

The 2001 Face – The Bearded Jaguar Has A Flailing Tongue

by George J. Haas

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The Bearded Jaguar

The right side of the 2001 image of the Cydonia Face confirms the feline aspect of the east side of the earlier 1998 image (Figure 1). Although the 1998 exposure is narrow and dark its feline aspects are supported and confirmed in the new 2001 image. The new image of the feline side of the Face retains the crown feature and a square shape to the forehead. We still see the rectangular, squinting eyes, the muzzle, and a short zig-zag shaped mane or beard. Also note the four little "fangs" at the top and bottom of what appears to be a flailing tongue.

In 1996 NASA launched the long awaited Mars Global Surveyor (MGS) spacecraft with Dr. Malin once again at the camera's helm. We were told that the MGS would thoroughly map the whole planet, including Cydonia, with the most detailed images ever taken of the Martian surface. The Mars Orbiter Camera (MOC) began imaging the Red Planet in September of 1997.

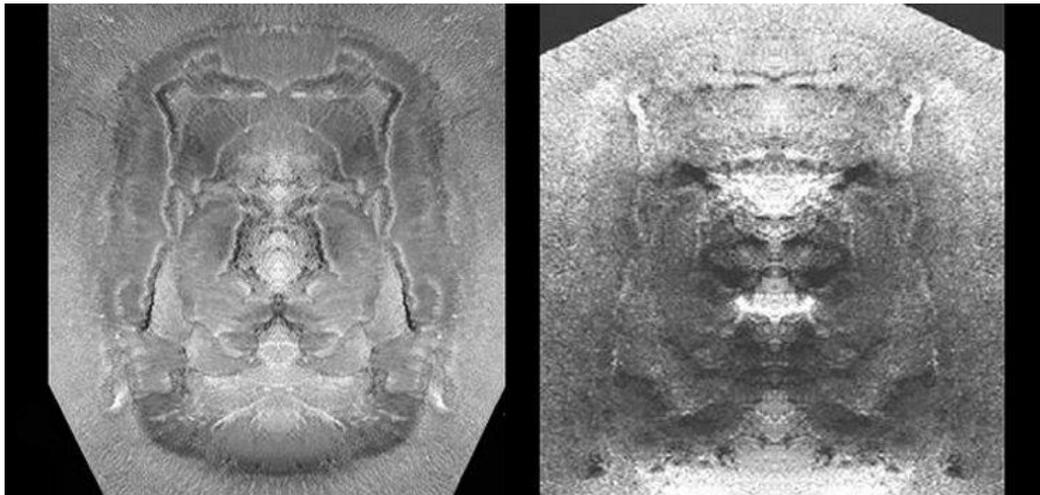


Figure 1

Comparison of both eastern feline sides of the Face on Mars 1998 & 2001

Left: 2001 Feline side: NASA/JPL (E03-00824)

Right: 1998 Feline side: negative reversal (SPI-22003)

On April 5, 1998 the Mars Orbital Camera (MOC) aboard the Surveyor was slated to re-image the "Face" and put an end to the controversy. On April 6, 1998 Dr. Malin immediately released a distorted, low contrast image of the face (MOC - SPI-22003)¹ to the international media (Figure 1) and proclaimed that the "face was just a pile of rocks".

The Flailing Tongue

The big surprise in the 2001 image is not only the presents of four little "fangs" at the top and bottom, but a flailing "tongue". The tongue is highly decorated with a crown like pattern at the top (Figure 2).

