

James Price

Noahs Arche Entdeckung mit Holzfund "The Alleged Discovery of Noah's Ark"

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Relative to the alleged discovery of Noah's Ark, described in our issue of yesterday, a correspondent sends us the following interesting extract from "Trans-Caucasia and Ararat," by James Bryce, author of "The Holy Roman Empire":—

"Mounting steadily along the same ridge, I saw at a height of over 13,000ft, lying on the loose blocks, a piece of wood about 4ft long and 5in thick, evidently cut by some tool, and so far above the limits of trees that it could by no possibility be a natural fragment of one. Darting on it with a glee that astonished the Cossack and the Kurd, I held it up to them, made them look at it, and repeated several times the word 'Noah.' The Cossack grinned, but he was such a cheery, genial fellow, that I think he would have grinned whatever I had said, and I cannot be sure that he took my meaning, and recognised the wood as a fragment of the true Ark.

"Whether it was really gopher wood, of which material the Ark was built, I will not undertake to say; but am willing to submit to the inspection of the curious the bit which I cut off with my ice axe and brought away. Anyhow, it will be hard to prove that it is not gopher wood. And if there be any remains of the Ark on Ararat at all—a point as to which the natives are perfectly clear—here, rather than the top is the place where one might expect to find them, since in the course of ages they would get carried down by the onward movement of the snowbeds along the declivities.

"This wood, therefore, suits all the requirements of the case. In fact, the argument is, for the case of a relic, exceptionally strong; the Crusaders who found the Holy lance at Antioch, the Archbishop who recognised the Holy coat at Treves, not to speak of many others, proceeded upon slighter evidence. I am, however, bound to admit that another explanation of the presence of this piece of timber on the rocks at this vast height did occur to me; but as no man is bound to discredit his own relic, and such is certainly not the practice of the Armenian Church, I will not disturb my readers' minds, or yield to the rationalising tendencies of the age by suggesting it."