

The back-face of the stela is without sculpture, but each narrow side face has a row of glyphs, which are almost all destroyed.

I estimated the height of the relief from its base-line to its upper edge to be about 248 cm., to which should be added about one metre more, to allow for the plain part formerly sunk in the masonry of the terrace. Breadth near the centre, 129 cm.; thickness, 30 cm.

The principal figure, represented in front view and executed in quite high relief, holds in his right hand a staff, which I cannot exactly call a lance, because it is curved at the top and ends in an animal's head; on his left arm he carries the rectangular shield, upon the smooth surface of which a design is delicately incised. It can be said of the imposing helmet of the warrior, that it furnishes an example of the way in which the original serpent's head was completely transformed into omega shapes and arabesques. In reference to this question a comparison of the figures photographed by me would, I am sure, prove convincing. The development of the  $\Omega$ , C, U, I shapes is fundamentally the same, on this stela, as that displayed on the allied figure of Stela 7, the details only being differently treated.

The surrounding ornamentation of feather scroll-work very gracefully finishes the high omega of the head-dress. I must not forget to add that the omegas almost always, and sometimes the Us, or the ear-discs, are perforated with little holes, presumably for holding little pegs upon which certain ornaments could be hung.

A captive with arms bound kneels on either side of the principal figure. There are three glyphs above one of the captives and four above the other. Here and there on the skin of the personages remains of red can still be distinguished. Other colors have disappeared.

*Stela 27.* The stela which had stood on the ground to the left of the terrace mentioned above and which I numbered 27, lay unbroken where it had fallen. The upturned face, now entirely worn away by the action of the weather, must formerly have borne the sculpture. I had great hopes of finding an interesting relief on the uninjured face which was buried in the earth; and for this reason I had the stone lifted up a little way by means of the windlass. But, to my sorrow, I found this face to be perfectly plain, nor did the narrow side faces have glyphs of any kind.

The whole height (length) of the stone is 280 cm.; breadth, 110 cm.; thickness, 35 cm. Beside it stood another little column for sacrificial gifts.

*The Temple of Stela 28.* Proceeding on a line with the temple of the four stelæ (24, 25, 26, 27), we found a little to the rear the retaining wall of a platform about three metres high, upon which lie the ruins of a small temple. Its now demolished façade must have fronted west-northwest, and the edifice could have had but one single apartment. I succeeded in excavating the lintel of the doorway of this apartment, but it was unfortu-

nately quite without sculpture of any kind. On the edge of the terrace, in front of the temple, a gigantic stela had formerly stood, and to this I gave the number 28. It had fallen to the ground at the foot of the terrace, and in so doing had broken into one large and three small pieces. Although the sculpture, executed in very high relief, had fallen face downward, it was so greatly impaired, by scaling off and by the action of the weather, that it could not be photographed. Nor was it possible to discover whether the narrow side faces had once had rows of glyphs or not. The stone must have been about three and a half metres high. Its breadth is 165 cm., and its thickness almost twice that of other stelæ.

*The Temple of the Broken Glyph-stela, 29.* Ascending the rising ground lying diagonally opposite the last-named temple, we came to the retaining walls of the pyramidal substructure of a little temple which formerly crowned the upper platform, but is now a mere mass of ruins. The temple probably consisted of but one apartment, its façade fronting northwest. Above, on the platform in front of the ruined temple, I found a small stela with glyphs, 29 (Plate XXIV) in my general enumeration, which was broken in one large and three small pieces.

The three small fragments bore the upper half of the inscription in a fairly good state of preservation, and these I dragged down the side of the dilapidated pyramid in order to photograph them in a suitable light at the foot of the substructure. The entire lower half of the inscription, which is on the large fragment, had crumbled away so completely, under the action of the elements, that it could not be photographed. The glyphs were divided into four perpendicular rows of eight characters each. But as the initial glyph occupies the space of two of the others, there are really thirty-one. Of these  $1 + 3 + 3 + 4 + 4 = 15$  are preserved.

The stone is 82 cm. in breadth; its height may have been about two metres.

Little remnants of color prove that the whole side bearing the glyphs had once been painted red.

*The Temple of the Cleft Stela, 30.* On the left wing of the substructure of the temple of the 29th stela just mentioned, and closely adjoining it, rises the much higher pyramidal substructure of a neighboring temple, which is likewise in ruins, and which also fronted northwest. I could find nothing of any importance on the platform among the ruins, but below on the ground in front of the substructure I found a small stela about two metres in height, cleft lengthwise, which had doubtless fallen from above. It had unfortunately fallen with the sculptured face upward, which was entirely destroyed in consequence. To this stone I gave the number 30.

