

Nevali Çori

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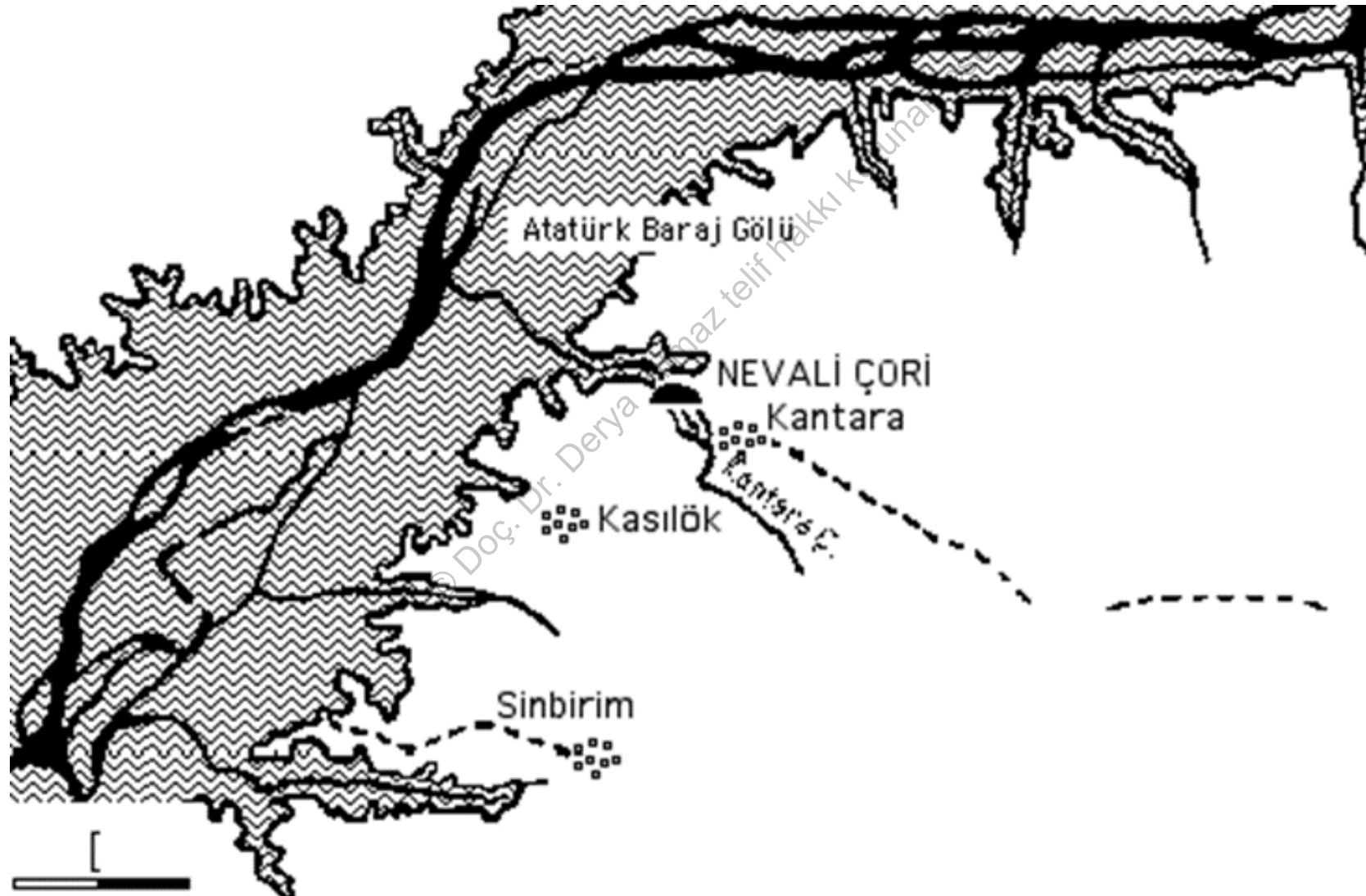
Nevali Çori

Nevali Çori is in the Hilvan District of the province of Şanlıurfa near Kantara Village and on either side of Kantara Çay. Excavations of the University of Heidelberg in cooperation with the archaeological museum of Şanlıurfa took place in seven campaigns during the years of 1983, 1985-197 and 1989-1991.

Project director was German archaeologist Prof. Harald Hauptmann.

