

Proposed Interpretation of Certain Results from the 2004 & 2006 First Eden Expeditions

by

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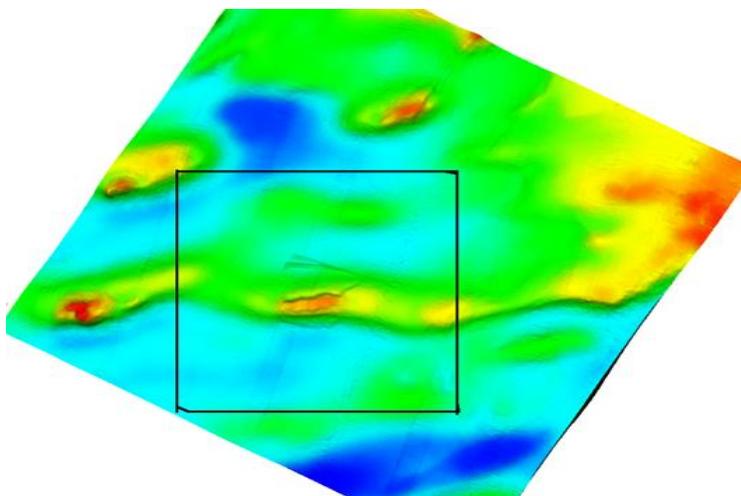
By way of a preliminary statement, the purpose of this paper is to examine the nature of certain discoveries during the 2004 and 2006 expeditions as they pertain to *The Urantia Book*. It is not the purpose of this paper to examine the merits of the thesis put forth by Robert Sarmast in his publications of *The Discovery of Atlantis – The Startling case for the Island of Cyprus* published in 2004 and the expanded edition in 2006. Sarmast used 50 points from Plato’s works of *Timaeus* and *Critias* to make his case that the First Garden of Eden, as described in *The Urantia Book* was, because of the extraordinary prehistoric civilization that existed there, an excellent candidate for the lost city of Atlantis. It is not my wish to challenge that thesis, but to answer the question as to whether or not those two voyages substantiated, in any way, the description of the First Garden of Eden as found in *The Urantia Book*. (Urantia is the name of the Earth). It was, indeed, that location that brought Sarmast to the eastern Mediterranean Sea and to him, we owe a great debt of gratitude for his extraordinary efforts in organizing those expeditions. This paper also recognizes the desirability to suggest positive results to those who sacrificed for, worked for and contributed to those voyages. It must also be stated that I am neither a marine geologist nor a marine archeologist, although I have sailed on a number of voyages as captain for research vessels chartered for scientific explorations of similar types and I have a Bachelor of Science degree and a Master of Science degree. Having been the expedition leader of the 2004 Expedition and the History Channel consultant during the 2006 Expedition, it is my intention to reexamine the data from these two voyages, from one point of view, and propose an interpretation of that data. In the following, the pictures of the sonar scans accurately depict the area with an exaggerated height, but the photographs are for illustration purposes only and have no connection with the actual site or the mission. It should also be stated that my confidentiality agreement with First Source Enterprises, LLC has long expired; three years being the specified period from signing.

According to a paper by Dr. John K. Hall; “The Levantine Basin is traditionally the deep basin at the eastern end of the Mediterranean. . . The region hosts the junction of three plates, whose interaction has produced complex structures. Because of its relative remoteness, and the uneasy relationships between the seven national entities along its littoral, the area was not easy to investigate. However, the probing since the 1970s has

shown that the basin is filled with a great quantity of sediments (12km or more), and that the nature of its underpinnings is not simple.”

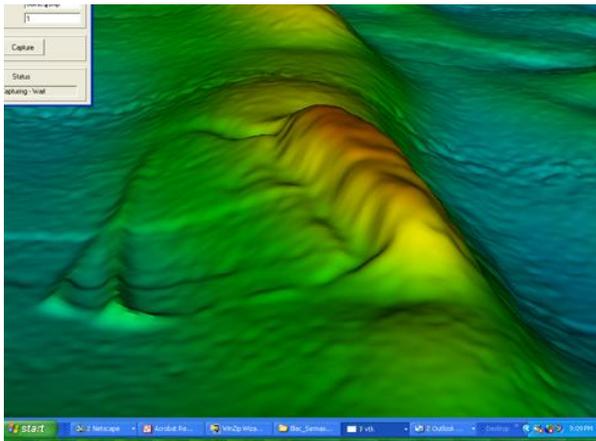
He goes on to write: “Many investigators have studied the area. Some have returned again and again to this problematic place. Most propose models for its origins and history based on the findings of the particular tools employed, whether they be bathymetry, gravity, magnetics, seismic reflection, seismic refraction, teleseismic investigations, or submarine geology based on coring, drilling, and dredging. The region’s recent history also seems to beckon. From the pioneering study of our colleague Ya’akov Petrovitch Malovitskiy (1978) who proposed on the basis of seismic investigations that the Levantine Basin was a sunken continent, we advance to recent extrapolations (www.discoverofatlantis.com – Sarmast, 2003) regarding the ‘finding’ of Atlantis at depths of ~1500m between the West Tartus Ridge and the Gelendzhik Rise, based upon computer analysis of the Strakhov’s multibeam soundings.” The *R/V ACADEMIK STRAKHOV* is a Russian research vessel.

