



Monuments of Yaxchilan: Lintel 14*

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Context: Photographed by Alfred Maudslay in 1882 in situ over the northwest door of Structure 20 where it remains (Graham and von Euw 1977:35; Tate 1992:193). This structure is associated with the reign of Yaxuun Bahlam IV who commissioned Stelae 3, 4, 5, 6, and 33. His son and successor, Chelew Chan K'inich Itzamnaaj(?)/Kokaaj(?) Bahlam IV, subsequently continued the construction program with different sculptures such as Hieroglyphic Stairway 5 and Stela 7, as well as Lintel 13 and of course Lintel 14.

Dimensions: MW 0.91 m, HSc 0.78 m, WSc 0.80 m, MTh 0.32 m, Rel 1.9 cm.

Represented in the scene are Ix Chak Joloom, senior wife of Yaxuun Bahlam IV, and her brother, the *sajal* official Chak Joloom, as they impersonate supernatural entities and conjure K'awiil. From the maws of the just-invoked serpent emerges the king himself. This event occurred on the day 4 Imix 4 Mol (9.15.10.0.1, 2 July AD 741), as is likewise attested on Lintel 39 and Stela 35. These ceremonies seem to be intended to reinforce and legitimize Yaxuun Bahlam IV's accession to the throne, apparently with the support of the Kaanul court (Calakmul).

A1 – C3: (A1) 4-“IMIX” (B1) 4-mo[lo] (A2) TZAK-ja (B2) K'AWIIL (A3) KAB?-MUWAAN (B3) [CHAN] NAL-la (A4) CHAK-ba-ya ka-KAAN (B4) u-WAY-ya-ja-la (C1) T1001-IXIK-K'UH (C2) IX-CHAK-JOL (C3) IX-sa-ja (C4) ya-ANATZ'?-AJAW

chan imix chan mol tza[h]kaj k'awiil kab? muwaan chanal chak bay kaan uwayjal? ...[l] ixik k'uh ix chak jol[oom] ix saj[al] yanatz'? ajaw

“(On the day) 4 Imix (on) the 4th of Mol, K'awiil Kab(?) Muwaan Chanal Chak Bay Kaan, the *wahy*(?) of ... Ixik K'uh Ix Chak Joloom, Sajal and mother of the king, was conjured.”

D1 – F1: (D1) u-BAAH[A'N]-hi-li (E1) K'UH-IX-?-AJAW (F1) IX-YAX-ja[la]

ubaajila'n k'uh[ul] ix ...[j] ajaw ix yax jal

“It is the impersonation of Ix ...j Ajaw Ix Yax Jal.”

G1 – G5: (G1) u-BAAH[A'N]-li (G2) YAX-CHIIT ?-? (G3) AJ?-tu?-ba-ye-ta (G4) CHAK-JOL-sa[ja]-la (G5) u-CHAN?-AJAW

ubaahila'n yax chiit aj? chak jol[ool] sajal uchan ajaw

“It is the impersonation of Yax Chiit, Chak Joloom, Sajal, and guardian of the king”.

* See also Zender 2007.

References

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Yaxchilan Lintel 14. Photograph by Jorge Pérez de Lara. High-resolution version available: www.mesoweb.com/monuments/Yaxchilan