



Supernatural: Meetings with the Ancient Teachers of Mankind

Graham Hancock

Download now

Read Online →

Supernatural: Meetings with the Ancient Teachers of Mankind

Graham Hancock

Supernatural: Meetings with the Ancient Teachers of Mankind Graham Hancock

Less than 50,000 years ago humans had no art, no religion, no sophisticated symbolism, no innovative thinking. Then, in a dramatic change, described by scientists as 'the greatest riddle in human history', all the skills & qualities that we value most highly in ourselves appeared already fully formed, as tho bestowed on us by hidden powers. In Supernatural Hancock sets out to investigate this mysterious before-&-after moment & to discover the truth about the influences that gave birth to the modern mind. His quest takes him on a detective journey from the beautiful painted caves of prehistoric France, Spain & Italy to rock shelters in the mountains of S. Africa, where he finds extraordinary Stone Age art. He uncovers clues that lead him to the Amazon rainforest to drink the hallucinogen Ayahuasca with shamans, whose paintings contain images of 'super-natural beings' identical to the animal-human hybrids depicted in prehistoric caves. Hallucinogens such as mescaline also produce visionary encounters with exactly the same beings. Scientists at the cutting edge of consciousness research have begun to consider the possibility that such hallucinations may be real perceptions of other dimensions. Could the supernaturals 1st depicted in the painted caves be the ancient teachers of humankind? Could it be that human evolution isn't just the meaningless process Darwin identified, but something more purposive & intelligent that we've barely begun to understand?

Acknowledgements

Part 1: Visions

- 1: Plant that enables men to see the dead
- 2: Greatest riddle of archeology
- 3: Vine of souls

Part 2: Caves

- 4: Therianthropy
- 5: Riddles of the caves
- 6: Shabby academy
- 7: Searching for a Rosetta Stone
- 8: Code in the mind
- 9: Serpents of the Drakensberg
- 10: Wounded healer

Part 3: Beings

- 11: Voyage into the supernatural
- 12: Shamans in the sky
- 13: Spirit love
- 14: Secret commonwealth
- 15: Here is a thing that will carry me away
- 16: Dancers between worlds

Part 4: Codes

- 17: Turning in to channel DMT
- 18: Amongst the machine elves
- 19: Ancient teachers in our DNA?
- 20: Hurricane in the junkyard

Part 5: Religions

- 21: Hidden Shamans
- 22: Flesh of the Gods

Part 6: Mysteries

23: Doors leading to another world

Appendices

Critics & criticisms of David Lewis-Williams' Neuropsychological theory of rock & cave art

Psilocybe semilanceata-a hallucinogenic mushroom native to Europe / Roy Watling

Interview with Rick Strassman

References

Index

Supernatural: Meetings with the Ancient Teachers of Mankind Details

Date : Published September 1st 2006 by Disinformation Company (first published January 1st 2005)

ISBN : 9781932857405

Author : Graham Hancock

Format : Hardcover 710 pages

Genre : Nonfiction, History, Spirituality, Science

 [Download Supernatural: Meetings with the Ancient Teachers of Man ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Supernatural: Meetings with the Ancient Teachers of M ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online Supernatural: Meetings with the Ancient Teachers of Mankind
Graham Hancock**

From Reader Review Supernatural: Meetings with the Ancient Teachers of Mankind for online ebook

Susie says

I was very lucky to pick up a signed first edition by accident in a bookshop one day (seemed he'd been signing there recently) - as I'd already picked up and mostly read Underworld, I was quite intrigued as to what he would offer here and couldn't resist picking up a more-valuable copy for the same price as a standard hardback - just £12, IIRC! I couldn't believe it!

Anyway, my then partner at the time slated it, especially with some of the things he's doing as part of his research, but I must admit that I found it interesting and a perhaps more thorough research than just asking someone else what goes on.

Plus the multitude of pictures - I was attracted to that sort of thing at the time, a more visual representation of the experience. Meant I quite enjoyed it.

