



A WORD FROM THE PUBLISHER

ith the recent National Geographic robotic camera operations in the bowels of the Great Pyramid of Giza, long-standing ar-

guments over the true pur-

pose of the monument have been reignited. Among the many available theories, those which—in our humble opinion—the evidence demands be taken seriously include: 1) It was part of ancient spiritual practice uniting the human soul in very profound ways with the universe (e.g., the notions of Hancock, Bauval, West, etc.). Or 2) It was a technological device of some kind—a theory advocated by Christopher Dunn and others. But still completely lacking in supporting evidence are the "pharaoh's tomb" theories represented—loudly and falsely—as proven fact by such dubious authorities as Zahi Hawass.

Unfortunately, it is now apparent that opposing camps are forming around the seemingly divergent technological and spiritual interpretations. The arguments appear to break down along classical science-vs.-religion lines (the implication being that the ancients were either priests or scientists, not both). In this context, we at *Atlantis Rising* feel it is worth remembering that the distinction between science and religion, so fundamental to our 21st-century point of view, is an entirely modern one born out of the alienation of Western civilization. Only a society which sees a great gulf between what is within and what is without could draw such a bright line between the two. Even quantum physics has demonstrated the lack of separation between observer and that which is observed, yet we stubbornly cling to our cherished, albeit artificial, distinctions.

The ancients did not divide the world in such a way. For them, science and religion were one. It was ultimate truth, not category, that mattered. If their enlightened understanding of the soul was, in fact, actual *knowledge*, not just *faith*—of the kind for which the modern world has learned to settle—who can say what kind of science and technology may have developed? Could the study of things like electricity, magnetism, gravity, energy, etc., have grown out of experience with the soul in search of immortality? For us, the *natural* world, as currently conceptualized, is subject to scientific study. But If we can't conceptualize it we call it *super*natural and consider it—if not hallucination—simply beyond human understanding. Perhaps the ancients were not so constrained. And if, in our encounters with their legacy, our arrogant attempts to pigeonhole their handiwork fall short, the fault, it seems, is more likely ours than theirs.

Notwithstanding all that, we have decided to take a good look, in this issue, at some of the new evidence for what the Great Pyramid was all about. Be warned, though, if you're looking for hidden mummies, you might want to look elsewhere.

Publisher