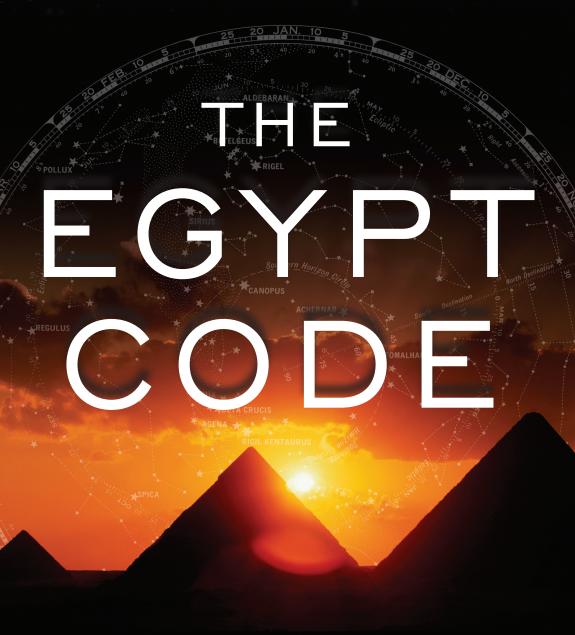
From the bestselling author of The Message of the Sphinx and The Orion Mystery



ROBERT BAUVAL

The Egypt Code

For Michele . . .

Also by Robert Bauval

Secret Chamber The Orion Mystery (with Adrian Gilbert) The Message of the Sphinx (with Graham Hancock) The Mars Mystery (with Graham Hancock and John Grigsby) Talisman (with Graham Hancock)

THE EGYPT CODE

ROBERT BAUVAL



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Academic Praise for The Orion Correlation Theory

'The theory known as "The Orion correlation theory" was first proposed by Robert Bauval in his bestseller *The Orion Mystery*. According to this theory the disposition of the three Giza pyramids was inspired by the disposition in the sky of the three stars of Orion's belt, a constellation connected to Osiris (and therefore to the after-world) which was extremely important to the Egyptians as attested in the Pyramid Texts. And although the validity of this theory is still disputed, it is at present the most convincing hypothesis aimed to explain the enigmatic and clearly not due to the simple chance disposition of the Giza pyramids.'

> Dr Giulio Magli, Professor of Applied Mathematics at Milano Politecnico

'I am very much in agreement with your (Bauval's) contention that the stars in Orion's belt were an important element in the orientation of the Great Pyramid. I think you (Bauval) have made out a very convincing case that the two other pyramids were also influenced by it.'

> Sir I.E.S. Edwards, CMG, CBE, FBA, Curator of the Egyptian Antiquities Department (1947–74), British Museum

'Mr Bauval has performed an important service in giving it (the Orion Correlation Theory) an airing. I've no doubt it will be criticised. It's bound to be. Such things are when they start.'

Sir I.E.S. Edwards, CMG, CBE, FBA, Curator of the Egyptian Antiquities Department (1947–74), British Museum 'I have known Mr Bauval for many years and I have taken an interest in his astronomical studies insofar as they are related to the Giza pyramids. In my opinion he has made a number of interesting discoveries and I believe more are likely to come.'

> Sir I.E.S. Edwards, CMG, CBE, FBA, Curator of the Egyptian Antiquities Department (1947–74), British Museum

'I was deeply interested in your recent presentations on astronomy in relation to the Pyramid Texts. You have shown the important role the three stars of Orion's belt have had to the ancient Egyptians, especially attested in the south shafts in the King's Chamber (of the Great Pyramid) as well as the important deliberate alignment of the three pyramids of Giza.'

Jean Kerisel, Professeur Honoraire à l'Ecole Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées, President des Ingénieurs et Scientifiques de France

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Acknowledgements

During the last twenty-five years my quest has been to bring to life again the old sky-religion of Egypt and to show how it inspired the Egyptians to turn their land into an 'image of heaven'. I published the initial result of my findings in 1994 in The Orion Mystery which received the backing of the BBC2 Everyman documentary The Great Pyramid: Gateway to the Stars. In the course of the next few years three other books on the sky-religion of Egypt were to follow. The Egypt Code is the culmination of my quarter-century of research and I, therefore, decided to write it on location. And so, in February 2005, I moved into a rented apartment in the leafy suburb of Hadayek El Ahram, less than a kilometre from the Giza Pyramids. Armed with a good desktop computer with DSL Internet connection, and also a wide selection of Egyptological books and articles, I spent the next eight months putting into book form the research material that I had compiled over the many years while in the UK. Writing this genre of non-fiction is not an easy task, but thankfully I was constantly inspired by the sight of the Great Pyramid from my office window. I am not sure how one can thank an inert mass of stone that stares implacably at you all day and all night. But somehow I feel a strange sense of gratitude towards it.

