



Discovering Tut: the Saga Continues

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CENTRAL THEME



This is a beautiful story of a young king who became the Pharaoh at a small age of ten and ruled the country for next nine years. Then he was killed or assassinated in mysterious circumstances. Here we have a team of historians, archeologist, scientist and technician who investigate the mummy of young King to find clues that will help them to answer the lingering questions behind the death of the mysterious king.

EXPRESSION

Scud: to move quickly

Resurrection: bring back in
to life or use

Funerary: ceremony of
burial or cremation

Circumvent: to avoid sth by
going around

Eerie: Strange and
mysterious

➤ **Forensic Reconstruction**

➤ **Scudded Across**

➤ **Casket Grey**

➤ **Resurrection**

➤ **Funerary Treasures**

➤ **Circumvented**

➤ **Computed Tomography**

➤ **Eerie Detail**



He was just a teenager when he died. The last **heir** of a powerful family that had ruled Egypt and its empire for centuries, he was laid to rest laden with gold and eventually forgotten. Since the discovery of his tomb in 1922, the modern world has **speculated** about what happened to him, with murder being the most extreme possibility.


Heir: Legal recipient of property

Speculate: to guess



Forensic Reconstruction

Now, leaving his tomb for the first time in almost 80 years, Tut has undergone a CT scan that offers new clues about his life and death — and provides precise data for an accurate **forensic reconstruction** of the boyish pharaoh.



AN angry wind stirred up ghostly dust devils as King Tut was taken from his resting place in the ancient Egyptian cemetery known as the Valley of the Kings*. Dark-bellied clouds had **scudded across the desert sky all day and now were **veiling** the stars in **casket grey**. It was 6 p.m. on 5 January 2005.**

Veil: to cover, hide



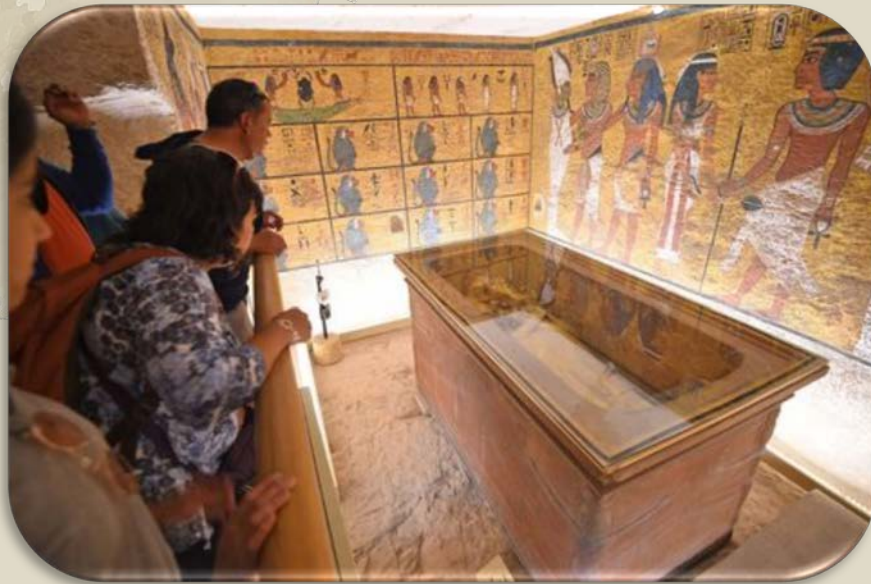


**CT Scan of
Tutankhamun**

The world's most famous mummy glided head first into a CT scanner brought here to **probe** the **lingering** medical mysteries of this little understood young ruler who died more than 3,300 years ago.

Probe: investigate

Linger: sth takes long time



Tourists

All afternoon the usual line of tourists from around the world had **descended** into the cramped, rock-cut tomb some 26 feet underground to pay their respects. They gazed at the **murals** on the walls of the burial chamber and peered at Tut's gilded face, the most striking feature of his mummy-shaped outer coffin lid. Some visitors read from guidebooks in a whisper.

Descend: to go down

Mural: Painting on wall



Tourists

Others stood silently, perhaps pondering Tut's untimely death in his late teens, or wondering with a shiver if the pharaoh's curse — death or misfortune falling upon those who disturbed him — was really true.



Carter Discovery

“The mummy is in very bad condition because of what **Carter** did in the 1920s,” said Zahi Hawass, Secretary General of Egypt’s Supreme Council of Antiquities, as he leaned over the body for a long first look. Carter—Howard Carter, that is — was the British archaeologist who in 1922 discovered Tut’s tomb after years of **futile** searching.

