

THE UNEXPLAINED FILES

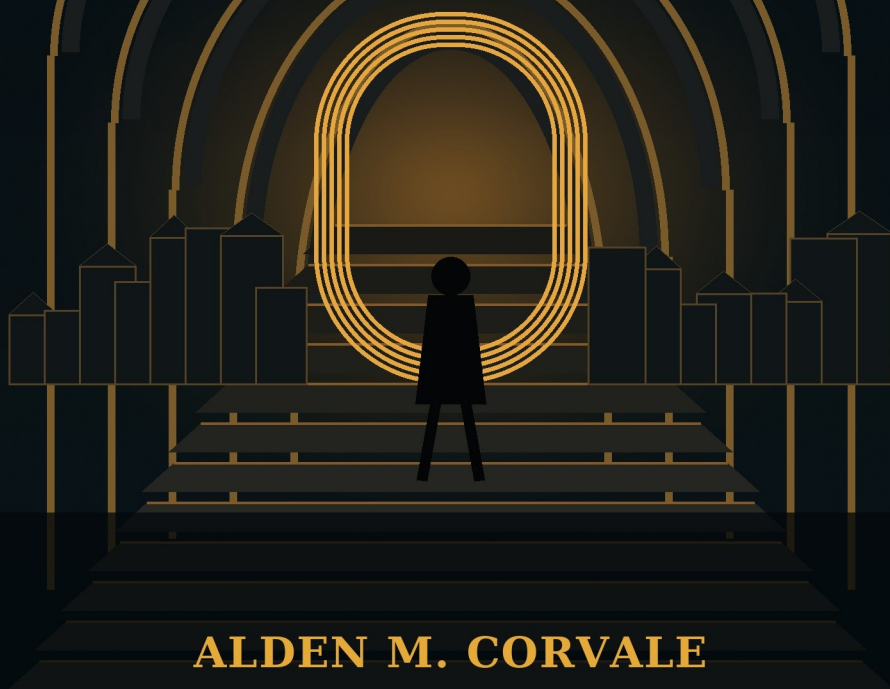
BOOK TWENTY-TWO

SECRET UNDERGROUND WORLDS

Hidden Cities, Buried Tunnels
and the Civilizations Beneath Our Feet



HIDDEN CITIES
BURIED HISTORY



ALDEN M. CORVALE

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BOOK TWENTY-TWO

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SECRET
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Hidden Cities, Buried Tunnels and the Civilizations Beneath Our Feet

ALDEN M. CORVALE

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PUBLISHING NOTE

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This is a work of general-interest nonfiction about underground cities, archaeology, geology, tunnels, ritual landscapes, military infrastructure and hidden-world legends. It distinguishes mapped and excavated sites from plausible interpretation and unsupported speculation. Archaeological and official sources were checked through August 2026 where relevant. No legendary or esoteric claim is presented as established fact merely because it is old, popular or difficult to disprove.

The book is written for a broad audience and does not replace archaeological site reports, conservation guidance or geotechnical expertise. Underground environments can be unstable, restricted or hazardous; historical interest is never a reason to enter closed tunnels, mines or archaeological cavities without authorization.

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PREFACE

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Human beings have always had two landscapes: the one beneath the sky, and the one beneath their feet. The second is harder to see, easier to mythologize, and often more astonishing. Underground we have built shelters, temples, tombs, cisterns, mines, military complexes, cities and entire networks of passages that could sustain life when the surface became dangerous.

Some subterranean worlds are famous. Others are still being excavated. A few survive mainly in stories about hidden kingdoms, forbidden tunnels and civilizations said to exist beyond the reach of ordinary people. The challenge is not to choose between wonder and skepticism. It is to use both.

This book follows the evidence downward. We begin with geology and human survival, then enter the underground cities of Cappadocia and Mesopotamia, the ritual galleries of ancient civilizations, the catacombs and defensive tunnels of later centuries, and finally the modern myths of Agartha, Shambhala and the Hollow Earth. Wherever possible, archaeology, engineering and official records are used to separate what is physically documented from what remains speculative.

The deeper we go, the clearer one truth becomes: humanity has spent far more of its history underground than most of us realize.

INTRODUCTION

THE WORLD BENEATH THE WORLD

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Underground places change the scale of history. A village on the surface may hide kilometres of rooms beneath it. A church may sit above earlier sanctuaries. A modern street may be only the newest layer in a vertical city built and rebuilt for centuries.

The word “secret” can be misleading. Some underground places were secret by design; others merely disappeared from public memory. A chamber sealed by collapse is not a conspiracy. A tunnel closed by military authorities is not automatically evidence of something extraordinary. Yet secrecy does matter. Refuge systems only work if enemies cannot easily find them, military tunnels depend on restricted access, and sacred spaces often derive power from controlled entry.

The real mystery is therefore not whether underground worlds exist. They do, in extraordinary variety. The mystery is how many remain undocumented, how their builders organized air, water, food, light and security, and how stories about real hidden spaces evolved into legends of entire civilizations living beneath the Earth.