

6 Opening the Ark of the Covenant

The Secret Power of the Ancients, the Knights Templar
Connection, and the Search for the Holy Grail

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 What was the Ark of the Covenant?
- 2 What does “Ark of the Covenant” refer to or mean?
- 3 When and where was the Ark of the Covenant last seen?
- 4 Where is the Ark of the Covenant today?
- 5 How valid are claims for the Ark of the Covenant’s present location in Ethiopia?
- 6 Was the Ark of the Covenant a real object, or just a mythical construct?
- 7 What significance does the Ark of the Covenant have for our 21st Century world?
- 8 What powers was the Ark of the Covenant supposed to possess?
- 9 What was the relationship between the Ark of the Covenant and the Knights Templars?
- 10 What did the Ark of the Covenant contain?

9 *Frank Joseph and Laura Beaudoin*

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction: Sweet Mystery of Life

- 1 The World's Most Valuable Object
- 2 The Jewel That Grants All Desires
- 3 Atlatis, Navel of the World
- 4 An Egyptian Home for the Power-Stone
- 5 Why was the Pyramid Built?
- 6 True Pyramid Power
- 7 How Old is the Great Pyramid?
- 8 Son of the Sun
- 9 The Pyramid's Stolen Secret
- 10 Crusades For and Against the Ark
- 11 The Perfection of Paradise
- 12 Where is the Ark of the Covenant?
- 13 Is the Ark in America?
- 14 The New Jerusalem

Afterword: The Real Meaning of the Ark

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ABOUT THE AUTHORS

FRANK JOSEPH is the Editor-in-Chief of *Ancient American*, a popular science magazine describing overseas visitors to our continent before Columbus.

Joseph is renowned for a series of books on ancient civilizations. Recent titles include *Discovering the Mysteries of Ancient America* and *The Atlantis Encyclopedia*, both from New Page Books.



He has been frequently interviewed by such media celebrities as Shirley MacLaine, Whitley Strieber and Art Bell.

Co-author, LAURA BEAUDOIN, is a direct descendant of Crusader kings who ruled Jerusalem in the 12th and 13th Centuries. Formerly a Los Angeles television executive, she is devoted to investigating her family history as related to the Ark.

The authors live with their son, Sammy, in Colfax, Wisconsin.

Frank Joseph and Laura Beaudoin

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ENDORSEMENTS

"In their exciting new book *Opening the Ark of the Covenant*, Frank Joseph and Laura Beaudoin amass an almost staggering amount of scholarly research. But no reader, experienced or novice to works of such magnitude, should be put off by the multilayered investigations revealed in this book. The text moves along with dramatic twists and turns and surprises, and readers will find themselves literally swept away by one astonishing revelation after another. Joseph and Beaudoin discover the "Ark" first as an amazing power source in the ancient land of Lemuria, then follow it to Atlantis, Egypt, Jerusalem, France, and its possible present resting place. Whether this instrument of unmeasurable spiritual and physical power is known as the Phoenix Stone, the Fire Stone, the Transformer of the World, the Emerald Tablet, or the Ark of the Covenant, it has been guarded throughout its vast history by such mysterious secret societies as the Tuoaic Brotherhood of Atlantis, the Watchers of Giza, the Levite Priesthood, the Order of the Holy Sepulcher, the Templars, the Cathars, or the Ville-Maries. Truly, this superb work will convince the most aloof reader that the Stone of Destiny, wherever its present location, retains its power and continues to shape the future of the world."

—Brad Steiger, author of *Atlantis Rising* and *Revelation: The Divine Fire*

"*Opening the Ark of the Covenant*, take us on a whirlwind journey filled with people of many cultures, with places around the world, and with things that ultimately are part of one of humankind's greatest mysteries. What exactly is the Ark of the Covenant? Where did it come from? Where is it now? The answers you find in this new work will surprise, excite and sometimes perhaps even frighten you, but will always hold you tightly and in focus. The Ark of many names, the cultures of many faces, the particulars of various individuals and their roles in the mystery all come together here to prove that neither history nor the future are any longer what they used to be."