Futile: worthless



Gold Collar



Bracelets

Its contents, though hastily **ransacked** in antiquity, were surprisingly complete. They remain the richest royal collection ever found and have become part of the pharaoh's legend. Stunning artefacts in gold, their eternal brilliance meant to guarantee **resurrection**, caused a sensation at the time of the discovery — and still get the most attention.

Ransack: to search with causing damage

Resurrection: Bring back to life or use



Board game



Razor

But Tut was also buried with everyday things he'd want in the afterlife: **board games**, a bronze **razor**, linen undergarments, cases of food and **wine**. After months of carefully recording the pharaoh's **funerary treasures**, Carter began investigating his three nested coffins.



Wine bottles



Olive Leaves



Wile Celery

Opening the first, he found a shroud adorned with garlands of willow and olive leaves, wild celery, lotus petals, and cornflowers, the faded evidence of a burial in March or April. When he finally reached the mummy, though, he ran into trouble.



Carter Discovery


The ritual **resins** had hardened, cementing Tut to the bottom of his solid gold coffin. “No amount of legitimate force could move them,” Carter wrote later. “What was to be done?” The sun can beat down like a hammer this far south in Egypt, and Carter tried to use it to loosen the resins. For several hours he set the mummy outside in blazing sunshine that heated it to 149 degrees Fahrenheit.

Resin: Glue from trees



**Chisel and
Hammer**

Nothing budged. He reported with scientific detachment that “the consolidated material had to be chiseled away from beneath the limbs and trunk before it was possible to raise the king’s remains.”



In his defence, Carter really had little choice. If he hadn't cut the mummy free, thieves most certainly would have **circumvented the** guards and ripped it apart to remove the gold. In Tut's time the royals were fabulously wealthy, and they thought — or hoped — they could take their riches with them.



**Circumvent: to avoid sth
by going around it**



Gold Collar



Bracelets



Ring



Amulets




Sandal



Sheaths


For his journey to the great beyond, King Tut was lavished with glittering goods: precious **collars**, inlaid necklaces and **bracelets**, **rings**, **amulets**, a ceremonial apron, **sandals**, **sheaths** for his fingers and toes, and the now iconic inner coffin and mask — all of pure gold.



To separate Tut from his adornments, Carter's men removed the mummy's head and severed nearly every major joint. Once they had finished, they reassembled the remains on a layer of sand in a wooden box with padding that **concealed** the damage, the bed where Tut now rests.

Conceal: Hide





Archaeology has changed substantially in the intervening decades, focusing less on treasure and more on the fascinating details of life and **intriguing** mysteries of death. It also uses more **sophisticated** tools, including medical technology.

Intrigue: Deeply interesting

sophisticate: Highly learned and skilled





**X-ray of
Tutankhamun**


In 1968, more than 40 years after Carter's discovery, an anatomy professor X-rayed the mummy and **revealed** a startling fact: beneath the resin that cakes his chest, his breast-bone and front ribs are missing.

Reveal: to make known



**CT Scan
Machine**

Today diagnostic imaging can be done with **computed tomography**, or CT, by which hundreds of X-rays in cross section are put together like slices of bread to create a three-dimensional virtual body. What more would a CT scan reveal of Tut than the X-ray? And could it answer two of the biggest questions still lingering about him — how did he die, and how old was he at the time of his death?



King Tut's demise was a big event, even by royal standards. He was the last of his family's line, and his funeral was the death **rattle of a dynasty**. But the particulars of his passing away and its aftermath are unclear. Amenhotep III — Tut's father or grandfather — was a powerful pharaoh who ruled for almost four decades at the height of the eighteenth dynasty's golden age.

Rattle: Quickly repeated sound

Dynasty: a family tree of rulers





His son Amenhotep IV succeeded him and **initiated** one of the strangest periods in the history of ancient Egypt. The new pharaoh promoted the worship of the **Aten**, the sun disk , changed his name to Akhenaten, or ‘servant of the Aten,’ and moved the religious capital from the old city of Thebes to the new city of Akhetaten, known now as Amarna.



