



Star.Ships: A Prehistory of the Spirits

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A defining text of the new magical renaissance, Star.Ships addresses the question of who we are now by tracing where we come from, and by drawing out the stories and the spirits that have journeyed and evolved with us. The goal is, as Gordon writes, the restoration of context.

To this end, White applies his globally-recognised data and demographics skills to realise a groundbreaking work of truly interdisciplinary research. Utilising mythological, linguistic and astronomical data to reconstruct palaeolithic magical beliefs, he maps them to the human journey out of Africa; explores which aspects of these beliefs and practices have survived into the Western tradition; and what the implications (and applications) of those survivals may be for us.

Written for a magically literate and operative audience, Star.Ships displays the flair, wit and engagement with evidence that adherents of his runesoup blog have come to expect from Gordon. He deftly handles vast time scales and cosmologies to build his case; avoids the pitfalls of alternative historians with a refreshing absence of dogma or wishful thinking; and, in a masterful deployment of the latest research, simultaneously questions outworn dominant narratives and is not afraid to champion the work of independent researchers and entertain forbidden discourses. It is exactly what chaos magic should be.

Göbekli Tepe, the Pyramids and Sphinx, Nabta Playa, Gunung Padang, Easter Island and Sundaland are some of the points spangled across a work of truly cosmic scope. Star.Ships beckons those who are willing to engage in the adventure to follow the great river of history that flows into and out of an ocean of stars. Minds will be blown.

Star.Ships: A Prehistory of the Spirits Details

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From Reader Review Star.Ships: A Prehistory of the Spirits for online ebook

Benjamin De Baets says

Your microscope and your telescope always belong to you.
Go, burn a little incense, out under the Stars.

Chad Axe says

I needed this book..time to contextualize The Work...and download myself into the Prime Narrative! We at this time are finally nailing it down.

Travis Stacey Watson says

Mind Blown

Gordon White is one of those people who makes me feel like I need an IQ infusion every time I read one of his books. I don't always agree with him but I can say that his thoughts are always well researched on both the academic and practical magic level. I am going to have to set this book aside and re-read it later just to begin to absorb the sheer volume of data contained in this tome. Please, please read this if you are at all interested in: advanced technology in ancient times, the connection of the stars to ancient sites, thoughts on the use of entheogens, grimoire spirits and where they come from, the ETH and so much more.

John Wright says

Star.Ships is a book I've been waiting to find--a complex, well-researched analysis of a growing body of evidence that the official story of human culture needs a dramatic revision.

Has the consensus worldview that all civilization began around 10,000 BC never quite seemed right to you? Does the progression from hunters and gatherers to small villages to the mathematically perfect great pyramids in only a few millennia seem like a stretch?

Gordon's work is part of a larger body of emerging research to suggest that what we consider "ancient" myths and culture are remnants of much older civilizations and systems of knowledge that were lost around 12,000 BC.

There are some sections where the books gets bogged down in the necessary details--difficult only because of my only lack of context--but by the end I will say that White has proven his thesis and raised many interesting speculations about the path of human history, the evolution of human civilization, and the lore of the stars that still have the power to connect us to our ancestors.

Edric Unsane says

Informative and plausible, and unfortunately, not for everyone as Star.Ships seems to be more a thesis paper rather than most the easily digestible 101 books out there on the Occult/Witchcraft. It's damn good though, and I feel that although Star.Ships is an advanced read, that it really should be read by more persons in the Occult/Witchcraft communities.

David Halpin says

Video review here...

https://youtu.be/y_OWWhUV5oh8

Daniel says

Gordon White's exercise in using data analysis to speculatively reconstruct ancient belief systems is a mind-bending journey through our most ancient history. In this book, he tracks our species' first departure from what we now call Africa, and the beginnings of both the Laurasian mythological "novel", as well as the Gondwana "grandmother myths" that came with us. It's an exciting synthesis of historical accounts, research into genetic migration, and the more perplexing recent archaeological finds, such as as Göbekli Tepe. All of which suggest that our historical view of our ancestors has been, and in some cases continues to be, presumptuously condescending.

