

The footprint

My brother, out walking on the family farm in the Cathcart district of the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa, stopped to examine an interesting pattern in a rock – and saw what looked like the perfect imprint of a human foot. Intrigued, he carried it home and contacted me to tell me about it.

Sometime later he took the rock to Rhodes University in Grahamstown where the professor who he showed it to, after showing some initial interest, shrugged it off as a mere pattern in a rock.

‘It cannot be a foot’, he told my brother, explaining that the rock type was too old and way before bipeds walked the earth. Disappointed my brother called me and told me the reaction. I realized that I should have warned my brother that he would most likely receive that reception.

What I have never understood is how archaeologist immediately dismiss things that do not fit the present theories. Surely as an archaeologist there should be some spark of excitement at something seemingly inexplicable. But like many fields of science today ‘you do not rock the boat’. To me the imprint is most certainly of a biped – but the issue at hand is that the rock it is imprinted in is 120 million years old. As a geologist told me after seeing the foot: ‘In a court of law it is a footprint’.

In the image the full left foot and the back heel of the right foot can be clearly seen. Also clearly visible is how the mud pushed out around the foot when the imprint was made. The mud was obviously already drying and did not sink back into the impression. The ridge formed by the mud pushing out with the impact of the steps is clearly visible.



For me it has always been exciting to know that there is still so much to be discovered about life, humanity and our true origins. There is still something not quite right about mainstream ideals. The rock is in safekeeping, and I believe that the truth is out there still.