I would like to also thank the many colleagues and friends who help me throughout my quest. My foremost thanks go to my wife, Michele, for her enduring patience, her tolerance and her unflinching support. It is not easy to live with a man whose mind is partly straddled in ancient Egypt. I also thank my two wonderful children, Candice and Jonathan, and to the former for making me in the course of researching this book a proud grandfather. I am grateful, too, to my brother, Jean-Paul, my twin sister, Thérèse, and my mother Yvonne for always being there when I needed them. I also thank the astronomers Mary Bruck (Edinburgh), Archie Roy (Glasgow), John Brown (Astronomer Royal for Scotland), Chandra Wickramasinghe (Cardiff), Percy Sevmour (Plymouth) and Gulio Magli (Milan) for their collegial interest and their constructive criticism. The authors Graham Hancock (Bath), Colin Wilson (Devon), Ahmed Osman (London), John Gordon (Surrey), Michael Baigent (Bath), Robert Lomas (Bradford), Yuri Stoyanov (Jerusalem), Timothy Freke (Glastonbury) and John West (New York) for their friendship and helpful advice. My friends Khaled Abdel Bary (Giza), Hoda Hakim (Cairo), Roger Bilboul (London), Chafik and Racha Kotry (Alexandria), Mohamad and Nayra Ezzat (Alexandria), John and Josette Orphanidis (Athens), Gouda Fayed (Giza, Nazlet El Salman), Javier and Eva Sierra (Malaga), Adriano Forgione (Rome), Arianna Mendo (Torino), Sandro Mainardi (Florence), Roel Oostra (Hilversum), Andrea and Patrizia Vitussi (Trieste), Deborah Signoretti (Rome), Marilena Lancetti (Bologna), Linda and Max Bauval (Hawaii), Robert Berube (Quebec), Mark Scurry (Melbourne), and Sherif El Sebai (Helipolis), Mahmoud Marai (Maadi), Olfat Eltohamy (Heliopolis) for their much appreciated Egyptian warmth and their good humour. I want to express my deep debt of gratitude to my literary agents Bill Hamilton and Sara Fisher of A.M. Heath & Co. Ltd. who have always been there to encourage and advise me, and to listen to my enthusiastic rambles. The same gratitude also goes to my editor and friend in the USA, Gary Baddeley, for his patience, support and invaluable help. Finally I give thanks to all my readers, old and new, and hope that *The Egypt Code* will be as rewarding for them to read as it was for me to write.

> Robert G. Bauval Cairo, The Pyramids, April 2008

Publisher's Note

It is my privilege to be allowed to write a few words at the beginning of a truly remarkable book by an equally remarkable man. While it is Robert Bauval to whom I owe thanks for allowing me these words, I must thank Graham Hancock for the route by which they arrived here.

As many of you will know, Robert and Graham have written three books together: The Message of the Sphinx: A Quest for the Hidden Legacy of Mankind, The Mars Mystery: A Tale Of The End Of Two Worlds and Talisman: Sacred Cities, Secret Faith. They are a double act bar none, each a perfect foil for the other, in person as well as in their books. In 2005 Graham Hancock was true to his brave and pioneering spirit when he chose a new publisher in the United States for his groundbreaking new work, Supernatural: Meetings With The Ancient Teachers Of Mankind. I can only assume that we must have fulfilled at least some of his expectations when he (and I must include here also Bill Hamilton, who superbly shepherds Graham and Robert through the vicissitudes of publishing) recommended us to Robert Bauval.

I first read *The Egypt Code* in early 2007 and was immediately intrigued by this tightly written account of Robert's successful fifteenyear odyssey seeking to expand his famous Orion Correlation Theory into a comprehensive Star Correlation Theory. While I was able to strike up a good telephone and email conversation with Robert, in truth I really wanted to meet him in person before taking on the responsibility of becoming his American publisher. I was presented with an opportunity to do so in October of that year at the fourth annual Conference on Precession and Ancient Knowledge, held at the University of San Diego in California. There I learned that Bauval is both a compelling public speaker and a truly engaging personality, of the kind that effortlessly dominates a crowded room or dining table.