The location of the First Garden of Eden in *The Urantia Book* is described as follows (P.823 - §2): “. . . a long narrow peninsula--almost an island--projecting westward from the eastern shores of the Mediterranean Sea.” It went on to say (P.823 - §4): “This Mediterranean peninsula had a salubrious climate and an equable temperature; this stabilized weather was due to the encircling mountains and to the fact that this area was virtually an island in an inland sea.” Further on it describes (P.823 - §5): “The coast line of this land mass was considerably elevated, and the neck connecting with the mainland was only twenty-seven miles wide at the narrowest point. The great river that watered the Garden came down from the higher lands of the peninsula and flowed east through the peninsular neck to the mainland and thence across the lowlands of Mesopotamia to the sea beyond. It was fed by four tributaries which took origin in the coastal hills of the Edenic peninsula, and these are the ‘four heads’ of the river which ‘went out of Eden,’ and which later became confused with the branches of the rivers surrounding the second garden.” – (that emptied into the Arabian Gulf). After that site was chosen to be the original Garden (P.824 - §1): “The first task was the building of the brick wall across the neck of the peninsula. This once completed, the real work of landscape beautification and home building could proceed unhindered.” And (P.824 - §2); “A zoological garden



was created by building a smaller wall just outside the main wall; the intervening space, occupied by all manner of wild beasts, served as an additional defense against hostile attacks. This menagerie was organized in twelve grand divisions, and walled paths led between these groups to the twelve gates of the Garden, the river and its adjacent pastures occupying the central area.”

In July of 2004, through a contact that Robert Sarmast made with a principal investigator from the Institut Francais de Recherché pour L'Exploitation de la Mer (IFREMER), definitive data was requested for an area fifteen (15) nm (nautical miles) square around a central mound which was certainly a good candidate for the Temple Mount. The request specified coordinates for an area of exploration, centered on coordinates 34°51' N, 035°01' E and bounded by the approximate coordinates (34°58.5'N, 34°51.9'E), (34°58.5'N, 35°10.2'E), (34°43.5'N, 35°10.2'E), (34°43.5'N, 34°51.9'E). The data requested represented a portion of the data taken from the bathymetric multibeam sonar survey by the French Research Vessel *R/V LE SUROÏT* during a voyage from October 29 to November 15, 2003. On September 1, 2004, the requested data was received from IFREMER and it was forwarded to Patrick Lowry of The Scotia Group,



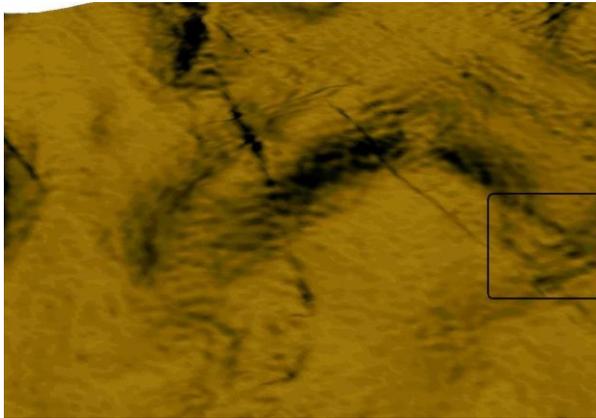
Dallas, Texas who returned three dimensional (3-D) graphic modeling software apparently supporting Robert Sarmast's claim of the existence of man-made structures in an area bounded by the coordinates (34°49.6'N, 34°58.8'E), (34°49.9'N, 35°01.2'E), (34°49.0'N, 35°01.0'E) and (34°48.0'N, 34°59.9'E). The 3-D graphic display of the data in that area, (the picture to the left is looking eastward and the elevation is magnified by a factor of 10 for greater definition), provided imagery appearing

to be a 3700 meter long wall-like structures to the north and a 2800 meter long, by 500-800 meter wide, natural irregular tabular mount of about 110 meters in height, to the south. Also in evidence were trench-like ducts leading off the mount on the northeast and northwest side. At first, Patrick Lowery thought the ridges at the foot of the mount may have been a slump – the accumulation of material from a mudslide off the side of the mount – but the 2006 Expedition dispelled that idea and provided an excellent cross-sectional look at one of the ridges.

