

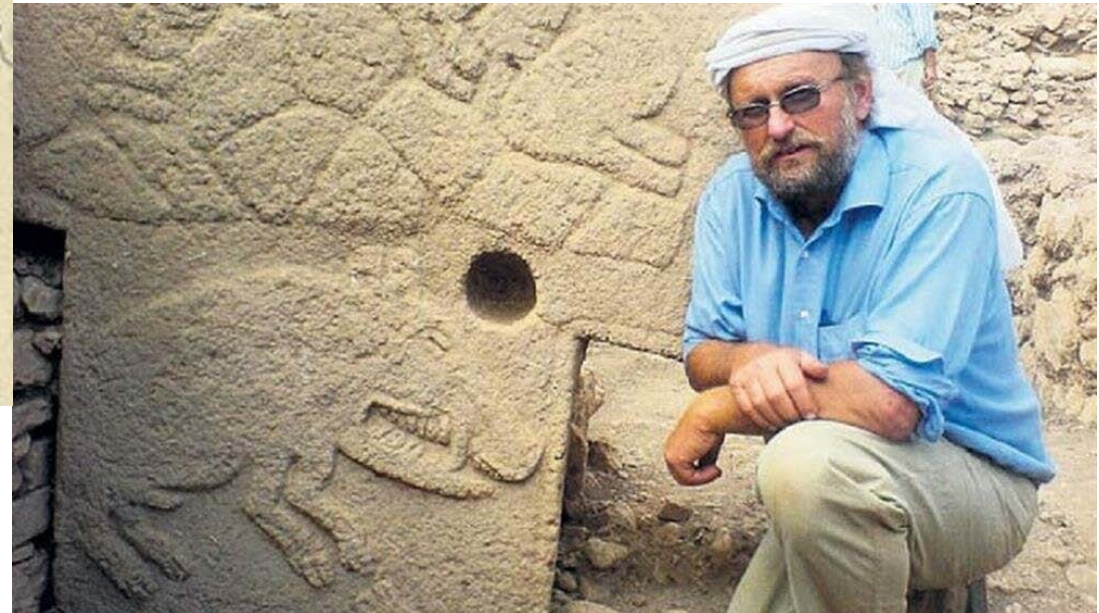
# Göbekli Tepe

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# Göbekli Tepe



Six miles from Urfa, an ancient city in southeastern Turkey, Klaus Schmidt has made one of the most startling archaeological discoveries of our time: massive carved stones about 11,000 years old, crafted and arranged by prehistoric people who had not yet developed metal tools or even pottery.







Göbekli Tepe is 15 km northeast of Şanlıurfa and 2.5 km from Karaharabe (Örencik). It has been known since 1963 as an Aceramic Neolithic site 'Tepe Ziyaret'.



The large settlement mound 300 m in diameter is surrounded by flat-topped limestone. Excavations of the German Archaeological Institute in İstanbul and the Şanlıurfa Archaeological Museum have been in progress since 1995.



Aerial view of Göbekli Tepe in 2013 © DAI, Göbekli Tepe Project

- Layer I architectural remains are missing
- Layer II 8800-8000 BC / EPPNB-MPPNB
- Layer III 9600-8800 BC / PPNA
  
- Göbekli Tepe dated: C 14 PPNA and PPNB



Göbeli Tepe located in the Germuş mountains of south-eastern Anatolia, this property presents monumental round-oval and rectangular megalithic structures erected by hunter-gatherers in the Pre-Pottery Neolithic age between 9,600 and 8,200 BCE. These monuments were probably used in connection with rituals, most likely of a funerary nature. Distinctive T-shaped pillars are carved with images of wild animals, providing insight into the way of life and beliefs of people living in Upper Mesopotamia about 11,500 years ago.





- Göbekli Tepe is located in Upper Mesopotamia, a region which saw the emergence of the most ancient farming communities in the world. Monumental structures, interpreted as monumental communal buildings (enclosures), were built by groups of hunter-gatherers in the Pre-Pottery Neolithic period (10th-9th millennia BC).