Aten: Sun God

Initiate: to start



Amun


He further shocked the country by attacking **Amun**, a major god, smashing his images and closing his temples. “It must have been a horrific time,” said Ray Johnson, director of the University of Chicago’s research centre in Luxor, the site of ancient Thebes. “The family that had ruled for centuries was coming to an end, and then Akhenaten went a little **wacky.**”

wacky: Cranky



Tutankhamun


After Akhenaten's death, a mysterious ruler named Smenkhkare appeared briefly and exited with hardly a trace. And then a very young Tutankhaten took the throne — King Tut as he's widely known today. The boy king soon changed his name to **Tutankhamun**, 'living image of Amun,' and oversaw a restoration of the old ways.




He reigned for about nine years — and then died unexpectedly. Regardless of his fame and the speculations about his fate, Tut is one mummy among many in Egypt. How many? No one knows. The Egyptian Mummy Project, which began an **inventory** in late 2003, has recorded almost 600 so far and is still counting.


Inventory: A detailed list





The next phase: scanning the mummies with a portable CT machine donated by the National Geographic Society and Siemens, its manufacturer. King Tut is one of the first mummies to be scanned — in death, as in life, moving regally ahead of his countrymen.






A CT machine scanned the mummy head to toe, creating 1,700 digital X-ray images in cross section. Tut's head, scanned in 0.62 millimetre slices to register its **intricate** structures, takes on eerie detail in the resulting image. With Tut's entire body similarly recorded, a team of specialists in radiology, forensics, and **anatomy** began to **probe** the secrets that the winged goddesses of a gilded burial **shrine** protected for so long.

Intricate: Basic, Primary

Anatomy: study of body structure

Shrine: A place of worship






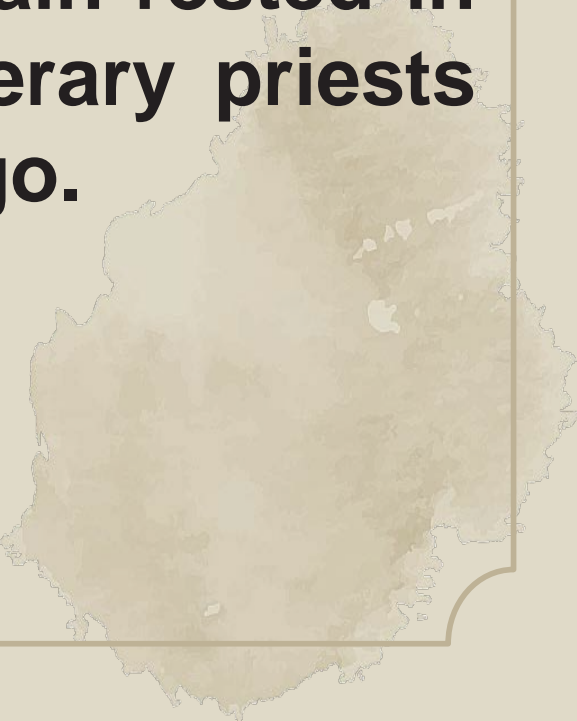
The night of the scan, workmen carried Tut from the tomb in his box. Like **pallbearers** they climbed a ramp and a flight of stairs into the swirling sand outside, then rose on a hydraulic lift into the trailer that held the scanner. Twenty minutes later two men emerged, sprinted for an office nearby, and returned with a pair of white plastic fans. The million-dollar scanner had quit because of sand in a cooler fan. “Curse of the pharaoh,” joked a guard nervously.


Pallbearer: persons who carry dead body





Eventually the substitute fans worked well enough to finish the procedure. After checking that no data had been lost, the technicians turned Tut over to the workmen, who carried him back to his tomb. Less than three hours after he was removed from his coffin, the pharaoh again rested in peace where the funerary priests had laid him so long ago.





Back in the trailer a technician pulled up astonishing images of Tut on a computer screen. A grey head took shape from a scattering of pixels, and the technician spun and **tilted** it in every direction. Neck vertebrae appeared as clearly as in an anatomy class. Other images revealed a hand, several views of the rib cage, and a transection of the skull.



Tilt: A slope




Zahi Hawaas

But for now the pressure was off. Sitting back in his chair, **Zahi Hawass** smiled, visibly relieved that nothing had gone seriously wrong. “I didn’t sleep last night, not for a second,” he said. “I was so worried. But now I think I will go and sleep.”



Mural in King Tut's tomb showing King Tut with Osiris, the god of the afterlife



By the time we left the trailer, descending metal stairs to the sandy ground, the wind had stopped. The winter air lay cold and still, like death itself, in this valley of the departed. Just above the entrance to Tut's tomb stood Orion — the constellation that the ancient Egyptians knew as the soul of Osiris, the god of the afterlife — watching over the boy king.