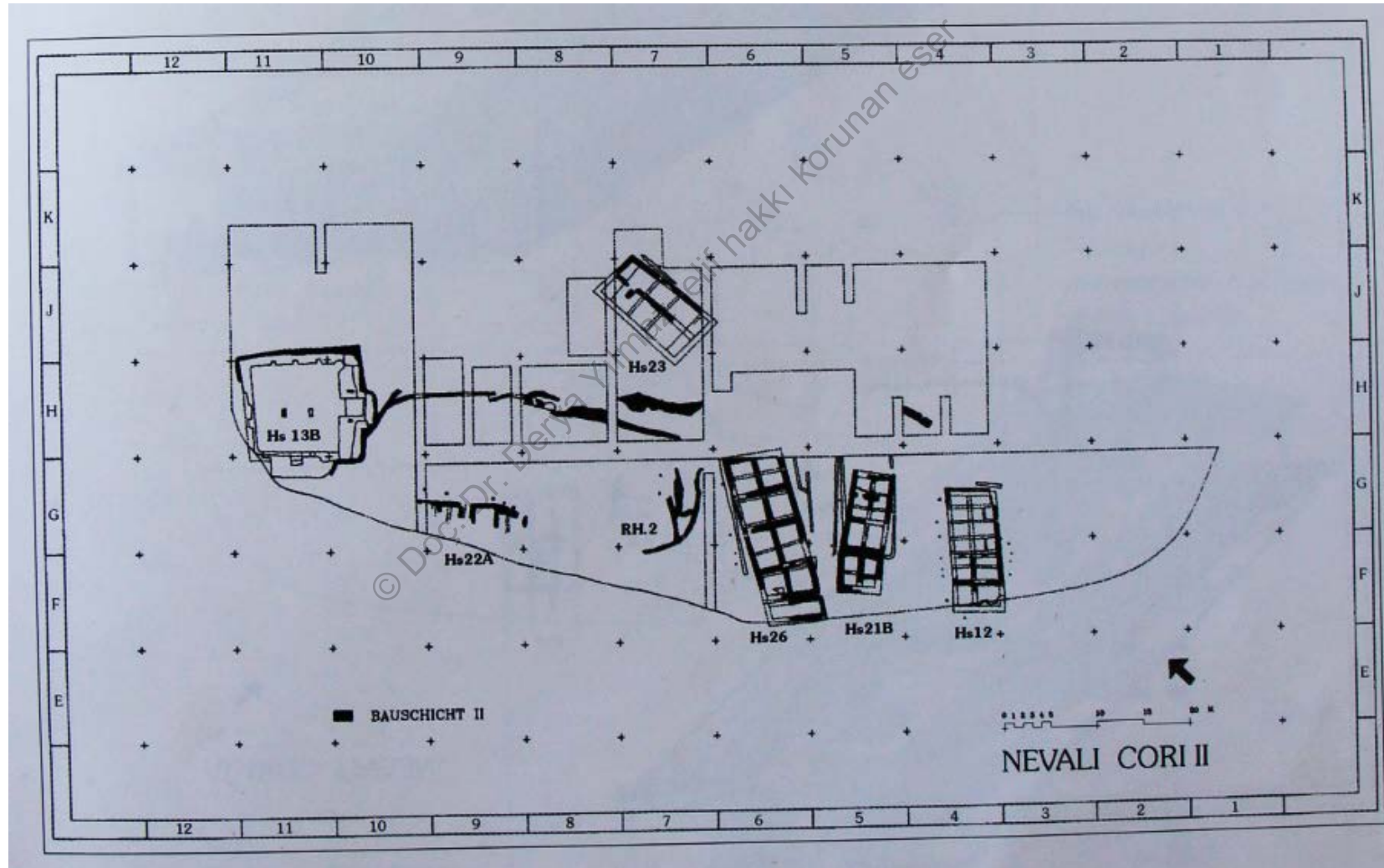


Since 1992 Nevalı Çori has been inundated under the lake behind the Atatürk Dam.



- Nevalı Çori Early Neolithic building levels I-V
- Level I : Characterize with channel buildings rectangular in form divided two main part. Foundations of the houses were built with large stones. These building show same plan with Çayönü Neolithic house. Several large pits were found in open areas and lined with pebbles from the river. Same pits known from Cafer Höyük as «roasting pits», at Çayönü «Basal pits».

Level two presents three channel type houses. The cult building II (H13B) in the Northwestern part of the settlement terrace was set apart from the other structures. In this level, too, a dozen «roasting pits» as well as two fire pits were recorded.