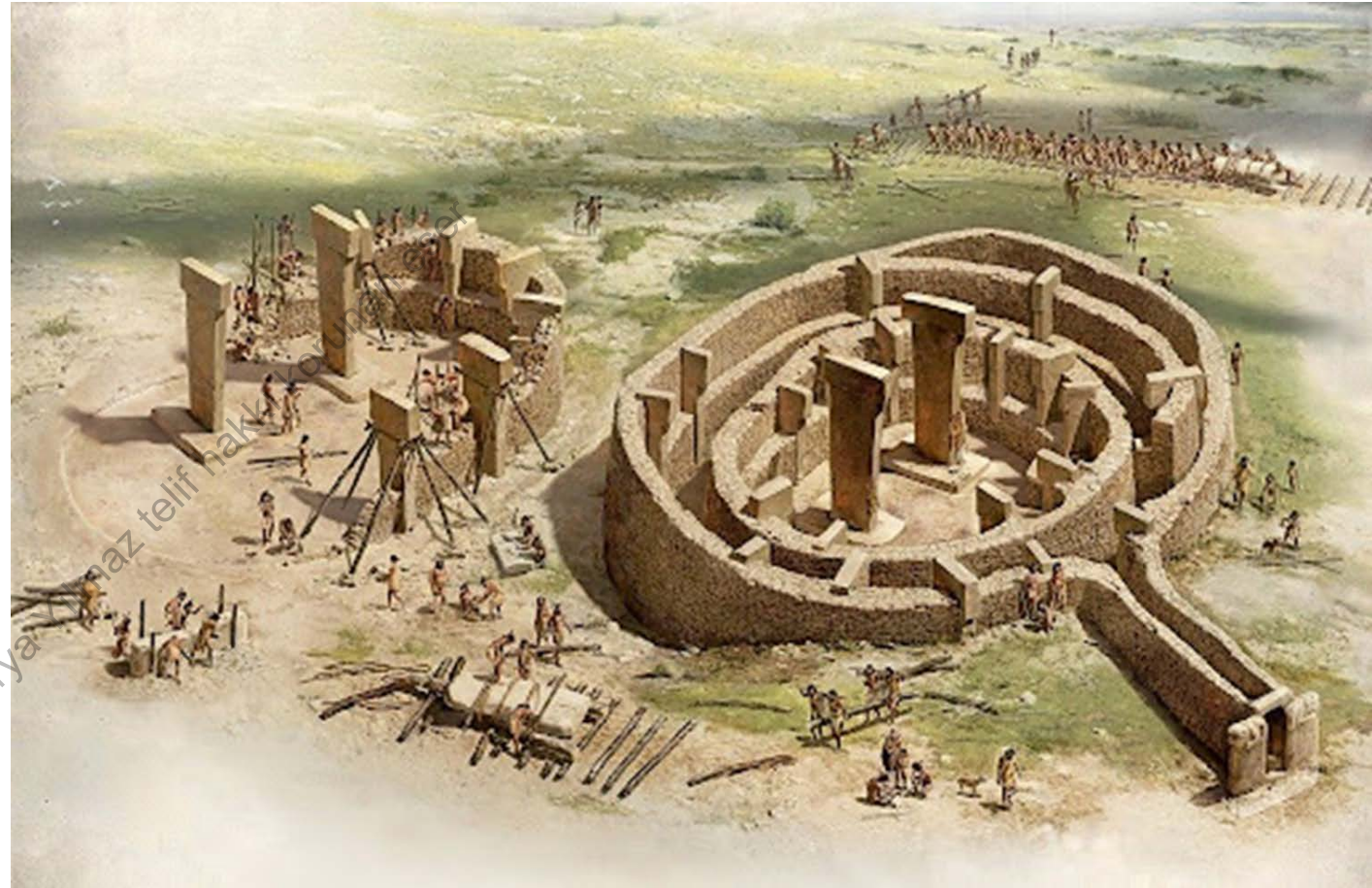




- The monuments were probably used in connection with social events and rituals and feature distinctive limestone T-shaped pillars, some of which are up to 5.50 meters tall.
- Some of the pillars, which are abstract depictions of the human form, also feature low reliefs of items of clothing, e.g. belts and loincloths, as well as high and low reliefs of wild animals. Recent excavation works have also identified the remains of non-monumental structures which appear to stem from domestic buildings.

