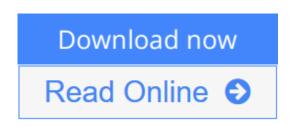


# The Message of the Sphinx: A Quest for the Hidden Legacy of Mankind

By Graham Hancock, Robert Bauval



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The authors of the bestselling Fingerprints of the Gods, The Sign and the Seal, and The Orion Mystery team up to posit a revolutionary theory: that the Sphinx and the other great Egyptian monuments are of prehistoric origina and that they are arranged in such a way as to be a giant stone "hologram, " sending a message to us from the silent past. 16 pp. of photos. 30 line drawings.

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#### **Editorial Review**

#### From Publishers Weekly

Is the Sphinx of prehistoric origin? Why was it built? In this provocative, rigorously argued report, revisionist Egyptologists Hancock (The Fingerprints of the Gods) and Bauval (The Orion Mystery) join forces to answer these questions and more as they examine the Sphinx and its relation to the other monuments of the Giza plateau. Working from the premise that the Giza complex encodes a message, they begin with recently discovered geological evidence indicating that the deep erosion patterns on the flanks of the Sphinx were caused by 1000 years of heavy rain. Such conditions last existed in Egypt at the end of the last ice age, about 10,000-9,000 B.C., meaning that the Sphinx may be more than 12,000 years old (not the generally accepted 4500 years). The authors go on to suggest, using computer simulations of the sky, that the pyramids, representing the three stars of Orion's Belt, along with associated causeways and alignments, constitute a record in stone of the celestial array at the vernal equinox in 10,500 B.C. This moment, they contend, represents Zep Tepi, the "First Time," often referred to in the hieroglyphic record. They show how the initiation rituals of the Egyptian pharaohs replicate on Earth the sun's journey through the stars in this remote era, and they suggest that the "Hall of Records" of a lost civilization may be located by treating the Giza Plateau as a template of these same ancient skies. These daring, well-argued theories will raise the hackles of orthodox Egyptologists?but that doesn't mean they're wrong. Illustrations not seen by PW. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From Library Journal

The authors of Fingerprints of the Gods (Crown, 1995) posit, among other things, that the Sphinx may be three times older than we think. A 50,000-copy first printing. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.

#### From the Inside Flap

The authors of the bestselling Fingerprints of the Gods, The Sign and the Seal, and The Orion Mystery team up to posit a revolutionary theory: that the Sphinx and the other great Egyptian monuments are of prehistoric origina and that they are arranged in such a way as to be a giant stone "hologram, " sending a message to us from the silent past. 16 pp. of photos. 30 line drawings.

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