

# Archaeology *OF THE MIND*

The difference between history and archaeology is the difference between public policy and a coffee table. One is theory and analysis and sometimes even spectacle. The other is a piece of life. There is a kind of **archaeology of the mind** in which we unearth old injuries and resentments, pour over them, keep them close to our hearts.

Eventually, like thousand year old air encountered in a tomb, they poison us. It gives to wonder whether the value history is not overrated. I've always felt a kinship with the grave diggers in *Hamlet*. They are the first recorded archaeologists. History has nothing to do with reality. **It is a point of view, an attempt to impose order upon events that are essentially chaotic.** (emphases mine)

McDevitt, Jack. *The Engines of God*. Ace 1995.