

*Structure 35. The Sepulchral Pyramid on the left flank of the walled-up structure.*

*Structure 36. The Sepulchral Pyramid in the middle of the terrace with Stela 9.*

The two sepulchral pyramids, 35 and 36, differ very essentially from all the structures of Yāxchilan, excepting the great stepped pyramid of Structure 18. They are both constructed of hewn blocks half a metre in thickness. The corners of both are drawn inward, as it were, while the central surfaces of the four sides project somewhat. In spite of the simplicity of construction of these pyramids, an idea of their form cannot be adequately conveyed without an accompanying drawing, owing to the system of partly receding and partly projecting steps. It is probable that on the flattened apex of each of these pyramids, there once stood a small open *templete*, both perhaps containing small stelæ. The presumable *templetes* have fallen down, and I could find neither stela nor circular altar belonging to Pyramid 35. I found only a stalactite column on the ground in front of the stairway.

On the other hand, at the foot of the stairway of Pyramid 36 I found, besides a stalactite column, a series of six little circular altars, each of which had once been ornamented with a circular design and glyphs.

I set up the one best preserved of these circular altars and photographed it (Plate LXXX, 1). On its upper surface it exhibits two concentric rows of glyphs in the eight radiating divisions. The glyphs are still partially recognizable, but the circular design in the middle is wholly worn away by the action of the elements. The stone has a diameter of 80 cm., and a thickness of only 16 cm.

At the foot of the pyramid I found near the stalactite column a small stela (No. 9 in my general enumeration) broken in three pieces (Plate LXXII, 3). I presume, however, that it once stood above on the platform and had been thrown down. The total height of the three pieces (not including the part which was in the ground) is 154 cm.; breadth, 48 cm.; thickness, 11½ cm.

This mortuary pillar once had flat reliefs on both sides, but the one on the face which was turned upward in falling is wholly washed away; while the one on the face turned downward is excellently preserved, in spite of its slight projection. In my opinion, this sculpture again represents the beneficent god, not with the chest of good fortune and rope of sweets, but holding in each hand a great horn of plenty.

The god is represented in front view, except his face. Owing to the narrowness of the stone, the sculptor was forced to make the body quite slender in order to have room enough for the arms hanging down. The loin-cloth is held together by a girdle of St. Andrew's crosses, the broad bow and ends of which reach to the knees. A kind of feather mantle with a cape of scale-work is thrown over the upper part of the body. The cape has no medallions, but on the lowest border it has a breast-plate of scroll-work with

a St. Andrew's cross in the central oval. Below the breast-plate is a large medallion without a face-mask; large cuffs appear at the wrist. The much-twisted helmet has a diadem of round stars at the base. The horns of plenty have at their lower ends two round holes out of which hang little streamers. The upper finish of the deity side is formed by eight glyphs. The colors have disappeared.

The two pyramids have remained unopened up to the present time, owing probably to the great blocks of stone which would have to be removed.

*Structures 37 and 38.* Leaving the sepulchral pyramids and going in a south-southwesterly direction across a stretch of level ground, very little débris is encountered, but only great slabs of stone, which lie on the ground and seem to be coverings for open drains. Climbing higher still over two (or three) more terraces,—upon which I found some circular altars but no stelæ,—the ruins of two adjacent buildings are reached, which look like an enormous barricade. The façades of the two buildings formerly faced north-northeast. These structures strategically close the mountain ridge against an enemy who might take up a position between them and the distant South Temples.

The rear wall of the larger or southeast Structure 37 is well preserved as far as the beginnings of the frieze. Some of the slabs fallen from the lower cornice of the frieze are of such large proportions that visitors to the ruins have mistaken them for lintel-stones, and examined them in the expectation of finding sculptures.

I searched the ruins of the fallen façade in the hope of finding a lintel-stone of one of the entrances projecting out of the débris, but the lintels have become invisible. They must have slipped forward and are lying thus deeply buried under the mass of ruins. There are probably three of them. Whether they are ornamented with sculpture or not must remain uncertain, as I could not undertake an excavation at that time.

The adjoining Structure 38 (the northwest structure), which is scarcely half as long as its neighbor, has long been only a formless heap of stones, overgrown with trees. The façade can have had but two entrances at most. There is little reason to hope that its lintel-stones were decorated with sculpture.

Climbing over the barricade formed by the ruins of the two structures, one comes to very extensive quarries. Pursuing one's way in the direction in which they lie, with the walls of rock on the right and the southeastern slope of the mountain on the left, not another vestige of a ruin is to be found. Nevertheless, I concluded (1897) to explore this mountain ridge to the very end, and by keeping continually in a south-southwesterly direction I finally reached its last rise. There was nothing to be seen but trees. Notwithstanding this, I climbed up, and before me there gleamed among the

trees a beautiful temple, the first South Temple. A little further back I saw the second, still more beautiful, and yet further back the third temple in a very advanced state of demolition. Here, then, were the three temples, imposingly placed on terraces, in echelon, one near the other. As pushing forward from the Temple of Ketsalkoatl to the South Temples is fraught with great difficulties and many obstacles, and the tall growth of trees makes any oversight of the way quite impossible, I am inclined to think that we covered a distance of at least one kilometre, the air-line being, doubtless, somewhat shorter.