Philippa Dowding says

What a fascinating, albeit bizarre, read. Again, one of those books suggested to me by my big brother, so not a book I would have picked off the shelf by myself. However, I was drawn in by Hancock's description of ancient European cave art in the early chapters, then found I couldn't put it down. He's a vivid writer and sets out to answer very intriguing questions: why DID humans first turn to symbolic expression 35,000 years ago? Why do so many shamanic cultures from opposite ends of the planet share similar visionary experiences?

I respected his thorough knowledge of ancient civilizations, shamanism, and his willingness to experience hallucinogenics (not my thing, but if you're going to write about it, you should probably experience it). He lost me a little during the alien abduction chapters (and the fairy chapters), I had to force myself to read them and found them a bit tiresome.

Still, an interesting look at ancient and modern cultures of shamanism around the world, and the intriguing possibility that humans share similar hallucinatory experiences encoded into our DNA by ... fairies, little green men, the Gods, the vagaries of random selection? Take your pick.

Nell Grey says

Almost the whole of the first half of the book deals with the images found in prehistoric cave art and Graham Hancock's personal journeys (in the interests of authentic and balanced research), into the realms of hallucinogenic plants used by shamans in all parts of the world past and present.

My focus is on the role of altered states of consciousness in the origins of religion, in the cultivation of authentic religious experiences, and in the inspiration of religious imagery. My own opinion is that once religions abandon, forget, or even outlaw the deliberate induction and use of altered states of consciousness, then they lose contact with their roots and wellsprings, and great ugliness and materialism can be expected to ensue.

If the first half is interesting and informative, the second half of the book is both fascinating and compelling. The author not only pulls together possible connections to folklore and mythology (not to mention modern sightings of UFOs and alien abductions) in order to work out what's happening when the shaman or participant is in a state of trance, but explores and analyses the scientific aspects too.

I loved the connections and insights put forward in this book - food for much thought - and was thrilled to find a convincing answer to the patterns (especially Celtic spirals) found incised into our very own ancient monuments.

Justin says

Graham Hancock is the king of speculation. His books will either convince you there's a lot more to human history or make you scoff at his speculation. Regardless, it is damn entertaining. One of the first books I ever bought was his *Fingerprints of the Gods* (1996) which discussed how anomalies associated with ancient monuments tend to indicate a wide-spread ancient advanced civilization. Even though I was intrigued by the way Hancock tied all those threads together I'm still deeply skeptical of his overall thesis. And yet, I've been completely hooked by his 2007 book *Supernatural*. This one is deeply convincing because anyone can follow his thesis with a little supplemental research. Using the bitterly accepted idea proposed by anthropologist David Lewis-Williams, that ancient art depicted what early humans saw in altered states of consciousness, Hancock weaves a story that gets at the very heart of what it means to be a member of our species. Where academics might be starting to accept Lewis-Williams' idea, they are far from ready to use the same plants and rituals that produced these early trance states. This is where Hancock picks up, by starting taking the iboga vine, the plant that enables men to see the dead, and follows with the sacred ayahuasca brew of the Amazon.

Where I'm sure I would have been more sympathetic to Hancock's other works if I had actually been to the monuments he describes, I can follow the writing here because of my own exposure to these ancient plants. Before I knew the themes and details in this book, my own experiences were eerily similar to those described in *Supernatural*. I've been the archetype of the wounded man and had interactions with serpents. Reading the story of someone thousands of years ago describing something that happened to me (along with its "mystical" significance) is a chilling synchronicity. Hancock's sketch on p. 52 of the beings he encountered while doing his field research were exactly the same things I've seen, and as I learned by reading, have been seen for thousands of years by scattered native groups across the world accessing these same states through various means.

Hancock ties the similarities of the modern UFO/abduction phenomena to experiences that indigenous tribesmen have in altered states to the mythology of the medieval fairies. In doing so, he uncovers that throughout human history our species has been describing the same thing from different angles. Whatever this phenomena is, it appears to be changing over time, evolving and advancing. Hinting at a form of intelligence. All of these encounters have similar themes, particularly in encountering entities with an interest in human sexuality and reproduction mechanisms. That fairies allegedly impregnated and abducted women or danced around in circles to fly into the sky draws more than a few parallels to modern UFO lore. While the case Hancock lays for these similarities takes up the first half of the book, it is in the second half of *Supernatural* where the mind gems really shine through.

