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Underground Labyrinth "Ravne": Expedition to Unknown

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There is a huge pre-historic network of underground tunnels, chambers, intersections and artificial water accumulations under the Bosnian Valley of the Pyramids. When I wrote my first book about the discovery of the Bosnian Pyramids in 2005 I projected that such an underground labyrinth would be discovered in the future. We discovered the entrance later that year 2.5 km away from the Pyramid of the Sun, and we've been clearing this labyrinth ever since.

In November 2010 we discovered the first open sections, clear from the fill-in material, 350 meters from the entrance. Until then, all the tunnels were closed and sealed, and it had made our work very slow and labor-intensive.

Two empty tunnel passageways led in two different directions: one headed north and went in the opposite direction of the Bosnian Pyramid of the Sun - it was about forty meters in length and closed with deposits of gravel at the end. The other headed south, but was full of water. After a distance of 200 meters the water in the artificial water reservoir reached a depth of 165 cm (65 inches, i.e. 5 ft. 5 in.) and the passageway was blocked.

For a year and a half we did not touch the tunnel leading from the Pyramid. Now, June 26th, 2012, we decided to begin to systematically investigate this northerly-oriented tunnel. We were accompanied by a film producer from Berlin, who is preparing a trailer for a documentary about the Bosnian pyramids.

The team of seven members, besides myself, included Ricardo, an Italian archaeologist, our own employees, Amir and Admir, and several volunteers from Australia, Great Britain, Hungary and Serbia. We dressed in protective clothing and waterproof boots, and with spare sets of batteries and compasses we entered a tunnel that was filled with water to a height of 40 cm. We began to clear the first barrier working in a very narrow tunnel. We progressed slowly, cleaning the sand, pebbles and mud by hand, without tools, often in the lying position, using two buckets.

After more than an hour, we made a passage which we could crawl through. We encountered more water, but the passage of the tunnel was open. We progressed about twenty meters. The tunnel was curving, changing its heading from north to east.

Then we encountered a new obstacle, a pile of gravel and sand in front of us. We cleared this one relatively quickly and continued on. We entered a tunnel without water. Then came a big

intersection, with the height of the tunnels amounting to nearly three meters (almost 10 feet). We examined three of the side tunnels which soon came to a place where they were blocked or sealed. Then we headed along the only free tunnel, which was headed toward the south.

It seems unlikely that it could have been purely a coincidence that the passage was left open just to the south. This is the orientation that we need if we're to reach the pyramid in the future.

After two more intersections, we arrived at new barriers. The southern direction of the tunnel was filled to the ceiling. This, however, did not discourage the young Italian archaeologist who began to clean with his bare hands the gravel and pebbles blocking it. After forty minutes he had created enough space to pull himself between the ceiling and the pile of gravel. Soon we were able to join him.

We found new intersections, ceramic blocks with carvings, different heights of ceilings, and clean air and equal temperature in all the tunnels. We were in sections where no human foot has stepped for a very long time. Once we continued on in the direction towards the southeast, we encountered a new barrier in the form of gravel and pebbles which sealed the passage to the top of the three-meter high ceiling.

We took a break. What now? We looked at the clock. It had been four and a half hours from the start of the expedition. We decided to stop here for security reasons.

The next morning we go back with four teams. We begin widening this new direction, and two teams will continue in the middle sections where narrow places occur and one team will go all the way to the front removing pebbles and sand.

Volunteers and Ricardo were delighted when they arrived back among the others. They were the stars of the evening and the leaders of these adventures.

The next day we arrived with the team to map the new tunnels. We established a total of 152 meters in the new tunnel passage and tens of meters of new side tunnels!

When small sections of underground tunnels are discovered at other places (as in Mexico, for example), it gains worldwide attention. Here, in one day, we had discovered more than 150 meters of untouched pre-historic underground tunnels.

In a statement to the documentary producers, I said:

"The first 300 meters of tunnel in which we worked during the 2005-2010 period were completely covered and filled with gravel, and every few meters drywalls had been made meant to stop future explorers. It took us six years to painstakingly clean and secure these passages. At the end of 2010 we discovered the first free sections, and this was a great encouragement for us. And now, after this experience, we see that there are small barriers that are followed by longer open sections. Have we reached a point where we will be finding more and more open tunnels in front of us? How much time will it save us on our way to the pyramid?"

The level of these new tunnels has been established. This would mean that, if we stay at the same elevation in the future, we will reach a depth of 280 meters below the top of the Bosnian Pyramid of the Sun. In 2007 the Russian geophysicists Dr. Oleg Khavroshkin and Dr. Vladislav Tsyplovskiy detected the existence of tunnels under the Bosnian Pyramid of the Sun at the depth of 280 meters.

So far, we've discovered 740 meters of underground tunnels. This labyrinth is tens of kilometers long. We're about 20% of the way to reaching the Bosnian Pyramid of the Sun.

The only question now is when we will connect with the tunnels beneath the largest pyramid of the world.

Years of hard but rewarding work are in front of us. But years, not decades, anymore.

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