It was here, too, that Robert first told me of his plans to organize an imperiously titled "Grand Gathering of Souls" at the foot of the Sphinx in Giza on the spring equinox of 2008. Lured by his vivid descriptions of hours of private time inside the Great Pyramid and an extraordinary chance to witness for myself the alignments of the various pyramids and temples of ancient Egypt that form the Grand Unified Plan laid out in this book, I proceeded to pursue Robert for the next few months, willing him to make the Gathering a reality.

Just as the winners of Oscars at the Academy Awards struggle to recite complete lists of all the people whom they must thank for making their dreams come true, there were innumerable people who worked extraordinarily hard to make Robert's dream of the Grand Gathering a reality, but it is impossible to name them all here! Nonetheless, special mention must go to Robert's true partner in enabling the Gathering: Khaled Abdel Bary. A businessman with successful ventures around the world, Bary (as he encouraged us to call him) not only took on the financial risk of the undertaking, but also facilitated our very privileged access to buildings that are ordinarily off limits to even the most connected of visitors and locals alike. (If you ever visit Cairo you must visit his splendid restaurant, simply named Barry's, with an unequaled view overlooking the Giza pyramids.)

The tour would not only encompass the Memphite Necropolis but also feature a Nile cruise through Upper Egypt, from Aswan to Luxor. Bearing in mind that I would likely never again have an opportunity to see Egypt in such erudite company, I took my wife and two children to join Robert, his wife Michele and daughter Candice (who helped organize the tour), Graham Hancock and his wife Santha Faiia, and twenty or so others on this aptly named Grand Gathering of Souls. Rather than gush over each and every detail of a packed itinerary, I humbly suggest to you that if you enjoy this book, you owe it to yourself to try to get to Egypt for the next of what is planned to be a series of similar tours on the equinox and solstice dates – and live the book with Robert and others who undoubtedly will have their own extraordinary insights and contributions. (Naturally, it is a self-selecting group of individuals who will invest the time, effort and money to be there.) The website to visit for more information is at www.robertbauval.co.uk.

I very much hope you will enjoy *The Egypt Code* as much as I did ... and eventually find your way to Egypt to see for yourself the evidence that Robert lays out within these pages.

Gary Baddeley, publisher

Introduction

What are the pyramids for?!!

Emma Freud BBC2 Everyman documentary *The Great Pyramid: Gateway to the stars* December 1993

This king is Osiris, this pyramid of this king is Osiris, this construction of his is Osiris ...

Pyramid Texts 1657

Behold, he has come as Orion, Osiris has come as Orion ...

Pyramid Texts 820

Cosmic Ambience

What are Egypt's Old Kingdom pyramids for? What possible purpose could they have had? Why do they have low tunnels, long narrow shafts leading nowhere, and corridors, galleries and chambers that are stark and empty? Why were they astronomically aligned to the stars? Why are they scattered in clusters along a 40 kilometre strip of desert? And, more intriguingly, why are some devoid of texts while others have their walls fully covered with texts that speak of the cycles of the sun and the stars? Until very recently the standard theory dished out by Egyptologists was that the pyramids were tombs, large sepulchres principally meant to house the body of dead kings. As for their elaborate internal systems of tunnels, shafts, corridors and chambers, these were intended to mainly to confuse and outsmart tomb-robbers, while their astronomical alignments were either meaningless or just a fluke. Amazingly, such views went mostly unchallenged for nearly two centuries, this in spite of the maddening detail that no bodies of kings (not a skeleton or skull or even a bone splinter) was ever found inside a pyramid or, for that matter, outside it. And more maddening still, no one had an explanation why, if they were 'tombs', these pyramids were not placed into a single well-defined cemetery but instead were scattered in small clusters in a vast desert plain west of the River Nile like strange volcanic islands in a sea of sand. Yet, oddly enough, the clues that suggested a much higher purpose than just 'tombs' were plentiful and always there for all to see and evaluate. And these clues screamed of a connection with the stars. For example:

- 1. The base of each pyramid was aligned to the astronomical directions using star alignments.
- 2. The largest of the pyramids contained 'air-shafts' oriented towards important star systems such as Orion, Sirius and the circumpolar constellations (viz. the pyramid of Khufu at Giza).
- 3. Pyramids were given 'star' names or names implicit of stars ('The Pyramid of Djedefre is a sehedu star'; 'Nebka is a star'; 'Horus is the Star at the Head of the Sky' and so forth).
- 4. Pyramids had ceilings of chambers decorated with five-pointed stars (viz. the Step Pyramid and 5th and 6th dynasty pyramids at Saqqara).
- 5. Pyramids contained writings carved on the inside walls that spoke of a star-religion and the destiny of king in a starry world called *Duat* which contained Orion and other constellations (viz. the 5th and 6th dynasty pyramids at Saqqara).