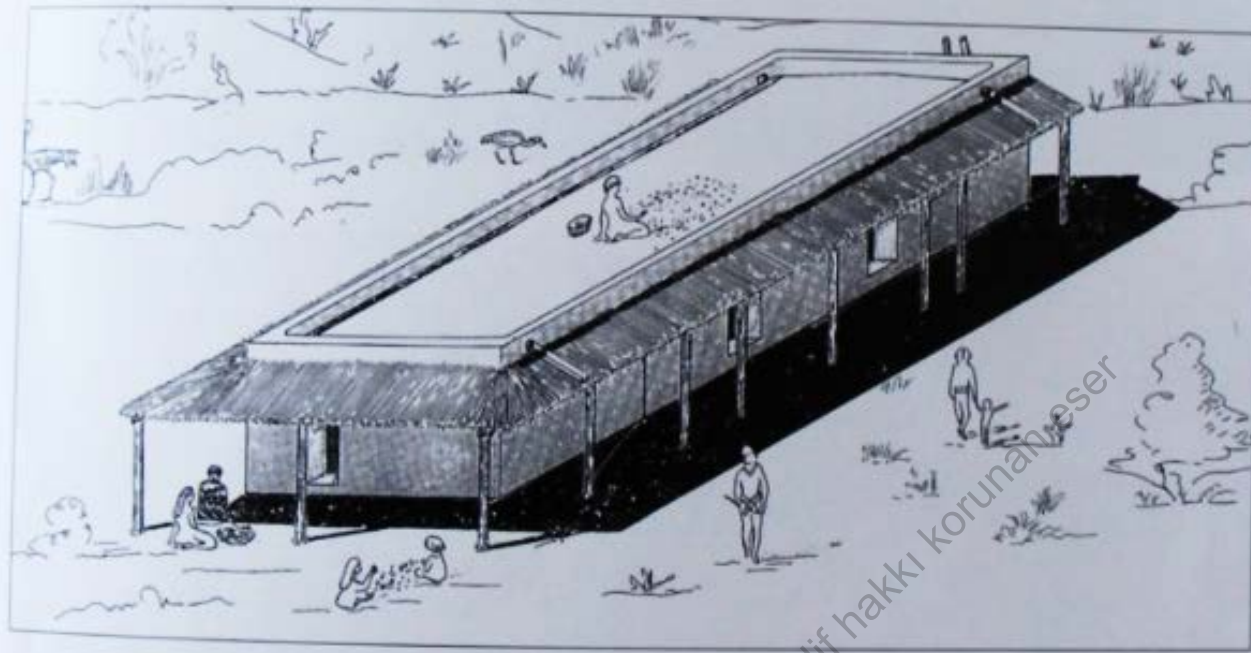


Fig. 6a. Nevalı Çori,
Tentative
reconstruction 1 of house
21A/B, Level I/II

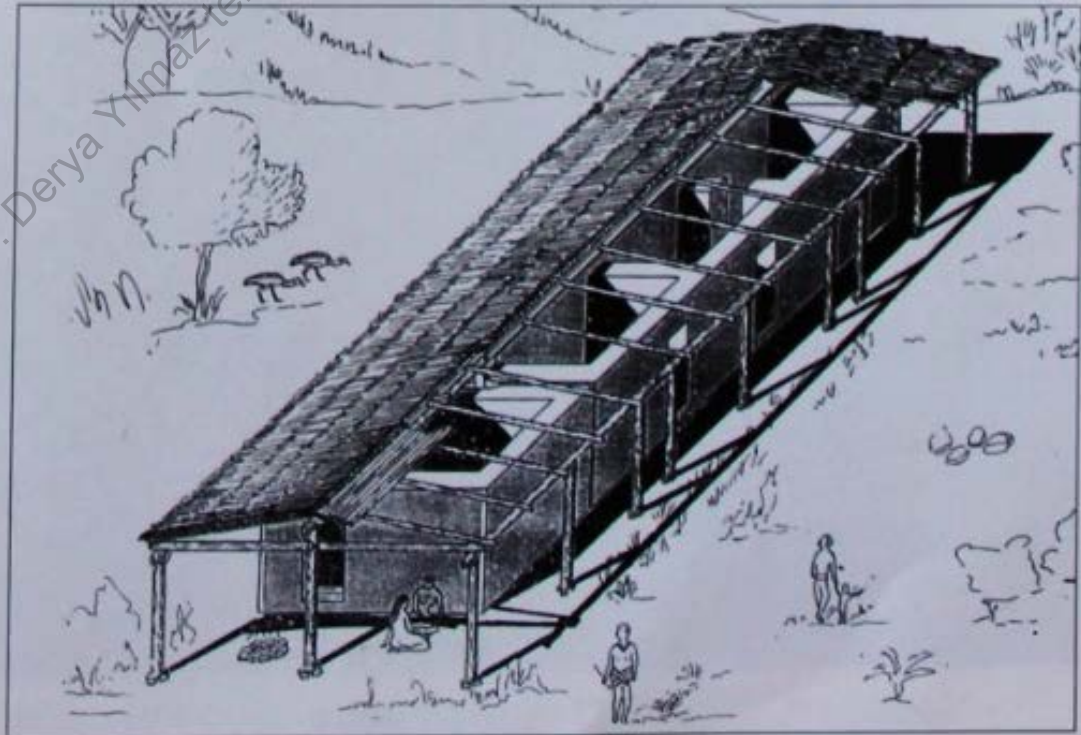
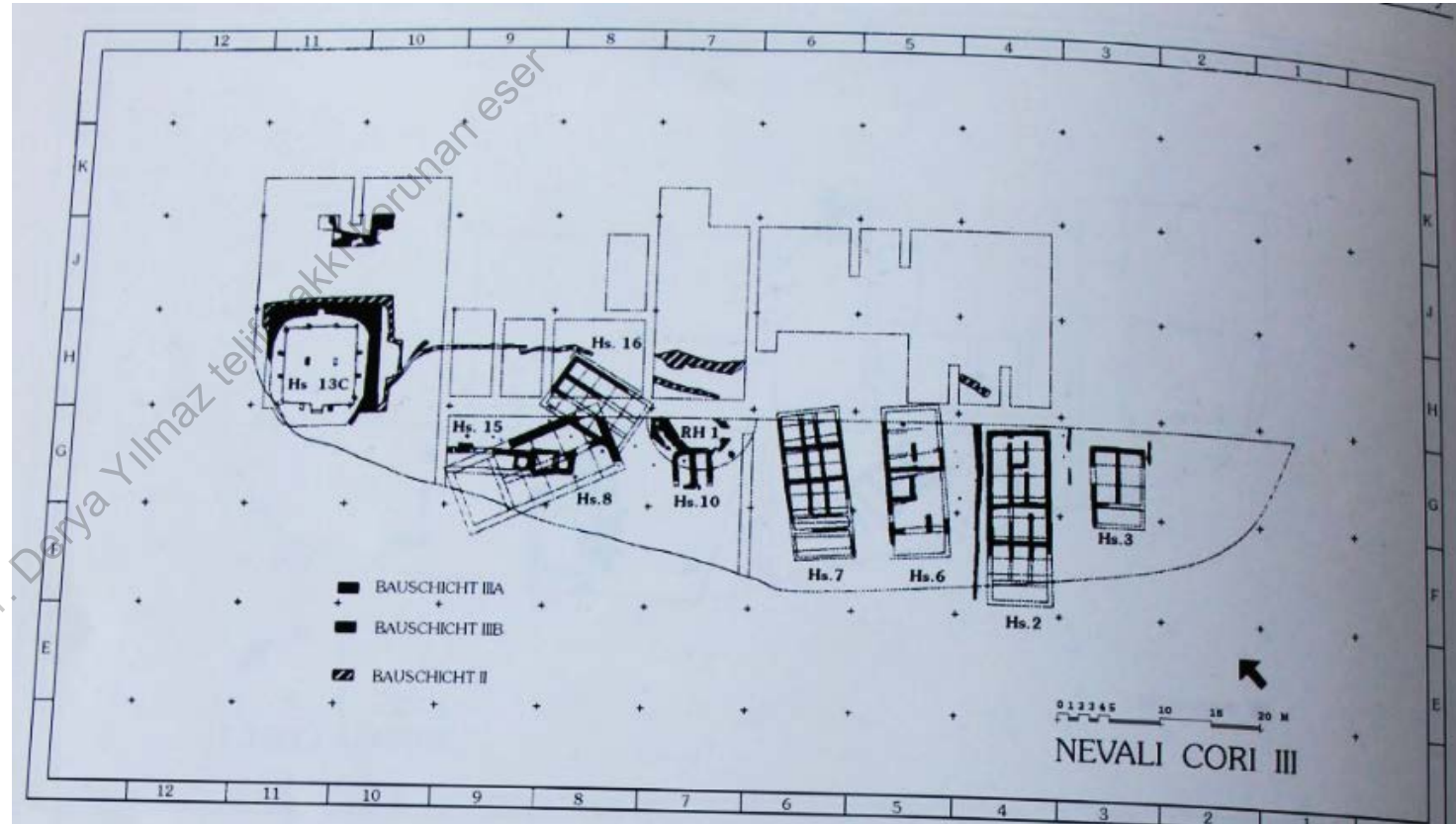


