

## The Mystery Builders of Comalcalco

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Does this ancient stone face look MAYAN to you? Well, neither do many of the other stone carvings from the temples of Comalcalco! This vast Preclassic pyramid city built in the westernmost area of the Mayan world, about 75 km. from Villahermosa, Tabasco, is truly an enigma of the Olmec/Mayan lands. (This was at one time an important city linked to Palenque, which covered approximately 200 acres (80 hectares), of which *only 15 acres* (6 hectares) have been excavated.

The stories that I had heard about this lesser known site were intriguing enough to make it the first stop in our recent equinox pilgrimage to Palenque...and it was truly quite amazing! What is evident there supports the theories, legends and sacred records from native sources of people from civilizations of the East traveling to and settling in the ancient Americas after the Great Flood, thousands of years before Columbus! As we entered the site onto the expansive green lawn of the North Plaza Complex, my first and instant impression of the main pyramid was that I was looking at a Mesopotamian ziggurat rather than a Mayan pyramid! Here are just a few facts about this unique site:

- This is the only site in all of the Olmec/Maya land with pyramids and temples built of flat kiln-dried clay bricks, (similar to those used in building Rome), and cemented together by a mixture of sand and limestone from burnt oyster shell. Symbols found inscribed on the backside of some of the kilned bricks are an absolute match to mason symbols found in ROMAN bricks. The backs of these kilned bricks have what they call "maker's marks" similar to a signature of the brickmaker, which is identical to those found in the Mediterranean region.
- The buildings of this city had a complex sewage/drainage system made of cylindrical clay pipes. This is similar to those recently excavated in the ancient Minoan settlement of Akroteri, on the Greek island of Santorini. (The History Channel recently aired a documentary on the evolving theory that Akroteri, which was preserved under layers of pumice from a volcano that erupted on the island, could very well be a remnant of the lost continent of Atlantis).
- Carved figurines and busts found at Comalcalco and now on display in the museum don beards, hats and other facial features totally uncharacteristic to the Maya.

In Joseph Campbell's book MASKS OF GOD, he points to archaeological evidence supporting a direct link between Mesopotamian ziggurats, the pyramids of Egypt and the Mayan pyramids. He also supports the idea (as do many other sacred histories), of a migration pattern from the Sumerian/Mesopotamia region into Asia and across the Atlantic to the ancient Americas. (Esoteric teachings go back even further than the Sumerian civilization, to the lost continent of Atlantis as the original home from where this Master race came).

The Mayan books of *Chilam Balam* relate that the first inhabitants of Yucatan were the Chanes, "People of the Serpent", said to have come from the east in A.D. 219 in boats across the waters with their leader Zamna, also known as Itzamna, "Serpent of the East." The Mayan holy book, the *Popul Vuh*, reads, "Then they came, they pulled up stakes there and left the East..."

In Friar Diego de Landa's 1566 account in RELACION DE LAS COSAS DE YUCATAN, he states, "*some old men of Yucatan say that they have heard from their ancestors that this country was peopled by a certain race who came from the East...*"

Comalcalco in ancient times was located in a tropical rainforest zone with plentiful rivers which allowed for trade with other centers of the Mayan world. Today, it stands in silent isolation - guarding a magnificent past yet to be revealed.