



Liquid Mercury In Ancient Mesoamerican Burials

An archaeologist has made the startling discovery of liquid mercury beneath an ancient pyramid in Mexico, which predates the Aztecs. This could mean the presence of a royal tomb right below one of the most cryptic cities in the Americas.

"Large quantities" of the element were discovered underneath the Pyramid of the Feathered Serpent – the third largest in the ancient ruined city of Teotihuacán, which is shrouded in mystery and was once one of the largest in the hemisphere.

What makes the find more exciting is the city itself, believed to come from the same period as the great Mayan city-states, but even less explored – even its inhabitants have no name, and there used to be 200,000 of them, living amongst gargantuan stone pyramids some 1,300 to 1,900 years ago.

Six years of work paid off when the archaeologists managed to dig their way into an ancient tunnel discovered in 2003 that lay sealed all this time, closed off by the locals themselves. But it was only now, after gathering substantial resources to carry out research at the highest level that they announced the discovery of three chambers almost 12 meters (39 feet) below the temple. Immediately they found other objects of symbolic value – jade statues, jaguar remains and various hand-carved objects.

The presence of the highly toxic, odorless liquid metal is peculiar, as ancient Americans had no use for it, but it was also discovered at three other ancient sites by a Berkley anthropologist – never in Teotihuacán.