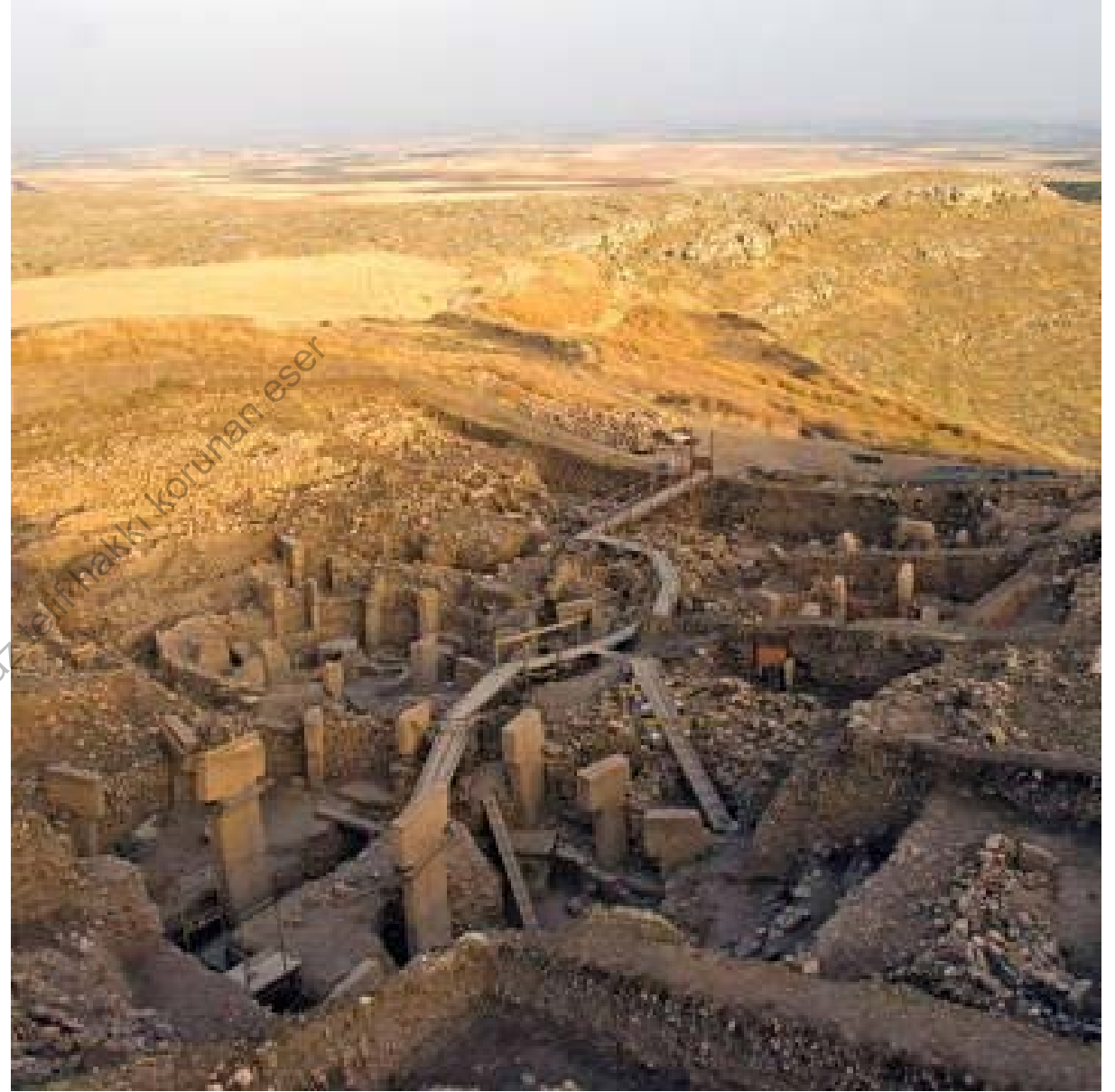


- The communities that built the monumental megalithic structures of Göbekli Tepe lived during one of the most momentous transitions in human history, one which took us from hunter-gatherer lifeways to the first farming communities.
- Göbekli Tepe is one of the first manifestations of human-made monumental architecture.
- The monolithic T-shaped pillars were carved from the adjacent limestone plateau and attest to new levels of architectural and engineering technology. They are believed to bear witness to the presence of specialized craftsmen, and possibly the emergence of more hierarchical forms of human society.





A rectangular stone enclosure at Gobekli Tepe, with four free standing central Tshaped pillars.

