

# Episode Eighty-Nine - Unusual Geological Phenomena - Springs That Change From Hot to Cold And Back Again

Post by "Don" of September 19, 2021 at 11:12 PM

We discussed the spring/fountain of Jupiter Ammon with its hot and cold waters in this episode. We were all a little skeptical, but it turns out it was - and continues to be - an actual location.

It turns out that [Herodotus mentions this location in his Histories \(4.181.3-4\)](#):

Quote from Herodotus, The Histories

(2) The first on the journey from Thebes , ten days distant from there, are the Ammonians, who follow the worship of the Zeus of Thebes ; for, as I have said before, the image of Zeus at Thebes has the head of a ram. (3)They have another spring of water besides, which is warm at dawn, and colder at market-time, and very cold at noon; (4) and it is then that they water their gardens; as the day declines, the coldness abates, until at sunset the water grows warm. It becomes ever hotter and hotter until midnight, and then it boils and bubbles; after midnight it becomes ever cooler until dawn. This spring is called the Spring of the Sun.

Pliny the Elder also mentions this location in [The Natural History \(2.106\)](#):

Quote from Pliny the Elder, The Natural History

The pool of Jupiter Ammon, which is cold during the day, is warm during the night

The pool/fountain/spring is located in the Siwa Oasis: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siwa\\_Oasis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siwa_Oasis) which, in ancient times, was a temple to Ammon/Amun. Herodotus said it was a 10 day journey from Thebes (on the Nile) to Siwa in ancient times. Evidently, the "boiling" at midnight is [an exaggeration](#). Although maybe the geothermal activity was more pronounced in ancient times?

The settlement was established in the 700s BCE

Herodotus c. 484 - c. 425 BCE

Lucretius c. 99 - c. 55 BCE

Pliny the Elder 23/24 - 79 CE

That's a span from the mid-400s BCE to 79 CE

And we're still talking about and visiting the Oasis in 2021!

I find it fascinating that this location has maintained its fame for over 2,700 years and \*continues\* to be a tourist attraction.. even without an Oracle to consult.