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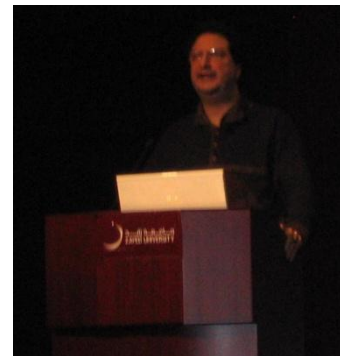
**2<sup>nd</sup> Edition: The Origins of Civilisation**

**Full transcription of the lecture delivered by Carlo Dorofatti about  
“Atlantis, Lemuria and the alternative view of our distant past”  
(the lecture was supported by 200 projected slides)**

Good Afternoon.

I will first start with an introduction to the concept of Atlantis and what it means.

Until only a few decades ago, to mention Atlantis or talk about mysterious and lost civilisations was to talk about science fiction. Not to mention any form of Extraterrestrial hypothesis or space travel, whoever dared venture into these waters was ostracised and laughed at by the orthodox scientific community.



Nonetheless, already in the 60s, the Russian scientist Felix Zieghel and Alexandr Kazantsev talked in a shy manner about ancient Japanese statues that somewhat resembled astronauts as well as prehistoric and medieval carvings and drawing that looked like flying crafts or UFOs, as well as several myths and traditions that talk about a remote time when the Earth was different, populated by a series of mysterious civilisations that could perhaps even be technologically advanced and in contact with superior levels of consciousness or even dimensions, as described in some ancient texts.

We must, however, be careful not to give a modern meaning with our present logic and mental schemes to elements and symbols that belong to a profoundly different culture and time.

In any case, these ideas circulated quite early in Europe and were researched further by people such as Robert Charroux in France, Peter Kolosimo in Italy, Erich Von Daeniken in Switzerland and Raymond Drake

in the UK. The 1968 Revolution contributed to create the right cultural context for such ideas to evolve thus contesting the dogmas of the past and mainstream history and science.

It was at that time that the Mason scientists Louis Pauwels and Jacques Bergier wrote “The Morning of the Magicians” and several of these hypotheses that were previously between the realms of esotericism and science fiction began to gain momentum even within mainstream academia.

It is important to note that many of these theories were baseless however the trend of questioning the scientific and historical dogmas kept spreading and new sciences as well as pseudo-sciences emerged and were even taken into account by the media as well as by some very courageous scientists who decided to take the research a bit further.

It was in the Nineties (90s) that a few prominent researchers and writers, some of which are here today, brought to the world a novel way to tackle knowledge and, with the support of important publishing houses and with the use of that wonderful divulgation tool that is the Internet, were able to reach some major breakthroughs in various fields related mainly to the study of our past.

The more conservative archaeologists still avoid taking the new possibilities or mysteries into consideration, especially those that would require a complete rewrite of several episodes of what has been passed down from the 18th and 19th century as Human History.

Still today, the simple consideration of the Atlantis topic creates a problem for mainstream sciences as it challenges many of the reference points that most scholars are accustomed to use as core hypothesis for their studies. It goes beyond geology, geography, anthropology or basic physics and therefore has become an ideological problem.

Therefore the Atlantis debate has taken a new form, where it no longer limits itself to physical sciences but also involves elements of Metaphysics.

What I mean by this is that, the strong refusal to take into consideration what Plato describes does not only have a scientific motivation: it is

something much deeper. What is being refuted is the existence, some 12,000 years ago at the end of the last Ice Age, of a superior civilisation not only in material means but also in a spiritual context. This refusal shows a taking of sides from an ideological point of view.

To admit the existence of Atlantis would imply a series of consequences that are at odds with a series of core assumptions and beliefs that are deeply engraved in modern man and especially in our scientific community: illuminism, positivism and rationalism have brought us to a technologically advanced but very superficial society based on consumption and with a very limited mentality.

I will illustrate what I have just said:

- 1) For example, the existence - at a very distant time - of an Island in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean (where Atlantis is theoretically placed on most cases), cradle of a flourishing and advanced civilisation that is definitely not within our concept of the stone age but presents a challenge to the Darwinian evolution theory that stipulates a straight line in the historical development of humanity, from monkey to man as we are still learning and teaching in our schools.
- 2) The existence of such a civilisation that disappeared almost suddenly about 12,000 years ago is in direct contradiction with the theory of evolution that takes man from barbarism to indefinite progress.
- 3) The existence of a people such as what Plato describes, that were punished by the Gods and condemned to perish because their "divine element was extinguished and only the human aspect prevailed" means that we must accept literally a spiritual or religious interpretation of our distant past.

