

The M16 Face
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February 2001

A Really High Albedo

And the saga continues. We are now being spoon-fed "bits and pieces" of the Face on Mars, by Malin and company. On January 31, 2001 Malin/NASA/JPL released 7 additional Cydonia images that were subsequently obtained after the last release of Mars images back in April 2000. In this latest "dump" of Cydonia images a fine detail of the left Humanoid side of the Face was included for our feverish consumption; M16-00184₁ (Figure 1). The new M16 Face contains the highest resolution ever taken of this controversial structure so far. It is a stunning 1.7 meters, or 5.6 feet per pixel.

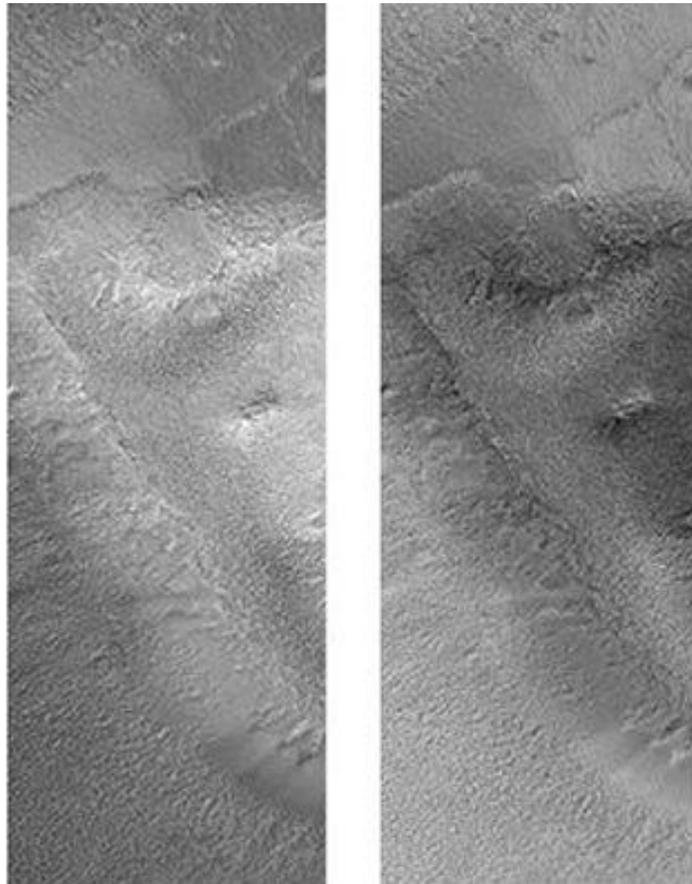


Figure 1

M16 Face (M16-00184)

Left: Normal presentation

Note the high albedo features.

Right: Negative reversal.

Note the halved tri-leaf emblem on the forehead and the projecting edge of the brow and the almond-shaped eye feature

Unfortunately, Malin/NASA has presented this new high-res detailed image of the Face in a washed out "negative" presentation. This practice is a common public relations tactic employed by both NASA and Malin in an effort to downplay any artificial features that the Face (or any other structure) may exhibit. By releasing gleaming images in extreme brightness they can obscure the detail. Once a "negative reversal" and contrast adjustment is performed (to limit the brightness) on the new M16 Face, its fine facial features are easily observer (Figure 1).

The Eye

The new image, when carefully examined, is actually very revealing (Figure 2). It not only captures a small portion of the "headdress ", including the controversial "teardrop" feature and a tiny corner of the mouth area but, it nails the "brow" area complete with an "eye" and "pupil". Every aspect of an eye feature that has been previously contemplated has now been reinforced in this new image.

Although disappointing in its lack of totality, this new image confirms the existence of all of these aforementioned anatomical features of the "eye". Notice the projecting edge of the "brow", the almond-shaped eye socket and a pronounced circular "eye" feature including an "iris". Interestingly, the famous "Teardrop" feature, directly below the "eye", appears to be more steep and rectangular in this new image.

