru is NOT a rogue planet on a 3600 year orbit that caused the creation of the Earth; nor was it the bringer of ET gods to the planet either. Sitchin has massively mistranslated the ancient Sumerian language and exploited numerous ambiguities to suit his purpose.

Therefore, I feel that all New Age authors and gurus using Sitchin's translations, or channelling Sitchin's version of history, need to re-assess their position and ask themselves some very deep and searching questions. If Sitchin is so wrong, then so are countless books, websites and cult personalities who have relied on Sitchin's work, either directly or indirectly. People who are following New Age gurus who are claiming to be the mouthpieces for aliens need to be aware that there is an agenda afoot to fool you with fantasy and disinformation. If *your* guru is channelling information

about Planet X/Nibiru and the ET gods of Sumer, I would seriously suggest you reconsider the sanity and motivation of your guru, and also carefully reassess everything else they have ever told you.

Vimanas

Increasingly, it seems, Sitchinesque interpretations of ancient UFOs are being supported by additional information derived from Vedic sources relating to aerial craft flown by the gods, which are described as being ‘ancient airplanes’ or UFOs with enormous destructive capabilities etc.

The above information relating to the understanding of the concept of Nibiru will help us clarify what the texts actually mean by Vimana. Just as the Babylonian temple of Marduk was considered to be his ‘crossing place’ into the heavens, and the great pyramid of Giza was considered to be the pharaoh's (who was considered a god) ‘crossing station’ for his soul to ascend into the heavens, so were the Vedic Vimanas.

The basic meaning of vimana is a temple or place in which resides the essence of God or ‘a god’: this could be a religious temple, the human body, the heavenly bodies etc. Hence there are numerous references to temples in the Vedic texts which are called vimanas. The gods are also able to ride over the earth and into space in their vimanas. When we realise the sheer mass of references in ancient mythologies to the gods residing in the skies as stars and planets, as well as living in earthly temples, it is not difficult to understand the symbolic associations. The Vedic tales of gods flying through the skies and into space in their vimanas is little more than a derivation of the Egyptian concept of the ‘solar bark’, seen as the carrier of the sun through its daily cycle, the concept of the light body which ascends to the stars upon death etc. Such ‘vehicles’ are therefore, of course, described as ‘shining’ light vehicles. They are merely, in this sense, the embodiment of the ‘essence’ of the gods - the stars and planets and the inner essence which survives after death and is used as a ‘vehicle’ during shamanic journeys. Of course, the temple has always been a place of meditation in which people have taken spiritual ‘journeys’ within to find their inner selves, where the divine self ‘dwells’.

As the gods were viewed as the forces of nature, they were responsible, like Indra, Zeus and Thor etc. for bringing great calamity upon the earth and mankind in the forms of lighting, thunder, comets, meteors, floods, fierce winds etc. hence the vimana ‘craft’ of the gods are described as having monumental destructive capabilities.

Certain ‘Vedic’ texts appear to contain remarkably modern descriptions of instructions and diagrams on how to construct advanced aeroplane and rocket propelled vehicles - even what appear to be plasma-propulsion vehicles. There are numerous books and websites drawing on such texts as proof of ancient advanced technology. The effects of which, on the average reader, are very much like the effects experienced when one reads Sitchin for the first time, to find that the Sumerians made stark reference to spaceships and creator gods descending in UFOs to hybridise humanity in test tubes. A great many people are immediately convinced. ‘There it is in black and white, in ancient texts, what more proof do we need?’

However, things are not all they would appear. There are and have always been fake religious texts. There is also a propaganda division within the Illuminati which is dedicated to spreading this kind of myth, which employs agents across the board; from New Age channellers to university professors. There are also many religious charismatics who genuinely believe they are communicating with ETs or gods, who have enormous influence over their audience.

One of the most popular works on Vimana ‘UFOs’ is a book called ‘Vimana Aircraft of Ancient India & Atlantis’, by David Hatcher Childress. This book examines the vimana subject from the angle that ancient man had modern technology. It relies on the reproduction of a text known as the Vimaanika Shastra - purportedly an Ancient ‘Vedic’ text on the science of creating advanced flying machines, which first gained prominence in the 1970’s (like so many of these UFO-related ‘discoveries’). Unfortunately, for Childress and his readers, this text is *not* ancient at all, but was ‘channelled’ in the early 1900’s by a man named Shastry. The claim made that it was part of a work dating back several thousand years, is incorrect, but perhaps gives us all an indication of what lengths some religionists will go to to give credence to their own religion, or perhaps how easy it is for Intelligence agencies to misinform the people and send them looking in entirely the wrong direction for the truth.