So in short, taking Plato seriously means to bring down the main ideological pillars that hold most of the current academic thinking.

This is most likely why the Atlantis hypothesis has been constantly denied by mainstream science even if there are now some growing

cracks in the wall of dogmatic culture and contemporary mentality.

A people roughly 12000 years ago with a level of civilisation completely out of the schemes of traditional anthropology is still considered heresy. However Darwinism is losing its monolithic and taboo status; there is a new general consensus not to take our ancestor for brutes (also due to the fact that traditional archaeology has slowly pushed back the dates of their appearance on Earth by millions of years) and to consider the fact that there could be older aspects of our history that have not been discovered yet as our technology in that field also lacks the necessary advancements.

The hypothesis of history being a straight line of indefinite progress is currently going through an existential crisis and many academics are reconsidering the possibility of a cyclical history, with a constant birth-fall-rebirth of civilisation as is in fact stipulated in many ancient texts.

All of this simply underlines once again that there are no valid reasons to dismiss the hypothesis that approximately 12,000 years ago, towards the end of the last Ice Age, a major cataclysm (probably caused by a comet or meteor fall) destroyed an entire civilisation that had its main cities on an island continent somewhere in the Atlantic Ocean.

Now that we have said this, let's talk about Atlantis and its rather mysterious civilisation. Since there is so much literature on the lost civilisation of Atlantis I shall attempt to make a reasonable summary, which no way aims at being complete and comprehensive or even to provide interpretations of the material. In some cases, the discoveries and evidence of a possible remote civilisation was brought forward by some of researchers in this room and perhaps this could open the door to the panel we will have later on, with everyone.

Therefore, what I am going to talk about now will put us in the context, as a background to take into consideration for the subsequent discussions.

ATLANTIS: the mere word brings out a sense of greatness, ancient wisdom, power and perhaps a certain nostalgia for a long lost Golden Age.

But what was Atlantis?

The Greek Philosopher Plato was the one who brought to light the myth of Atlantis and spoke about it in two of his most famous Dialogues: Timaeus and Critias.

The name of the Island comes from Atlas, who was the legendary ruler of the Atlantic Ocean. According to Plato he was also the first King of the Island and a demi-god, son of Poseidon and Clieto.

Being a functional story in Plato's Dialogues, Atlantis is often seen as a myth imagined by the Greek Philosopher in order to illustrate his own political ideas.

In his writings, Plato's Atlantis was a naval power located "beyond the Columns of Hercules" that conquered most of Western Europe and Africa 9000 years before Solon's time (or circa. 9600 B.C.)

Plato learned about Atlantis from Solon, an Athenian Statesman who had lived in Egypt where the Priests of the Sais Temple translated for him some of the ancient historical accounts written on the columns with regards to Atlantis.

According to those inscriptions, Atlantis was a continent located in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean.

The myth says that Atlas "had the World on his shoulders": it seems as though the Atlantean continent was populated by a strong and wilful population, peaceful within its boundaries but prone to colonisation and conquest externally.

The artistic and engineering works of Atlantis, according to Plato, were extraordinary: the Temple of Poseidon was about 250 meters long and 250 meters high, covered in silver from the outside and Orichalcum in the inside. In the middle of the room a golden statue of the God of the Sea on his chariot pulled by six winged horses. The statue was so large that it touched the ceiling of the building with its head.

According to Plato again, the lost continent was known for two things: horses and mining. Plato states there were large mines on Atlantis, extracting gold, copper and other precious metals which were used in an

Atlantean alloy named Orichalcum on the roofs of houses and temples.

All of this ended suddenly in an authentic planetary cataclysm, that may or may not be linked to the Great Flood: "[...] *there occurred violent earthquakes and floods, and in a single day and night of rain all your warlike men in a body sunk into the earth, and the island of Atlantis in like manner disappeared, and was sunk beneath the sea.*". Based on Plato's work, this occurred approximately 12,000 years ago.

