

# The BIG QUESTION

# Are We In The Dark Ages?

[ We Put This Query To A Few Thoughtful People ]

While the abuse of power comes as no surprise, authority's use of power always seems to catch us off guard. Taught that history is a chain of events punctuated by conquest and decline, we often fail to see the cumulative effects that allow the powerful to learn from their predecessors in a manner that outpaces social perception. In much the same way that four thousand year-old magic tricks continue to dupe audiences today, the highly-developed tactics and strategies of those in power contend with basic social forces and affects that have evolved little over the millennia. With vast resources available, the ruling elite has a relatively easy time drawing from the successes and failures of empires past. It is for this reason that military field manuals, marketing primers, and magic manuscripts (whether stage magic or occult practice) echo each other so profoundly. Notions of illusion, misdirection, and manipulation meander snake-like across multiple stages of a greater "theatre of operations." These "magical" systems, principles, and methods are absorbed into the matrix of power – not because they are secretly acquired and passed on, but because they have proven effective and useful in maintaining control. The military, governments, and corporations that dictate so much of our day-to-day affairs will do whatever it takes to stay on top. This is not conspiracy theory; this is the brutal reality of political survival.

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**MAGIC FACT:** From 1978 to 1995 the U.S. military spent over \$20 million for research and development of psychic spying or "Remote Viewing."

There is not a single moment in history where humanity exited the "Dark Ages" and entered the "Enlightenment." Agrippa, Paracelsus, Galileo, DaVinci, and Mesmer all made discoveries and mistakes just as much as today's scientists. The major difference between the magician of the "Dark Ages" and the scientist of the "Enlightenment" was a privileging of those discoveries that had direct technological applications. Here we begin to shed some light on today's shadowed alley that divides science and technology. Technology today, although often mistaken for science, is most frequently science in the service of capital. It is not the neutral trek towards unraveling the mysteries of the universe; rather, it is the packaging of discoveries into commodifiable products. As such, we must continue to ask about the agendas skulking behind the curtain of technological "progress." What discoveries are unmarketable and therefore remain dormant? What discoveries are "counterproductive" in the eyes of corporate interest? If the secrets of levitation and teleportation were revealed to the public would it threaten the bottom line of the auto industry and consequently the petroleum industry? To what extent would these industries go to in order to maintain their current economic paradigm? While the evidence largely indicates a range of governmental occult conspiracies, we don't need to indulge in conspiracy theory to know that we live in an age where truth is masked, manipulated, and manufactured.

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## CENTER FOR TACTICAL MAGIC

When the early Egyptian pharaohs put the call out for magi and mystics throughout the land, it was both academic and strategic. On the one hand, the quest was to assemble in one place those who professed spiritual, occult, or unconventional knowledge. This mystical census, as it were, sought to test their skills accordingly with the hope of determining a thorough system of working magic. On the other hand, the gathering of seers and scryers, prophets and priests, conjurors and con men, was a strategic assemblage of those who wielded some degree of power. Recognizing both that powerful allies could come in handy for one trying to rule an empire, and that power left unchecked could eventually create problems for authority, the pharaoh wisely invited the vast array of magicians to remain guests of the palace. Given a choice between hocking their skills in the bazaar or dining with royalty, the choice for many of these magicians-in-residence would have been easy. As for those who did not aspire to partake in the priestly caste or whose abilities proved deficient, there was always the final vanishing act. And so the consolidation of occult power began, continuing on to European monarchs with their court sorcerers, up through the ages to today where governments recruit the best and the brightest with the temptation of high-dollar military contracts, expansive research facilities, and catch-22 plea bargains for computer hackers, con artists, and talented magic-users. Whether we understand "occult" to mean "hidden or secretive" or we understand it as "rooted in magic, metaphysics, and /or the supernatural", we are accurate in declaring an intimate relationship between military, government, and the occult.

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**A Voice from the Past**  
The art of magic has prevailed in most ages and in most parts of the globe. Let no one wonder that it has wielded very great authority inasmuch as it embraces three other sources of influence. No one doubts that it took its rise in medicine and sought to cloak itself in the garb of a science more profound and holy than the common run. It added to its tempting promises the force of religion, after which the human race is groping, especially at this time. Further it has brought in the arts of astrology and divination. For everyone desires to know what is to come to him and believes that certainty can be gained by consulting the stars. Having in this way taken captive the feelings of man by a triple chain it has reached such a pitch that it rules all the world and in the East, governs the King of Kings."

Pliny the Elder lived in ancient Rome from 23-79 A.D. where he was a cavalry officer, an advisor to emperors, and the author of at least 75 books – most notably, *Natural History*, a 37-volume work regarded as the first encyclopedia.



**GOVERNMENT,  
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