

= K 'inich Yo 'nal Ahk I =

K 'inich Yo 'nal Ahk I ( Mayan pronunciation : [ kʔinitʃ joʔnal ahk ] ) , also known as Ruler 1 , was an ajaw of Piedras Negras , an ancient Maya settlement in Guatemala . He ruled during the Late Classic Period , from 603 ? 639 AD . It has been proposed that he began a new dynasty at Piedras Negras , following years of ineffective kings . The manner in which K 'inich Yo 'nal Ahk I came to power is largely unknown , although it is known that he waged several successful wars against Palenque and Sak Tz 'i ' . He was succeeded by his son , Itzam K 'an Ahk I , in 639 AD . K 'inich Yo 'nal Ahk I left behind several monuments , including stelae at Piedras Negras and a large mortuary temple now known as Pyramid R @-@ 5 .

= = Biography = =

K 'inich Yo 'nal Ahk I , also known as Ruler 1 , was an ajaw of Piedras Negras in the 7th century AD . According to Mayanists Simon Martin and Nikolai Grube , the ruler 's name means " Great @-@ Sun ? -Turtle " . His name was later taken by his eventual successors , K 'inich Yo 'nal Ahk II and Yo 'nal Ahk III . The title k 'inich translates to " red @-@ faced " , and is a reference to the settlement 's rulers ' belief that they were lords of the sun . He ascended to the throne on November 14 , 603 AD ( 9 @.@ 8 @.@ 10 @.@ 6 @.@ 16 10 Kib 9 Mak in the Long Count ) , although the exact details surrounding his rise to power are unknown . Mayanists Stephen D. Houston and Charles Golden have proposed the theory that he refounded the ruling dynasty at Piedras Negras in the wake of a disaster that had ruined previous rulers of the site .

K 'inich Yo 'nal Ahk I destroyed older buildings and monuments at Piedras Negras that were associated with older kings , seemingly to cleanse the center of their connection with these " discredited " rulers . This period of destruction ? which focused heavily on structures in and around the West Group of the site , and the acropolis ? has left behind tell @-@ tale clues , such as offerings of pottery , jade , and small figures , suggesting that it was heavily ritualized . After this period of destruction , K 'inich Yo 'nal Ahk I moved his focus to the more ancient South Group , where he began to erect new buildings .

During his lifetime , he waged many battles , including notable ones against Palenque and Sak Tz 'i ' . In the former he captured an aj k 'uhuun , or lord , named Ch 'ok Balam , and in the latter he captured an ajaw named K 'ab Chan Te ' . Palenque was Piedras Negras 's main rival in the area , whereas Sak Tz 'i ' seems to have eventually come under Piedras Negras 's control . K 'inich Yo 'nal Ahk I died on February 3 , 639 AD ( 9 @.@ 10 @.@ 6 @.@ 2 @.@ 1 5 Imix 19 K 'ayab ) and seems to have been buried at Pyramid R @-@ 5 . K 'inich Yo 'nal Ahk I was succeeded by his son , Itzam K 'an Ahk I , who later dedicated or re @-@ opened the tomb in 658 AD .

= = Monuments = =

= = = Stelae = = =

Many of the stelae that K 'inich Yo 'nal Ahk I erected became prototypes for monuments raised by his successors . The first stela raised , Stela 25 , is the king 's inaugural monument , and it established the precedent for the niche style . This type of stela features the newly installed king in a small hollow and seated on an intricately decorated scaffold , being symbolically lifted into the air . On Stela 25 , K 'inich Yo 'nal Ahk I is seated on a jaguar cushion , reached by a ladder covered in bloody footprints , symbolizing sacrifice . The cushion itself is raised on a reed effigy . The king is covered by a canopy that is symbolic of the sky ; crowning the sky is a great celestial bird , an avian version of the Maya god Itzamna .

Stela 26 , dating from 628 AD , features the aforementioned war with Palenque . This monument is notable because it marks the first time that a stela at Piedra Negras had carvings on multiple faces , in this case dedication texts . Stela 26 is aligned with Itzam K 'an Ahk II 's Stela 35 , creating a

direction connection between the two monuments , conveying " an image of continuity , repetition , and renewal over time and across generations . " Stela 31 , dating from around 637 AD , depicts the war with Sak Tz 'i ' . Stela 31 's placement is also notable , as it is standing in front of Structures R @-@ 3 and R @-@ 4 , where many of Piedras Negras 's earliest monuments , such as Stela 30 , stood . The platform for the monument was more expansive than other stelae platforms , giving more room for observation . The stela was also extremely tall , at about 4 @. @ 5 ? 5 @-@ metre ( 15 ? 16 ft ) meters in height , making it nearly two meters taller than Stela 26 .

Both Stelae 26 and 31 feature examples of one of K 'inich Yo 'nal Ahk I 's prominent themes , that of the " warrior king " motif . This design often depicts the king in a frontal pose , wearing a large headdress featuring iconography of the Teotihuacan War Serpent .

= = = R @-@ 5 Pyramid = = =

The R @-@ 5 Pyramid is largely believed to be K 'inich Yo 'nal Ahk I 's tomb , based mostly on evidence from Panel 4 , crafted by Itzam K 'an Ahk I , which records the new ajaw either dedicating or ceremonially re @-@ opening the tomb of K 'inich Yo 'nal Ahk I . The panel itself explicitly names the R @-@ 5 pyramid as the muk , or burial , of K 'inich Yo 'nal Ahk I . However , despite intense efforts , no burial has ever been found in the pyramid , although the search was complicated by ? and eventually abandoned because of ? rubble fill left behind by looters . It is probable that the majority of the pyramid was constructed within the years following the death of K 'inich Yo 'nal Ahk I , likely under Itzam K 'an Ahk I 's patronage . Itzam K 'an Ahk I later erected six stelae at the base of this pyramid .