

Stone Age Swindle

The European Press exposed (1986) a Stone Age Swindle that was accepted hook line and sinker by the National Geographic Magazine and NBC television. The Story begins in 1971 when Dafal a hunter reported the discovery of a Stone Age people living in the jungles of the Philippines, on the island Mindanao (See photos at left). These people according to Dafal were living back in the Stone Age, here was modern day proof of man's evolutionary ascent. They had not discovered agriculture and lived off the rainforest bounty. Dafal told his adventure to Manuel Elizalde, Presidential Assistant to the then Marcos Government.

Elizalde contacted the National Geographic Magazine and they contacted NBC. As a result of these meetings NBC ran a National Geographic television special in December 1971, *The Last Tribes of Mindanao*, this special was seen by millions of viewers. A few months later National Geographic Magazine had a feature article in August 1972 entitled, *Stone Aged Cavemen of Mindanao* (Macleish 1972). Elizalde was promised a prominent place in the ensuing press coverage and was given \$50,000 for exclusive rights by NBC.

Nothing more was heard from the Tasaday tribe until 14 years later when the Marcos Government fell. It was then discovered, by European reporters, that the Tasaday story was a gigantic fraud. This fraud involved taking a few farm families from the surrounding countryside and convincing them to remove their clothes and play the part of a Stone Age tribe. The justification for this probably was that the Marcos government wanted to declare this part of the Philippines as a sanctuary and therefore would control the logging and oil rights. Millions of dollars were at stake (Headland 1992).

The Tasaday hoax occurred more than 29 years ago. It is still believed by many people today. Has NBC run a disclaimer on television informing its millions of viewers that the special on the Tasaday people was a hoax!—Has the National Geographic Magazine run a retraction in its magazine?

How is it that the highly prestigious National Geographic was taken in by this hoax? National Geographic Magazine is totally committed to the Theory of Evolution. A Stone Age people living in the wilds of the Philippines fit in very nicely with their evolutionary preconceptions. Why was National Geographic so easily manipulated into believing a Hoax—

The answer is simple, prior prejudice.