The layout of the garden was given in *The Urantia Book*: (P.824 - §5) “At the center of the Edenic peninsula was the exquisite stone temple of the Universal Father, the sacred shrine of the Garden. To the north the administrative headquarters was established; to the south were built the homes for the workers and their families; to the west was provided the allotment of ground for the proposed schools of the educational system of the expected Son, while in the ‘east of Eden’ were built the domiciles intended for the promised Son and his immediate offspring. The architectural plans for Eden provided homes and abundant land for one million human beings.”

In addition to the layout of a central mound and its environs, an area that appeared to be a quarry-like site was also observed. In a position north-north-east of the central mound there is a square, two sides of which were apparently dug into a hillside. It has some of the features characteristic of a quarry for stone or brick material with its flat floor

and with sides that appear to be chiseled out. As with many other quarries, there even appears to be an unfinished assemblage of stacked blocks in the box at the far right of the figure. An examination by side scan sonar or a sub-bottom profiler (SBP) would be



necessary to verify the nature of this site, but the existence of a quarry and the nearly linear, regular, ridges in the IFERMER scans are very suggestive of an advanced peoples working this area well over 10,000 years to possibly 40,000 years ago. Certainly a quarry of some sort would be needed for the building of roads, walls, edifices and conduits for irrigation and refuse that are reported to have been constructed in *The Urantia Book*.

Information from the IFREMER multibeam sonar scans provided excellent orientation, enabling a much closer look at the linear ridges and the mount with side scan sonar during the expedition in November of 2004. Details of the two ridges joined at the base of the mount were major benefits of that expedition. With much present-day data missing from this archeological site, *The Urantia Book* provides details of the initial layout and the eventual prehistoric demise of First Eden. The side scan sonar during the 2004 expedition produced more accurate measurements of the outer ridges showing a uniform width of approximately 30 meters and a declining height from 10 meters to the surface, moving from west to east. No other formations in the entire area resembled those at the base of the mount. With the peninsula now lowered to 1600 meters below sea level, the question arises as to the processes that occurred during the inundation of the plain and the decimation of ordinary stone, brick and wooden structures. Modeling developed by the Scotia Group from the IFREMER data, suggests that the rectangular valley, where the mount is centrally located, was slowly engulfed by the rising waters that filled the Mediterranean. *The Urantia Book* describes the end of Eden in the following narrative (P.826 - §6): “. . . for almost four thousand years after Adam left the Garden when, in connection with the violent activity of (P.827 - §0) the surrounding volcanoes and the submergence of the Sicilian land bridge to Africa, the eastern floor of the Mediterranean Sea sank, carrying down beneath the waters the whole of the Edenic peninsula. Concomitant with this vast submergence the coast line of the eastern Mediterranean was greatly elevated. And this was the end of the most beautiful natural creation that Urantia has ever harbored. The sinking was not sudden, several hundred years being required completely to submerge the entire peninsula.” From that description, it is difficult to imagine the magnitude of the extraordinary subterranean forces that must have been present below the surface during that epoch.

The infrastructure of the First Garden was well planned for its success. It is well known now that diseases of all descriptions are the result of unsanitary conditions, and with a million workers in the First Garden, it was a great benefit to keep the workforce healthy and strong. *The Urantia Book* relates that health was a big concern (P.825 - §1):

“The sanitary arrangements of the Garden were far in advance of anything that had been attempted theretofore on Urantia. The drinking water of Eden was kept wholesome by the strict observance of the sanitary regulations designed to conserve its purity.” Further (P.825 - §2): “Before the later establishment of a sewage-disposal system the Edenites practiced the scrupulous burial of all waste or decomposing material.” Such a subsequent sewage-disposal system would have to meet some general specifications. It could not have been an open ditch or canal system for at least two reasons. First, its stench and impurities would be unacceptable, possibly tainting the drinking water and infecting the populace. Second, it would leach into the gardens where food was being grown for the inhabitants. Food and decorative plants grown with human waste fertilizers can cause sicknesses that are unremitting and unbearable. Having been a victim of such produce from Oman during the Gulf War, I am personally aware of the effects. That being said, the sewage and other waste products would have to be safely transported out of the First Garden by a closed system. No small engineering feat, *The Urantia Book* describes (P.825 - §2): “Before the disruption of the Adamic regime a covered brick-conduit disposal system had been constructed which ran beneath the walls and emptied into the river of Eden almost a mile beyond the outer or lesser wall of the Garden.”

