

## WALKING WITH DINOSAURS

Periodically, reports have filtered out of Russia that in the rugged remote mountains of southeastern Turkmenistan dinosaur tracks and human footprints appear together in a Jurassic layer of rock.

Near the village of Khodja Pil Ata (Holy Father of the Elephants) is a plateau with over 3,000 dinosaur footprints. It is on this plateau that human footprints were first noted in the *Moscow News*, 1983 (No. 24, pg. 10). It was written during a period when Communists strictly controlled the ideological aspect of all publications, so an article could only be published with official commentary from a representative of official State Science. The commentary they gave at that time was this:

Who knows, but maybe our very far removed ancestors did  
mingle with dinosaurs.

This is nothing short of astonishing that in an atheistic communist empire holding strictly to evolutionary dogma, they would admit to the possibility of humans and dinosaurs walking together.

Turkmenian scientist, Kurban Amanniyazov, led three expeditions to the dinosaur plateau and found human footprints alongside dinosaur tracks. The dinosaur plateau is approximately 400 meters long and 300 meters wide. There are over 3,000 well-preserved dinosaur tracks on the plateau. In one football field size area are 1,253 dinosaur tracks of 65 different species. The smallest three-toed dinosaur tracks are 7-8 inches long while the largest footprint is 28 inches long; a megalosaurus footprint that is as large as any discovered in the Jurassic.

Professor Plutalov, a member of the Turkmenian expedition, made a map of the dinosaur tracks on the plateau. There are 31 dinosaur trackways. The plateau has the longest dinosaur trackways in the world. On the plateau are 26 megalosaurus trackways. Some of the largest are number 14 at 604 feet (195m), trackway 18 at 741 feet (226m), trackway 22 at 873 feet (266m), and the longest trackway, number 21 at 1,020 feet (311m). The previous record was a trackway in Portugal at 482 feet (147m).

Professor Kurban Amanniyazov, in an article that appeared in a Russian science magazine, "Around the World" writes about the plateau and imagines what it must have been like to see dinosaurs "walking through a forest of gingko trees: suddenly, the green wall opens and a big dinosaur comes out on the wide open place of the lagoon." He fantasizes what it would be like to see a 50-foot high dinosaur stretching his neck out of a gingko forest.

Dr. Amanniyazov is simply astonished that there are human or human-like footprints with the dinosaurs in a layer of Jurassic rock that he estimates to be 200 million years old. He discusses one of the footprints and says:

. . .if we speak about this human footprint, it was made by a human or a human like animal. Incredibly, this footprint is on the same plateau where there are dinosaur tracks. We can say the age of the footprint is not 5 or 10, but at least 150 million years old.

It is 26 cm long, that is Russian size 43 (9.5 American) and we consider that whoever left the footprint was taller than we are.

Russian journalist Alexander Bushev reported in the January 31, 1995 edition of Komsomolskya Pravda that he had journeyed to the Koughitang Mountains of Turkmenistan and had seen the fossilized prints of dinosaurs and humans together. This, he says, is a direct contradiction to evolutionary theory; dinosaurs were supposed to be extinct long before humans appeared on the earth. Bushev said that every meter of the half kilometer-wide rock surface is covered by three-toed footprints made by giant dinosaurs making their morning or evening promenade along the ancient seashore. Bushev wrote, "But the most mysterious fact is that among the footprints of dinosaurs, footprints of bare human feet were found!" Bushev suggests that because "we know that humans appeared much later than dinosaurs" that there was an "extraterrestrial who walked in his swimming suit along the sea side."

Scientist Kurban Amanniyasov, who took Bushev to the site, says that science might possibly answer that in the affirmative, that humans and dinosaurs were together:

If we can prove that they do belong to a humanoid, then it would create a revolution in the science of man. Humanity would 'grow older' by thirty-fold and its history would be at least 150 million years old.

These reports remained almost hidden to the western world but tantalizing in their prospects of human-dinosaur prints together. No one could verify them because no photos were available, and no one from the western world had been to southeastern Turkmenistan to inspect the sites.