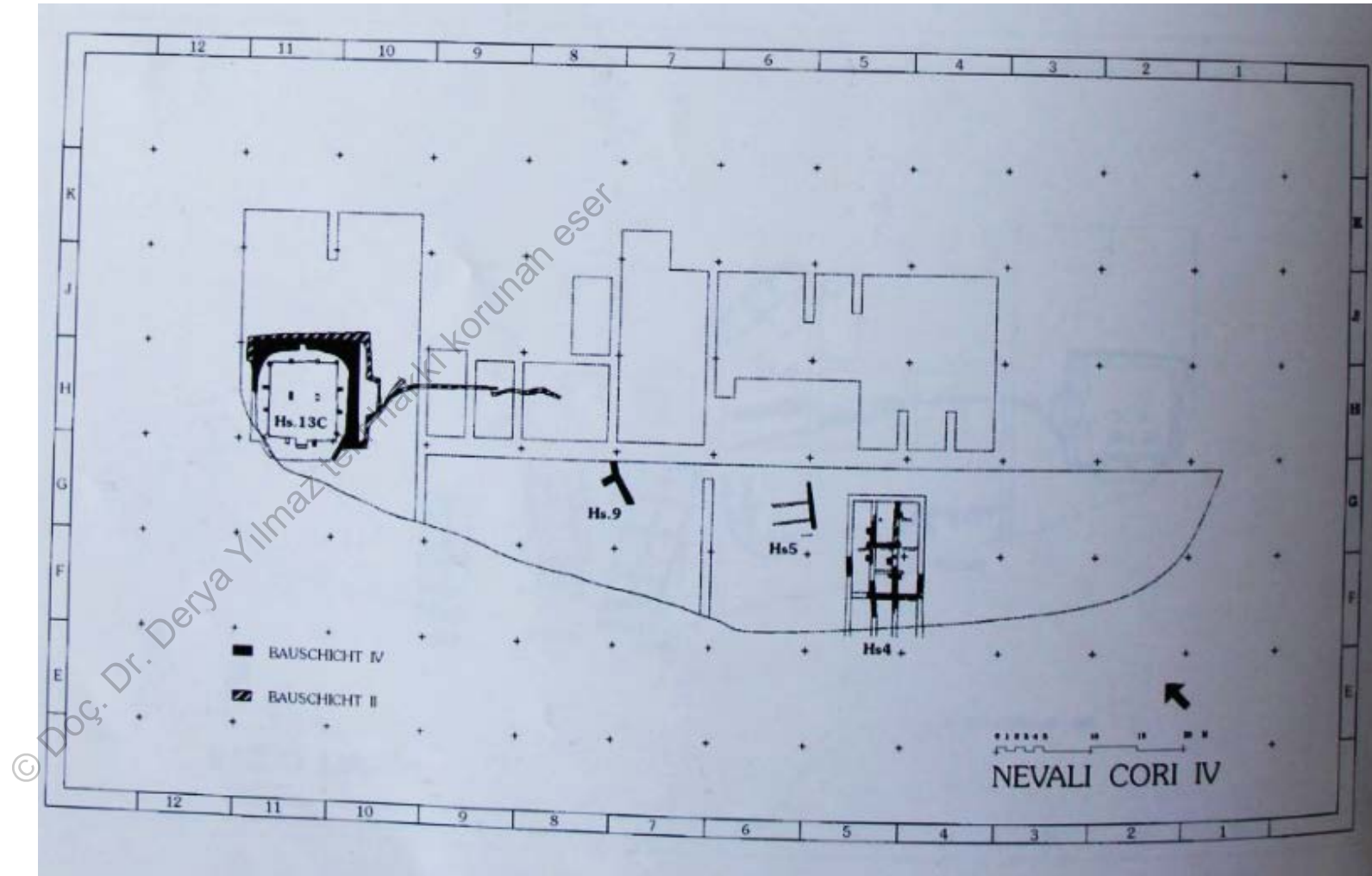
Fig. 6b. Nevalı Çori, Tentative
reconstruction 2 of house
21A/B, Level I/II

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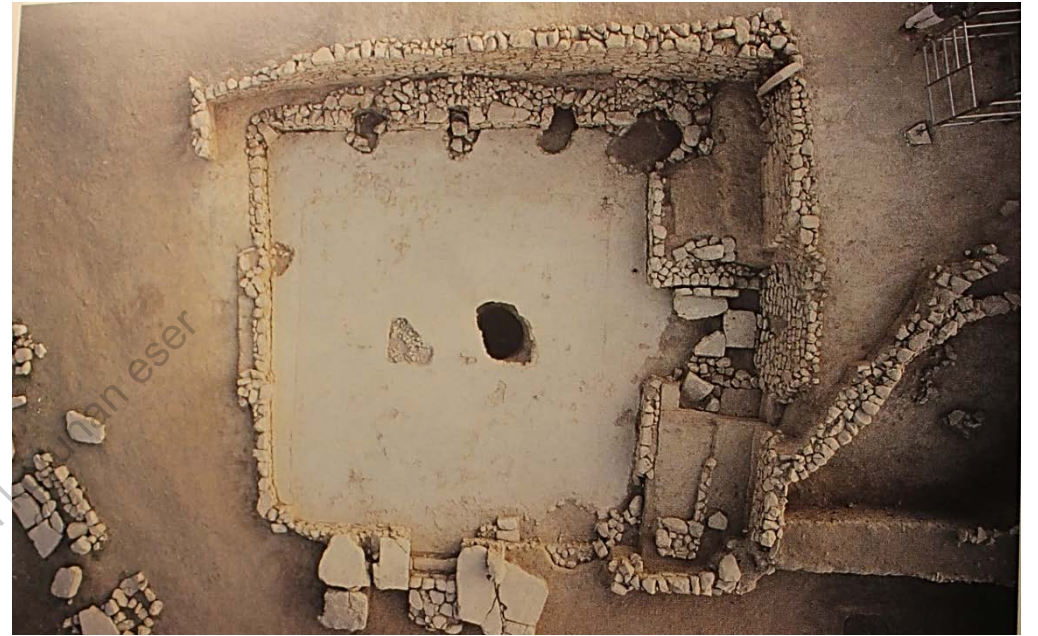
Level IIIA-B phases: In the southeastern section there are four houses in a row, nearly parallel to one another, all facing the valley. Set apart from these, there are other buildings of mixed orientation and construction. In level III phase B round house 1 was built over house 10. This might have had wooden roofing. However bipartite channel-house must have been one of the largest structures in Nevalı Çori.