Are Plato's words real? Could it just be a literary fantasy? Well, the mountain chain of Morocco, which according to ancient myths used to continue into the Atlantic, still called Atlas Mountains. The inhabitants of the Canary Islands, rather close to the Moroccan coast, maintain that they are the descendants of a lost continent and civilisation.

Heinrich Schliemann, the "amateur" archaeologist who discovered the ruins of Troy claimed to have examined two Egyptian papyri kept in the Hermitage Museum. These documents stated that a Second Dynasty Pharaoh organised an expedition to "*...find Atlantis, whence 3350 years ago the ancestors of the Egyptians arrived carrying with themselves all the wisdoms of their native lands*". Another papyrus, in the same museum, written by Manetho, the Egyptian historian, gives a reference of a period of 13500 years as the reign of the sages of Atlantis. The papyrus places this at the very beginning of Egyptian history.

Dozens of proposed locations of Atlantis have been published, more or less accordingly with Plato's story.

Some of these suggestions range from the purely academic world to the psychic and pseudo-scientific realm.

The location theories are extremely varied. Even though Plato says very explicitly that it was an island "*larger than Libya and Asia [Minor] combined*" beyond the Pillars of Hercules (today the strait of Gibraltar), some researchers have a hard time imagining a continent in the middle of the Atlantic that could have completely disappeared without leaving a trace. They have therefore suggested alternative locations.

One of the first theories spoke of the Americas which is indeed a continent in the middle of the Ocean, so to speak. In Plato's time, the

Americas were not known, but there are no records of a recent cataclysm with enough force to wipe out an entire civilisation.

Others have proposed the Sahara which was once fertile and populated with a certain level of advancement however the description doesn't match.

Some of the more elaborate research has also looked at ancient maps, such as the famous Piri Reùs maps where Atlantis could be placed somewhere between Tierra del Fuego and Antarctica although several scholars dismiss the map as a gross interpretation of the Americas.

We can note however that Antarctica was once a fertile ice-less land but the calculations of when that could have been the case differs between scientific schools. This brings to another plausible theory whereby Atlantis could be Antarctica, which shifted its location to the South Pole due to the Earth Crust Displacement theory of Charles Hapgood (a theory also used in the recent 2012 Hollywood movie), something that could have happened roughly at the end of the last Ice Age or perhaps even causing the end of the Ice Age.

Other theories associate Atlantis with another legend; the lost continent of Lemuria, which according to the legend was situated between Africa and India.

Another hypothetical location was popularised by Edgar Cayce, who stated that he saw in his visions that Atlantis was in the Sargasso Sea (an area which coincides with the infamous Bermuda Triangle).

Some of the more conservative theories that emanate from the strictly academic world place the island in the Mediterranean, regardless of Plato's descriptions. They discard the Ocean location or any other remote location. According to these theories, the Mediterranean is the only location where Plato could have had the elements to build his story.

It is true that the geographical knowledge of the Greeks at the time of Plato (600 B.C.) were rather limited and confined to the Mediterranean Basin with more accuracy only of the Aegean.

Based on this, one of the academic theories that was studied in great detail in the mid 20th Century was that perhaps the myth of Atlantis was only a deformed memory of the disappearance of the Minoan

Civilization, a Bronze Age civilization from Crete that ended quite abruptly in or around 1450 B.C. under circumstances that are still not very clear to date.

One of the probable causes of their disappearance was the eruption of the volcano on the island of Thera, today's Santorini, which provoked the depression of part of the island into the sea and enormous earthquakes.

Another related theory explains that the Pillars described by Plato are in fact in the Sicilian Channel rather than Gibraltar thus making Sardinia the remains of the Island of Atlantis; the people who built the famous nuraghe, a very distinctive type of megalithic construction found in Sardinia, would in fact coincide with the mysterious people of the *Shardana* or *Šerden*, cited on the list of "People of the Sea" in the chronicles of the ancient Egyptians as the people who attempted to invade the Kingdom of Egypt.

From this it is thought that some of the Šardana went to the Italic peninsula, giving origin to the Etruscan Civilization.

There is also a related theory that identifies Cyprus as the remains of Atlantis.

A German scholar by the name of Rainer Kuehne places Atlantis in Spain, in Andalusia near Cadiz. This of course is far from the Island concept and does not coincide with Plato's description on size, terrain type or location.