Childress’s book also contains a classic of New Age lore - the relief from the Temple of Hathor at Dendera (right) in Egypt. This picture of an Egyptian holding what appears to be a lightbulb on a plinth, which has a snake as a filament and a lotus flower as the bayonet fixing to the ‘electric lead’, has been seen as proof that the ancients used the electric light. However, when one understands the ancient mythologies which claim that life/the world came from the sun (symbolised by a lotus - the bayonet fixing), in the form of the egg (the bulb itself), and from which emerged the life principle (almost universally symbolised by the snake/sun-spirit - the filament), one begins to realise what this picture is referring to. The egg also rests upon the

pillar (other depictions have a god suspending the egg/sky - the world pillar mentioned earlier).

Another famous Egyptian artefact (below) was found at the temple in Abydos - a 'cartouche' showing what appeared to be the engraving of a helicopter and other 'craft'. However, it was later realised that the picture was a composite of two quite ordinary hieroglyphic texts laid over each other. The appearance of the helicopter on the artefact was actually an artefact itself, and was formed from two separate hieroglyphs - only resembling a helicopter to our modern eyes.

These are only a few examples of the way almost every historical enigma and 'new' discovery is being mangled through a haze of reinterpretation and being thrust out into the public arena with the tag 'evidence of ancient aliens'. There are many more that could be included in the list, and equally shown to be innocent of such associations. Added to the misinterpretations are many out and out fakes. For an extensive examination of misinterpretations of ancient art, maps such as Piri Reis etc. please see http://www.sprezzatura.it/Arte/Arte_UFO_eng.htm

When the ambiguities and mystery is removed from what many consider to be an 'enormous corpus of evidence', we are left with a surprisingly tiny number of genuine enigmas, and evidence of advanced man-made craft being made and flown in the previous century. Simply, we have a secret programme using advanced ether-physics - as developed by Tesla - being disguised as alien UFOs, and further used to re-write history as a cover-story, developing into a new religion.

The Future of the ET myth?

If there *are* intergalactic travelling ETs out there in the universe, they are not being accurately represented by what seems to be the vast majority of writers. They are in fact being misrepresented by the Illuminati's agents and victims of their massive propaganda campaign to hide very real Earth-based technology, as well as to bring in a new religion tailor-made for the New Aquarian age; just as Christianity was tailor made to update and absorb all previous religions to be used as a tool of social control for the Piscean Age.

That is, IF there are any intergalactic travelling aliens out there at all, and the whole thing hasn't been a flight of fantasy and disinformation altogether. Isn't it more probable that we have been victims of our own imaginations, fed by deliberately misleading propaganda and expectation implanted by the media and sci-fi writers of the past century?

The 'alien threat' was first recorded in apolitical sense in 1917 by Marxist Professor of philosophy John Dewey in a speech in New York: "Some one remarked that the best way to unite all the nations on this globe would be an attack from some other planet. In the face of such an alien enemy, people would respond with a sense of their unity of interest and purpose." Clearly, the idea had been around prior even to this. HG Wells had written his aliens from Mars invasion saga, War of the Worlds, in 1898 at the same time as Tesla was building his first ether-technology-driven antigravity craft. Wells was a close associate and inner-circle member of the Illuminati's Committee of 300 (according to John Coleman's book of the same name). Wells also wrote works such as 'The New World Order', 'The Shape of Things to Come' and 'The Open Conspiracy: Plans for a World Revolution', which described the creation of a utopian One World Government through a covert coalition of people acting behind the scenes to influence world affairs in a single desired direction.

The alien threat hit the headlines in 1938 when Orson Welles broadcast his radio version of War of the Worlds, which sent millions of Americans into sheer panic, as they believed that aliens were actually descending upon them. This was a psychological warfare experiment, set up and orchestrated by members of the Council on Foreign Relations, who were also lecturers in psychology and sociology, funded by the Rockefeller Foundation.

The next major event occurred in the 1940's with the Roswell incident and the beginning of the UFO 'flap' which has continued to the present day. Increasingly, the Illuminati-controlled media has been pushing out movies and books about UFOs and aliens

– effectively *designing* the images which people would later claim to have seen for real in abduction experiences; as well as writing the scripts which would later be 'channelled' by New Age 'contactees' and gurus.

The early 'aliens' described by 'contactees' were usually described as quite human, but with the release of Close Encounters in the late 1970's, all attention was turned to the 'greys'. Books began to start coming out all over the place describing abductions by the greys, such as Whitley Streiber's Communion. However, as the Truth Campaign magazine has documented over the years, abductions and microchipping of victims accompanied by

instilled memories of aliens can be traced right back to military abductions and the CIA mind control project known as MK-Ultra.

Books by Sitchin and Von Daniken appeared around the same time in the 1970's which stirred a massive interest in the revision of history, offering aliens and UFOs as plausible solutions to historical enigmas.