Full Review

Jeanne Thornton says

This is only not a five-star for me because of the last full chapter in which speculation about the communication practices of nonhuman intelligences + NDEs and remote viewing starts to get into the act. This is my problem as a Debased Mostly Materialist Person, though, more than the book's. I kind of want everyone I know to read this so I can talk with them about it. Highlights: everything about Gobelki Tepe, the pyramids as ritual space rather than funerary space, climate change and the Vedic timeline, Bornless Ritual as subplot/through-line, I mean jeez the whole book

There is a seductiveness to this book's argument that I deeply mistrust. But I also mistrust parties where people seem to be having fun, and owing to AU's descriptions of Nile boat processions/nightlife at star temples of Asia Minor, he does not, so caveat emptor, you who read this review

Right now I live in Brooklyn, where it is not possible to watch the stars directly, and I feel an acute, pulsing sadness about that after finishing this book

Greyer Jane says

Love a Bibliography at the back of a book? I do! This book is so good and chewy I will need to read it again. I just say also that I love books that Make me think.

Joe Crow says

This book is my motherfucking JAM, yo. It hits roughly seventy percent of the intellectual goodie spots that make my brain say "Oh yeah, RIGHT THERE BABY..." My only real complaints are 1) that it's too short (of course); 2) Gordon coulda spent a LOT more time developing and expanding the final section about the Other Folks and the High Weirdness of our various examples of contact with their side, especially in comparison with spirit work and ritual magic entity contacts. There's a whole book or thousand that could be done with that, comparing the volumes of work over the ages with demons, angels, and spirits by actual professional occultists with the twentieth century's UFO contacts and PSI work stuff. I mean, folks have done some preliminary work with that, but there really hasn't been the kind of detailed comparison that'd make me happy.

Also, the connection between Orion-ian starlore and the Headless Rite is a massive game changer for me. I would never have made that connection, and now I've gotta spend a shitload of time digging into Orion and his whole schtick.

I cannot fucking WAIT for The Chaos Protocols to come out.

Kenneth says

Gordon White attempts to trace the roots of Western Esotericism back past the end of the last ice age, and darn if he doesn't do an amazing job. It's part critique of modern archeology, part sweeping work of comparative mythology and part who knows what. From the ruins of Gobekli Tepe to the Sundaland, lost in the rising seas after the ice age, this is an epic book. This was my second time through and I will need a third sometime, if not more.

Dimitris Hall says

We now consider it 'scientific' or 'professional' to describe cultural artefacts -- non physical objects -- in exclusively materialist terms. Only a functional analysis of the mythological process is allowed, **which is like describing your grandmother's famous chicken soup solely by its molecular constituency.**

This quote sets the tone brilliantly in my opinion.

Star.Ships is a prehistory of the world as seen through the unlikely lens of magic, crypto-archaeology and the history of star worship in particular. It's a truly fascinating glimpse into a completely alternative retelling of the world as we know it in the way only Gordon White can pull off. If you doubt this might be politically charged (actually, why would you?!), here is another snippet for you:

Over the last century, a new power narrative has emerged that warps archaeological data into a specific shape the way a magnet affects iron filings. It is the unspoken belief that humanity is on a journey from worse to better, from primitive to complex, uncivilised to civilised. Our

civilisation of perpetual war, total surveillance, obesity, runaway mental illness, overmedication, environmental degradation, widespread unemployment and scientific materialism has nothing to learn from the past because it is better. Enjoy that smartphone made by suicidal Taiwanese slave labour. Continue shopping.

Some further points from the book I wished to share with you:

1) Flood myths are so common across distinct cultures they must be referring to a single, global event. Some areas were affected more than others, as can be inferred by the frequent occurrence of flood myths in Southeast Asia, a region which lost the most territory relevant to its current size to rising sea levels globally, and its matching infrequency in Africa, which had the least of its land sink beneath the waves.

There are strong signs that if there was an advanced culture before this flood, its origins might probably be traced to Southeast Asia, and more precisely Indonesia.

2) Some of this culture's descendants seem to be the Polynesians.

3) Göbekli Tepe in Southeast Turkey is one of the greatest mysteries known to archaeology right now. It's a megalithic structure aka a complex not entirely dissimilar to Stonehenge, with the difference that it's dated to 11000 BC at the latest. To give you an idea, we are closer chronologically to the construction of the Great Pyramid than these guys were. That's way before the first agricultural communities, and thus permanent settlements or cities, arose.