Now, according to Plato, Atlantis was a mountainous continent. Therefore somewhere in the Atlantic Ocean there should be a wide mountainous area under the waters. Well, from that point of view, several oceanic expeditions have confirmed the existence of a gigantic mountainous system called the Mid-Atlantic Ridge that goes from almost one Pole to the other, crossing the Atlantic Ocean in its very centre.

There is also ample geological evidence that at some point in their history, these underwater mountain ranges were above water, forming vast areas of dry land which could easily be qualified as continents.

Recent studies have shown that portions of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge and other now submerged ridges around the world were above water up

until the early post glacial period. So beyond any sort of myth or tradition, we know there were mountains and dry land around the world which no longer exist today, leading to a plausible explanation on the former existence of lost continents such as Atlantis in the Atlantic, Mu in the Pacific Ocean and Lemuria in the Indian Ocean.

Additionally, it is well known that oceanic water masses do get displaced for various reasons, submerging some lands and exposing others. Therefore it is not absurd to say there could easily have been one or more inhabited continents sometime in our relatively remote history that are now under water. Several scientists and researchers now agree to this premise.

As a personal preference, I believe there are enough testimonies for the Atlantic Ocean to be the original home of the Atlantis island continent. This doesn't mean we exclude evidence of possible Atlantean presence elsewhere, whether in Algeria or Greece or Egypt, especially since according to Plato the Atlanteans were known to conquer territories. And it does not exclude that there could have been more than one great civilization at the same time in other parts of the world or that these civilizations could have all been in contact with each other.

For those who insist on the fact that there is no archaeological evidence of a possible Atlantis continent, we should really have a look at what has been found on the areas of the Caribbean near Cuba.

Only a few dozen miles from the coast of Florida, near the coral reef of the Bahamas, several walls and what looks like roads were discovered in 1968. These are formed with megaliths and assembled with the same techniques as thousands of historical monuments around the world.

Additionally there are also stone circles which are very similar to those found around the world. Given the area covered by these remains, this was therefore part of a large complex built by people before the waters covered the area. Perhaps a complex that was part of the lost continent of Atlantis or at least, that makes a good case for that.

As a matter of fact, right in front of the Cuban peninsula of Guanahacabibes, in an area covering 20 square kilometers were found large structures that form some kind of urban grid, with right angled walls and roads that connect the buildings.

On the basis of these underwater archaeological discoveries, it is perfectly plausible to state that Bimini and the other Bahamas Islands as well as most of the Caribbean Islands (Cuba, Hispaniola, Puerto Rico, etc) are the remains of an ancient civilization that developed before 11,600 years ago.

To this we can add that the Maya and the Aztecs stated that their people were originally from a large land in the Caribbean that disappeared in the sea in remote times. Plato not only places Atlantis within the geographic proximity of the Caribbean region but also states that the only thing that remains above water were the highest grounds of Atlantis in the form of islands.

These findings could reveal that perhaps Atlantis could have also extend not only with the mass of a single continent but also on several large islands of which only remains the tip of the highest peaks.

Radar sampling and other explorations have revealed the presence of what could be ruins and remains of prominent size close to the coast of Cuba as if a major city was in fact based on that area.

If all this is not enough, this is certainly worth a closer look at the remains of what could be an underwater Pyramid of which we know little about still today.

When analogies are made between various parts of the world, showing that there are similarities between cultures and beliefs thousands of kilometres apart, it is important to remember that it is not important how many kilometres wide could the Atlantis continent have been but rather the fact that these people colonised other lands. We can be almost certain that Egypt was never part of Atlantis. However we cannot rule out that such a civilisation would have visited or even colonised the land of Egypt, perhaps having something to do with the construction of the most important and mysterious megalithic constructions in the world.

Among those who studied the possible analogies is the researcher Otto Muck who built a case on the existence of the island in the Atlantic based on geology (the telluric instability of the Atlantic Ocean bed resulting in the appearance and disappearance of volcanic islands),

Zoological (the strange migration of the European Eels towards the Sargasso Sea) and of course etymological, looking for word analogies.

Charles Berlitz, in his book "Atlantis, the Eight Continent", focuses his attention on the linguistic and artistic similarities between the indigenous populations of the Americas with the Indo-European and African cultures (one of which are the Pyramids of course). He looks at a common memory of the Atlantis Myth in all these cultures. He also compares some animal species such as seals, birds, crustaceans, mastodons and toxodonts that are found on either side on the Atlantic.