Since then, hundreds of books have been published in the New Age movement and the conspiracy movement which have given a huge spectrum of information on what is 'out there'. They range from 'channelled' books such as The Only Planet of Choice (exposed as being linked to secret psychological operations and mind control in the book The Stargate Conspiracy by Prince and Picknett), to conspiracy works such as Behold a Pale Horse (by Bill Cooper, who would later retract his allegations of alien interaction and state that he had been fed such information by Intelligence agents even higher than he to provide the illusion of a reliable 'insider' witness to such activities). They appear to give a range of choices to the reader from there being a 'command' centre of advanced alien 'gods' which are helping humanity, sometimes aiding us against 'bad' races of ETs, to secret government collusion with aliens who have bases on Earth and are sharing their technology in return for various 'favours'. The spectrum of choices the reader has is huge, and most of the proffered scenarios contradict and conflict with each other in fundamental details, but the common element is always 'the ETs are out there'. Despite much opinion to the contrary, the governments and secret government are far from 'hiding' the truth about alien visitation, they are actively spreading the myth whilst using psychological techniques to make it appear like they are trying to hide the truth through open official denials, and inadequate debunking attempts, which has the effect of making the 'cover-up' so obvious that most people feel as though they can disassemble and debunk the 'official' debunking. To the average UFO enthusiast there is simply 'too much evidence', too many books and too many witnesses to simply dismiss the ETs; in fact, the presence of ETs appears to have been more than adequately proved.

The main reference, often seen as the 'ultimate proof', has been to Sitchin's translations of the Sumerian texts. 'You can't argue with the clear references in texts that old to "rockets" and "space travel"', they say. And to so many believers the case is closed right there.

However, recently, I have noticed that there appears to be a new wave developing. Books and websites are beginning to ignore Sitchin. It appears that Sitchin has served his purpose in generating strong beliefs regarding aliens in ancient texts etc. Now there are numerous researchers bringing in new angles which seem to appease those who have seen through the smokescreen of the New Age channellers and the works of Sitchin, and who

have educated themselves as to the existence of very real UFO technology developed right here since Tesla. For these people a new scenario has been put forward by the likes of the 'Disclosure Project'. That is, there are real aliens out there and we need to know about them, but the governments are hiding this real information behind a smokescreen of lies, whilst building UFOs themselves and sponsoring fake alien propaganda to hide the reality. To prove this, the Project has assembled numerous 'insider' testimonies to this effect. There is basically an ET 'belief' net for everyone to get caught in – from the naīve 'believer' in just about anything ET-related, to the educated sceptic who knows that there *has* to be an answer, and that answer must be reasonable. So far, the Disclosure Project seems the most reasonable yet. But then again, it *has to*, doesn't it?

Other authors seem to be following another angle which is placing 'reptilian' creatures in the frame as being the 'baddies' from space. And again, they are looking to ancient texts to support their theories. Whilst authors like David Icke are taking valuable works such as Waddell and splicing it with Sitchin to support his theory of an ancient reptilian race interbreeding with the aristocracies which then and now control the world, other authors are disassembling Sitchin's credibility but repeating the same technique of misquoting and mistranslating old myths to try and show that there has been a significant influence on mankind by reptilian creatures.

Oh what a tangled web we weave!

Myth-making is more rampant today than it ever was in our past. Myths are creating myths at such a pace today that it is becoming increasingly difficult to trace them to their origins. The average ET and UFO enthusiast now has enough material to last them a lifetime's reading. And still, they may never read a truthful work.

If we extrapolate this process a couple of decades into the future, how much material will there be like Sitchin's and the new revisions of such works, that will provide for your average reader overwhelming evidence of the ETs in UFOs and ancient ET gods from space?

It will be so easy then to reign-in the diversity of ideas and beliefs into a central thesis which would contain and 'explain' all enigmas relating to the subject, thereby leaving us with a narrow frame of reference, a core belief system, which would carefully be fashioned into a New World Religion. One which not only unites all world religions, but also updates them and explains away the contradictions.

Sounds unlikely, I agree. But it has happened before. The Romans played the same trick when they created New Testament Christianity. They combined

elements from all the religions and cults in their empire and then imposed it upon the world. And the tyrants of the ages have used it since then as a means to manipulate the world, causing untold suffering and destruction of knowledge over the past 2000 years. It was the ultimate tool in the Illuminati's arsenal, but it's effectiveness has waned as knowledge has progressed and fewer people are willing to accept the authority of the Bible and its priests. However, a new scientifically up to date version of the old mythologies could be a supremely powerful tool in the Illuminati's arsenal if it were handled correctly. The priests of the New Age would be able to employ all the old tricks to con the people of the truthfulness of their gods' reality, such as using science to predict earth-changes, or cosmic events and well-ahead of time spread mythologies about how the alien gods are going to orchestrate an event to show the people of the earth their existence – the Planet X theory is already gaining support through reports that natural phenomena such as earth-tremors are being caused by its gravitational pull as it nears the Earth; or how about a mass UFO fly-by, or fake alien invasion scenario..? Let your imagination wander and see how *you* would orchestrate such events to create 'proof' of the ET gods reality. Do it first, before 'they' do it to you, and you won't be surprised when it comes.