It is therefore somewhat odd, not to say perverse, that with so many 'stellar' connections there has not been a single Egyptologist who was compelled enough to consider a stellar 'function' for the pyramids. And because this important matter was left unbridled for so long, it was not surprising that untrained researchers, dilatants, cranks and charlatans dished out theories that ranged from the derisory to the completely insane. Pyramids were built by the lost civilisation of Atlantis; they were built by a lost technology using levitation; they were power plants; they were electromagnetic receivers for interstellar communications; they were built by aliens; they were built by the Jews while in captivity in Egypt; the Great Pyramid was designed to contain detailed information of world history and future in every inch of its plan; it was a Bible in stone. So when I burst on the scene in 1994 with my first book, The Orion Mystery, showing that the pattern of the three Giza pyramids and their relative position to the Nile mirrored the pattern of the three stars of Orion's belt and their relative position to the Milky Way, the subject was so much soiled and degraded that any new theory that mentioned the 'stars' or 'astronomy' was immediately met with a barrage of academic indifference (at best) or vociferous opposition. The reaction was even more violent because my theory had received the - albeit cautious backing by one of the world's most eminent and most respected Egyptologist, Sir I.E.S. Edwards, who had gallantly and boldly stuck his neck out on my behalf by appearing on a BBC documentary in support of some of my ideas. This brought him the wrath of his peers but it nonetheless twisted their arms and forced some to grudgingly review my theory. But in the years that followed, and especially after Sir Edwards's death in 1996, I was derided and pilloried by a cabal of Egyptologists and other 'experts' seemingly determined to 'debunk' the Orion Correlation Theory, as my hypothesis was now being called (see appendix 3). All this academic onslaught was most daunting and distressing, but I held firm my ground for I knew that I had not only generated massive interest and support in the general public and the international media, but that the theory I had proposed neatly dovetailed into the context of Egypt's Pyramid Age and provided the 'missing link' to an otherwise baffling mystery. Even the most entrenched sceptic could not easily dismiss the Orion-Giza Correlation as 'coincidence'.

Fifteen long years have now passed since the publication of *The Orion Mystery*. In the meanwhile the book has been published in more than twenty languages and there has been a dozens of television documentaries fully or partially-based on the Orion Correlation

Theory (viz. Britain's BBC 2 and Channel 4; America's ABC, NBC and FOX TV, Europe and America's Discovery Channel and History Channel; Italy's RAI 3; Germany's ZDF and ARD; France's ARTE and TF3; South Africa's SABC and M-net TV; Holland's AVRO TV; Australia's Channel 7; Egypt's NILE-TV and many other channels in the Far East and Middle East). Forthcoming are two more documentaries, one with National Geographic Television titled Unsolved Mysteries of the Pyramids1 (where my theory will be critically reviewed), and another made for Italy's RAI 2 and Holland's AVRO fully based on The Egypt Code.² Slowly but surely the Orion Correlation Theory has crept, like a thief in the night, into mainstream Egyptology and the new discipline of Archaeoastronomy. And even though it is given much lip and criticism, it is very obvious that it has touched the proverbial nerve of academia. To be fair, not all academics were prone to dismiss The Orion Mystery. Some very eminent Egyptologists such as Dr. Jaromir Malek of the Griffith Institute and the American Egyptologist Dr. Ed Meltzer, kept an open mind in the same fashion as the late Sir Edwards had done. More refreshingly, the theory received cautious support from the astronomical community, particularly from Professor Archie Roy of Glasgow University, Professor Mary Brück of Edinburgh University, Professor Giulo Magli of Milan Politecnico, Professor Percy Seymour of Plymouth University and Professor Chandra Wikramasingh of Cardiff University. And even though these high ranking astronomers maintained a healthy scepticism, they nonetheless found the theory intriguing and deserving of careful consideration and further research. Also in the course of the years a crack began to appear in the Egyptological academic armour when Dr. Joromir Malek (who had reviewed my theory in 1994 in the Oxford journal Discussions in $Egyptology^{3}$) declared himself favourable to the possibility that the apparent illogical scattering of pyramids in the Memphite necropolis (a 40 kilometre long desert strip west of the Nile near Cairo) may, after all, have had more to do with 'religious, astronomical or similar' considerations than with purely practical considerations such as the topography and geology of the land. Similar views began to be heard in Egyptology, especially by the American Egyptologist Mark