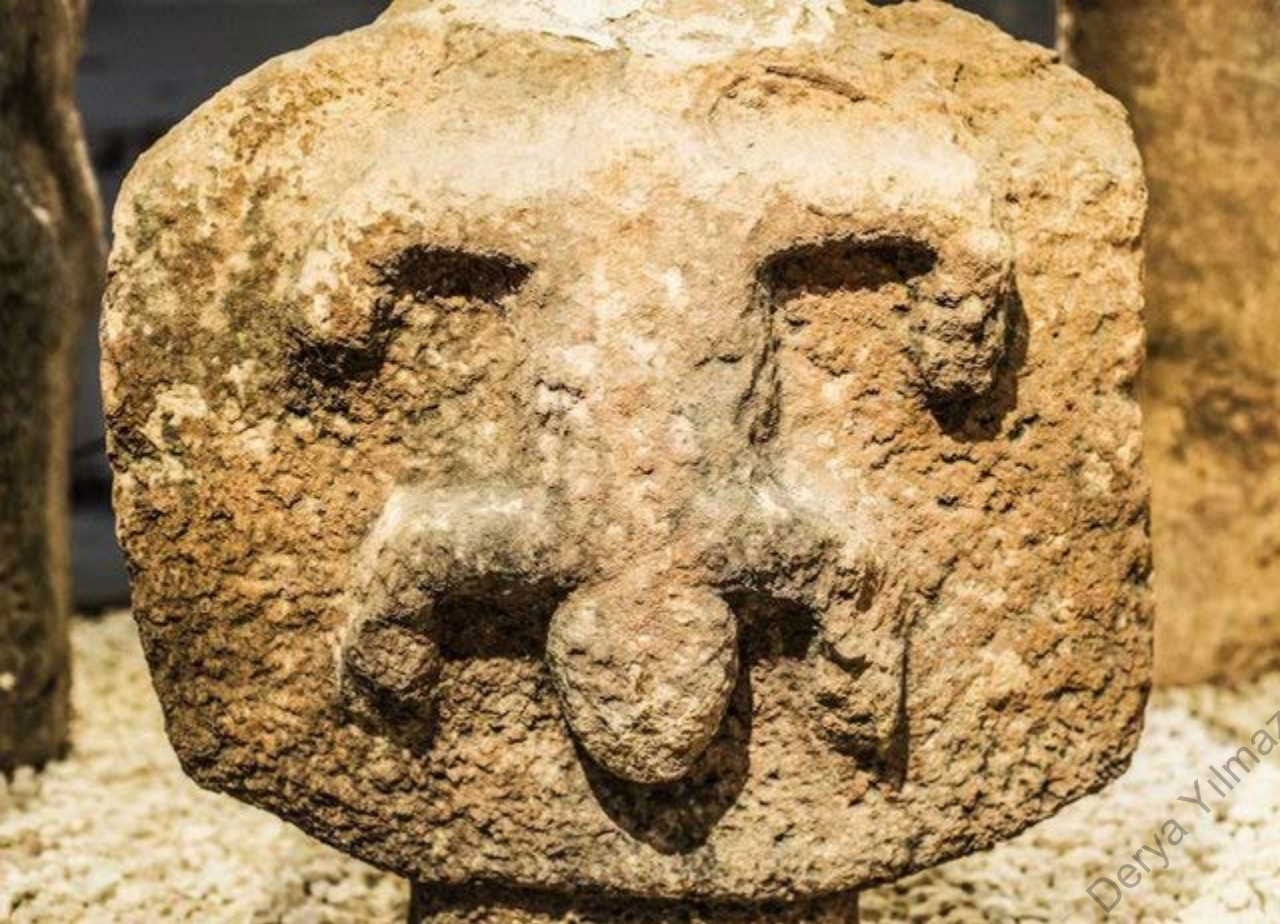






- Göbekli Tepe's six structures known so far, enclosures A, B, C, D, E, and F, including the pillars and orthostats' numbers. The inner rings are the oldest layers, designated as Layers III. The structures take an area of about 60 meters by 50 meters i.e., The archeological team in charge of the excavation estimates, on the basis of ground penetrating radar readings, that not even a sixth of the entire site's enclosures have been excavated.