*Structure 39, or South Temple I and Stela 10* (Plate XLIII, 2, XLV, 2). The ascent of the last rise mentioned above brings one to the first platform or terrace. Leaving this and ascending the now ruined stairway to the second terrace, and climbing about two metres higher, one reaches the actual platform on which the temple stands (Fig. 59). The principal façade of the

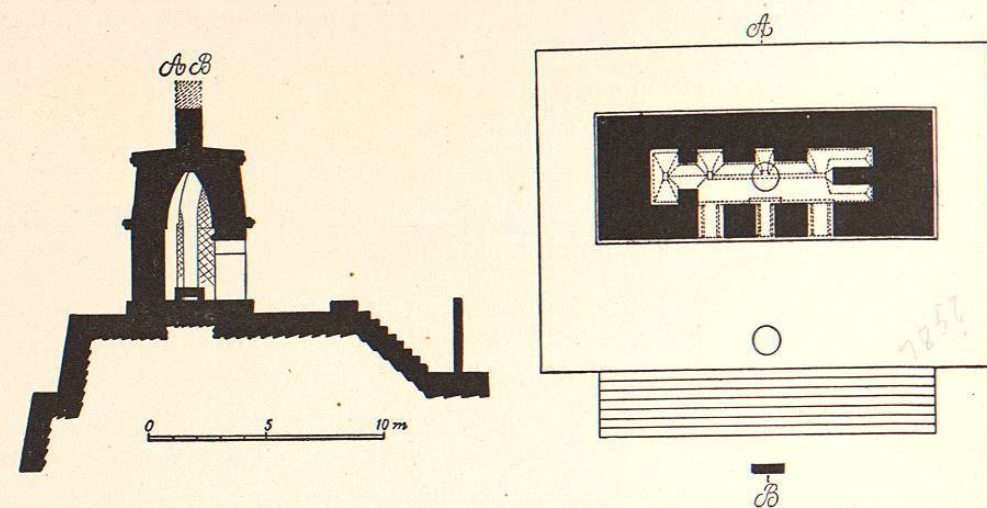


FIG. 59. — STRUCTURE 39: SECTION AND GROUND-PLAN (RESTORED).

temple faces north-northeast. Its agreeable proportions, the stepped lintels of the doorways, the well-preserved frieze, and the remains of the roof-comb, all combine to make a picturesque and pleasing impression. The base as well as the principal walls consist of masonry covered with smooth stucco. The façade is interrupted by three doorways 106 to 108 cm. wide, with a projecting stone on the right and on the left of each, forming a graceful transition to the large, smooth lintel-stone. The frieze has a strongly projecting lower cornice and a less prominent upper one. Numerous projecting slabs of stone on the slightly sloping frieze indicate that it was abundantly ornamented with figures which have now fallen down. Of the fourth element, the roof-comb, the whole length of which rests on the middle of the roof, only the beginnings remain, which show that the construction was formed of rows of little windows. The exterior of the back and sides of the structure is

treated like the front. The exterior length of the temple is 13 m. 80 cm.; exterior breadth, 4 m. 63 cm.; height, without the roof-comb, 6 m. 10 cm.

The interior of the temple is covered by a steep ogival vault flattened at the top. The long wall opposite the entrance has two broad buttresses, which, developing in half ogives, rise to meet the keystones of the vaulted ceiling and help support the burden of the roof-comb. This purpose is also served by the buttresses, which form differently shaped open chambers at each end of the temple interior. For a clear comprehension of this interior I must refer the reader to my drawing of the plan of the temple.

The exterior, as well as the interior, of the temple is covered with white stucco. There is no trace of red or any other color visible. The total length of the interior is 929 cm.; breadth, 213 cm.; height from the floor to the truncation, 496 cm.

Directly in front of the central niche formed by the two buttresses, there is a circular sacrificial stone of whitish limestone, which very evidently did service for a long time, exposed to the elements, before it was placed within the temple (Fig. 60). It has a double row of glyphs on the cylinder edge, much weathered, and eight glyphs on top, wholly worn away, as is also the round design in the centre. The diameter is 115 cm.; thickness, 34 cm. Its symmetrical position in front of the niche (Plate XLV, 2), as also the circumstance that it was carefully placed upon three stones, proves that it had been brought inside in Maya times and not by the wood-cutters of the present time, who would be quite incapable of such an admirable deed.



FIG. 60. — CIRCULAR ALTAR IN STRUCTURE 39.

I found a circular altar on the edge of the upper platform on a line with the centre of the whole structure, and another in the middle of the second terrace from the top, — both, as usual, covered with weathered pictures and inscriptions. Pondering upon this fact, the conviction was forced upon me that a stela must have stood between the two altar-stones. On my return to this place in 1900 I subjected the second terrace from the top to a very thorough search, and concealed under a layer of earth and luxuriant vegetation I found the sought-for stela, to which in my general list of stelæ I have given the number 10.

*Stela 10* (Plate LXXIII). This stela had been broken into two pieces in its fall. The principal portion, covered by the lower two-thirds of the sculpture, lay with the deity side, which had faced the temple, turned upward. The work on this side has therefore lost all its nicety of detail, while the human side, which fell face downward, is admirably preserved. The reverse has happened to the upper part of the stela. The deity side had fallen face downward and was well preserved; the human side, turned skyward, was wholly destroyed. Breadth of the stela, measured at about the middle, 115 cm. Thickness, 25 cm. Total length of the two pieces (exclusive of one