I can only offer my personal view and experience, as well as the data that I have collated during my academic research. I remain open to new ideas and theories. But I also need rhyme and reason which correlates with other data, both internal/ intuitive and external/evidential. If a thing exists, it follows certain laws and patterns which are ultimately reasonable and logical.

I am still to be convinced of the interaction of space aliens with mankind, and I cannot simply place faith in the material that I have so far seen, considering how many frauds, misinterpretations and deliberate secret-government propaganda plots there are in this whole field of study. Although I can see why so many people do place faith in such material, charismatic personalities, or religions. We are all searching for answers – and ultimately 'the Answer' to life, the universe and everything – just as did our ancient forebears. And we are just as liable to get the answers wrong, or misinterpret the data, or have others manipulate us with that same data as were our ancient forebears.

Faith, as professed by many religions, is a great and powerful thing, but blind faith in what we are **told** to believe, without reasonable verification against the known facts, is one of the most easily manipulated and destructive factors in our history.

It is time for us to become *active thinkers* rather than *passive receivers*, if we are ever going to understand ourselves and our place in Creation. And if we fail to understand this, then we will simply continue to be marionettes going

round and round in circles, or whichever direction the string-pullers wish to move us.

Further reading

Big Brother's Recipe for 'Revolution in Military Affairs' by Glenn Krawczyk Explains how the ET phenomenon was incorporated into a military strategy for control of society.

Hijacking the Gods of Hoagland, Cayce, Egypt, Mars and the Stargate Conspiracy by Clive Prince and Lynn Picknett - A criticism of the portrayal of modern popular works on ancient Egyptian history and technology. The book The Stargate Conspiracy is highly recommended also for the investigation into the Council of Nine's links with the Intelligence community.

What About the Anunnaki by Acharya S Explains the fundamental origins of the legend of the Anunnaki, not as warlike beings from space but as ancient symbolism and mythology derived from observation of the heavenly bodies.

Shopping For Spirit by Steve Gamble This detailed series of articles explores the nature of consciousness and includes valuable insights into how and why we are being misled by those who would seek to control us.

www.truthcampaign.co.uk provides a quarterly magazine on diverse issues, including the above articles, and is one of very few sources of such detailed suppressed information. Presents a comprehensive study of the ancient mythologies, their origins and misinterpretations through religion and academia.

MILABS by Helmut Lammer This article explains how the alien abduction phenomenon is being perpetrated by Military Intelligence and is being used to implant false memories of ETs, thereby providing believable witnesses to the ET agenda. (Watch out for abductees becoming more prominent in mainstream TV shows, and providing testimonies, credible accounts and passing lie-detector tests to prove they are telling the truth. Of course, they are telling the truth, according to what they are hypnotically programmed to recall! most of them are NOT lying.)

Art and UFOs? is an exhaustive examination of the pictures claimed to be old representations of UFOs throughout history. As old disinformation such as Sitchin's is debunked, new and more imaginative hoaxes are perpetuated to further reinforce the ET/UFO myth, and to further distract the truth

seekers' attention from matters of real importance. The UFO depictions in ancient art is currently one of the main counter-arguments to the argument I am presenting here of modern technology being hidden behind UFO and ET propaganda, linking it in with the ancient world.

MAJESTYTWELVE by William Cooper explains how this most influential Intelligence agent realised he had been set up by his own Intelligence community to spread propaganda. His book Behold a Pale Horse was one of the most influential alien-based works of the 1990s. Cooper stated:

When I saw Operation Majority while serving in the Navy I believed the alien threat was real just like everyone else. It was not until I had performed many years of research that I was able to fully understand exactly what it was that I had seen. It was extremely difficult for me to believe that my government and the United States Navy had used me, especially since I had dedicated my life to government and military service. Most government and military personnel cannot and will not believe such and idea.

The plan is real. The extraterrestrial threat is artificial. The threat is presented through the use of secret technology originally developed by the Germans in their secret weapons programs during WW-II, by geniuses like Nikola Tesla, and many others.

Military and government personnel who have access to this material believe it is real. None of them, however, has ever seen any evidence of the existence of any extraterrestrial creature nor any advanced technology other that that of human origin. It is not what they see that convinces them it is extraterrestrial in origin but the manner in which it is presented. It is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to believe that Top Secret government or military documentation could be lies. It is trust in government by men and women who have given their lives in its service that keeps this monumental lie a alive.