



Look at this! I simply don't understand this.

*Dear Mikkel Winther Pedersen,*

*I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to you with great excitement and anticipation regarding a fascinating opportunity that has come our way. As you know, my lifelong pursuit has been the exploration of ancient civilizations and unravelling their mysteries. Today, I stand at the precipice of a discovery that could reshape our understanding of history.*

*Recently, our interdisciplinary team of archaeologists and geologists stumbled upon an extraordinary find—a hidden cave complex nestled deep within the majestic Chilean Andes mountains. This remarkable discovery has unveiled a treasure trove of enigmatic artefacts, including rock art depicting extinct Pleistocene fauna, symmetrical structures of unknown origin, and evidence of cave modifications and stone tools within the sediment layers.*

*What makes this discovery truly captivating is the realization that these findings suggest the existence of a lost civilization, one that disappeared abruptly around 3,000 years ago. As we stand on the precipice of unearthing a hitherto unknown population, we are faced with countless questions about their subsistence, genetic heritage, and the enigmatic circumstances that led to their rapid disappearance.*

*It is with utmost admiration for your expertise that I reach out to you, as I have learned of your groundbreaking work in sedimentary ancient DNA analysis. Given the potential*

*of this technique to unlock the secrets hidden within the cave's sediments, I implore you to join our team and aid us in our quest for knowledge. Your expertise in deciphering the composition of flora and fauna, unravelling genetic relationships, and exploring the presence of pathogens would be invaluable in shedding light on this ancient civilization.*

*To facilitate this collaborative effort, I have managed to secure a modest budget of 10,000 euros. While it may not be a substantial sum, I believe that with your guidance and the expertise of our team of geneticists, archaeologists, and palaeontologists, we can embark on an extraordinary journey of discovery and understanding.*

*I extend this invitation to you with great anticipation and hope that you will accept this opportunity to contribute to the annals of history. Together, we can unravel the mysteries of this lost civilization and bring their story to life once more.*

*Please let me know at your earliest convenience if you are willing to join our team and embark on this remarkable endeavour. I eagerly await your response.*

*Yours sincerely,*

*Professor emiritus Xavier Constantino De Miguel*