He also points out that certain animal behaviours bear a certain ancestral memory of a once existent fertile land rich in foods, which used to be somewhere in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. One of these examples is the migration of the European Eel, as studied by Otto Muck, who consistently migrate yearly to the Sargasso Sea (where no land or reef now exists) to reproduce.

Certain animals such as the Eels but also European migrating birds seem to have some sort of genetic memory of a land somewhere near the Caribbean, which could well be a possible Atlantis location.

Coming back to the European Eel example, it is quite fascinating to see every two years they leave their normal habitat close to the shores and form schools as they reach the open ocean. Then they all swim towards the Sargasso Sea, a specific area in the Atlantic Ocean close to the Antilles. Just like the birds, the eels travel in schools which all converge in that piece of ocean around the Bermuda islands. Some kind of instinct of the species takes them to the place where their ancestors used to feed and breed. Given the nature of these animals, this must have been a coastal area that no longer exists.

A few interesting anecdotes: The Maya told the Conquistadors of Hernán Cortés that their ancestors came from a continent far away to the Orient that they called "Aztlán". On the other side of the Atlantic Ocean, the Basque people, a rather unique ethnic group that resides in the highlands of the Pyrenees between France and Spain, claim that they originate from a land to the West they call Atlaintika.

Based on all these interesting facts, the idea that the lost continent of Atlantis was a little island in the Mediterranean loses a bit of density

even though it doesn't mean that populated islands in the Mediterranean could have existed and be contemporary to Atlantis. We even know that the Vikings called "Atli" a wonderful land located to the West, the Babylonians speak of Arallu, in Ancient India it is the white island of Attala and the Phoenicians, the great navigators, remember the prosperous island of Antilla. Last but not least, we also have the famous Celtic Avalon. We can note the etymology at this point.

Taking into consideration the possibility of an ancient continent in the Atlantic, it becomes rather improbable that the similarities between the pyramids in the Americas, the Egyptian Pyramid and the Babylonian Ziggurat, only to name a few, were a mere coincidence, especially since according to the locals these were all monuments for the gods. Now who were these so-called gods?

Before we consider that question, let's look at another important legendary and long gone civilisation: Lemuria.

I quote:

*"The Garden of Eden was not in Asia, but on a now sunken continent in the Pacific Ocean. The Biblical story of Creation came first not from the peoples of the Nile or the Euphrates Valley but from this now-submerged continent, Mu - the Motherland of Man."*

These words are from James Churchward, author and researcher who published a bestseller in 1920 called "The Lost Continent of Mu". Churchward stated he had discovered the SECRET LIBRARY of the Naacal, "a religious community that was sent from Mu to the colonies to teach them about the sacred scriptures, religion and science". Churchward didn't say where this library was but if this is true, with the translation of thousands of clay tablets he learned the unknown history of the first inhabitants of the world. Of course this is a sort of theosophical myth, in fact nobody saw those tablets. But, fine, let's consider this story, anyway.

The name of "Lemuria" was coined by Philip Sclater and was based on his zoological research: he was working on a specific type of primate in Madagascar called lemurs and decided to call the lost continent Lemuria.

In general terms, most traditions put Lemuria in an even more remote time than Atlantis but also with a very advanced civilisation. Some

theories suggest it went from Madagascar to Australia while others say it occupied part of the Pacific Ocean. It is interesting to note that Madagascar is indeed very different from Africa in terms of flora and fauna.

William Scott-Elliot states in his research that the Lemurians and the Atlanteans were giants.

Based on this precept, the Lemurians – or their descendants - would be the original builders of the statues of Easter Island – the Moais, now in Chilean territory. And keep in mind also the similarities between Hindu and Easter Island scripts as well.

At some point, due to either ice melt or some other cataclysm, **part of Lemuria disappeared under the sea whilst the remaining part became the island continent of Mu.**

As we saw earlier, the myth was born in the 19th Century with the writings of Colonel Churchward (1852-1936) who had lived in India in 1870 and befriended a high priest of an ancient tradition. They were both passionate about archaeology and the priest showed Churchward ancient tablets that told the ancient history of humanity. According to the priest, these tablets were written by the Naacal, the Sacred Brothers, who came from a continent in South East Asia.

According to Churchward, the priest and him translated all the tablets and discovered that they described the creation of the world and the origins of Man, who apparently first appeared on the continent of Mu.