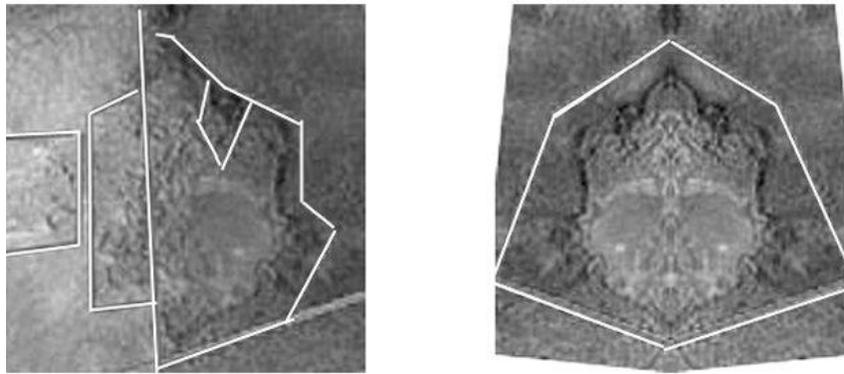


Figure 2

The Crowned Tongue

Left: Highlighted detail of central axis with tooth and tongue

Note two teeth forms on left and one half of the Crowned Tongue on the right.

Right: The Crowned Tongue (duplicated).

Note the owl shape of the face

On an Olmec mask from Guerrero,¹ Mexico a jaguar head is depicted with a small beard and a flailing tongue (Figure 3). Notice the short beard flowing around the lower jaw and neck area.



Figure 3

Olmec bearded jaguar

Drawing by George J. Haas

(Image source: Art of Ancient America

by Disselhoff and Linne)

In Mesoamerican cultures the flailing tongue was often seen as a sign of bloodletting² and many glyphs portray jaguars with flailing tongues (Figure 4a). Notice the decorative jewels on the tongue. The tongue was also synonymous with the sacrificial knife and many images display these protruding tongues in the shape of a knife blade³ (Figure 4b).

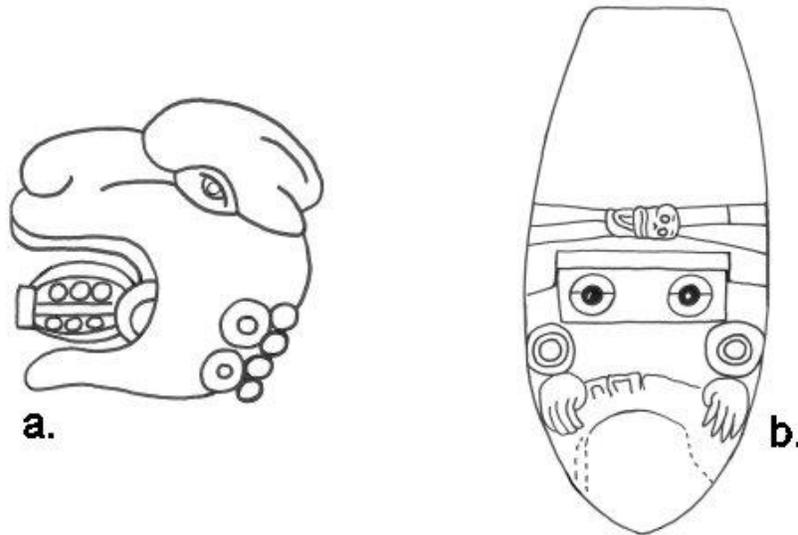


Figure 4

Tongues and knife blades

a. Maya Jaguar glyph with jeweled tongue

Drawing by George J. Haas

(Image source: After Thompson)

b. Aztec sacrificial blade

Note the tongue shaped knife has a face

Drawing by George J. Haas

(Image source: Montezuma's Mexico: Visions of the Aztec World by Carrasco)

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Footnotes

1. Hans-Dietrich Disselhoff and Sigvald Linne, *The Art of Ancient America* (New York: Greystone Press, 1966), 75. Although this mask is not a typical example of Olmec art, Dr. Lothrop has ascribed it to the Olmec culture. The mask is from Rio de las Balsas, Guerrero, and exhibits a “stylistic influence” of the Olmec of La Venta.

2. Linda Schele and David Freidel, *A Forest of Kings: The Untold Story of the Ancient Maya* (New York: Quill, 1990), 89.

3. Cottie Burland and Werner Forman, *Echoes of the Ancient World: The Aztecs: Fate of the Warrior Nation*, (Yugoslavia: Golden Press, 1985), 102.