In August of 2000, Dr. Dennis Swift of the Dinosaur Institute was officially invited by the Turkmenistan government and the Academy of Science of Turkmenistan to investigate the Koughitang-Tau dinosaur sites. Dr. Swift received permission to conduct many tests and make latex molds of the dinosaur and human footprints. Professor Halmuad Kudajkulijev of the Institute of Geology and Turkmenistan Academy of Science accompanied Dr. Swift. The expedition also included Hemra Duridijev, Ishkabulov Nuriddin, and Narbayev Hudayhazar.

They journeyed by Russian jeep to a locale in the Koughitang-Tau Mountains beyond the dinosaur plateau. At an elevation of 8,000 feet, up a treacherous incline and down into a ravine that has several gray-rock Jurassic layers is a human footprint and dinosaur track site.

About 25 years ago, a slab of stone approximately 30 feet long and 15 feet wide became exposed. On this slab are 6 human footprints in a left-right sequence. Four of the human prints are clearly visible and are size 42E Russian. The other 2 footprints are half prints. The trail is in a sequence with the footprints averaging 18 inches apart. The trail was first examined in the 1980's and Professor Kudajkulijev had conducted research there on two previous occasions. The site geologically has been identified as Jurassic 150 to 200 million years old. The trail has been called the Swift Trail in honor of Dr. Swift being the first person from the outside world to investigate the site. There are about 50 dinosaur prints nearby. Approximately 100 meters below this site is another long narrow Jurassic layer where a distinct single human print has been identified.

The Jurassic layer seems to go for many miles to the west and lies at varying degrees below the surface of the Koughitang-Tau Mountains. Within a half mile of this human-dinosaur site is another gray layer of Jurassic rock with numerous dinosaur prints.

This team spent 3 days at the dinosaur plateau which is a flat surface of remarkably preserved fossilized dinosaur prints. The plateau is at an elevation of 8,000 feet and is tilted at about a 40 degree angle. The huge gray plateau is very prominent and is surrounded by drab brown hills. It is reached by a jeep followed by a vigorous climb to the plateau.

On the dinosaur plateau are 2 distinct human footprints among the thousands of dinosaur footprints. These prints have been identified as human or humanoid by Kurban Amanniyazov, Russian scientists, and members of the Turkmenistan Academy of Science. Professor Kudajkulijev told the author that there were fossilized goat tracks on the dinosaur plateau among the dinosaur tracks. The director of the natural reserve also spoke to Dr. Swift about seeing goat tracks on the dinosaur plateau with the dinosaur tracks. The Swift expedition team returned to the dinosaur plateau and found several fossilized hoof prints of goats. These goat tracks are surrounded by three-toed dinosaur tracks of an unknown theropod species. These goat tracks have been identified as matching the spiral horned goat that still lives in the Koughitang-Tau Mountain Range. The authorities at the Koughitang-Tau National History Museum told Dr. Swift that about 200 spiral horned goats live in the Koughitang-Tau Mountains. Those experts who are familiar with the spiral horned goat tracks said that they are identical to the spiral horned goats.

The Institute of Geology and the Academy of Science of Turkmenistan extended an invitation to Dr. Dennis Swift of the Dinosaur Institute to cooperate in a joint effort in the scientific study of these important sites. All papers, photos, and research of the Institute of Geology have been made available to Dr. Swift. He was also invited by the Koughitang Village Elder to return in April of 2001 with the promise that the elder would escort him to another dinosaur plateau by horseback. This plateau has never been seen by anyone outside of the few people in the village. No scientist has ever been there. This was the way the village chose to honor the author.

The implications of these discoveries are staggering: that human and dinosaur footprints are together at 2 sites is a pedestal smashing blow to evolutionism; the fact that Russian and Turkmenistan scientists have identified the human footprints is evidence that

is hard to dismiss; another decisive blow to evolutionary theory are the goat tracks with human and dinosaur tracks. All these tracks are in the same Jurassic layer supposedly 200 million years old. This evidence wrecks the flimsy evolutionary time scale and would make any paleontologist pale.

The Dinosaur Institute seeks to boldly go where no man has gone before to bring back evidence that supports special creation.