Only a few years later, Professor William Niven discovered in Mexico, during an archaeological dig, 2.600 tablets that also referred to Mu.

Churchward, went there and also translated these tablets, in search for elements that would help him prove his theory on the existence of such a continent. He therefore traced the story of Mu.

According to his work, Mu was located in the Pacific Ocean and was inhabited by several tribes, united under a king called Ra-Mu. The people of Mu brought science, religion and commerce to the rest of the world. It is interesting to note at this point the analogies with Atlantis.

According to the translated tablets, the people of Mu had colonies in the Americas, in Central Asia and in Southern Asia.

According to tradition, Mu was hit by cataclysms caused by volcanoes and tsunamis. This catastrophe destroyed mainly the southern part of the continent. Later on the rest disappeared about 13,000 years ago with very few survivors.

Then Mu was affected before Atlantis which is commonly dated at 12,000 years ago.

Whilst Atlantis would have been the reign of the Atlantic, Mu was the reign of the Pacific, both described as advanced civilisations. If this was the case, it is highly likely they were in contact or worse, in conflict. We currently have ancient texts that speak about very ancient and advanced civilisations at war. One of these texts is the Vedas of India.

From an archaeological point of view we also have interesting findings. In 1997, near the island of Yonaguni (in the area of Okinawa), in the East China Sea, a sort of megalithic complex was found underwater which consists of a large natural rock formation that was most probably carved and altered by man before the end of the last ice age. Mr. Graham Hancock and Dr. Robert Schoch, who are present here today, are some of the people who have studied the Yonaguni complex. As a matter of fact the diver in this picture is Dr. Schoch, during one of the diving missions.

From the initial estimates the dates for the remains range between 4000 and 8000 years whilst the ones found in deeper water could even be up to 15,000 years old.

Let's mention also the recent findings in the gulf of Cambay, in India.

We can't jump into conclusion but just consider all these things together.

In the Americas and more specifically in Mesoamerican the same way that a continent to the East is mentioned, we also find traditions of a continent to the West. Legends of people with beards and long robes who came and brought arts, science and technology from the East, and especially from the West! The Western continent has been described as located in the South Pacific. The description match with the one linked

to those people coming from the mysterious “Friendship Island”, as described nowadays by some Chilean individual.

On another angle, the various megalithic constructions with gigantic blocks and the similar clamping techniques are found in South America, Central America, Egypt, Lebanon, Palestine, Japan, England, France, Turkey, etc, as if placed there by some kind of antediluvian civilisation.

Based on all this, Atlantis and Lemuria and the concepts they also represent would be the point of origin of scientific, cultural and social evolution of humanity of Earth.

But let's regress even more in time.

If we dig in the past - and profoundly in ourselves - then we are talking about some form of Paradise on Earth or the Golden Age. This age has been mentioned and included in so many myths and traditions as a time of splendour, peace and eternal Spring. And this is not a statement to dismiss. This could be the time described by the Ancient Egyptians, the Incas, the Sumerians, Indians and even indigenous Americans. A time when the axis of the Earth was not yet inclined and certain latitudes lived in a permanent Spring season. This perfection could have been disturbed by an asteroid or some kind of cosmic collision which caused the inclination of the Earth's axis from which came the seasons. As a matter of fact the word Climate comes from the word Inclination in Greek.

Now who lived on Earth more than 12,000 years ago? Primitive man or evolved societies with a refined use of technology?

There are several recurring themes in all the ancient myths of creation and origin of the peoples of the past. Perhaps the names and situations change but the core is very similar. It is not crazy to assume a common origin of the various civilisation of the very ancient world either.

It is a hypothesis like any other to state that the history of humanity has seen the rise and fall of civilisations not too different from ours of which we have no trace or memory. It is a fact that archaeologists have a very hard time to reconstruct history as it was 5000 years ago so imagine that of several millennia before that. We know very little of our distant past.

At some point in that vast span of time humans began to build tools, weapons and shelter. But the strangest fact is that it is the only living creature on Earth to take on this intellectual enterprise, making humans significantly different from animals.

Indeed, it remains rather enigmatic as to the reason why apes remained as they were in their evolutionary stage whilst humans (supposedly closely related) developed an entire civilisation in such a short period of time.