All human languages have a direct, exact, unvarying mathematical relationship between the rank of a word and the actual frequency of occurrence of that word. This relationship is known as Zipf's Law, named after linguist George Zipf and has proved to hold true for every human language. Oddly enough, when the non-coding regions of DNA are analyzed according to Zipf's Law a perfect linear Zipf Law linear plot emerges.

In fact, the chemical “writing” of the non-coding regions of DNA appear to have all the features of a language, and may in fact be a language. Perhaps it is this language that ancient plant based sacraments tap into. Hancock brings to light the evidence that our interactions with ‘the other’ could be enabled by ancient plant substances because these chemicals allow us to access information encoded in the 97% of our DNA we currently think of as ‘junk DNA’. Further work in this area was done by Dr. Jeremy Narby in his book *The Cosmic Serpent*, which Hancock touches on briefly, specifically regarding the presence of snake constituted helixes in nearly every culture. That the snake in mythology is often a reference to DNA.

Since Hancock published *Supernatural*, the knowledge that Francis Crick discovered the shape of DNA while using LSD has become widely known. What is less well known is that Crick later published a book where he explains that DNA is so complex no mechanism of evolution could have produced it on this planet, concluding it must have originated elsewhere in the universe. Strangely, the mythology of many tribes in the Amazon tell the exact same story, of serpents falling from the sky and living inside us. While anthropologist Michael Harner ingested ayahuasca in 1961 he reported seeing, “dragon-like creatures that came to earth from deep in outer space after a journey that had lasted for eons.” These dragons explained that they hid in the multitudinous forms life and that humans were the receptacles for these creatures. Similar encounters have been described by other scientists ingesting these ceremonial brews and ancient cultures are inundated with related stories. Hancock hesitates from drawing any sort of conclusion other than that these ancient myths and timeless sacraments may be far more interesting than we could ever guess. Personally I agree.

Even stranger is that psilocybin (the active ingredient in magic mushrooms) is essentially orally active DMT, an indole compound with a phosphorylated functional group which exists nowhere else in nature. If this pattern exists nowhere else in nature, where could it have come from? What if the alien we’ve been searching for has been here inside us all along? A chilling prospect to consider, but after reading through *Supernatural* you’ll be forced to confront this possibility in all of its grandeur.

Andrea Allison says

We can agree the supernatural has been apart of our culture for thousands of years. This statement is the subject of Graham Hancock's new novel *Supernatural*. But who is Graham Hancock?

Born in Edinburgh, Scotland, Hancock spent most of his younger years in India. Later, he went to school and university in the northern English city of Durham and graduated from Durham University in 1973 with First Class Honors in Sociology and pursued a career in journalism. He wrote for newspapers such as *The Times*, *The Guardian* and *The Independent* and was co-editor of *New Internationalist* magazine from 1976-1979. He is known for asking legitimate questions and challenging popular views of orthodox scholars. Hancock is the author of the major international bestsellers *The Sign and The Seal*, *Fingerprints of the Gods* and *Heaven's Mirror*. I believe his latest novel will fall in that category as well.

When I first read a synopsis of *Supernatural*, I was excited. I love learning new things and ideas in this area. I have to say after reading a few chapters it wasn't what I thought it would be. It starts out with Hancock describing his experience with a session of a hallucinogen. He wasn't experimented with such drugs just for the fun of it. He did it to prove a point. Throughout part of the book, he makes a case as to how hallucinogens help shamans reach another realm of existence. This includes how some images depicted in cave art links the hallucinations they have (there are illustrations throughout the book to show you what he is referring to).

Next, his arguments shift to UFOs and hallucinogens. You would think it proves aliens don't exist and it's all in our minds. Actually, it's the opposite. Many of those who have had experiences with hallucinogens

describe similar images including that of an alien-like figure. His belief is that they help connect us to them. Skeptics may think that's a stretch especially since we are basically taught that hallucinations are nothing and we shouldn't believe what we see. What if they are actually real?