So who built this thing, and why? There are indications that it served as a ritual space connected to 'drug' use (entheogens and alcohol), and it seems they even had beer and wine on site. Remember, that's before agriculture. Knowing that there's a high chance people made beer from grains before they had even learned how to make bread is a fact that somehow makes me very happy inside. It's a less utilitarian and more joyful interpretation than the official narrative, i.e. that beer was somehow discovered by the accidental fermentation that resulted inside the granaries or whatever.

Discoverer of Göbekli Tepe and its chief excavator, Dr Klaus Schmidt, famously warned against what he called 'Holy Land Syndrome,' which is the propensity for archaeologists to head out into the field with a spade in one hand and a Bible in the other. Holy Land Syndrome precludes the finding of something you didn't already expect to find... The twenty-first century offers us a new Holy Land Syndrome. There is still the spade in one hand, but the Bible has been replaced with a very selective reading of On the Origin of Species. Science does not consider itself an ideology, as it claims to only deal with what is real. This is, of course, what every ideology thinks of itself.

The ancient einkorn wheat, found in the hills surrounding Göbekli Tepe, just happens to be the single genetic ancestor of every strain of wheat grown and eaten across the earth. People gathering at a temple on a hill to worship 'heavenly beings' were like passengers in an airport during a pandemic. Wheat, and what to do with it, spread to every corner of the land."

"Before we knew how to farm, before we lived in villages, before we even knew how to make pots, we built a star temple on a hill.

4) There is no evidence that the Great Pyramid was a tomb, as it's popularly portrayed. Gordon White goes in depth how and why a big part of Egyptology is a closely guarded fabrication. We don't know of the Great Pyramid's purpose, and we don't even know how it was made -- despite recent 'explanations' involving sleds and ramps that have already been proven physically impossible.

Curious yet? Definitely read this book! I only have to warn you that Gordon's writing style can feel esoteric at times and seems to presuppose from the reader at least some knowledge of magic and myth; nevertheless, even I, more keen and less familiar with either as I am, was only mildly frustrated when things I didn't understand popped up. Don't let that stop you.

The Skeptiko interview with Gordon White I originally listened to that propped me to find this book.

Stuart says

A comprehensive and critical look at prehistory, archaeology and comparative mythology, Mr. White's book is an excellent and thought-provoking read that spans the globe and 50,000 years of human history, providing workable alternative theories to ancient megaliths, celestial navigation and the mythological basis for all of Western esotericism. My only complaint applies to many occult texts--too much "[x], which is important now, will be discussed later..." or "as magical initiates know about [y]...". The trappings of occult writing don't have to exist within occult writing. Nonetheless a fantastic read.

Jim says

I have lately been reserving 5 stars for books that rock my world. Star.ships did that. I've read a lot of the sources White used and have similar thoughts but he crystallized some things for me. Here are a couple of random thoughts.

It's interesting that he considers Austronesia to be an important cultural source. In the last couple of years since he wrote this, the Out of Africa model quietly died. The best current theory is that modern humans originated in Austronesia.

I've never been a practicing magician in any real sense but I've dabbled in a few things over the years. His idea that there is an intelligence that has trickster/synchronicity/fractal aspects rings true for me. In my younger years, I phrased it as "God has a twisted sense of humor." Since I also have a twisted sense of humor, I found that immensely satisfying.

Christian says

Oh, I had high hopes for this book - and boy, he delivers! Beloved Gordon puts all of his historical, quite diverse knowledge into between two covers and hopefully the reader can digest it the right way. In "Star.Ships", we're taken on a tour de force from paeolithic cultures to vedic india, to egypt of old. Gordon is clear in his intent, his critique and his own argumentation. For the experienced reader - you might still learn something. For the apprentice - read it carefully and don't despair! This is chock-full of information, yes. Use the extensive bibliography as a gateway for further studies. I surely will.

But even Mr. White ahs his flaws, as longtime listeners to the Runesoup-podcast might know:

- it is wrong to try or wish to get academia back in the boat. Cultural and historical studies have different tasks than theological and philosophical texts. Rather, academia and science should be shown to be not in charge of life and meaning as a whole.
- a coherent epistemology for the kind of tradition proposed in "Star.Ships" is still lacking. But maybe this

rather historical treatise is not necessarily the place for it.
