

InPresence 0037: Dinosaur Tracks

with Jeffrey Mishlove

Video Transcript - *New Thinking Allowed* with Jeffrey Mishlove

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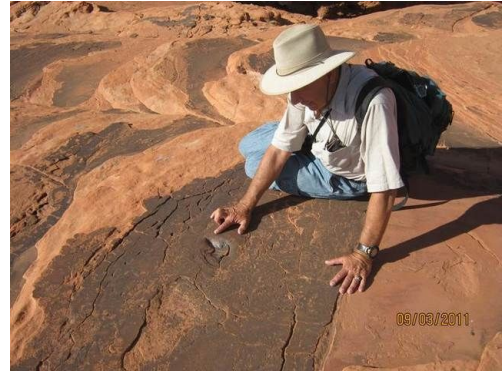
(00:39) Hello, I'm Jeffrey Mishlove and today I'd like to tell you the story of how I happened, by circumstance, to become one of the discoverers of the very first dinosaur footprints ever found in the state of Nevada. This happened in the year 2010. Imagine, up until that time no dinosaur prints had been discovered even though in neighboring states, particularly Utah, abundant prints had been discovered. Now, I used to live in Las Vegas right at the western edge and only a ten minute drive from the Red Rock National Conservation Area, a really beautiful place with world class hiking and I made a point in those days of trying to get out into the wilderness as often as I could, sometimes several times a day, even.

(01:37) I had over the years acquired some hiking buddies and we've been hiking together for many years. Lynne Nicholson was a professional musician and my friend Gary Smith was a retired FBI agent. One day we were hiking way up in a very remote and relatively inaccessible area of what are known as the Calico Hills inside the Red Rock Conservation Area and took us over an hour to hike through very steep rocky terrain to get to this particular spot. We were up on a promontory with a great view and Gary Smith looked down at our feet and he said, "You know, look at these marks. Don't they seem to resemble dinosaur prints?" Sure enough, it kind of seemed like it might be the case.

(02:33) You could almost imagine that this was once, not sandstone, but actual wet sand perhaps. Some dinosaur was climbing in this area and it was very precarious and there was a risk that the dinosaur might fall off and he was grasping on. I looked and I said, "Yeah, could be, but who knows with all of these rocks and all of the erosion and the rocks coming on top of each other and crashing and layers and you can't be sure about anything."

(03:09) I left it at that. But, my friend Gary Smith pursued the matter. He contacted the Bureau of Land Management to see if they could investigate it for him and you know what, they ignored him. So, he contacted the group called the Friends of Red Rock Canyon. They had a geologist on the staff there, a fellow named Nick Saines. Gary interested Nick Saines in coming up and viewing it and Nick seemed kind of impressed so he got some paleontologists involved. On one occasion - I wasn't there that day - Gary and Lynn and Nick Saines and the paleontologists all hiked back to this very same spot. And what do you know, the paleontologists confirmed that these were indeed real dinosaur prints - the first ever discovered in the state of Nevada.

(04:10) I'm showing you some of those prints now. Furthermore, they discovered more dinosaur prints in that area and other unusual prints of some primeval arachnids. These prints date back, I believe, about 65 million years or so. Now it's been confirmed. If you were to look on Google under Smith-Nicholson-Mishlove you'd see newspaper articles and even scientific papers describing the discovery.



(04:46) I'm very proud that I had the tiniest role in all of this. But frankly, if it wasn't for Gary Smith's persistence - and I imagine that has something to do with his training as an FBI agent - it never would have happened at all. It would still be there undiscovered. Although now, actually, a number of other locations have turned up and some beautiful dinosaur prints have shown up in the Red Rock Canyon area.

(05:18) But here's what I'd like to leave you with. I mean, why is this story of any interest to you at all? It's because I'd like you to think of what are the dinosaur prints that might be in your life? What are the things that are sort of there in the back of your mind? Maybe it's really obvious but you're pushing it away. You're not sure. Maybe it's not important to you right now. But, it could signify a serious discovery, a significant discovery if you were to bring it up into the spotlight of your consciousness, and maybe even act on it. Is there a dinosaur print in your life waiting for you to discover it? I'll leave you with that thought. Thank you for being with me. (06:11)

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