—Lee Pennington, JOLE Productions, Producer of archaeological documentaries, including *Petroglyphs of Polynesia* and *Vikings in America*

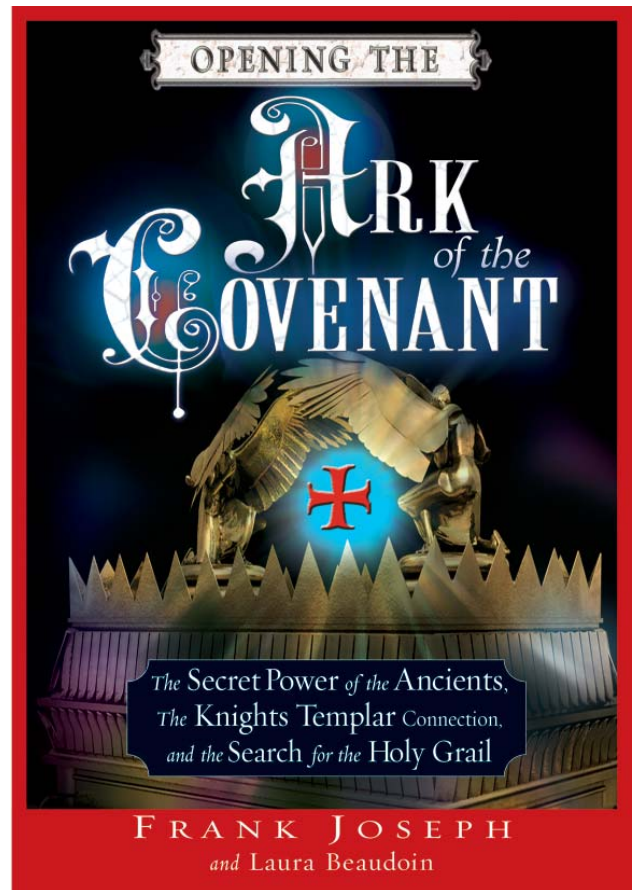
Sweet Mystery of Life

By Frank Joseph, author of
Opening the Ark of the Covenant

“THE ARK OF THE COVENANT is something everyone has heard about, but no one is sure what it was.” The psychic’s response to my question was disappointing. I felt like getting up and leaving right then, but didn’t. You know how it is: You don’t want to seem rude to a kindly stranger, especially one claiming personal connections, however dubious, with the Other Side.

“I’m quoting now,” she said, “The seat of the soul is where the inner and outer worlds meet. That is where you will find the Ark.” I pressed her, “Could you be a little more specific?” I was unable to resist, but her inward concentration remained unbroken. As though in defiance of my question, she responded, still “quoting,” I presumed, “It is an intelligible sphere whose center is Everywhere and circumference is Nowhere. Search Everywhere. Not Nowhere.” I could hear the capital “E’s and “N’s in her deliberate pronunciation. “In other words,” she carefully explained like a testy teacher to her slow-witted student, “do not waste your time in the wrong place. Follow the bread-crumbs so some day you can sing, ‘Oh, sweet mystery of life, at last I’ve found you!’” Her unexpected outburst into the old Victor Herbert song made me jump.

“Oh, at last I know the meaning of it all! All the yearning, striving, waiting, yearning, longing, the idle hopes that...” Her singing sputtered out, as she seemed to have forgotten the rest of the words, or so I hoped she had. At any rate, I got the point, maybe. She nodded once on her ample chest, then appeared to doze off in that position for a few moments before snapping back into full consciousness.



“There! I’m in the so-called ‘real world’ again,” she said sweetly, signifying the session was over. “Let me know if you find it!”

“What? Oh, that’s right, the Ark.”

Contrary to any false impressions my 1985 encounter may give, this book is not the result of any paranormal insights. Nothing has been “channeled,” at least not consciously. I had no further recourse to psychics, and mention meeting the self-described intuitive lady only because she brought up some points still worthy of consideration. As she said, it does indeed seem “remarkable” that the Ark of the Covenant should have such an enduring, popular allure, when so little is known about it. The sibyl’s reputation as a genuinely gifted seer had prompted me to consult her about it at a time when the sacred object seemed about to disclose its secrets, only to fade back behind its veil of uncertainty. At that point, I was open to guidance, whatever the source.

While she gave me no useful details to check out, I did “follow the bread-crumbs.” They led me to many of the places described in this book—Tenerife, Delos, Delphi, Ilios, Giza, Cuzco, Teotihuacan, Nara, and dozens more besides—largely unfamiliar names spread around the globe, but all known at one time or another as “the Navel of the World.”

The term surfaced early during my research (a cover word for “obsession”) into the lost civilization of Atlantis, beginning spring 1980. At that time, few believed the place had actually existed, and I was not entirely sure myself. In the years since then, my four books on the subject were published in a dozen foreign editions, joining more material released about Plato’s sunken city since he first spoke of it twenty three hundred years ago. These numerous volumes, compact discs, magazines, lectures, television productions, and feature films reflect unprecedented, international interest in Atlantis.

During late 2006, sociologists at Baylor University’s Institute for Studies of Religion, in Waco, Texas, conducted “by far the most comprehensive national religion survey to date,” according to Cathy Lynn Grossman, a writer for USA Today. Their survey revealed that 40 percent of Americans now believe Atlantis actually existed before the dawn of recorded history.