Fairy abductions factor in this equation as well. These took place throughout Europe before UFOs became popular in the 1960s. Fairies were known to "take" people randomly to Fairy Knolls, some never returned. Others were taken to be midwives or mother figures for hybrids. They were also known to switch "Changelings" for human babies. Some even claimed to be "tortured by fairies" much like the alien operations. These stories mimic those of UFO abductees. Is it possible they are one in the same? Maybe considering there hasn't been a fairy abduction since UFOs came into play.

Last stop in the book tour, is DNA. It's a popular theory we owe our existence to a comet hitting the earth carrying an organism of some kind. In Hancock's book, he explains how some scientists believe it may have been more than that. Actually their thoughts are that our DNA may actually contain messages recorded by "clever entities" which we can access during sessions with hallucinogens. Since the function of 97 percent of our DNA is unknown, I can see how someone would propose such a theory. Most scientists have thought the large portion was nothing but junk DNA that it didn't really serve a high purpose. Francis Crick, co-discoverer of the structure of DNA, supposedly admitted to his colleagues that he was under the influence of LSD when he came up with the double helix shape. Does that prove our DNA holds some secret message(s). I really don't know. The drug may have picked up information he already knew.

This is but a large taste of what you'll find in Supernatural. If you love reading and learning about the abnormal aspects of life, you will love this book. I think anyone willing to put themselves out there and test their own theories (even if it means putting yourself through some risky "experiments"). Graham Hancock has that way of making you really think about what society has taught you.

KMO says

The first half of the book seems to be rigorously researched and reasoned. The second half is more speculative and fanciful. It was an easy and entertaining read that held my attention. If you enjoyed this book, I suggest that you listen to Autumn 2015 Interlude of the Extraenvironmentalist podcast which deals with archaeoacoustics:

<http://www.extraenvironmentalist.com/...>

Dana O'brien says

A friend suggested I read this - fascinating book tying in Shamanism, Ancient Cave Art, DMT, Aliens, sounds crazy....but Hancock does a convincing job of tying all these things together with a theory that mind altering drugs actually "tune" our brains into a different channel of reality. Hmmm... after recently watching the movie "What the Bleep do We Know" which is about recent advances in Quantum physics, energy, non-linear time, etc.... I found some of parallels interesting. If you find any of this stuff interesting, this book is for you.

Mike S says

I can't recommend this author highly enough, his writing style is very clear and readable, he does tons of research and supports his ideas extremely convincingly. I recommend ANYTHING this author has written.

This book talks about altered states of consciousness, ayahuasca ("vision vine" used in S. America) experiments, DMT experiments, trance states commonly used by shamans, ancient cave paintings, the San people who once lived in the Kalahari, and commonality of experiences of drug and trance states, an interesting take on religion and how the Catholic church co-opted some curious experiences and oriented them towards the Virgin Mary, and an interesting discussion of what the brain might really be doing... just a great read if you like any of these subjects.

Monumentally good!

Kristen says

Let me start off by saying that if you read a lot of Hancock, this is not his typical style. This read more as a completely fact less and speculative book than the others, until about half way through. It then starts to delve more into the scientific proof less expounding that I love about his writings. I personally enjoyed the detailed analysis of the prehistoric cave art. I have travelled to many of the sites in the Southwest and have always been struck by their many similarities to alien descriptions. I could have done without the endless descriptions of drug trips. That read more like a teenager doing his first acid trip and desperately wanting to tell everyone about the most minute detail. That is how Hancock works though, it takes him a while to give all of his descriptions and usually evidence before he gets to his big idea. His discussions about shamans, saints, holy visions, sacred places, and pilgrimage sites was all very well done and fascinating. I like the idea of humanity having shared hallucinations and I don't find it that hard to believe. Unlike him, I do not find it that hard to believe that a drug affecting our brain could produce the same geometric shapes and beings within all of us. Like he says, we are 99% similar to other animals on this planet, but we are even more similar to each other.

I find his conclusions about DNA very flawed. He has this idea that human DNA could hold a long message, but DNA didn't start off that long, so if it was sent here in order to begin life then how did it create so many more chapters from only a few words.

