

= Itzam K 'an Ahk II =

Itzam K 'an Ahk II (Mayan pronunciation : [itsam kʔan ahk]) , also known as Ruler 4 , was an ajaw of Piedras Negras , an ancient Maya settlement in Guatemala . He ruled during the Late Classic Period , from 729 ? 757 AD . Itzam K 'an Ahk II ascended to the throne upon the death of K 'inich Yo 'nal Ahk II , who may have been his father . Itzam K 'an Ahk II may have fathered the following three kings of Piedras Negras : Yo 'nal Ahk III , Ha ' K 'in Xook , and K 'inich Yat Ahk II . Following Itzam K 'an Ahk II 's demise , he was succeeded by Yo 'nal Ahk III in 757 AD . Itzam K 'an Ahk II left behind several monuments , including stelae at Piedras Negras and a large mortuary temple now known as Pyramid O @-@ 13 . In addition , the details of his life and his K 'atun @-@ jubilee were commemorated on Panel 3 , raised by K 'inich Yat Ahk II several years following Itzam K 'an Ahk II 's death .

= = Biography = =

= = = Lineage = = =

Itzam K 'an Ahk II , also known as Ruler 4 , was born on November 18 , 701 AD (9 @.@ 13 @.@ 9 @.@ 14 @.@ 15 7 Men 18 K 'ank 'in in the Long Count) . Of the three extant references to Itzam K 'an Ahk 's birth , not a single one mentions his pedigree or parentage , suggesting that Itzam K 'an Ahk was not a direct descendant of his predecessor , K 'inich Yo 'nal Ahk II . Despite this , Simon Martin and Nikolai Grube point out that in one portrait , the ajaw is shown with a turtle @-@ headdress belt ornament , suggesting that one of Itzam K 'an Ahk 's ancestors may have indeed had the word auk , or turtle , in their name , signifying royalty . With this being said , Stela 40 ? discussed later ? shows what could be Itzam K 'an Ahk 's mother in Teotihuacano garb , suggesting that Itzam K 'an Ahk was emphasizing potential connections to Teotihuacan , possibly the home of his mother . Martin and Grube also point out that this stela was erected exactly 83 Tzolk 'in , or about 59 years , following the death of Itzam K 'an Ahk I , a former ajaw of Piedras Negras who lent his name to Itzam K 'an Ahk II , insinuating some sort of " special link " between the two rulers .

= = = Reign = = =

Itzam K 'an Ahk II 's accession to the throne occurred on November 9 , 729 AD (9 @.@ 14 @.@ 18 @.@ 3 @.@ 13 7 Ben 16 K 'ank 'in) . In 749 AD , the ajaw celebrated the jubilee of his one K 'atun . This celebration was attended by many dignitaries , including local nobles such as a b 'aah sajal (" first ruler ") named K 'an Mo ' Te ' who had served K 'inich Yo 'nal Ahk II . The events of this banquet were later recorded by the final ajaw of Piedras Negras , K 'inich Yat Ahk II on Panel 3 ; this artifact shows Itzam K 'an Ahk II lecturing the interregnum ruler of Yaxchilan , Yopaat Bahlam II , about a past incident in which Yaxchilan had acknowledged the superiority of Piedras Negras . The K 'atun @-@ jubilee , therefore , has been interpreted by some Mayanists to have marked a period wherein Piedras Negras had eclipsed Yaxchilan in power . This celebration was followed by another festival in which Itzam K 'an Ahk II performed a " descending macaw " dance , and a nighttime feast wherein fermented cacao beans were served .

Bellicose action seems to have occurred during his reign , as a pyrite disc found in his tomb depicts the severed head of a leader from Hix Witz . Houston et al. argue that the Hix Witz polity was subordinate to Piedras Negras , largely based on the pyrite disk and because the Maya center is identified on Panel 7 , erected earlier by Itzam K 'an Ahk I , as a " tributary bearing plumes and textiles " to Piedras Negras .

= = = Death = = =

Itzam K 'an Ahk II 's almost thirty @-@ year reign was one marked by " hegemony over neighboring

kingdoms " . The ruler died on November 26 , 757 AD (9 @. @ 16 @. @ 6 @. @ 11 @. @ 17 7 Kaban 0 Pax) , and he was buried three days later . According to Panel 3 , the burial took place at the mythical location ho janaab witz , which has been deduced to mean , Pyramid O @- @ 13 , Itzam K 'an Ahk II 's memorial temple . Itzam K 'an Ahk II was succeeded by Yo 'nal Ahk III on March 10 , 758 AD . Due to the apparent veneration of Itzam K 'an Ahk II 's burial site by the succeeding kings , it has been hypothesized that Itzam K 'an Ahk II introduced a new reigning patriline to Piedras Negras , and that the following three kings ? Yo 'nal Ahk III , Ha ' K 'in Xook , and K 'inich Yat Ahk II ? may have been his sons .