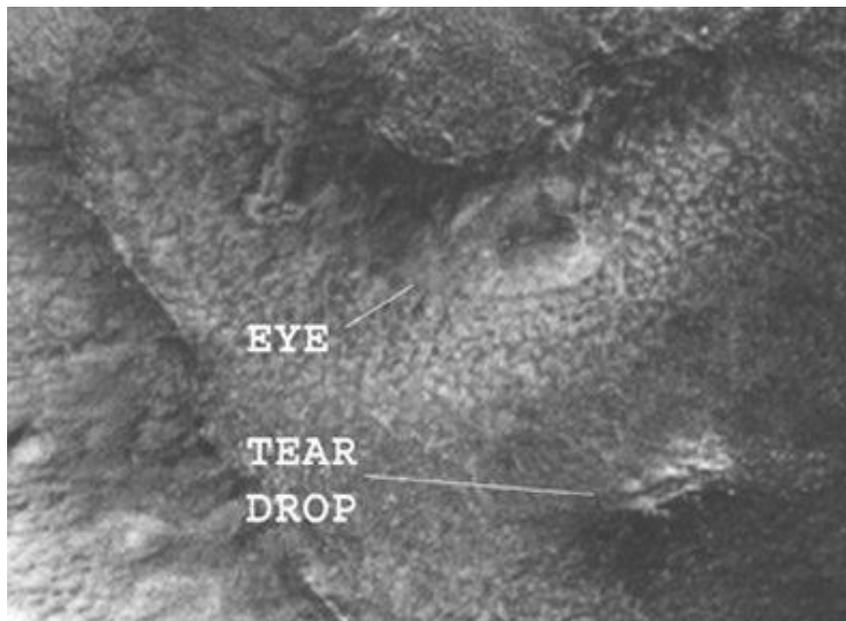


Figure 2
The Eye

Detail (enlargement) of facial features in the new M16 Face (M16-00184)
Note the deer ornament in the brow, the almond-shaped eye socket and the "iris" in the eye.

The Deer Effigy

The big surprise here is not only the presents of an "iris" but the discovery an ornamental trophy head, mounted along the edge of the "eye" and "brow". In examining the new image I noticed an odd muzzle feature including a head formation sprouting out of the "brow" area, right next to the "eye". This odd animal formation appears to represent deer effigy complete with antlers. An analytical drawing of these amazing facial features is provided in figure 3.

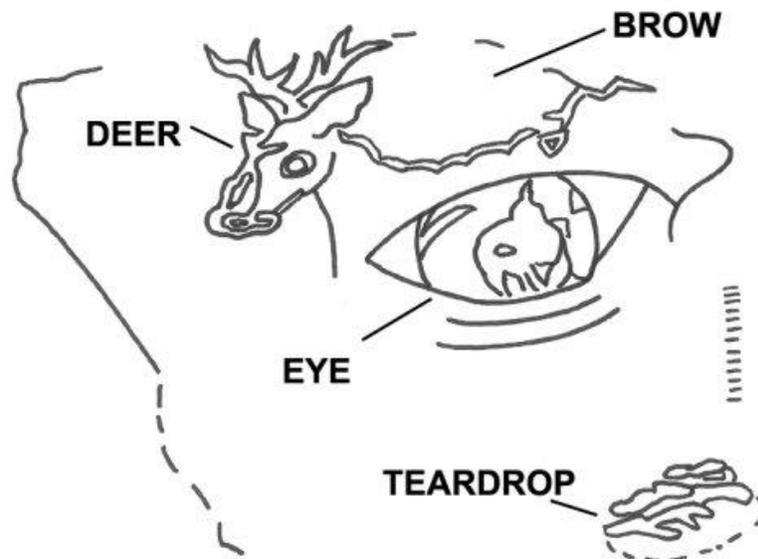


Figure 3
The Deer Effigy
Analytical Drawing of the facial features in the new M16 Face
Note the deer ornament above the almond shaped "eye" socket.

In the Maya culture the deer has an interlocking relationship with the agricultural aspects of corn in regards to the deer's symbolic connections to water and drought.² Combining the presence of the tri-leaf corn emblem on the forehead of the Humanoid side of the Face with the deer effigy over the eye we find a repetitive agricultural iconography within the Face. The farmer plants the corn, which needs rain to grow. As the corn grows it attracts the deer that brings the rain. When the deer feeds on the corn it also becomes an easy target for the hunter. Without rain the corn does not grow and without corn there is no deer.

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Footnotes

1. Mars Viewer, MOC 1600184, *Massif in Cydonia region*, Dated June 3, 2000
2. Jean Chevalier and Alain Gheerbrant, *A Dictionary of Symbols* (New York: Penguin Books, 1996), 282.