Lehner, the Czech Egyptologist Miroslav Verner and the British Egyptologist David Jeffreys (see chapter 3). It was, however, the archaeoastronomer Anthony Aveni, a professor of astronomy and anthropology at Colgate University, who, in my view, would come the closest in providing an overall picture of what may have been in the minds of the ancient architects who designed and planned such mysterious structures monuments (not only in Egypt but in other parts of the ancient world) when he wrote that,

In order to understand what ancient people thought about the world around them, we must begin by witnessing phenomena through their eyes. A knowledge of each particular culture is necessary, but learning what the sky contains and how each entity moves is also indispensable ... strange but true: whole cities, kingdom and empires were founded based on observations and interpretations of natural events that pass undetected under our noses and above our heads.⁴

Dr. Aveni was referring to the Mayan and Inca civilisations when he made the above statement. But may as well have been talking about Egypt's Old Kingdom, for I am now even more convinced that such a statement holds true for the sacred cities, pyramids and temples built by the ancient Egyptians all along the 1,000 kilometre long Nile Valley during their three-thousand years of civilisation. And this, in a nutshell, is what I set out to prove *The Egypt Code*.

By the year 2000 I was ready to put the finding of my investigation into a book form. To this end I presented a synopsis to my editor at Random House in London, who promptly commissioned the project. By early 2004 I had a first draft ready. The final draft, however, was completed in Egypt. In February 2005 I rented a fully furnished apartment with a direct view of the Giza pyramids. Being here gave me the unique opportunity to refine the book with a hands-on approach to the pyramids in Lower Egypt and the great temples of Upper Egypt and to verify and test the various ideas of my thesis. Imbued with the enchantment and magic of these ancient sites I have, I believe, succeeded in more ways than one to bring the sky-ground correlation theory I started two decades ago to its natural conclusion. In *The*

Egypt Code I have made use of primary sources whenever available, and relied only on scholarly research published in peer-reviewed journals or in textbooks by renowned Egyptologists and other scholars. My readers should expect no less from me. Culling my data from all these sources I have come to this conclusion: the ancient Egyptian theocracy was regulated by a Cosmic Order called Maat which was none other than the order of the sky viz. the observable, precise and predictable cycles of the sun, the moon and the stars. I have also concluded that this Cosmic Order was fervently believed to influence the material world below, especially the all-important annual flooding of the Nile, for nothing more fascinated, awed and frightened the ancient Egyptians than the Nile's flood which began in late June and ended in late September. This was the annual miracle that rejuvenated the crops and all other life in Egypt. But too low a rise in the waters in June would bring famine and pestilence. This doubleedged sword that hung perpetually over Egypt compelled the Nile dwellers to seek magical means that would ensure a good flood. Early in their development they came to observe that the stars of Orion and Sirius would disappear underneath the western horizon after sunset in late March and remain for a protracted period (about three months) in the 'underworld' before re-emerging in the eastern horizon at dawn in late June just when the waters of the Nile began to rise. During this crucial period of the stars' sojourn in the 'underworld' the astronomer-priests also noted that the sun travelled from a point on the ecliptic just below the bright cluster of the Pleiades (marking the vernal point) to a spot further along the ecliptic just below the chest of the celestial lion, Leo (marking the summer solstice), that bracketed the constellation of Orion and Sirius. The idea began to enter their minds that when the sun-god journeyed through that special part of the sky – the *Duat* as it was called – he performed a magical ritual – a sort of 'station of the cross' - that would bring about the 'rebirth' of the stars as well as the 'rebirth' of the Nile when, in late June, the star Sirius would re-appear at dawn in the eastern horizon. This even also happened to fall on the day of the summer solstice, when the sun would reach its maximal northerly declination, and was for good reason taken as New Year's Day and called, among other things, the

