



**CONSPIRACY THEORIES**

### 1950-1960s HAVE ALIENS WALKED ON EARTH?

Did extraterrestrials visit Earth in ancient times? Science says no. But ET theorists point to "evidence" from antiquity as well as more recent close encounters.

Supporters of the "aliens came here long ago" theory point to ancient stories of gods flying in fiery chariots and to pictures of ancient rulers in strange garb and headdress, said to be aliens in spacesuits. Extraterrestrial visitors arrived with advanced technology to observe Earth and perhaps genetically modify its life forms. They helpfully passed on some basic technology—such as teaching the Sumerians agriculture and math. They also helped build the Pyramids and Stonehenge.

This theory presupposes that intelligent life exists elsewhere in the universe. In the 1960s, astrophysicists I. S. Shklovskii and Carl Sagan, serious scientists and essentially sceptics, judged that extraterrestrials were "possible but not proven." Erich Von Däniken on the other hand claimed much "evidence" for alien visitors in the art, religion, and folklore of many cultures. Zecharia Sitchkin went further, suggesting aliens produced modern humans from a distant planet called Nibiru they flew to Earth for minerals and genetically engineered the primitive primates they found here to make intelligent workers.

In 1952 George Adamski said he met a man from Venus in the Colorado Desert of California. The alien, who had long blonde hair, used telepathy to talk to Adamski and invited him on a trip to Venus in his flying saucer. Adamski was not alone; others, too, claim to have met aliens, who visit from planets near and far.

**EVIDENCE**

SCIENTISTS BELIEVE VENUS TO BE HOSTILE TO LIFE, THOUGH ADAMSKI CLAIMED HIS VENUSIANS LIVED SURELY UNDERGROUND. ADAMSKI DID NOT BELIEVE THE FIRST-EVER PHOTO OF THE BARBERS FATE SITE OF THE MARS CHAOS REGION WAS A FLYING SPACECRAFT, SINCE IT HAD BEEN FADED TO HIDE THE ALIEN CITIES THAT WERE REALLY THERE. LIFE OF SOME KIND MIGHT EXIST ON MARS, BUT BACTERIA ARE UNLIKELY TO BE UP TO BUILDING SPACECRAFT TO VISIT EARTH!

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