Level IV: Only house 4 , 8 m wide and preserved to a length of 12 m is identifiable as a typical channel house.



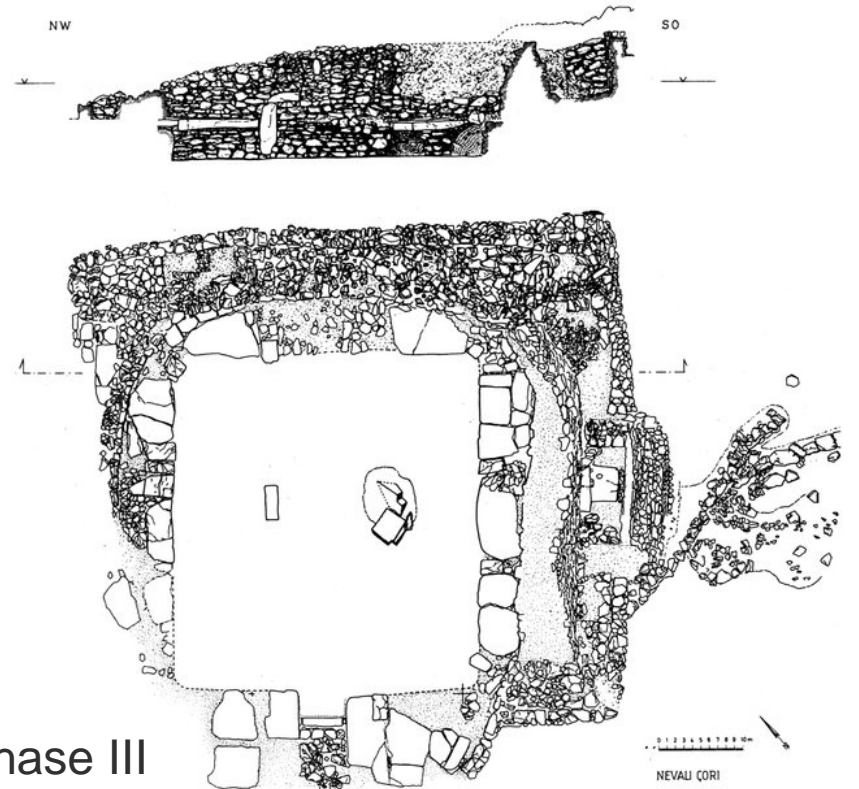
- Level V reflects a break in the settlement sequence. House 1 represents the only architectural evidence.
- Cult Buildings: From Level II onward, a structure nearly square in plan stood at the northwestern end of the terrace. Cult building II (H13B) was nearly square in plan, 13,90x13,50 m, thus covering 188 m². One meter deep, the bench was covered with large stone slabs set between 13 monolithic pillars with T capitals. The floor was of terrazzo. We can assume that there had been two pillars in the center, as was the case of its successor, Cult Building III.