## Types of Salamanders



Tiger Salamander



Marbled Salamander



Fire Salamander



Blue Spotted salamander



California Tiger Salamander



Black Salamander



Jefferson Salamander



Japanese Giant Salamander



Green Salamander



Seal Salamander



Garden Slender Salamander

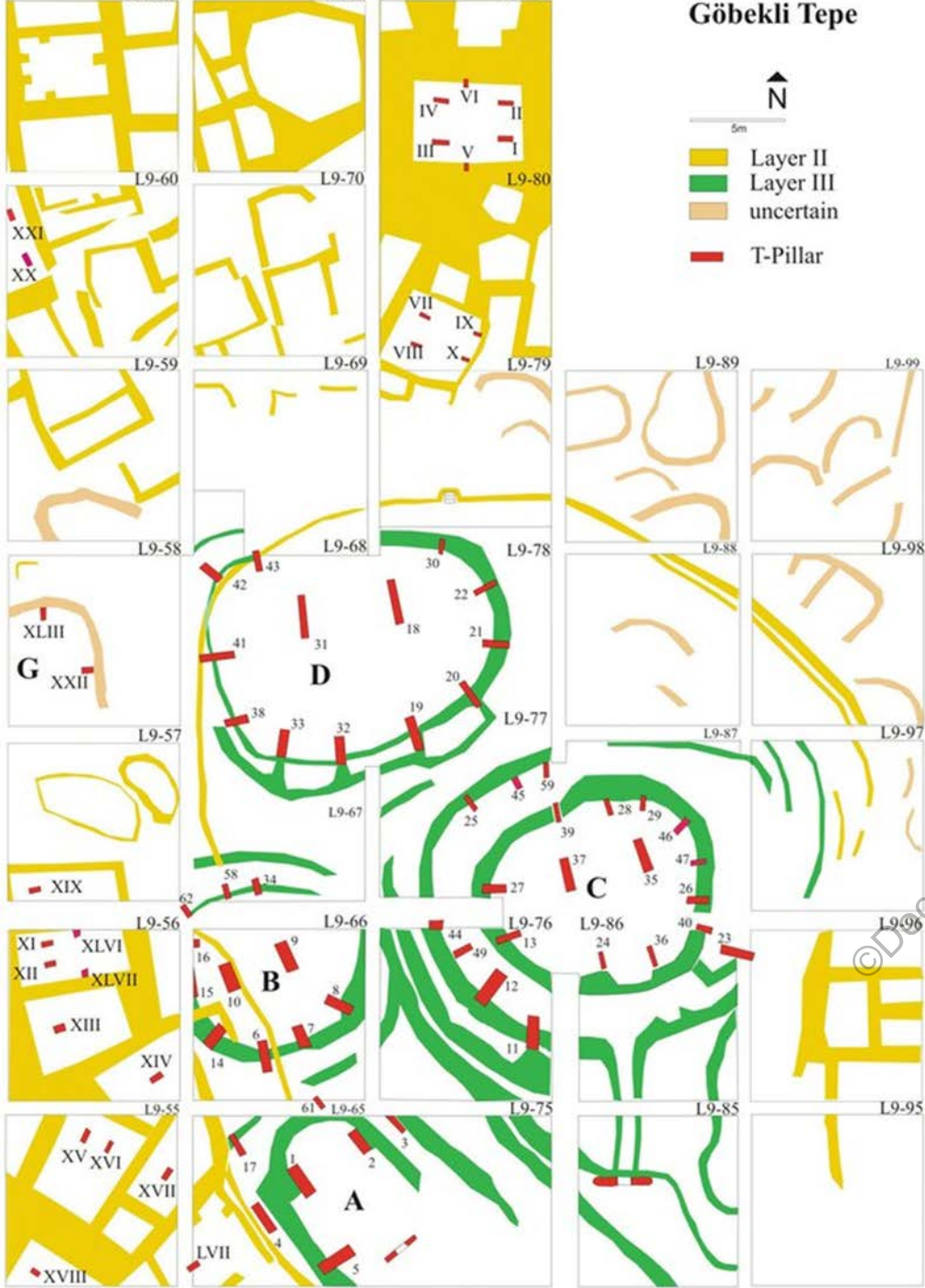


Texas Blind Salamander

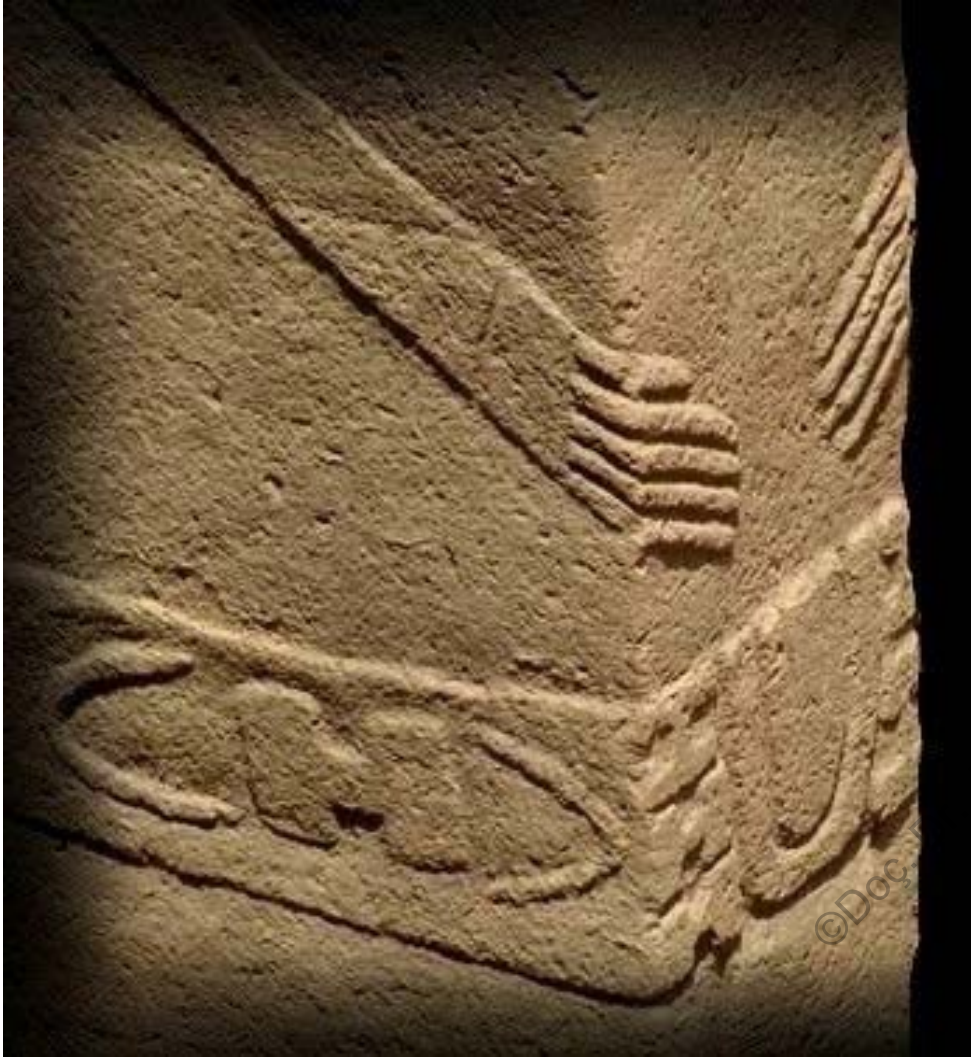
The salamander; a göbekli Tepe-related artifact-relief embedded on a roughly cut T-shaped stone. Obviously, the salamander is carved so that a human face is abstractly detectable in the petroglyph.



# Göbekli Tepe



A rectangular cistern (libation container) found at the fill of structure B.



The perfect symmetry megalith. Reliefs on a Gobekli Tepe rectangular megalith containing on both sides the same symbols in perfect symmetry and reverse roles. On the long side, the symmetric symbol " H " is carved, symmetrically flanked by two apses.

The pair of hands are symmetrically placed and so are their fingers.

The exquisitely fine outline and shape of the hand's fingers and the rest of the symbols is unseen even in late Neolithic Art.