Well, what has all that got to do with the Ark of the Covenant? Atlantis is one of the “bread-crumbs,” an unsuspected clue to the mystery, like so many others—a Jesuit priest, the Great Pyramid, a deformed pharaoh, Canada, a Japanese scuba diver, a thousand-year-old tree, a famous Russian painter, a famous French painter, an infamous French cardinal, American Indians, secret societies, an Illinois woodworker. Individually incongruous, they nevertheless comprise a vast mosaic spanning not only the world, but the entire history of man. The image emerging from their combined inter-relationship is wonderful and horrible, filled

with transfiguration, heroism, genius and beauty contrasted by deceit, terror, madness, and mass-murder. It is an unexpected picture I did not paint. I only found it after twenty six years of continuous investigation.

This book is the summary and outcome of that long labor of love. I was aided in its discovery by someone without whom my work would have been woefully incomplete. If there is such a thing as destiny, her appearance was perfectly timed. While in the midst of researching the man who established the Order of the Knights Templar in Jerusalem, both Laura Beaudoin and I learned that she is his linear descendant. We then found that she is directly related to several other key players in the Ark drama, from a figure in the Old Testament to what may have been the sacred object’s 17th Century steward. Never interested in genealogy, and emotionally incapable of boasting about her family tree, she provided absolutely unique insight into the darkest corners of medieval politics.

Laura also owned a rare document, a privately published Beaudoin family history, preserved by her mother, Doloris. Thanks to this one-of-a-kind manuscript, we may read a hitherto unknown chapter in the lost history of the Ark of the Covenant. That, in essence, is the result of our combined effort: the first history of this supremely enigmatic artifact, its pre-biblical origins, true identity, and impact on the world. My psychic friend was right after all. The Ark of the Covenant is the “sweet mystery of life.”



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Ark of the Covenant Found? New Revelations Blaze the Trail to Discovery



San Francisco, CA (February 1, 2007) – Lost since the destruction of King Solomon's temple more than 2,500 years ago, the Ark of the Covenant is the most famous and baffling artifact in history. Although cited more than any other object in the Old Testament and described as the ancient Hebrews' most precious possession, its real meaning and ultimate location have remained unknown . . . until now.

For the first time, a non-religious investigation reveals the Ark's pre-biblical origins, actual function and present-day whereabouts. A new book, *Opening the Ark of the Covenant: The Secret Power of the Ancients, the Knights Templar Connection and the Search for the Holy Grail* traces the controversial artifact from the pre-Flood civilizations of Lemuria and Atlantis, to ancient Egypt, medieval Europe, Japan and America.

A quarter century of research and worldwide travel reveals that the Ark was a device created by high technology, designed to interface with natural currents of Earth energy and human consciousness. Powerful enough to shake the foundations of established religions and modern science, *Opening the Ark of the Covenant* may lead to discovery of the Ark in our time.

Co-author and Editor-in-Chief of the magazine *Ancient American*, Frank Joseph, is renowned for a series of books on ancient civilizations. Recent titles include *Discovering the Mysteries of Ancient America* and *The Atlantis Encyclopedia*, both from New Page Books.

Co-author, Laura Beaudoin, is a direct descendant of Crusader kings who ruled Jerusalem in the 12th and 13th Centuries. Formerly a television executive, she is devoted to investigating her family history as related to the Ark.

Opening the Ark of the Covenant presents the compelling story of Joseph's journeys from the sea floor off the coast of Florida to the remote heights of France's Pyrenees Mountains and Japan's secret shrines, from the Nile Valley to the Valley of Mexico. His in-depth hunt for the truth about mankind's most valuable possession reveals, at long last, the purpose and location of the Ark.

After years of exploration and study, Joseph proves that the Ark was not a mere legend, nor was it just an elaborate box used to store the original Ten Commandments. He said, *“The Ark was purpose-built to harness the powers of the Earth for humanity’s continued physical existence and spiritual evolution. As such, it is the single most priceless fortune mankind has ever possessed.”*

He found that the lineage of the Ark pre-dated the Bible, appearing in ancient Egypt and in stories of lost Atlantis, and he traced the circumstances of the Ark’s rediscovery under Jerusalem’s Temple Mount by the Knights Templar. Having found the precious object, the knights returned with it to France, where its clandestine journey across Europe would last for the next 800 years.

“Joseph and Beaudoin amass an almost staggering amount of scholarly research. The text moves along with dramatic twists and surprises, and readers will find themselves literally swept away by one astonishing revelation after another. This superb work will convince the most aloof reader that the Stone of Destiny . . . retains its power and continues to shape the future of the world.”
—Brad Steiger, author of *Atlantis Rising* and *Revelation: The Divine Fire*

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