*Archaeologist V. Garth Norman Photographing stelae at Izapa, Mexico in 1962.*

# The Rosetta Stone Of Mesoamerica

by Cheryl Norman *(The legacy of V. Garth Norman lives on.)*

"Izapa Stela 5 is the most detailed and important Tree of Life rendering in the ancient world." – Mary Ellen Miller, Yale University. In Fig. 1 below, the SPIRAL symbol in the upper left corner, below the two fish represents FAMILY: ONE ETERNAL ROUND.



*Fig. 1 - Norman's photo Of Izapa Stela 5 Tree of Life Monument -1962*



*Fig. 2 - 1941 photo taken from the right side of Izapa Stela 5 "Tree of Life" monument when it was excavated from being buried. Project photo from Matthew W. Stirling. Director of the Bureau of American Ethnology, Smithsonian Institution, and an Associate of the National Geographic Society who began exploration at Izapa. (Compare with 1965 Norman Photos, and—Jason B. Jones (2012) Reflectance Transformation Imaging (RTI) photo--Fig. 6.*

*Fig. 3 - Izapa, Mexico Stela 5 Tree of Life monument is 5 feet tall and 5 feet wide. Archaeologist V. Garth Norman took many photos of Stela 5 beginning in 1962. This photo has line tracings highlighting the images and glyphs on the monument—published by New World Archaeological Foundation in 1973 after peer reviews by 16 world scholars.*
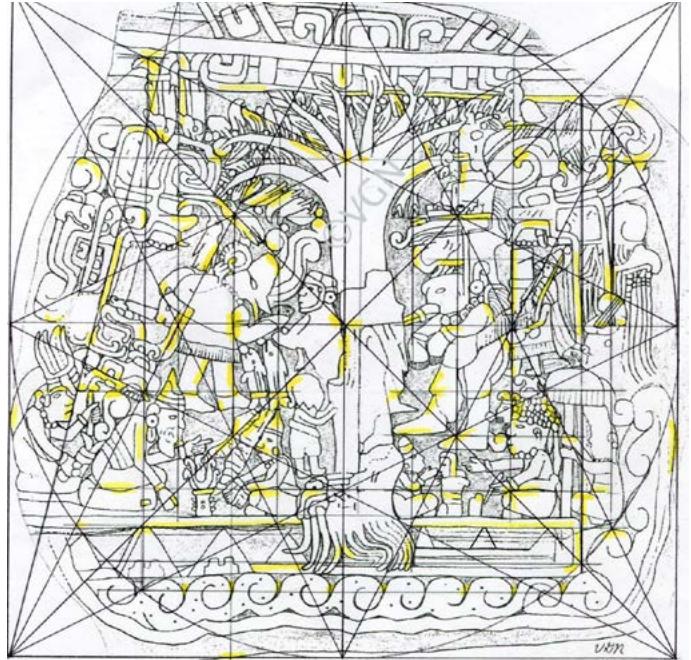


*Fig. 4 - Izapa Stela 5 created by Izapans (ca 400-350 BC) with Babylonian and Egyptian cubits and Middle Eastern Chiastic Geometry.*



*Fig. 5 - Izapa Stela 5 most recent photo 2012 RTI (Reflectance Transformation Imaging) on site by Jason Jones, University of Warwick, England (Sponsored by "Lord Rootes Memorial Fund").*



*Fig. 6 - Izapa Stela 5 color coded to show the blue "cycle of life from heaven to earth (right), then evaporation/resurrection back to heaven again (left). Twelve roots are at the base of the tree. Red God-Quetzalcoatl is on the right, & Red Goddess on the left. Ancestral family is seated at the base of the tree. Fruit is at the top of the tree.*