

In Plain Sight, Our Neanderthal Ancestors

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Left brain-right brain, intuitiveintellectual,patriarchy-matriarchy, make love-not war; is there a reason humankind seems so bipolar? Maybe there is and the answer might be surprising. Of all the racially bigoted stereotypes that have made their way into public consciousness, none are more incorrect and odious than those attributed to the ancient race of humans called

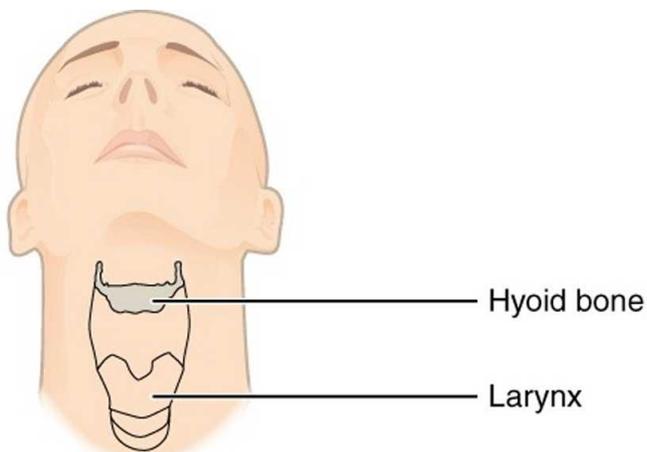
Neanderthal. The use of the phrase 'race of humans' is deliberate. If people all over today's world carry at least two per cent or more Neanderthal DNA in their genes, then Neanderthals were not our 'cousins', nor were they 'a branch of the human tree' - they were our early ancestors. If we carry their genes, they did not disappear. Their stay on earth was a lot longer than ours has been so far, and they did not become extinct. They became us.



Neanderthal stereotyped (Fotolia)

Removing the Grunt

Neanderthals were not Alley-Oop, cartoon-like, ignorant, dumb, hairy creatures who walked heavily and carried big sticks. They made jewelry and specialized tools. They buried their dead with dignity, conducting funerals with flowers and memorabilia, just as we do today. They believed in an afterlife. They used makeup similar to what is found in every medicine cabinet in the so-called civilized world of today, but theirs was made of ocher and other natural pigments. They produced art which evidenced 'symbolic thinking' - the critical thought patterns needed to form a religious world-view. They did not grunt at each other. Modern studies done on Neanderthal remains prove they had vocal cords physically capable of speech patterns sufficient to produce and understand language. They probably had voices that were similar to people today who speak in raspy, high-pitched tones. Jon Mooallem, writing in the January 11, 2017 edition of the New York Times, went so far as to say they may have sounded a bit like Julia Childs.



No Neanderthal hyoid was found until 1983, when excavators discovered a well-preserved one on Neanderthal Kebara 2, Israel. (CC BY-SA 3.0)

Neanderthals manufactured a type of glue using birch bark that was heated to at least 644 degrees Fahrenheit. In a cave at the straits of Gibraltar they harvested the feathers of specific birds, using only dark ones, either for ceremonial or aesthetic purposes. They took down dangerous game, including an extinct species of rhinoceros that few today would want to challenge. But they also ate shellfish and drank chamomile tea. And then they used toothpicks to clean their teeth.

Musical Ancestors

To top it all off, they serenaded each other with music, their flutes tuned to what we call the pentatonic scale. In his book, *The Singing Neanderthals: The Origins of Music, Language, Mind, and Body*, Steven Mithen puts forth the theory that we are compelled to make music because we inherited the trait from our Neanderthal ancestors. Delving into archaeology, anthropology, psychology, neuroscience and musicology, he credits our fundamental need to express ourselves in song completely to the early merging of Cro-Magnon and Neanderthal. Without them there would have been no Willie Nelson or Ludwig van Beethoven. This is in direct contrast to anthropologists who dismiss music as a 'functionless evolutionary byproduct'. Recent evidence even indicates that Neanderthals passed down to us the genes needed to fight off certain kinds of viral infections.

The shocking thing about all these conclusions is that most of them are not the result of recent discoveries that previously eluded archaeologists. They came about by re-studying information that has been hiding in plain sight for years. The late Stan Gooch wrote about what he called the 'Hybrid-Origin Theory' as far back as 1972. In 1979 he synthesized his ideas in *Guardians of the Ancient Wisdom*.

