

To begin with, let me give you these two photographs (1 and 2) of your Baúl stone — photographs which I took before I'd seen your publication; one photograph (1) showing the size and situation of the stone, and the other (2) the hieroglyphics only. In both of these photos you see the face of the stone, but not the thickness. The thickness is only about half the height; so that the stone may be said to stand on end. The smaller, plain stone, beside the hieroglyphic stone, also stands on end; and it was my decided impression that the posture of the two stones together, was the hand of man. Singly, however, both stones are natural uncut stones; of a common kind of volcanic stone, as you'll have noticed, that often breaks with a smooth face. And evidently the stretch of smooth face on the big stone, determined the artist of the hieroglyphics. What are those hieroglyphics?

I can say that the big star on top, puts me in mind immediately of a pot that I once had from Chipál — from a place, that is to say, not any where near Baúl, but so far away from Baúl as the northern slopes of the eastern Cuchumatán mountains. The pot, which was this (3), a thing about knee high, was a coarse ceremonial thing, as you may see, with spikes and flanges, and with the conspicuous ornament of a solitary star — a star that you see to be very like the star on your Baúl stone. My notion of the star on the pot is anybody's notion: that it signifies the sun. And I've no doubt but the star on the stone signifies the same thing.

The remainder of the hieroglyphic column, the four smaller signs below the star, I take to be the signs of four days, four Mexican days; the four consecutive Mexican days of Water, Dog, Monkey, and Grass. I read from the bottom up. In the bottom sign I see a variation of the usual Mexican sign for water; I see a bead, or drop, protruding from a larger body. The next two signs, of Dog and Monkey, need no remark. But the remaining sign, answering (as I believe) to the day Grass, is a decided curiosity.

The usual Mexican sign for the day Grass, when the sign is complete, as you may see, for example, on the well known calendar stone (so called), is a thing composed of a tuft of grass surmounting a jaw bone, a jaw bone with teeth; the total being so arranged (with the help of an eye thrown in) as to make a fantastic human head, with the grass for the hair.

That's when the sign is complete. The usual *abbreviation* of the sign is the mere jaw bone and teeth. And in Baúl itself you may have seen that abbreviation. Your five hieroglyphic stone at Baúl is on the side of a small hill; and on top of the same hill you probably saw the carved stone slabs that the manager of the place (if I'm not mistaken) discovered some half dozen years ago. One of those slabs is that of this photograph (4); on the left hand side of which, on top of the column of damaged writing, you see plainly the date 12 Grass, with the jaw bone-sign for the day.

But now on your five hieroglyphic stone, there's to be seen neither the jaw bone abbreviation nor the complete sign. After the signs of Water, Dog, and Monkey, you can hardly doubt but the next sign, the remaining small sign, must answer in some way to the next day Grass. But what actually is the sign?