Why did Man suddenly begin to build shelters, shacks, houses and skyscrapers, began to get into politics, develop science all the way to space travel, whilst all other species on earth followed an incredibly slow path of evolution of hundreds of millions of years, many of which have not even changed in all this time. Why did Man have the need to develop skills to protect itself from the environment, the sun, the air, the elements and everything else, as if humans didn't quite belong in this world?

It is interesting to note that several of the modern hypotheses on this matter are those of hardcore scientists and no longer answers from the so-called "New Age" movements. These theories seem to align with ancient knowledge, once called Esoteric knowledge, which has always accompanied Man in his quest to understand reality.

A hidden, mysterious, underground type of knowledge that is often found where people are less inclined to look: within ourselves.

Looking at ancient knowledge, the so-called extraterrestrial hypothesis, whether through the Panspermia Theory or downright to "someone" landing on Earth doesn't provide anything new. It has all been said in various traditions from time immemorial: from religious interpretations to the Veda to Theosophy, or also shamanism of various populations. We also have the psychedelic neo-gnosis, or even to the ancient Egyptians. It is even found in the myths of Atlantis and Lemuria, in the secrets of the Templars and so on. In today's world, we find these precepts from religious mysticism all the way to modern physics.

Looking at a summary of the various texts and traditions of ancient times, Man has always been inclined to explore, discover and colonise

new territories and new frontiers of knowledge. It seems that the gods of antiquity came to Earth for pretty much the same reason that we are travelling to space towards infinity.

According to tradition, these so-called deities came from the stars, as stated in numerous ancient belief systems, and then left the Earth and what they had created in the hands of Human beings. I must point out that some researchers even state that they never left or that the continued to come to Earth.

Although they are not simple to interpret and often not very clear, several ancient texts speak of testimonies of contacts with intelligent beings, sometimes even creatures, but not from this Earth or reality. There is also the very ancient fixation of human beings with the stars. It is becoming harder and harder to explain this fixation as we find evidence in prehistory of advanced astronomical knowledge as well as within the constructions of the ancient world which were built with careful alignments and taking into account the celestial movements.

Archaeo-astronomy is the name of the discipline that studies these alignments and the relationship between ancient archaeological sites and the stars. There is ample evidence of this relationship all over the world with very prominent findings in Mexico, Egypt, Europe and Asia. Some of these findings were explained during this year's and last year's conference.

Another important point that has widely been discussed and debated is the fact that archaeologists often find Out of Place Artefacts (called OOPARTS) in sites that are thousands of years old. This means objects that are not coherent with the epoch or dating of the archaeological site and often shouldn't even exist in that time period. As a matter of fact and contrary to popular belief, the world is full of anachronisms and similar findings. These are often filtered out or ignored by the academic world, sometimes intentionally, sometimes just labelled as fakes or contaminations.

Coming back to the Hindu tradition, the Kumaras were connected to Sirius and Venus and colonised at first some kind of island (Shamballah) in what would be today's Gobi desert, apparently once an ocean. Some interpretations suggest that these people might have intervened in the

genetics of the inhabitants of the Earth thus becoming deities to the created servants.

This hypothesis refers to a much older time than what is described in the Sumerian tablets of 3500BC as translated and interpreted by Zecharia Sitchin. In his work, Sitchin describes the myth of the Sumerians, perhaps the patriarchs of our current civilisation, where the relationship between the ancient people of Mesopotamia and the so-called Annunaki is told in great detail. The word Annunaki translates from ancient Sumerian and Acadian as “those who came from above/sky”.

Should any of these stories be rooted in truth, what sort of interest would so-called “visitors” have on Earth? How and why would they have played with the genetics of humans? How to make sense of all this? Well I don’t have the answer now and... who knows, it could be the topic of next year’s conference... but the important point is that we know very little of our past beyond 7000 years and practically nothing of what happened before that. All we have are myths and stories but there must be a message in those stories that may be of use to us today to understand our distant past as well as our most profound nature.

So looking at the myths and their interpretation from an anthropological point of view, comparing them with the various populations of the earth, we do find striking similarities that could give us good pointers as to where to begin searching:

From an archaeological point of view, a further analysis of Out of Place Artefacts could provide us with interesting information. We can also possibly get a lot from the views and research of Astro-Paleontology, as well as the anthropological study of the Sacred and the syncretism between new history and new physics and science. We enter therefore the realm of science and para-science that push us to the fringes such as ufology, esopolitics, etc.