Cro-Magnon Magic



Reconstruction of a Cro-Magnon woman in the Neanderthal Museum ([Public Domain](#))

His theory can be summed up like this: Cro-Magnon evolved from a pre-existing human species in northern India during a long, isolated period of gradual evolution. There the species developed sun worship and what Gooch called 'hunting magic'. There was a patriarchal culture, prone to competition and violence. Neanderthals evolved in Europe and the Middle East. They worshipped the moon and practiced earth magic, while slowly developing a matriarchal society led by strong women. They studied the night skies, and became astute astronomers.

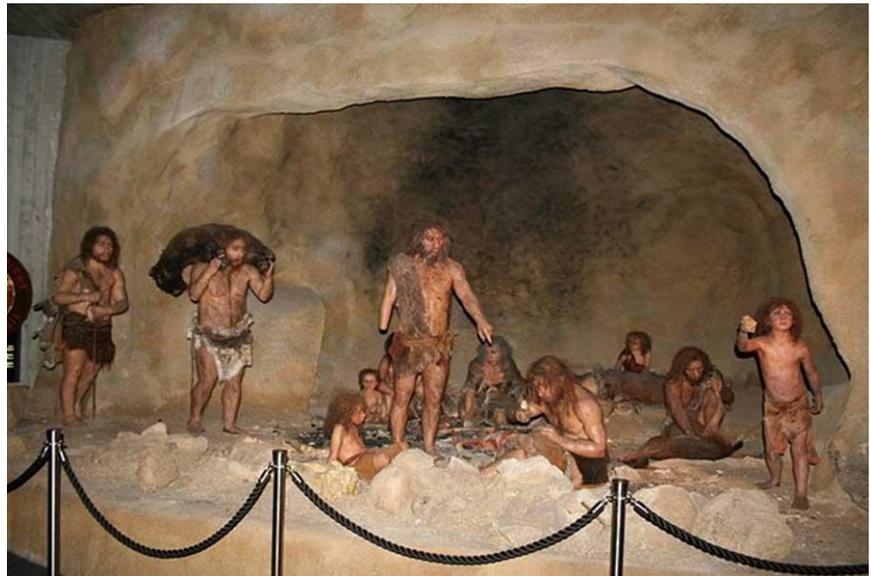
Forty thousand years ago Cro-Magnons began a migration west through the Middle East into Europe. There they encountered Neanderthal. For a long period of time the two species co-existed, sometimes peacefully, often not. The merging of the species

could very well have come about because of Cro-Magnon violence and rape of Neanderthal women. Gooch wonders if the Genesis accounts of 'the sons of God' mating with 'the daughters of men' might preserve these encounters in stories and memories of a very distant past. About 25,000 years ago the earth's predominate human race was genetically Cro-Magnon, but from the Middle East across to Europe, neither pure Cro-Magnon nor pure Neanderthal existed any more.

Gooch's theory was largely ignored by established anthropologists, and he died thinking his ideas had been rejected. Now that DNA results confirm the fact that almost everyone of European ancestry has Neanderthal genes flowing through their blood, he is being vindicated. People may not accept his conclusions concerning Neanderthal traits such as spirituality and an appreciation for music, but they can no longer doubt the truth of what he presented concerning a mixture of the two races.