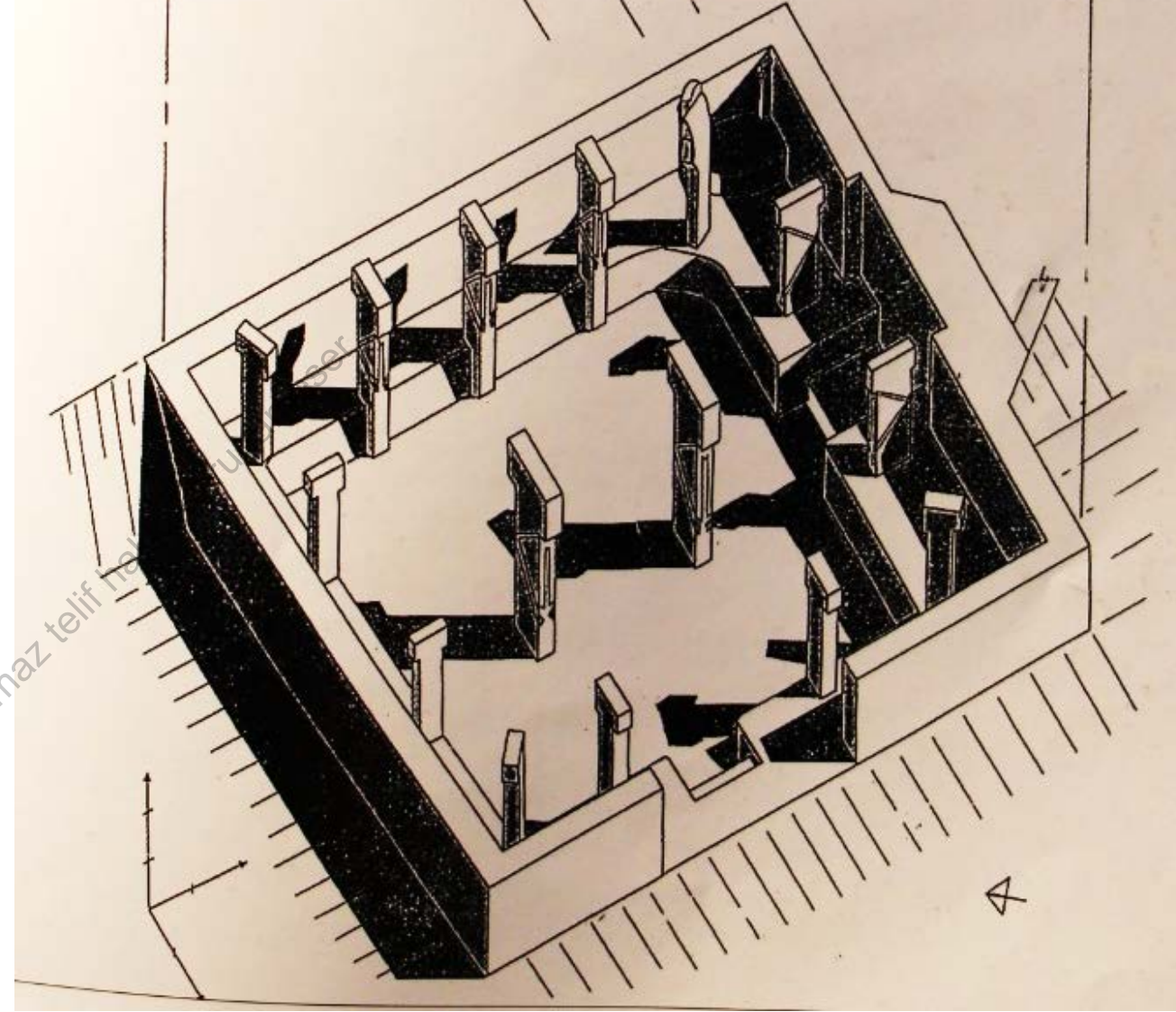
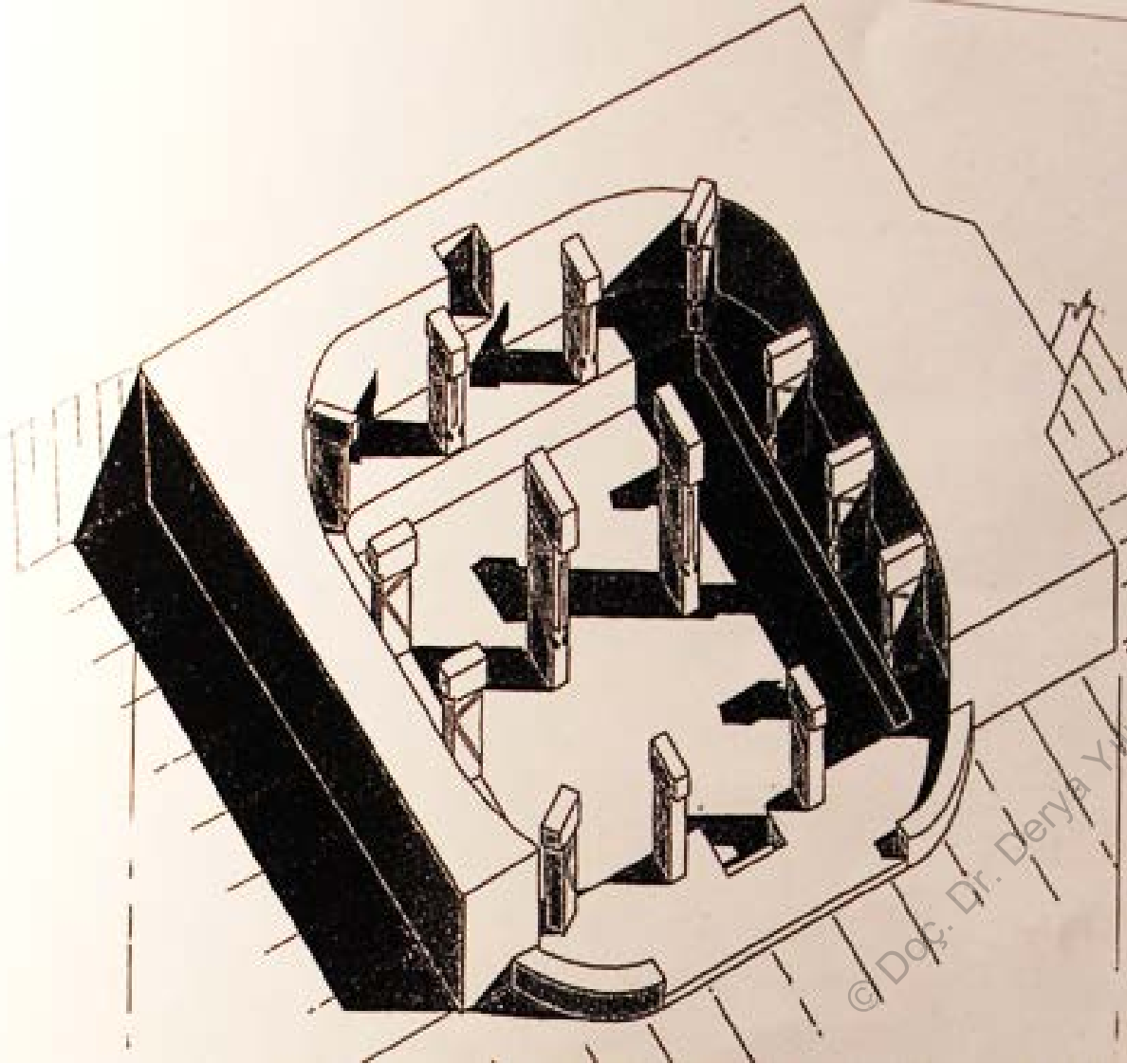
Nevalı Çori: 'cult building', phase II

- The later cult building III: was set directly inside the still standing walls of its earlier plan, so that the area was shrunk to 155 m². The measurements were now 12.10x12.80 m. At the center of the room two pillars with relief decoration were placed so that the small niche in the northeast Wall.