The construction of such a conduit disposal system required very sophisticated engineering. In order to prepare for building a subterranean or surface covered brick-



conduit from inside the Garden, flowing to a place one mile beyond the outer wall, no less than 90 miles long, meant that an adequate trench and footing had to be created. The trench would have to be of sufficient depth and width to accommodate the brick structure below the surface with working room for its construction. At first glance, it would probably look as if they were building a canal, but unlike a canal, it would have to be constructed with a sufficient gradient

to permit the flow of refuse from its origins to outside the Garden. It is reasonable to think that the grade along its path would be close to the gradient associated with the Great River. The width and depth of the this canal-like ditch would be uniform, and one can only imagine the primitive way that earth was removed to create such a major undertaking. Without the use of machinery, it would most probably fall to humans and pack animals to transport the excavated material to a dumping ground and return the building materials to the construction site. The significant point is that there would be just enough etching of the earth's crust by the trenches, of uniform width and depth, to invite a release of those subterranean forces in a uniform upwelling along sections of the excavation until the energy subsided. With

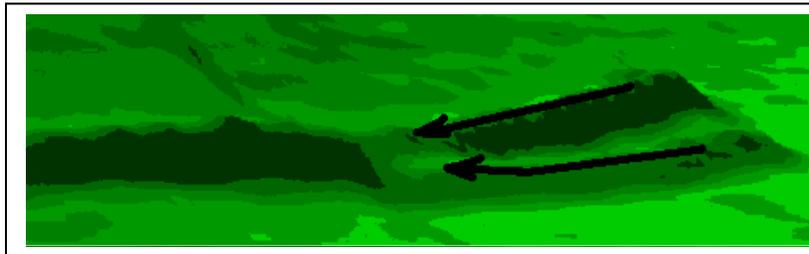


the force of the eruption dissipating east of the mount, or with the gradient of the conduit descending toward the Garden walls, the remainder of the conduit would finally remain underground.



Once the canal-like ditches were in progress, the fabrication of bricks, whether chiseled out of a quarry or manufactured near where the material was mined, was necessary to build the enclosed covered disposal conduit. The bricks would have to be transported to the building site, again, probably with pack animals. Such a project required skills that were not present elsewhere on the planet in that age and the conduit might have looked like a present day metropolitan sewer system. The picture of the one in Osaka, Japan (above, left) may conjure up an image of how the system in the First Garden may have looked.

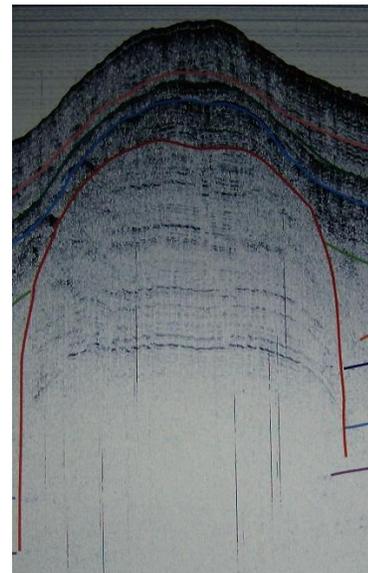
Like veins popping out on an arm with a tourniquet, the two apparent branches of the system, now visible on the basin's surface, come together in a "Y" formation at the base of the mount. The direction of the ridges and the "Y" formation is at an accommodating angle for the effluent to flow easily eastward toward the Garden walls and beyond. During the process of the sinking of the floor and the heaving upward of