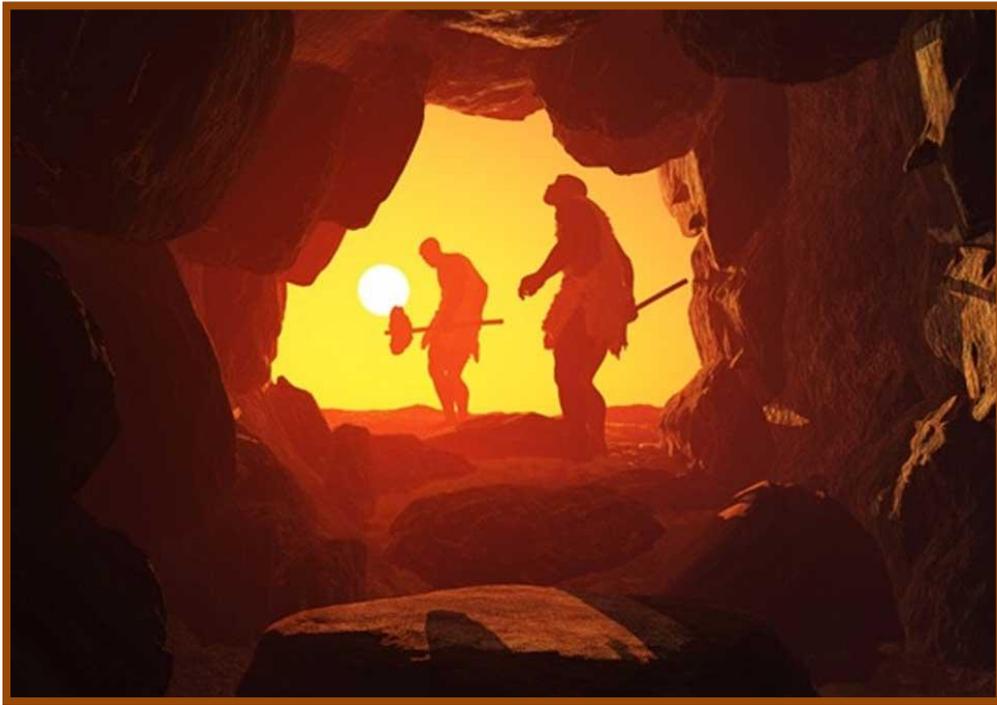
Last Ice Age

This leads to a radical new way to think about our origins. Both Neanderthal and Homo Sapiens are thought to have evolved from Homo Erectus, 'the upright man', between 200,000 and 300,000 years ago, and maybe even as early as 500,000 years ago. Homo Erectus, in turn, descended from a much earlier ancestor called Australopithecus Afarensis, the most famous of whom is now called 'Lucy', about 3.2 million years ago. These figures take us back to very ancient times. Two thousand years ago puts one in the time of Christ. Go back 5,000 years and one can help build the pyramids and 12,000 years ago finds one in the era of Göbekli Tepe.



Interior of Krapina Neanderthal Museum in Croatia ([CC BY-SA 4.0](#))

The most conservative estimate for the age of Neanderthal is at least 16 times that long. The way dates are often revised backwards these days, it could very well prove to be double that amount. That takes us way back before the last great Ice Age. Is it any wonder evidence of early humankind is tough to find?



Depiction of Neanderthal cave ([Fotolia](#))

The study of stalagmites in Romanian caves, which readily reveal changes of temperatures that alter their chemical composition over many thousands of years, reveals that a mere 40,000 years ago Europe was undergoing massive cooling and drying. Each cooling stage was called a stadial. During these stadials, evidence for Neanderthal occupation drops way down. But this was the very same time early humans entered the great painted caves of western Europe and began to create beautiful murals on the walls. It was when early shamans developed the ability to think in symbolic ways and observe visions of alternate realities. Is this timing a coincidence? Did Neanderthal DNA help contribute to the symbolic thought that suddenly appeared then?



Comparison of Modern Human and Neanderthal skulls from the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. ([CC BY-SA 2.0](#))

Neanderthal Immigration to Americas

Recent discoveries at an archaeological site in California, on the west coast of America, indicate that Neanderthals had migrated all the way to the Americas at least 100,000 years ago, and maybe even as early as 130,000 years ago. If that is true, Neanderthals can now even lay legitimate claim to being the first Americans. James Paces, from the United States Geological Survey in Colorado, recently employed a technique called uranium-thorium isotope dating that upset everything that has been taught about the first people to reach North America. Until his work was announced it was assumed that people, meaning modern humans, came to North America only about 15,000 years ago, maybe even 30,000 years ago. But 130,000 years ago is extraordinary. Paces' comments are understated: "We believe we have a robust and defensible age for early humans being in America more than 100,000 years earlier than people had imagined". Jon Eriandson, from the University of Oregon, agrees: "The claims are extraordinary and the potential implications staggering". His colleague Dennis Jenkins uses the phrase, 'mind boggling'.

This amount of time and geographical diffusion could lead to a brand-new understanding of Neanderthal culture. It was unique, and lasted for a very long time. Like all cultures, it eventually died out. But part of the reasons for that 'death' was that they merged with what is now called modern humans - us! It was not that they were 'taken over', or 'hunted to extinction', or even were 'superseded' by modern humans. Two unique human ancestral species merged to form something new, and each contributed different psychological and emotional attributes to the mix.