There are a few of his conclusions that I am looking forward to pondering more:

- Origin of religion and belief in life after death is from taking hallucinogenics that give you a sense of being surrounded by spirits
- Clowns, Aliens, and Fairies are actually all the same hallucination
- People who believe they have been abducted by aliens are those whose brains from time to time spontaneously over produce DMT
- Zipf's law states that given some corpus of natural language utterances, the frequency of any word is inversely proportional to its rank in the frequency table. Junk DNA appears to follow Zipf's Law. I had no idea about this Law and am now fascinated with it.

Most importantly this book gave me a new task to put on my "Things to do before I die" list: Consume psychedelic mushrooms at a prehistoric megalith site at sunrise. :)

Dave Thompson says

While he is rather controversial as a writer and researcher (Google him and you'll find people who think he's a revolutionary thinker, and others who think he's nothing but a crank), you can't deny that this book is fascinating.

I began with a rather cynical view on Hancock (I should not have biased myself by reading the vitriol from passionate web trolls), but he quickly won me over. Hancock's research is cogent, his point of view is fairly objective, and his willingness to experience first-hand the topics about which he writes is impressive. Then again, if you want to write about psychedelics without some experience with them, I'm suspicious.

But I digress. In "Supernatural," Hancock attempts to weave and eventually link topics as varied as UFOs, alien abductions, DMT, fairies and elves, shame of the Amazon, neolithic cultures and psilocybin mushrooms. Don't ask me how, but somehow, sometimes, he succeeds. I like the way Hancock introduces the reader to these topics without beating you over the head with them.

He writes with the authority, intelligence and experience necessary to tell his story, and he doesn't seem to give one hoot whether you believe him or not. The idea that he's not trying to sell me anything made him much more credible to me.

He might not have convinced me that fairies drive tiny little cars around the English forests, but I'll admit he raises many, many progressive (and that's mild) points that are very difficult to ignore. I now have a very different attitude about many of his topics.

I'd also like to add that I've read Dr. Rick Strassman's book "DMT: The Spirit Molecule" before I found Hancock's work. Having read and appreciated Strassman's work greatly, bringing his perspective to the table before reading "Supernatural" was not only helpful (as background), but Hancock answered several questions I was left with after reading Strassman's book.

Unless you're religious fundamentalist with no room in your mind for any new ideas whatever, this book will make you think. A LOT. As one of the reviewers put it, "Mind. Blown." Boy, I'll say!!

Dem says

I bought and started the book about a two and half weeks ago. I am currently on Part III chapter 11. Being an artist and having a fascination for history and the human mind, I could not help to be drawn to a different point of view about prehistoric cave art.

Well Graham Hancock "takes you there" and I really appreciate that he does. This books is not for everyone but the ideas and inquiries are worth it to all. If we do not take a moment in our daily lives to stop, breath, and question what is really going on with us (i.e. as human being) and our relationships to each other and this great life force call earth. Then we will truly be in a desperately frightful state of existence.

I invite any courageous, well read, and open minded adult to venture on their own path with the hope of recapturing the wisdom of our ancients. From where I stand, I am grateful to Graham Hancock and David Lewis-Williams for their incredible work in this area.

This is my first book by G. Hancock, but I have a feeling not the last.

John Naylor says

I'm nearly speechless, and I cannot recommend this this book and author enough. An incredible eye opener and an incredible experience in and of itself. Suggesting that humanity has most likely learned and developed who we are from our ancestors by taking psychedelic substances and inducing altered states of consciousness/reality. With around 1000 footnotes, G.H. conducted his thorough research and provides the reader with a relatively objective perspective on the topic. Citing arguments from both sides of the fence, the reader is left to form ones own opinion. A beautiful read with spectacular pictures and photos. This book will give the reader a truly amazing perspective on where we came from and how we as humanity evolved in a non Freudian perspective. Stop reading these reviews and read this book NOW!

Enjoy!

