

Astronomy Talk 28th November 2017

Pseudoastronomy

Steve Tonkin gave us a talk about a delightful number of really bad astronomical things. He chose as his background books and publications. First we had Immanuel Velikovsky and "Worlds in Collision". This introduced the theme that authors who write unorthodox rubbish and find everyone's rejecting it, universally then claim they are being persecuted, and that there's a conspiracy going on.

We then looked at Erich von Däniken and "Chariots of the Gods", followed by Zecharia Sitchin's books on the supposed planet Nibiru, and Robert Temple's books on "The Sirius Mystery". These alluded to the West African Dogon tribe knowing about Sirius B, which information they'd evidently picked up from an anthropologist rather than from aliens.

On a slightly different note, Nancy Leider claimed to be telepathically controlled "Zeta talk", and as with the other stars of the show made lots of predictions, e.g. about the world's end, which were complete nonsense. Amongst these Steve noted the following for the "Mayan Apocalypse" in 2012.

Some bad science does get analysed fairly, e.g. the CERN claim to have discovered faster than light particles: soon disproved of course.

We looked at Graham Hancock's books about advanced prehistoric civilisations, and Michael Tellinger's theories about an ancient advanced South African civilisation. All rubbish, and all claiming there's a conspiracy/persecution/censorship going on.