

# Re: When Burial Begins

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*Source:* <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.anthropology.paleo/2006-10/msg00316.html>

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- *From:* "Lee Olsen" <[paleocity@xxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:paleocity@xxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* 29 Oct 2006 06:34:26 -0800
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Chapstick wrote:

"Lee Olsen" <[paleocity@xxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:paleocity@xxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote in message  
[news:1161743633.017157.170940@xx](mailto:news:1161743633.017157.170940@xx)

<http://www.britarch.ac.uk/BA/ba66/feat1.shtml>

i read every bit of this ... thanks for posting! also went off on a great diversion thru the Mt Carmel caves and all that archeology (google search). great stuff!  
--chap

Like magic, and right on cue to collaborate discussions here on sap, Dar (this morning, 10 29 2006) posted another important clue, on the Palanth forum, as to the origins and use of ochre burials.

[http://www.oeaw.ac.at/shared/news/2006/press\\_inf\\_20060728.html](http://www.oeaw.ac.at/shared/news/2006/press_inf_20060728.html)

"Another sensation at Krems: a new burial of the ice-age Wien OM [July 28, 2006] – Just one year after the discovery of the 27.000 year old double burial of newborns at Krems (Lower Austria), which conducted international headlines, archaeologists of the Prehistoric Commission of the Austrian Academy of Sciences recovered a further burial of a child. In a distance of about one meter from the 2005 burial, these days a second small grave pit was detected. Contrary to the double burial this grave was not protected by a shoulder blade of a mammoth. However, the skeletal remains of the infant were well preserved. The burial was also entirely embedded in red ochre, which points to the use of an organic material, e.g. a leather cloak, in which the body was deposited."

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Several things germane to discussions here. Because human graveyards are found in close proximity to home bases, more than one skeleton can be expected to be found in the same area as has happened at Krems. This is not so with Pliocene or early Pleistocene, with the First Family being a rare exception and was more parsimonious with a flooding event.

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This is strong evidence against any idea that early hominids utilized home bases or buried their dead.

Secondly, the inference to a "leather cloak" is consistent to the idea that ochre was not sprinkled over the body at time of burial, either by rubbing directly on bones with crayons (secondary burial) or spreading the powder over the body when intact in the grave (primary burial). The red ochre was most likely on the leather to begin with and not part of some elaborate ceremonial ritual because there are many other uses for ochre.

<http://www.britarch.ac.uk/ba/ba45/ba45feat.html>

"The use of red ochre – one assumes to colour either the boy's clothing or a burial shroud – also links Lagar Velho 1 with other Gravettian ceremonial burials across Europe."

and

<http://tinyurl.com/y9leor>