Maze Martinez says

By J. W. Kennedy on Amazon.com

"Hancock repeats himself over and over ad nauseum to drive his point home, but the book can be condensed down to this: Alien abductions = fairy abductions = shamanic spirit journeys. Increased levels (either naturally or artificially induced) of DMT in the brain bring on vivid hallucinations, and for some reason the basic content of these "dreams" is consistent across times and cultures. Could it be that there's an objectively "real" spirit world which we can perceive in altered states of consciousness? Or is it that these visions are somehow hard-wired into the human brain to play out whenever chemically triggered? A "rational" scientific thinker would favor the second option, but that raises the question of WHY - why is this information installed in our brains? Where did it come from? What purpose does it serve? What evolutionary advantage did it bestow on our ancestors?"

My thanks to J.W. for posting what I was already thinking. There was quite a bit of fascinating information in this book, but most of it was from other books that are probably more interesting. The one original aspect of this book is Graham Hancock's subjective testing of his theory using the hallucinogens in question. Unfortunately, in an attempt to appear objective, he downplayed this part of his narrative and in the end, left what should have been the climax completely untold!

I suppose the sections of the book dedicated to the DMT/DNA correlation and religions were interesting enough.

Over all, I would suggest people look at the sources Hancock used to write this book, and read those instead. Because once you take those out of this book, there is nothing left of any substance at all.

Erik Graff says

Michael Miley introduced me to Graham Hancock's work many years ago in that he gave me one of his books to read. But back then it was the book and its topic, ancient Egypt, which was of interest, not the

author. Since then, listening to old Art Bell podcasts of interviews with Hancock, I have come to appreciate the author as an individual. Whether or not one agrees with his lay hypothesizing, it is apparent that Mr. Hancock is a sincere and well-meaning fellow.

This book is not original, but it does tie together a host of material encountered in other texts. Picking up on the extraordinary similarities between the recorded encounters of people with nonhuman intelligences worldwide over the last 50,000 years, experiences which he personally obtained through the use of various psychotropic drugs, Hancock speculates that such are not just subjective hallucinations, but objective phenomena. In other words, there are nonhuman intelligences and they and their environ(s) may be studied.

The central insight of this book is that the brain is, in part, like a radio receiver which can, by various means, be tuned to different frequencies, allowing a broader range of perceptions. The easiest, fastest means are by tryptamine neurotransmitters substituting for serotonin, one of which, Dimethyltryptamine (DMT), is produced in our bodies naturally and at various levels. Other means, such as fasting, meditation, extreme exertion, also may work. Indeed, some people seem able to "tune in" to a broader range of frequencies with little or no effort. Although he doesn't mention this, these other methods may simply indicate that some persons produce more DMT in the pituitary or less of its antagonist in general and that others can induce such production by such means as fasting etc. It has actually been speculated that this naturally occurring DMT (linked to circadian rhythms) causes dreaming in everyone and the hallucinations and auditions experienced by extraordinary persons often dismissed in our culture as psychotic.

Hancock's arguments depend on his estimation of the evidence. It is unquestionable that most if not all human cultures have used consciousness-altering drugs. The archeological evidence is abundant. It is also unquestionable that most if not all human cultures for which we have written records have maintained the existence of non-human intelligences and other dimensions of being beyond the quotidian. Extrapolating from this, written records which don't go back more than 6000 years, to 50,000 years ago is a stretch based on a "reading" of rock paintings and carvings. Similarly, saying that extraordinary visions recorded by Egyptians 4000 years ago or Siberian shamans one hundred years ago correspond significantly to the visions of contemporary Amazonian healers, of doped up American teenagers or alien abductees also constitutes an interpretative stretch. Still, Hancock makes a case worthy of consideration, particularly to one who, like me, may recognize similarities between one's own most extraordinary experiences and those of others distant in space and/or time.

Nick Mather says

Although Hancock is not a traditional scholar, this book is very well documented and well argued. In the first 200 some pages Hancock makes the connection between shamanism and the paleolithic cave paintings. This is a no-brainer for me, but Hancock acts as if it is still a controversial thesis to present, which maybe it is. In this first section, the writing can be a bit dull though he is trying to be very, very careful and support all that he presents. When he finishes with the cave paintings, he turns his attention else where and makes a very convincing case that naturally occurring hallucinogens are behind things like UFOs, fairy sightings and some other unexplained phenomenon. Ultimately, I think there is something of great value here and Hancock's thesis will eventually become more accepted by traditional academia.