CAN SCIENTISTS REBUILD A LOST SCENE FROM THE PARTHENON?



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

The Parthenon in Athens was built about 2,500 years ago, but much of its decoration has been lost. Researchers now believe they have recreated the huge scene that once stood above the temple's eastern entrance. It showed the birth of Athena, the Greek goddess of wisdom, from the head of Zeus. The scene included 39 figures, including gods and goddesses, but only about one fifth of the original remains. German researchers studied surviving fragments, old drawings, ancient writings and Roman sarcophagi, which copied parts of Greek designs. They also used digital scans and 3D printing to test how the pieces might have fitted together. The result is not a perfect answer, because some details are still uncertain. It is a carefully argued reconstruction showing how historians use different clues to understand a past that nobody alive today has ever seen.

WHY IS THIS INTERESTING?

The Parthenon is often treated as a symbol of ancient Greece, but its history is also a story of damage, loss and reconstruction. The project shows that historians do not simply find the past waiting intact. They build explanations from fragments, copies, written evidence and careful guesses.

THINK LIKE A HISTORIAN

"How can historians rebuild something when most of it is missing?"

Source: Smithsonian Magazine

https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/have-archaeologists-finally-pieced-together-the-parthenon-puzzle-one-of-ancient-greece-greatest-mysteries-180989