

THE RED QUEEN OF PALENQUE

The mystery of this royal Mayan Lordess haunts my memories of Palenque. In 1994, a temple and burial chamber dedicated to a royal WOMAN was excavated - something never before seen in the Mayan world. There were no identifying name glyphs, so she was named **La Reyna Roja**, the Red Queen, because of large deposits of red dust that they found covering the walls of her sarcophagus and body. The red dust was cinnabar, a red mineral ritualistically used in burials.

Her body was wrapped in a shroud and she was "unusually" tall for the population – approximately 5'4 inches. Her cranium was elongated, as were the other Palencanos found buried in the center of the ancient city of Nah Chan Kaan. (Researches call this a 'deformity' that was created by sandwiching the cranium between two boards. Or in other cultures, by tightly wound bandages.) Ouch! It is interesting that this "cranial deformity" has been found common to many very ancient races – the Egyptians, the Olmecas, the Pre- Inca, etc. According to some of the esoteric doctrines and teachings, a divine root-race through whom all great civilizations developed, **HAD** elongated craniums with full-functioning brain centers. Later, as fewer of the divine race remained, the practice of "cranial deformation" was practiced by those who came after, in order to emulate the wisdom and knowledge of these ancient ones, whom they revered.

Both Pacal Votan and the "Red Queen" were found buried in a lidded sarcophagus inside a crypt, on top of which temples were built. Both temples have inner stairways leading to the burial chamber, and both personages were buried with sacrificed attendants to accompany them into the underworld. This is not customary in the funerary practices of the Maya, and is more reflective of ancient Egyptian burial practices. Both of their temples were built side-by- side within the ancient city's Great Plaza. Both Pacal Votan and the 'Red Queen' wore mortuary masks; and each was found with (what had been) a ceremonial belt of jade beads, pearls and three small axes. Both of their sarcophagi were painted red with cinnabar.

During our journey to Palenque in September, Master Mayan Teacher Miguel Angel Vergara will reveal the name of La Reyna Roja, and more on who she really was. As in ancient times, Pacal Votan and La Reyna Roja remain side by side in their royal temples guarding over the ancient city of Palenque.

Article written by Cynthia Signet for Ancient Wisdom Teachings E-Newsletter Sept. 2006
www.ancientwisdomteachings.com

LACANDON MAYA

The homeland of the Lancandon Maya is La Selva Lancandona (the Lancandon jungle) in Chiapas, Mexico. They call themselves the **Hach Winik** – the True People. They are recognized for their white tunics and long black hair, and say they are direct descendants from the Ancient Maya who once lived in the cities of Palenque, Bonampak and Yaxchilan. They are keepers of ancient knowledge, and continue to guard these sacred sites and perform ceremony in reverence to the Spirits who dwell there.

Cynthia Signet www.ancientwisdomteachings.com