It was believed that 65 million years ago, dinosaurs became extinct. It is now common knowledge they did not do any such thing. They rose from the ashes of destruction, changed their form, and morphed into something new and creative, better able to adapt to the changing environment. They are now called birds. Neanderthals were no different. They still exist. To see one, look in a mirror, not in a museum.



Neanderthals are ancient on the land (Fotolia)

Neanderthals are ancient on the land, extending way back before the last Ice Age. Could that Ice Age have wiped out evidence of a previous, unknown, and almost totally lost, high-level civilization? It would not have to have been a civilization based on electrical grids and sophisticated infrastructure like ours. It might have been a totally natural, completely earth-integrated society that did not survive by using up resources like our civilization does. As such, it might not have left hard evidence behind. But if they spread out all over the globe and crossed oceans, they must have been doing something right.

Could it be that current ideas about Neanderthals stem from the fact that only the tail end of a much more ancient civilization is discovered? In other words, are current scientists finding the remains of survivors of a civilization that is far older than anything currently being admitted?

Cataclysmic Survivors: 21st Century Neanderthals?

If a comet were to suddenly wipe out the bulk of humankind now alive on the planet, there would undoubtedly be survivors. But they would not include the populations of teeming cities and progressive population centers. The survivors would no doubt be so-called 'primitive' people in areas far removed from the centers of civilization. They might be Stone Age people, living today in the depths of Africa or South America, who do not know that New York, Paris, or Beijing exist. As late as the summer of 2018, satellite photos captured images of people who probably wonder about the strange birds that occasionally fly over their heads, deep in the Amazon rain forest – 'birds' that we call airplanes. If the great cities of the world go down in flames it would hardly register on the consciousness of such people. They would continue to go about their daily business with hardly a thought or care. And if, in the future, they were to come upon, and perhaps mate with, other survivors of the catastrophe who looked and acted differently, but were still humans like them, they would form a new and viable civilization.

*Apocalyptic end of the
world – who would
survive our civilization
(CCO)*



Then, 10,000 years from now, if future archaeologists were to search for evidence of their existence, they would no doubt deduce that that one group of people conquered, or assimilated, or replaced the other. If the resultant offspring exhibited physical characteristics familiar to the future archaeologists, those archaeologists would probably deduce that 'their kind' had won out, and decide accordingly to teach that history to their students. But it would be a lie, influenced by racial stereotypes.

Psychic Toolkit

What if Neanderthals once formed a civilization that was in touch with technologies of the mind and spirit that precluded the need to invent wires and generators, roads, and sky scrapers? Call it a 'psychic toolkit'. What if psychic energy was once as common as electrical current is today? What if that great civilization fell victim to one of the great cataclysms that periodically wreak havoc upon the earth? What if hundreds or even thousands of years later, the survivors of that cataclysm, their numbers diminished and their former powers forgotten, managed to scrape by long enough to hitch a ride on the new bandwagon driven by what we now call 'modern' humans, and, by doing so, lived on in our DNA? And what if those psychic powers are still lurking deep in our minds, ready to once again rise to the surface and be employed by modern humans?

It is a fantastic thought, to be sure. But it goes a long way towards explaining some of the ancient structures and mythologies that are strewn throughout the human story. It might even explain some of the psychic powers exhibited by the fortunate few who have glimpsed other realities and explored parallel realms. Whenever someone undertakes out-of-body experiences or has lucid dreams, whenever someone grasps an intuitive thought or breaks through to what feels like another dimension, perhaps our old Neanderthal DNA comes awake and, for a moment at least, is reminiscent of what it was like to be human on the earth thousands of years ago. Does that explain the left-brain-right-brain, analytical-intuitive traits inherent in modern humans? Are our brains the result of the merger of two human species - one intuitively psychic and one technologically materialistic? Does this explain the many old religious texts that tell us the 'gods' once mated with 'humans' to conceive 'the mighty men - the heroes of old'? Are we the product of those offspring?

There is no question that the ancients accomplished things most people find incomprehensible today. They could very well have been employing what this author have called a psychic toolkit. If these ancient powers are latent within us - and scientists today increasingly think they are - then it only makes sense to study the ancient people who may have practiced them.

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