'Birth of Ra', the sun-god. A mythology and sky-religion developed around this cosmic and Nilotic theme and, more intriguingly, an ambitious plan was gradually hatched around 2800 BC to 'bring down', in the literal sense, the Cosmic Order so that the pharaoh, the son of Ra on earth, could undertake the same magical journey in an earthly Duat and thus secure for Egypt a 'good' flood. To coin the Hermetic dictum: as above so below. To this end a massive pangenerational project was put into action that would involve building clusters of 'star'-pyramids at predetermined sites to represent Orion and the Pleiades, as well as the building of great 'sun'-temples set on both sides of the Nile to define the part of the ecliptic along which the sun-god travelled through the Duat from vernal equinox to summer solstice set on both sides of the Milky Way. But my new theory does not stop here, for I also demonstrated in The Egypt Code that the slow cyclical changes witnessed in the sky landscape caused by precession and the peculiarity of the Egyptian civil calendar over the 3,000 years of the pharaonic civilisation are reflected in the changes witnessed on the ground all along the 1,000 kilometre long Nile Valley in the evolution of temples throughout the same 3,000 years. In other words The Egypt Code proposes, no less, to prove that there existed a sort of 'cosmic Egypt' ghosted in the geography of the Nile Valley stretching from north to south that was once literally regulated and administered by astronomer-priests headed by a sun-king that lasted for over three millennia and can still be discerned in the layout of pyramids and temples that remain today.

The Egypt Code, contrary to what Egyptologists will surely be quick to claim, is not a new-age book that regurgitates wild speculations and theories that cannot be verified or tested. My thesis is entirely verifiable, testable and ultimately falsifiable if need be. Indeed, I happily welcome Egyptologists and other scholars in the field of Egyptian archaeology and history to step up and do so. Let them not be fooled or be put off by the easy-to-read style of presentation and concise arguments. This is for the benefit of the general public who, when all is said and done, are the true judge and jury of all new ideas.

In closing I would like to add that while I was writing the last version of The Egypt Code in Cairo I would often take short breaks from my long hours at my computer and go up on the roof of our building to look at the pyramids. From that vantage point I could have an unobstructed view of the Giza pyramids hardly a kilometre away. It sometimes felt as if I could reach out and touch them. But my gaze would always wander beyond Giza to a place on the south horizon where I could see the outline of the first pyramid built in Egypt, the Step Pyramid at Saggara, with its distinctive staggered profile gleaming through the thin veil of haze. The quest for The Egypt Code began there while casually standing one day next to the seated effigy of the pyramid-king who built this strange monument and who, very mysteriously, was made to stare eternally at the circumpolar stars. So I now would invite you to join me at that same spot to re-trace my quest for the 'Holy Grail' of the pyramid and temple builders of ancient Egypt.

Please come and meet the pharaoh who began all this ...

Postscript

In the last few years dramatic new discoveries have given much credence to the theory that the pharaonic civilisation is the product of a much older culture that brought into the Nile Valley its vast knowledge of astronomy and megalithic building. The finding of the Nabta Playa in southern Egypt and, more recently, the discovery of hieroglyphic inscriptions near the Oasis of Dakhla and at Gebel Uwaynat have provided not only proof of this 'pre-pharaonic' culture but also that the pharaohs themselves were aware of such a very ancient origin. The most dramatic result of these new findings and discoveries, however, is that this mysterious prehistoric culture was ethnically black Africans, of the tall, slender type found today among the Maasai of Kenya and the Dinka of Sudan. The certainty of this is provided by the wonderful petroglyphs and drawings that these people have left us at Gilf Kebir and Gebel Uwaynat in the extreme southwest corner of Egypt. The hieroglyphic inscriptions recently found by Mahmoud Marai and Mark Borda at Gebel Uwaynat also open up the real possibility that the prehistoric black people in that area belonged to the almost legendary Kingdom of Yam, a sort of African Shangri-la previously thought to be in northern Sudan but now, with Marai and Borda's discovery, places this affluent black kingdom in the southwest corner of Egypt, straddling Sudan and Libya. In November 2007 I undertook an expedition to Nabta Playa to examine for myself the enigmatic astronomical complex that has been dated to the 6th millennium BC. Also in April 2008 I undertook an expedition to Gilf Kebir and Gebel Uwaynat to see the newly found inscriptions and also look for evidence of astronomical activity in that poorly explored area. I have thus included at the end of this book two new appendices that give the accounts of these expeditions and also outline the findings and discoveries at Nabta Playa and Gebel Uwaynat.

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