



THEM AND US

PO BOX 924 GLEBE NSW 2037 AUSTRALIA

TEL: + 61 2 95583737 info@themandus.org www.themandus.org

16 September 2009

PRESS RELEASE 1

Print quality downloads of the enclosed forensic reconstruction (plus several others) are available on our website: http://www.themandus.org/what_they_looked_like.html

Neanderthals hunted, raped and ate humans

Neanderthals were not the gentle, almost-human creatures portrayed in the media over the last 50 years. New Australian research reveals they were aggressive, powerful and terrifying carnivores—ruthless and efficient apex predators, who hunted, raped and ate early humans for over 50,000 years. The Neanderthal’s daily diet of nearly 2 kg of meat—the equivalent of 16 Quarter Pounders—included human flesh.

Based on the research, Australian independent scholar Danny Vendramini has developed “Neanderthal predation theory”, which argues that the evolution of modern humans—including our unique physiology, sexuality and human nature—is the result of a reaction to this systematic long-term sexual predation and cannibalism by Eurasian Neanderthals.

Vendramini’s forthcoming book *Them and Us: how Neanderthal predation created modern humans*, describes how the human population of the Mediterranean Levant—the population from which every human on earth is descended—was almost wiped out by Neanderthal predation, until there were only 50 human individuals left in the region. He illustrates how those 50 survivors salvaged humankind from annihilation by transforming into aggressive and predatory beings that fought back—spreading across the globe,

killing (and sometimes eating) all Neanderthals in their path, as well as ‘Neanderthal-looking’ hominids, until Neanderthals themselves became extinct.

Vendramini describes this global migration through Europe, Africa, Asia and Australia and the Americas, as “a 20,000 kilometre blitzkrieg”. It did not end until these hyper-aggressive humans—our ancestors the Cro Magnons—were the only hominids left alive. “It was the first instance of evolution by genocide”, he says.

In partnership with Madrid-based digital sculptor Arturo Balseiro, Vendramini presents blood curdling computer generated images of what Neanderthals really looked like—based on scans of Neanderthal skulls and bones.

Not only have we had the wrong impression of the nature and behaviour of Neanderthals, argues Vendramini, but we have been fed sentimental, anthropomorphic visuals of them as well. Neanderthals, he says, were primates and would have looked like primates. There is no reason to suppose they were clean-shaven with protruding noses and curly hair. These guys, he expounds, came from the frozen north—they had flat, ape-like noses, large nocturnal eyes, were covered in thick hair and six times stronger than the average human. They were not a pretty sight.

Leading authority on Neanderthals, Professor John Shea of Stony Brook University in New York, suggests, “Danny Vendramini presents a truly unique and innovative picture of the role of Neanderthal predation in human evolution.

“He pulls together countless different threads of scientific evidence to re-cast Neanderthals as ‘apex predators’, proverbial ‘wolves with knives’ who were effective rivals with our ancestors.

“His thesis,” continues Shea, “that many physical, social, and psychological characteristics now seen as uniquely human are direct results of Neanderthal predation on our ancestors will be sure to ignite controversy in scientific meetings, university classrooms, and among any group of people genuinely interested in human evolution.”

For further information contact: Tony Bennett info@themandus.org

Website: www.themandus.org

QUOTES FROM SCIENTISTS

1 “Sometimes it takes an outsider to cut through the most intractable problems in science. That is what Vendramini's approach offers the reader in his daring claims about the interactions between humans and their most famous evolutionary relatives, the Neanderthals.”

Iain Davidson, Emeritus Professor of Archaeology, University of New England, Australia. Visiting Professor of Australian Studies, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts. idavidso@une.edu.au

2 “In *Them and Us*, Danny Vendramini presents a truly unique and innovative picture of the role of Neanderthal predation in human evolution.

For more than 150 years, anthropologists have been studying Neanderthals, their fossils, their archaeological remains, and most recently their DNA. It is surprising to see how little of what has been written about Neanderthals lately is really new and exciting. Late 19th Century scientists viewed Neanderthals as an extinct hominin species, one somewhat less intelligent, social, and technologically adept than us, and who were easily driven to extinction by expanding populations of *Homo sapiens* around 30,000 years ago. This is not much different from the consensus position today.

Vendramini pulls together countless different threads of scientific evidence to re-cast Neanderthals as "apex predators", proverbial "wolves with knives" who were effective rivals with our ancestors. His thesis that many physical, social, and psychological characteristics now seen as uniquely human are direct results of Neanderthal predation on our ancestors will be sure to ignite controversy in scientific meetings, university classrooms, and among any group of people genuinely interested in human evolution.

It has been a long time since I read a book about human evolution that I enjoyed so much.”

John Shea, Associate Professor, Anthropology Department & Turkana Basin Institute, Stony Brook University, New York. John.Shea@sunysb.edu

3 “We've been called the 'third chimpanzee'. Instead, Vendramini asks: Why are we such a distinctively odd primate species -- anatomically, behaviourally, and beset by dark atavistic fears? His thesis that intensive predation by Neanderthals enforced rapid, protective, evolutionary changes offers innovative insight into the many things about 'us' that we might otherwise take for granted. A well-argued case to be answered.”

Tony McMichael, Professor of Population Health, NHMRC Australia Fellow, National Centre for Epidemiology & Population Health, The Australian National University. Canberra. Tony.McMichael@anu.edu.au

BOOK INFORMATION AND CONTACT DETAILS

Book: Them and Us: How Neanderthal predation created modern humans

Publisher: Kardoorair Press, Australia.

384pp, soft cover. Illustrated throughout with 280 B/W photos, maps and diagrams.

Includes index, 800 scientific references and glossary

ISBN:9780908244775 (pbk.)

Publication: 25 September 2009 AUD \$39.95

Website: www.themandus.org

For media enquiries or to arrange an interview contact Tony Bennett, Kardoorair Press:

tony@kardoorair.com.au Ph 0417044932

Arturo Balseiro, Dharma Estudio, Madrid. Digital sculptor of forensic reconstructions.

<http://dharmaestudio.foliosnap.com/>