*Stela 31* (Plate XXV). On the level ground in front of the two temples, on what might be considered the middle line between the two, but placed considerably forward, I found a gigantic stela, archaic in character, to which I gave the number 31. It was broken into two great pieces: an under one 148 cm. and an upper one 235 cm. in height, and furthermore into two unwieldy blocks, which once filled up the space between the two great pieces, so that the total height of the stone must have been about five metres. The middle width is 152 cm.; thickness, 52 cm. The sculptured side had fallen face downward. The back had probably never been sculptured, and the side faces were so weather-worn that it was impossible to detect even a trace of glyphs. That portion of the sculpture which was on the lower fragment had for its base several horizontal rows of glyphs in very low relief, which have become quite indistinct. Above them are seen the feet of the hero or god. Then comes the fracture, and the sculpture on the blocks which belong between the lower and the upper fragments is wholly obliterated. My men set up the large upper fragment, by means of the windlass, so that I could photograph it. The sculpture is destroyed on the left side of the figure, but what remains proves clearly that it represented a personage attired in a manner similar to those on Stelæ 7 and 26 (Plates XVI, XXIII).

In this instance the hero or god likewise holds in his right hand a crook ending in a grotesque animal's head. The face is framed in ornaments shaped like **L**, **U**, **Ω**, **C**, as were the faces on the above-named stelæ. Even the little holes in the **U** and the high **Ω** are to be seen, intended, no doubt, for the insertion of little wooden pegs, upon which to hang ornaments and trophies. The stela is finished at the top by four horizontal rows of glyphs, which have become indistinct.

In spite of the serious havoc wrought by time and weather, there were still distinct traces of bright-red color visible on the face, the ear-discs, breast-cape, and **U**-shaped ornament.

*The Temple of the Lintel with the Warriors and the Captive (4) and of the Six Stelæ, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37.* Opposite the two temples just described lies the temple of the lintel with the warriors bringing a captive to their chieftain. The entire structure fronts east-southeast, and the back overlooks the adjacent river (Fig. 25).

Upon the ground in front of the temple, in line with the centre of the whole structure, formerly stood a sacrificial column, which now lies crumbling and half buried in the earth.

From this column a stairway leads up to the first terrace, upon which stood six stelæ, — three on each side of the stairway, — part of which are entire and part lie broken in pieces on the ground. The massive substructure

ture of the temple forms three steps, the masonry work of which is in part well preserved, and is interrupted in the middle of the façade side by a little stairway leading to the upper platform, upon which formerly stood the temple, consisting of a single apartment. Behind, the hill slopes far down towards the river. I was successful in excavating the lintel—4 (Plate XXXII) in my enumeration — of what had once been the doorway of the temple. It displayed an interesting group of warriors, together with glyphs on the sculptured side, which was lying face downward on the ground and which had been its under side before it fell.

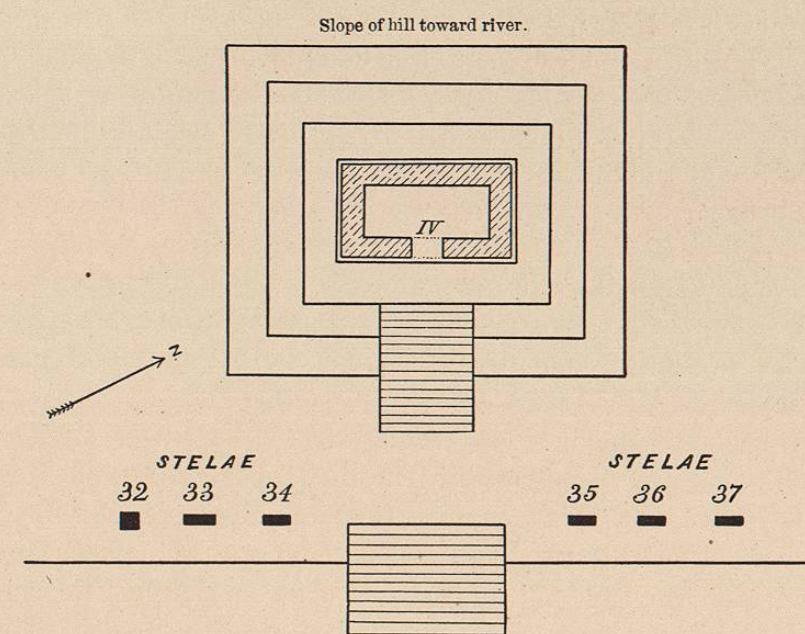


FIG. 25. — PIEDRAS NEGRAS: PLAN OF THE TEMPLE OF THE SIX STELÆ, AND LINTEL 4.

Length of the stone, corresponding to the lengthwise position of the sculpture, 124 cm.; actual length of sculpture, 109 cm.; breadth of the stone corresponding to the height of the picture (also thickness of wall), 120 cm.; actual height of picture (exclusive of the lowest incised glyphs), 92 cm.; thickness of the stone, 22 cm. and a little more.

Two kneeling warriors, armed with lances, are bringing a captive with bound arms, before the Halachvini. Behind the prisoner are piled up the spoils of war, among which is an idol (?) standing upside down. The chieftain holds a large lance in his right hand, and with his left arm he presses to his body an object ornamented with feathers. An especially striking feature of this relief is the gigantic globular head-dress, which seems to be meant to represent an animal, since a conventionalized eye can be recognized in the ornamental projection in front. On top of this scale-covered globe rises a plume of feathers. A similar head-dress has been found only on the principal figure of the sculpture on the broken lintel No. 5, belonging to one of the acropolis temples.