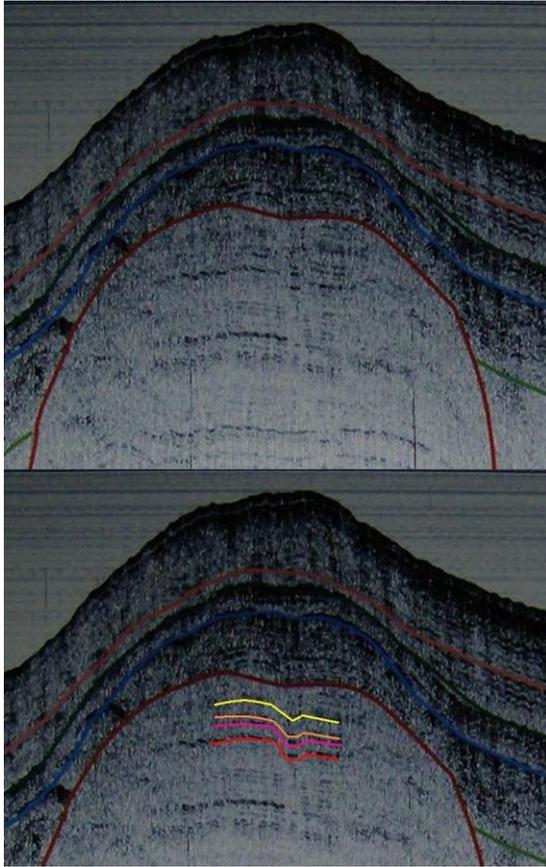
material through the trenches that etched the surface, it is speculated that the brick-lined tunnel may have been crushed, yet leaving the brick material whose density

and weight were greater than that of the surrounding dirt.

The second expedition in 2006 made use of a sub-bottom profiler (SBP), an instrument that uses echo sounding, like sonar, to map the strata for about 30 meters below the surface. As shown, one such trace of the underlying bottom, in way of the main ridge, provided the results that would be expected were the ridges the result of an upward thrust of the disposal brick conduit in way of the uniformly cut trenches. Patrick Lowery of the Scotia Group drew the lines of continuity in the strata representing how the subterranean upwelling of material acted. His work showed, how in one stratum, well below the silt accumulation of 30,000 years, there was a significant anomaly that would be expected if material of heavier weight and greater density were thrust through the etched channels in the earth's



surface. The heavier conduit material would have caused a downward deflection of that



particular stratum as is the case in the profile returned from the ridge nearest to the bottom of the central mount. Whether or not this anomaly is consistent throughout the entire length of the ridges remains to be seen. The expedition in 2006 was fraught with disappointment, including the absence of an SBP scan of the more northern most ridge when the software simply stopped working until the SBP had cleared that ridge, leaving a big gap in the data.

Nevertheless, had the strata below the downward deflection been examined at the time of the 2006 Expedition, a pattern suggesting the reason for the deflection may have been apparent. As depicted in the second illustration, by adding the obvious strata lines below the deflected stratum drawn by Patrick Lowery, a tantalizing image appears that supports the proposed interpretation that it was the covered brick conduit. If this conjecture is true, the additional brighter lines show the location, size and implied resistance to the upthrust at

a reasonable distance below the top of the silt-covered ridge.

The Urantia Book relates that (P.826 - §4) “When the plans of the Material Son went astray, Adam and his family were not permitted to carry the core of the tree away from the Garden. When the Nodites invaded Eden, . . . they lacked that endowment which acted as a complement to the fruit of the tree. They became enraged at their inability to benefit from the tree of life, and in connection with one of their internal wars, the temple and the tree were both destroyed by fire; only the stone wall stood until the Garden was subsequently submerged.” As a result, it seems that a case can be made for the existence of the remains of the covered brick conduit. It was written about sufficiently, so as to subtly eliminate any other possible structures. No walls, other than the brick wall and outer wall and those connecting the 12 gates at the entrance to the Garden, and no aqueducts, except for irrigation ditches, are mentioned. Although the lower Nodites decimated the Garden buildings, there would be no point, or capability, to make the effort to disassemble the 90 miles or more of covered conduit. Even if they destroyed it in place, the remaining material would permit a similar effective resistance to the upthrust. The nature of the images from the IFERMER scans and the cross sectional images from the SBP in 2006 alone, seems to be sufficient for a prima facie case for the existence of the conduit.

In conclusion, the history of the Levantine Basin suggests that its appearance has greatly changed since the days of Adam and Eve. However, the possibility of a remaining artifact such as the covered conduit system has great plausibility because of its size, mass and construction. It is also quite plausible that more of the system remains unseen below the surface and eventually could lead to the expected location of the walls at the Garden entrance. If this proposed interpretation is correct, the ridges, with their linear regularity and uniqueness, their size and direction and the telltale strata certainly provide an exciting and satisfying conclusion to both expeditions, in that it all conforms nicely to what was predicted in *The Urantia Book*.