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Nevalı Çori: 'cult building', phase III



Nevalı Çori: axonometric (3D) reconstruction of cult building II and III 'Cult Buildings'

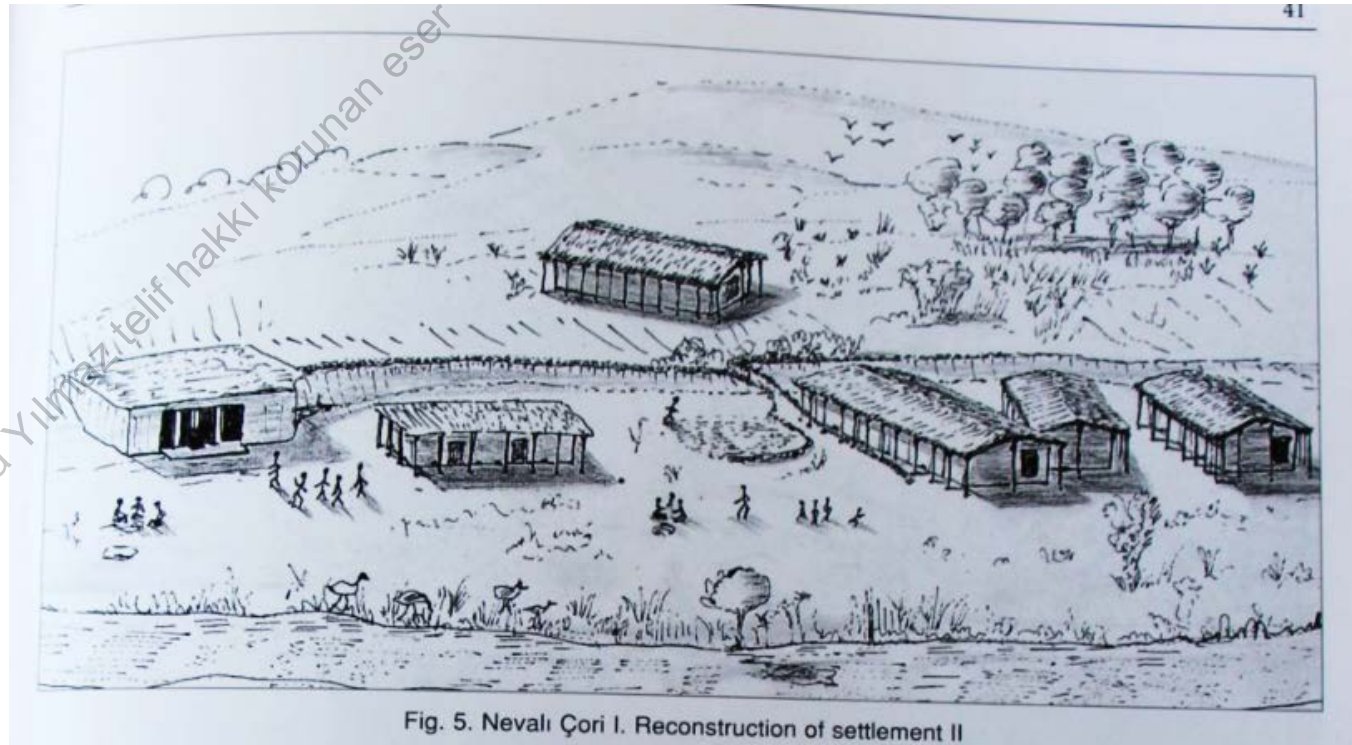


Fig. 5. Nevalı Çori I. Reconstruction of settlement II

Nevalı Çori : Reconstruction of settlement II.

Sculptures and reliefs

- The monumental sculpture is integrally related to the cult buildings.



- A head larger than life-size (h. 37 cm) with jug ears and the face broken away, preserves a snake curled up, as if into a bun- on the back of its bald head, this belongs a cult statue in the niche of the cult building II.

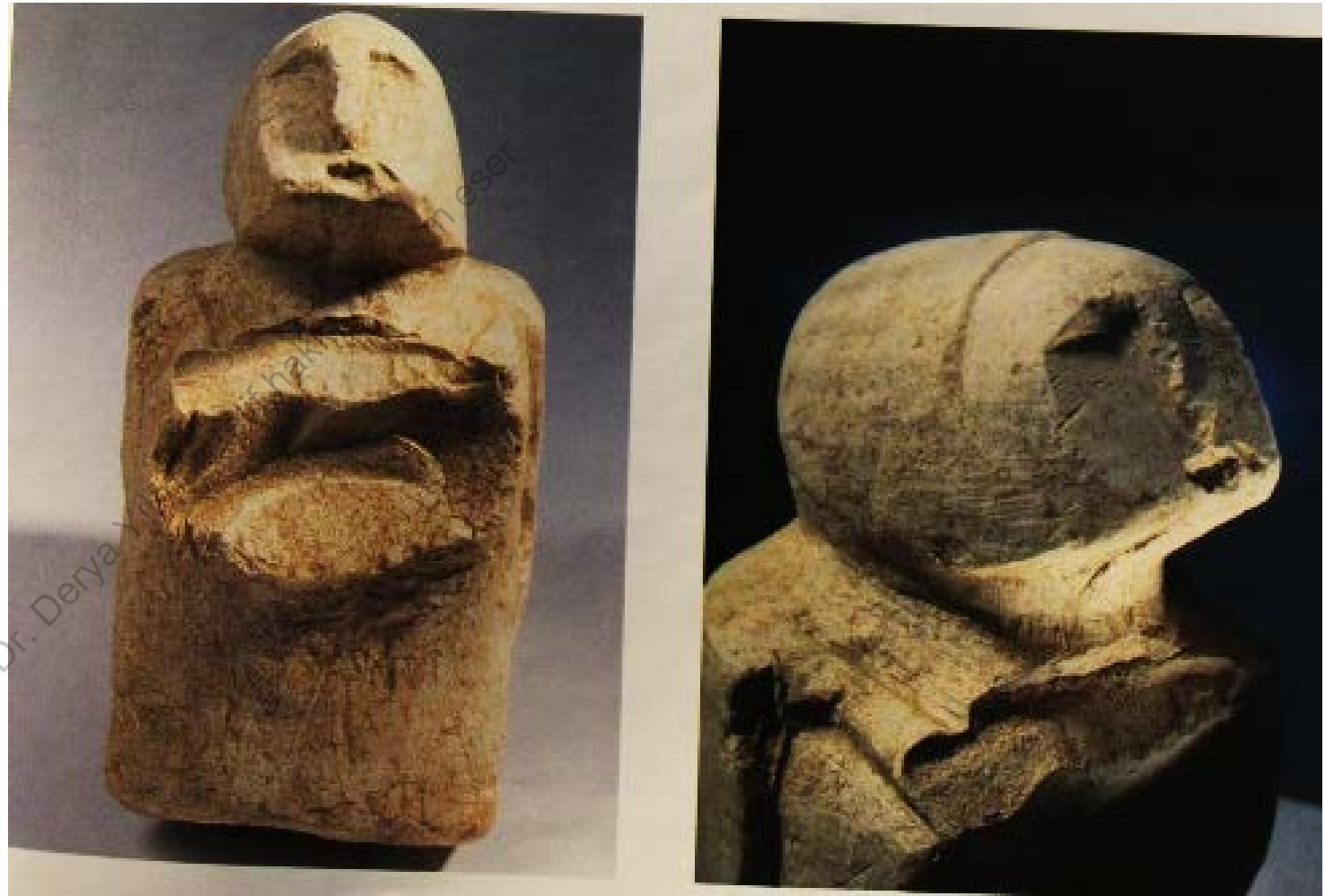
Head with snake, limestone.

