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**WORLD'S OLDEST
ARCHEOLOGICAL TEMPLE
GÖBEKLİTEPE
(10.000 B.C.)**

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Göbeklitepe, located 22km North-East from Şanlıurfa, was located by a surface analysis carried out by the Istanbul University and Chicago University in the year 1963. Göbeklitepe is an approximately 15 m high hill town, which is 300 m in diameter. Dated in the Pre-Pottery Neolithic period, Göbeklitepe consists of two phases. The first phase encloses 9.600-8.500 B.C. and the second 8.500-8.000 B.C. 7.000 years before the Pyramids and 6.500 years before Stonehenge, there was Göbeklitepe with its unique architecture and sculpture art.

The Göbeklitepe excavations, which started in 1995, were carried out by Prof. Dr. Klaus Schmidt for a long time and after the untimely death of Prof. Dr. Klaus Schmidt in 2014, the excavations continued in cooperation with the Şanlıurfa Museum Directorate and Turkish-German Scientists.



“B” Temple

Göbeklitepe Architecture

According to geographical radar scans the architecture of Göbeklitepe consist of 23 temple structures, which form a religious center. As seen, the A, B, C and D temples are all of different sizes and the temple widths show big differences. The broadest temple reaches a diameter of 20 meter.



Air photographs of the A, B, C, D Temple

These temples consists of obelisks in "T" form, just as in temple "D", and are formed in an oval structure. Every temple is formed like a "T" and consists of 4-6 meter high and 10-14 ton heavy stelae. The Göbeklitepe "T" stelae were cut in the quarry, 500 meters away and then brought to the sacred area. The massive "T stela" made on the main rock, approximately 500 meters away from the ruins of Göbeklitepe, are proof that the "T" stelae were cut in this quarry and brought to the area. This is a revolution for the Neolithic people.



Broken Stellar in the Quarry

It is thought that these stelae represent people. The creation of the temple is according to the air photograph of temple "C" as follows. The higher stelae in the center were placed first, after that the other stelae were placed around them in a circle and the temple walls were placed in form of a spiral.



Air photographs of the C Temple



Center Stela of the D temple

The architectural revolution of the Neolithic people in Göbeklitepe has changed everything known about them. After Göbeklitepe it became clear that Neolithic people were, contrary to common belief, had very dexterity and architectural and mathematical intelligence. The architecture and architectural descriptions, which surfaced during the excavations, are proof for a rich inner world and detailed mathematical calculations and advanced techniques.

Göbeklitepe Sculpture Art

Numerous figures of Göbeklitepe, created with the carving technique, bas-relief technique and high relief technique proof the status of the people of Göbeklitepe in sculpture art and how successful they were in symbolic expression.



"T" Stela (Temple C)



"T" Stela (Temple C)



Totem

Amongst the depicted figures there are many snakes, foxes, pigs, lions, reptiles and totems.

Religion and Saints of the Neolithic People

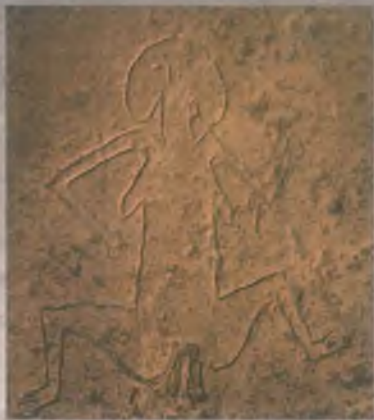
The fact that religion was the center of life of the Neolithic people is indisputable. Because an architecture, unbelievable for that time, was created for religion. The Göbeklitepe excavations, which are still carried out, still haven't revealed what was worshipped by the Göbeklitepe people. But male figures, belonging to the first phase (9.600 B.C.-8.500 B.C.) revealed that men were considered sacred in this period and a female nativity scene, created with the carving technique, belonging to the second phase (8.500 B.C.-8.000 B.C.) show that women were in charge during the second phase. While the hunter-gatherer lifestyle is seen in the first phase, it can be seen that there was a transition to agriculture and animal husbandry in the second phase. This change also effected the social status and led to the birth of the mother goddess figure. Göbeklitepe of Şanlıurfa has always been historically considered sacred and knowing that it also was an important religious center during the Neolithic period and seeing what people have achieved for their belief only enhances our admiration of Göbeklitepe.



Human Statue



Figure



Female Nativity Scene

Source: Şanlıurfa Museum Directorate

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