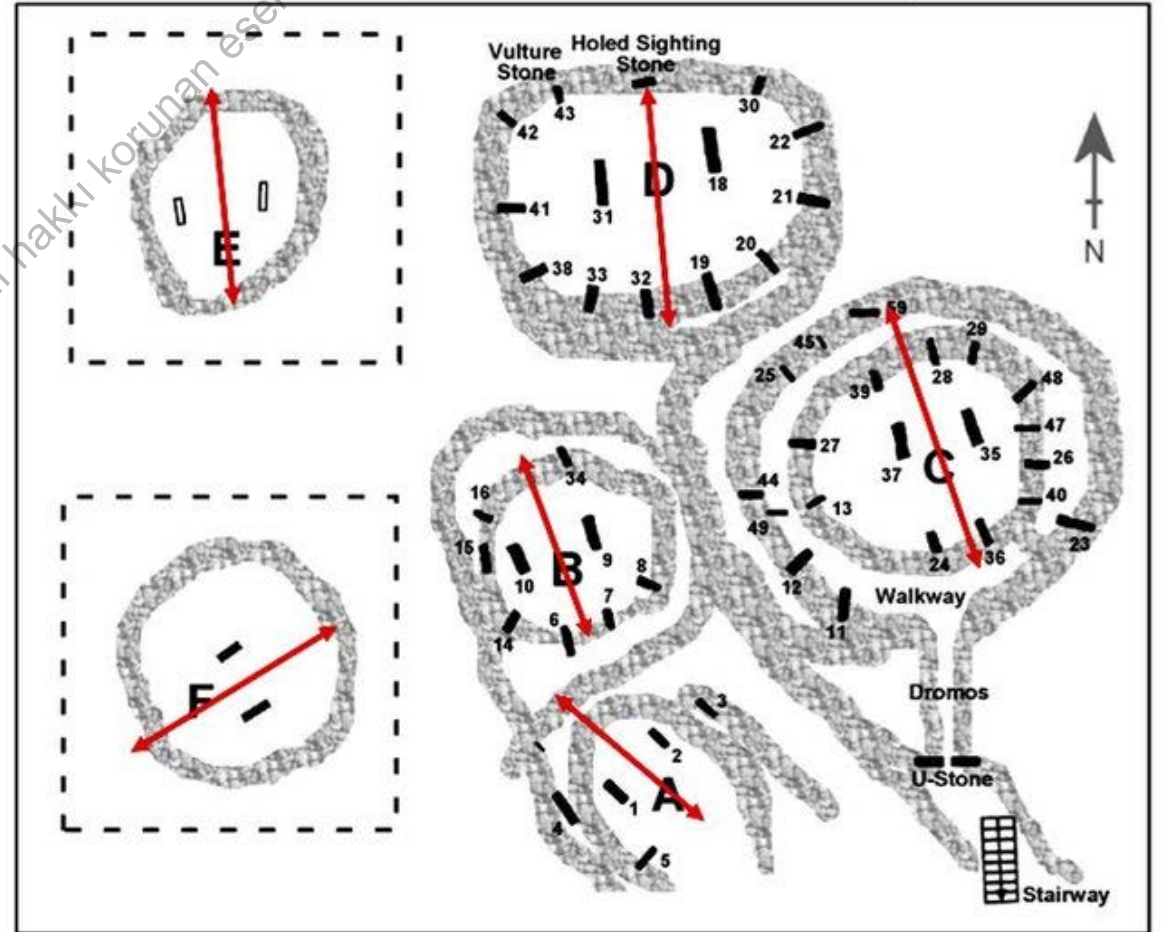




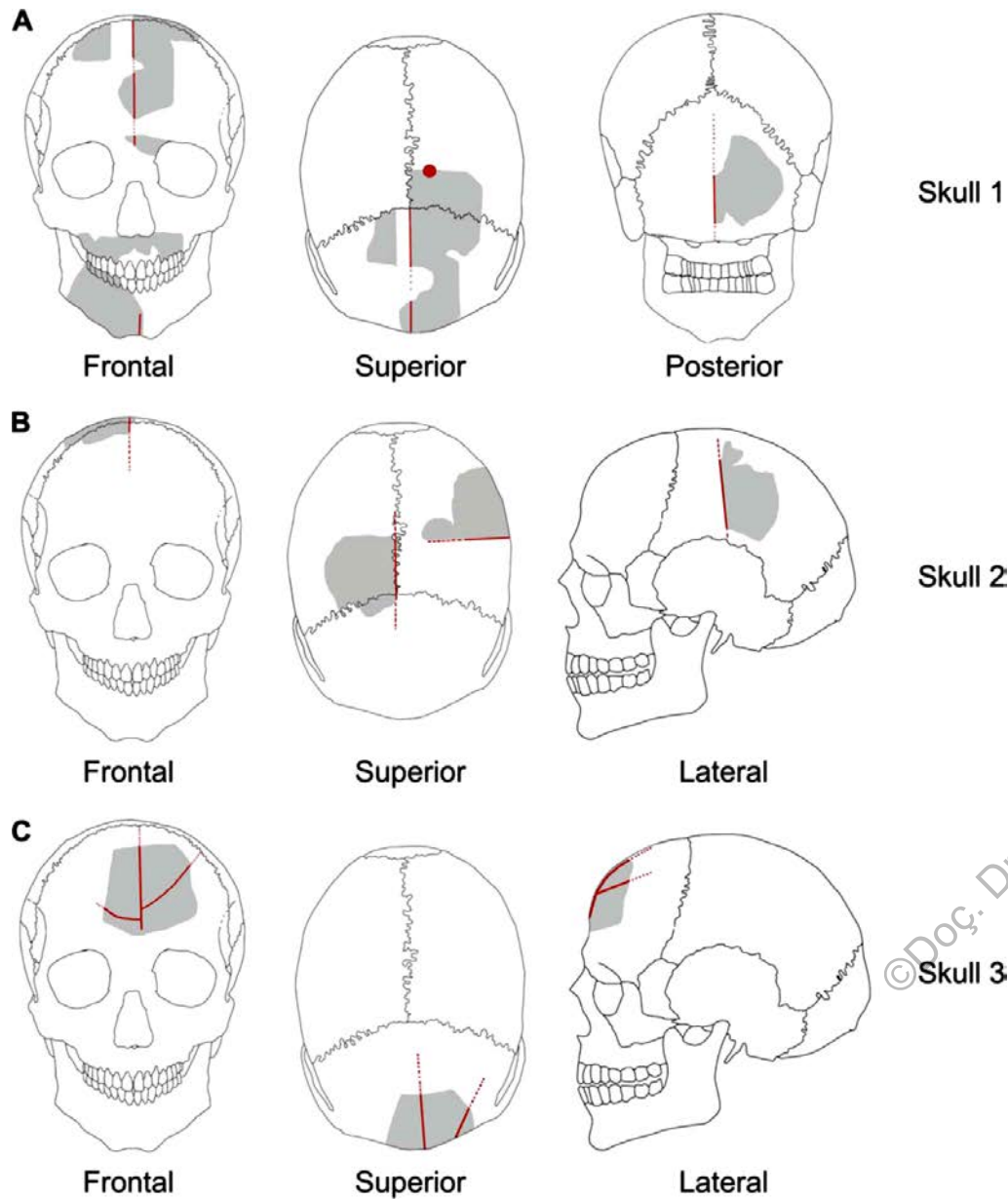
A similar cistern is shown here, at the lower strata of fill in Layer III at Gobekli Tepe. This is in design detail a much rougher cut in limestone than the one in B building, thus older.