A small torso with the head arms and lower part broken away looks a hybrid creature combining the attributes of man and bird.



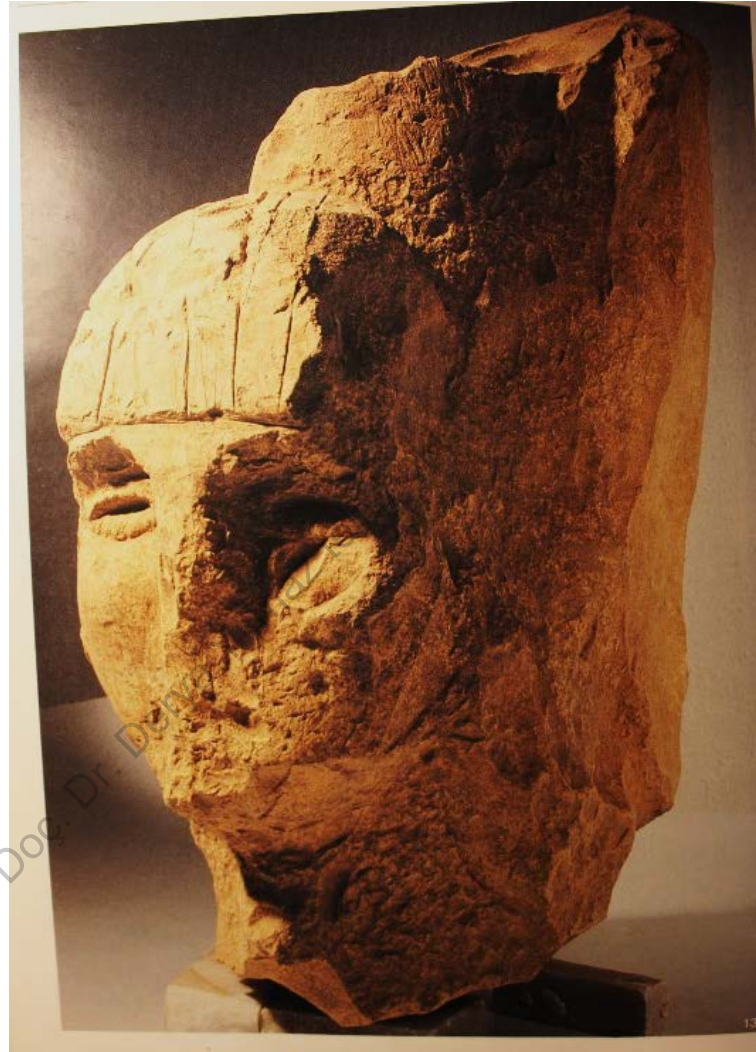
Torso, limestone. H. 37 cm

One statue has the shape of a bird with the head of a man with strongly stylized feature.



Hybrid creature. Limestone, h. 23 cm

The front of a pillar displays a large, probably female head apparently in the clutches of a bird's talons. This motif is also known in sculpture from Göbekli Tepe.



Pillar with female head and bird. Limestone. H. 29 cm

Four sculpted fragments can be restored as a composition forming the upper part of a pillar decorated rather like a totem-pole. Two symmetrical figures are represented crouching back to back. Their hair obviously gathered into a net, falls over their shoulders, their rounded bellies and articulated sexual organs designate them as women. The theme is probably that of birth.



Composite figure. Limestone, h. nearly 1 meter.



Another pillar fragment portrays two birds opposite one another. A vulture-like bird, also sculpted in the round, might have been fastened to a wall of the cult building.



Bird limestone. L. 50 cm

A frieze in relief on a limestone basin depicts two human figures of different size with masque-like faces. Raised arms and wide-spread legs suggest they are dancing.

Limestone bowl with relief



Here three stylized figures might represent part of a hunting episode.

Limestone plate with engravings.



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Miniature head of limestone. H. 5,9 cm



Miniature masque of limestone. H. 4,4 cm

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Miniature lion head, h. 4,4 cm



Male clay figurine, h. 5,8 cm

Dating

Nevali Çori level I within Çayönü sub-phase 2 (the grill plan building) it would then continued until the end of Çayönü sub-phase 5 (The cobble- paved building).

	<u>Name of Subphases</u>	<u>Date BP</u>
	Round building	10200-9400 PPNA (Pre pottery Neolithic A)
Nevali Çori I	Grill building	
	Early grill	9400-9200 PPNA
	Late grill	9200-9100 EPPNB(Early Pre pottery Neolithic B)
	Channelled Building	9100-9000 MPPNB (Middle pre Pottery Neolithic B)
	Cobble-Paved Building	9000-8600 MPPNB
	Cell Bulding	8600-8300 LPPNB (Late Pre Pottery Neolithic B)
	Large Room Building	8200- 8000 PPNC

Nevali Çori V seems to have been deserted at some time in the Late Pre Pottery Neolithic Period B/ LPPNB.

Three radiocarbon samples giving dates between 8.400-8.100 BC for levels I/II correspond well with the early dates for Çayönü, so that settlement at Nevali Çori may well have begun within the PPNA.

Selected References

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