And then we have another source: one that is now attempting to converge with advanced science while our core scientific knowledge pushes us to new frontiers. These new frontiers make our scientists wonder if there is perhaps real substance behind the myths: I am talking about the supernatural approach, which may include the wonders of human psychic abilities, contactism and research supported by a rather different logic. A logic where

human beings can count on non-conventional instruments, interior senses and mysterious faculties apparently found within each one of us. The same faculties that have been at the centre of very serious scientific research often funded by governments around the world, and the same faculties that ancient people talk about in all their texts.

In my opinion we have reached a point where we could remove the taboo and classification of what is Supernatural or Paranormal versus a more comprehensive body of knowledge that must include all the aspects of our reality if we really want to understand the past, present and future of our kind.

Perhaps it is time to take a more holistic approach to our sciences, one that includes what is labelled today as the spiritual aspect but in fact simply means a path that we walk on with more awareness and intelligence, a path that leads to greater consciousness of what our reality is made of. Consciousness of a form of wisdom found in our past as a key to understand our possible future.

During conferences such as this one, I often stop short of saying what I really think. For instance we do not talk about the possibility of other realms of existence and forms of life, intelligence and consciousness that may have had an impact or influence in what we are discovering of our past.

I do think that all the above points are not just science fiction, in various levels of understanding. At least I don't think it is pointless to study them. Anyway, many scientists and archaeologists are now normally talking about ET interventions. Many governments have been disclosing the x-files about UFOs, abductions, paranormal phenomena and studies, and different interpretations and approaches. Even the Vatican did! So, we are not talking about something so unbelievable and secret.

Whether Atlantis and UFOs are historical realities or modern myths is not as important as the fact that we must maintain an open mind, that we should pursue the knowledge of ourselves just as importantly as knowing atomic sub particles and the universe. And this is the open-ended conclusion for the Atlantis story, one that invites you to make your own conclusions.

Advanced modern physics are now questioning whether the universe as we see and conceive it actually exists.

Science is questioning the concept of space and time, physics Nobel Prize winners are talking about multidimensional universes, parallel realities and the virtual existence of matter... We don't really know what the universe is actually made of, therefore worrying about "aliens" on another planet is not a real problem if we are not quite sure if **we** even do exist or at least about "who" we are!

We don't know for sure what is reality and how it works, so finding out whether or not there are other inhabited planets becomes a false problem as we merely apply our limited logic to something that is multidimensional and much greater than what we can understand if we keep going with our restricted mentality.

So when we look at something like UFOs or other paranormal phenomena, the problem is not finding answers but rather asking the right questions.

Now, with all that have been said, explicitly and between lines, we know (we are assuming) that:

1. Probably we don't know so much about our past and origins;
2. Our origin is much more ancient and mysterious than what we learn in our schools;
3. Darwinism is definitely not enough: creationism and evolutionism must be linked in some way;
4. Maybe our origin is not terrestrial or not only terrestrial, or simply we need new way of thinking about our ancestors and history;
5. Some kind of interferences from outside, or from inside, from the ufological or/and from the spiritual point of view must be considered.

We have been talking about archaeology, pyramids, stars, mysteries of the past, mysteries of humankind, important and intriguing evidences, alternative interpretations, ancient and mysterious civilisations... great! Fine!

So what?

We need a new awareness and logic. We need new questions that can be applied. We need to use both the cerebral hemispheres to approach all these evidences.

I mean a type of approach to know and understand reality, in which humans regain control of their full faculties and existence.

It is basically a way to regain the knowledge on how to interact with the supernatural, with all the possible dimensions of our reality, which are actually always here and now, around us. Inside of us. A way that is linked to that 2012 prophecy, if you prefer.

The key to understand what that is “far” in space, in the matter, in time, that key is definitely inside of us. The truth is not “out there” but “in here”! This is the point.

In my opinion this is the orientation to the “so what” question.

Conferences like this one are crucial moments of dialogue. This event in the UAE can certainly be a sort of annual international reference point, and I hope this kind of events all over the world will stimulate further researches and projects, and be the opportunity to create a network of researchers able to represent the vanguard of a new era.

It is only if we talk about it and debate that we will be able to lift the veils that divide people from a global gnosis and wisdom, from using science and consciousness, reason and feelings together.

Thank you.