



Monuments of Yaxchilan: Lintel 24¹

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Context: The provenience of Lintels 24 and 25 was identified by Teobert Maler, who found the chipped fragments of the two lintels in front of the eastern doorway of Structure 23 (Tate 1992:204). Lintel 24 was poorly documented by Alfred P. Maudslay (1889-1902) and is exhibited in The British Museum. Also associated with Structure 23 are Lintels 23 and 26, as well as Altar 7. These monuments correspond to the reign of Itzamnaaj(?)/Kokaaj(?) Bahlam III, while Structure 23 was the house of his wife Ix K'abal Xook.

Dimensions: MW unknown, HSc 1.04 m, WSc 0.74 m, MTh unknown, Rel 4.5 cm (Graham and von Euw 1977:54).

The standing lord Itzamnaaj(?)/Kokaaj(?) Bahlam III is holding a burning spear (*k'ahk'al jul*) during a ritual conducted in darkness/night. In front of him kneels his wife Ix K'abal Xook who is exuberantly dressed in a huipil and feather headdress. She draws a rope through her tongue to which are fastened sharp spikes to increase the flow of blood. Her face is spattered with scrolls of blood. By means of the spiked rope, her blood is collected in a ceramic cache vessel filled with paper strips to absorb it. This blood-letting rite occurred on 5 Eb 15 Mak (9.13.17.15.12, 29 October AD 709).

(A1) **ti-5-“EB”** (B1) **15-ma-MAHK u-BAAH[hi]-ji** (C1) **ti-CH’AHB-li** (D1) **ti-K’AHK’-la ju-lu** (E1) **u-CH’AHB 4-WINIKHAAB-AJAW** (F1) **ITZAMNAAJ?/KOKAAJ?-BAHLAM-ma u-CHAN-nu** (F2) **a-T533-ki** (F3) **K’UH-[PA’]CHAN-AJAW-wa**

ti ho’ eb ho’lajuun mahk ubaah ti ch’ahb ti k’ahk’al jul u ch’ahb chan winikhaab ajaw itzamnaaj?/kokaaj? bahlam uchan aj ...k k’uh[ul] pa’chan ajaw

“On (the day) 5 Eb (on) the 15th of Mak (29 October AD 709), it is the image in penance/fast with the fiery spear, (it is) the penance/fast of Itzamnaaj(?)/Kokaaj (?) Bahlam III, lord of four katuns, the guardian of Aj ...k, divine lord of Pa’chan.”

(G1) **u-BAAH-ji ti-CH’AHB-li** (22) **IX-YS2-na XOOK-ki** (G3) **IX-k’a[ba]-la XOOK-ki** (G4) **IX-KAL-TE’**

ubaah ti ch’ahbil ix ...-n? xook ix k’abal xook ix kal[oom]te’

“It is the image in penance/fast in the night/darkness of Ix ...n Xook Ix K’abal Xook, lady Kaloomte’.”

(H1) **T’AB-yi** (H2) **yu-lu-xu** (H3) **MO’-CHAHK-ki** (H4) **a-?-la**

t’abaay yuxul mo’ chahk aj ...-l(?)

“The carving of Mo’ Chahk of ...l went up.”

¹ See also Zender 2007.

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Yaxchilan Lintel 24. Photograph by Jorge Pérez de Lara. High-resolution version available: www.mesoweb.com/monuments/Yaxchilan