However, the double rectangle shape and varied functionality of the libation vessel as well as the detailed artwork for the four animal figures at left renders it post middle Mesolithic ( later than 7000 BC.)

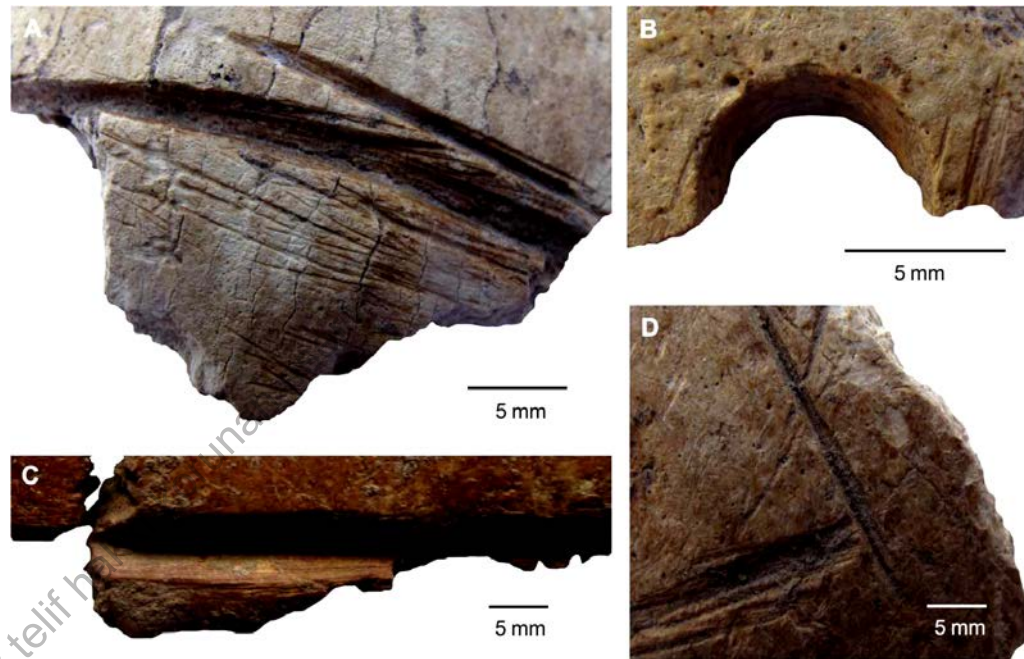
- Aerial view of Gobekli Tepe's six structures; for orientation of the central pillars of all four structures (A, B, C, and D)







Gresky et al. 2017, Fig. 2. Schematic drawings of Göbekli Tepe skulls. Gray, preserved elements; red, modifications.



Gresky et al. 2017, Fig. 3. Macroscopic details of artificial skull modifications.

- Skull fragments from three individuals at Göbekli Tepe provided evidence for a new form of Neolithic skull cult.
- Skull fragments carved and pierced from an approximately 11,000-year-old ritual site may indicate an undocumented variation of the skull cult.

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The dodo is an extinct flightless bird that was endemic to the island of Mauritius, which is east of Madagascar in the Indian Ocean. The dodo's closest genetic relative was the also extinct Rodrigues solitaire.

Gobekli Tepe: a flock of dodos in relief at the base of a central T-shaped pillar



# Animals reliefs on T-Shaped pillars



The variety of fauna depicted – from lions and boars to birds and insects – makes any single explanation problematic. As there is little or no evidence of habitation, and many of the animals pictured are predators, the stones may have been intended to stave off evils through some form of magic representation. Alternatively, they could have served as totems.



Carved stone with animal (possibly a reptile, felid, or wolverine) in high relief.



Boar statuette with legs.



"Totem" from Layer II



The site was deliberately backfilled sometime after 8000 BCE: the buildings were buried under debris, mostly flint gravel, stone tools, and animal bones.



# Selected References

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