**GÖBEKLİTEPE ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE**

**“Zero Point in Time”: The oldest temple in the World that changed the history of**

**humanity. Göbeklitepe shook the theory of the reason for shift from hunter-gatherer**

**lifestyle to a settled life**

Göbeklitepe Archeological Site, located in Şanlıurfa Province of Turkey, has been

inscribed on UNESCO’s World Heritage List during the 42. Meeting of the UNESCO World

Heritage Committee in July 2018.

With a history dating back 12.000 years, Göbeklitepe was built 4.600 years before the

oldest cities of Mesopotamia, known as the cradle of civilizations; 6.600 years before

Stonehenge of England and 7.100 years prior to the Pyramids in Egypt. Moreover, Göbeklitepe

is 6.100 years ahead of the temple in Malta, recognized to be the oldest temple of the World.

Göbeklitepe is located 20 km from Şanlıurfa city center and close to Nevali Çori

Neolithic Site, as well as Balıklıgöl, where Prophet Abraham was cast into fire by King Nimrod

and God turned flames into water and woods into fish.

The excavations revealed that Göbeklitepe, regarded as “zero point in time” was

established as a temple rather than a settlement. This outcome shook the foundation of history

of humanity which was established on the basis of the shift from hunter-gatherer lifestyle to a

settled life. In other words, the fact that Göbeklitepe Neolithic Site served as a temple that

congregated hunter-gatherers on religious occasions, refutes the globally accepted thesis that

agriculture encouraged humans to establish settlements and to engage in developing arts and

religion.

Being built during the Neolithic Period at a time when only simple hand tools were used,

it is yet to be discovered how the two “T” shaped steles that weigh from 10 to 15 tons each were

transported and erected at the center of the site. Moreover, the embossed figures of animals and

plants on the steles are regarded as the first examples of sculpture in the world.

Why Göbeklitepe was buried under tons of soil and flint stone around 1.000 years after

it was built and how it remained well preserved and undamaged are among the unknown facts

to be unveiled.

The first excavations at Göbeklitepe were conducted by a joint group of archeologists

from Istanbul University and the University of Chicago in 1963. However, the group

misinterpreted the findings and failed to discover Göbeklitepe. The German Archeologist Prof.

Klaus Schmidt, who previously worked on Nevali Çori site, started Göbeklitepe excavations in

1995, in collaboration with the Directorate of Şanlıurfa Museum.

Though 20 oval shaped structures have been spotted as a result of the surveillances

conducted in Göbeklitepe site, which is of 300 meters in width, only six of them have been

unearthed so far. Each of these structures have diameters ranging up to 30 meters and rising to

15 meters.

Besides shedding light on the history of humanity, Göbeklitepe is expected to create

added value to the promotion of Şanlıurfa, known as the “City of Prophets”, and to encourage

further archeological excavations in the region.

Further information can be reached at “www.zeropointintime.com”.