= = Monuments = =

= = = Stelae = = =

Itzam K 'an Ahk II constructed at least five known stelae : 9 , 10 , 11 , 22 , and 40 . Stelae 9 , 10 , and 11 were all erected in front of or near Structure J @- @ 3 . Stela 11 , which was erected in August of 731 AD , is of the niche variety , meaning it depicts the ruler seated in a small hollow , or niche , and it was erected to commemorate the accession of the individual to the position of ajaw . The monument shows the ajaw flanked by subjects , witnesses to the ceremonies explored on the face of the stela . The expanse in front of the stone slab is designated as a space for offerings , denoted by the depiction of a sacrificed human near the bottom of the monument . The monument was discovered by Teoberto Maler in two pieces on the ground ; the front was in good condition , and some pigment was still visible . The glyphs on the upper right have been weathered , but the sides are largely intact . In the 1960s , looters cut the fallen monument into two halves for easier removal . The top portion is currently housed in the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston , Texas , whereas the bottom half is in a private collection in Switzerland .

Stela 9 was discovered in three pieces by Maler in 1899 . The fragments had been moderately weathered , and the base was later found in situ by the University of Pennsylvania 's University Museum . In the 1960s , looters removed the carved captives that had appeared on the left of the monument 's front . Stela 10 has been highly eroded , resulting in the loss of most of the monument 's details . In addition to the decay , the head ornament has been removed , and its current whereabouts are unknown . Stela 22 was dedicated on the East Group Plaza , located in front of Structure O @- @ 12 's terrace . The monument 's dedication initiated the East Group Plaza as a new center for sculpture and stelae . While previous stele had faced other directions , Stela 22 faced northwest towards the site 's acropolis , creating " a new axis of dialogue across the site . "

Stela 40 is of particular note because it contains the depiction o the aforementioned woman dressed in Teotihuacano garb ; it shows Itzam K 'an Ahk II scattering what appears to be either blood or incense into a " psychoduct " , the name for a vent or a hollow duct that goes from the outer of a temple or structure into an inner tomb . Simon and Grube argue that " the connection between the living and the dead is manifested [on this stela] as a ' knotted cord ' or breath which travels down to enter the nose of the deceased " . The female on the stela , denoted only by an " upside down vase " glyph , has been inferred to be Itzam K 'an Ahk II 's mother ; Pitts argues that the monument " offers an interesting vignette of Itzam K 'an Ahk II and his loyalty to a female ancestor , probably his mother . "

= = = Pyramid O @- @ 13 = = =

Pyramid O @- @ 13 is the name given to the hypothesized mortuary temple of K 'inich Yat Ahk II . According to Stephen Houston et al . , it was nearly twice as large as any of the previous buildings constructed at Piedras Negras . The pyramid itself changed substantially in the following years after Itzam K 'an Ahk II 's demise . K 'inich Yat Ahk II reset the older Panel 2 and installed two new panels , Panels 1 and the now @- @ famous Panel 3 . Megan O 'Neil argues that these changes were made in order for the ruling ajaw to have an " engagement with the past " . The pyramid was also

the location of the stelae of Piedras Negras 's three last known rulers . All three of the aforementioned leaders revered the site as a dynastic shrine , suggesting some sort of familial connection with K 'inich Yat Ahk II .

In 1997 , an excavation led by Héctor Escobedo discovered a tomb , Burial 13 , underneath the plaza floor at the front of the pyramid 's frontal stairs which may have been the place of interment for Itzam K 'an Ahk II . Inside the tomb were discovered the remains of three humans : one adult male and two adolescents . Over 100 artifacts , including pieces of jade and ornaments , were found scattered about . There was evidence that the tomb had been reentered and disturbed after it had been sealed ; many bones were missing and there was evidence that the remaining body parts had been burnt long after the flesh had decomposed . Eventually , it was concluded that the apparent destruction was part of a ritual that had been described in Panel 3 , called el naah umukil , or " house @-@ burning at the burial " , and that it had been carried out by K 'inich Yat Ahk II . However , Stephen D. Houston cautions that , while Burial 13 might be the resting place of Itzam K 'an Ahk II , it has not been conclusively proven .

It has been pointed out that , architecturally , both the O @-@ 13 Pyramid and the Late Classic Temple of the Inscriptions at Palenque , are nearly identical ; both have the same number of substructure terraces , and both pyramids ' substructures have exactly five doors . Furthermore , both pyramids were built into the sides of existing hills . Damien Marken and Kirk Straight , use this ? as well as inscriptions on stelae at Palenque ? to argue that there was some sort of relationship between the two polities .