Analysis, presumed structure, method and time of fabrication of the Baalbek trilithon and “tired” parallelepipeds

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This study presents results showing that the Stone of the South, the West Stone, and the recently discovered 1,650-ton megalith located near the Stone of the South were not cut out from a single piece of limestone in a quarry, but were cast in situ from a concrete-like material. During the casting process, masonries made of relatively small stone blocks were used as a rigid internal filler. A similar conclusion was drawn regarding the “trilithon” blocks and the plinth blocks forming the large podium of the Temple of Jupiter. The solutions found make it possible to remove from consideration the unresolved questions concerning the methods of transporting the Baalbek megaliths from the quarry to the construction site in deep antiquity. A number of features identified during a detailed analysis of the masonry of the Temple of Jupiter podium led to the conclusion that the so-called medieval Arab fortress was erected before the construction of the ancient Roman temple, rather than after, as is commonly believed today. The latter finding, together with the presence in the Baalbek structures of cavities from reinforcement in the form of multi-meter metal rods of large cross-sections, indicates that the “ancient Roman” buildings were erected during the era of industrial production of iron and large-sized products of it.

Key words: stone block, monolith megalith, Stone of the South, West Stone, Forgotten Stone, Third Monolith, trilithon, plinth, concrete, fortress, podium, Temple of Jupiter, Baalbek, Lebanon, Unfinished Obelisk, Aswan Obelisk, Egypt, Ground Zero, New York

1. Introduction

Recent studies[1,2] have shown that the phenomenon of “tired” stones (see Photo. 1) occurs not only in South America (the fortress and outskirts of Ollantaytambo) and in Africa (the Unfinished Obelisk[3,4,5,6]), but also in the Middle East, where it is represented by the well-known Baalbek parallelepipeds[a,7]. The mere weight of these “stones”, exceeding 1,000 tons (!), should already make any reasonable person wary – could all this be a fake?

Why hew a gigantic granite obelisk or cut out a massive limestone parallelepiped which assuredly cannot be delivered to their place of installation? Even in our time, with the help of modern equipment, the loading, movement, and installation of such objects would require enormous effort and huge financial costs.

According to legend, once a crack appeared in the Unfinished Obelisk, the work was abandoned and the quarry – remarkably – was closed forever!? Only the latter circumstance can explain why the obelisk has survived to this day. However, this would be impossible in a real quarry, where a rejected large granite block like the Aswan Obelisk would be split manually with a sledgehammer and steel wedges over several days into smaller pieces, which are then supplied to other customers.

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[a] Precise measurements, for example of the Stone of the South, indicate that it has a number of deviations from the shape of a parallelepiped; that is, strictly speaking, it represents a type of prism. Visually, these deviations are almost imperceptible.

(a)

(b)

(c)

Photo. 1. “Tired” (a) parallelepiped at the Archaeological site of Ollantaytambo, South America; (b) Unfinished Obelisk in Aswan, Africa; (c) Baalbek parallelepiped – the “Stone of the South”, Middle East. All three monuments are suspiciously similarly positioned in space – they are inclined to the surface at a small angle (about 11° in the case of the Obelisk and about 16° in the case of the parallelepipeds) and are partially embedded in the ground at one end. The orientation of both parallelepipeds is toward the northwest, approximately at 11 o'clock. It gives the impression that all three stones had the same landscape designer. Photos (a) E. Berzin, 2015, allenatore.livejournal.com; (b) Underwood & Underwood, 1904, digitalcollections.rice.edu; (c) 2011, wikimedia.org.

Amazingly, in the case of the Baalbek parallelepipeds (see Photo. 1c, Photo. 2, Photo. 3, Photo. 4), the fairy-tale story of the Unfinished Obelisk miraculously repeated itself. A certain client refused his order for some reason, and the work at the quarry stopped again … forever!?

(a)

Photo. 2. The West Stone weighing about 1,300 tons and its inner “stuffing”. Characteristic round and square pits are visible on the upper face; these formed at the locations where the walkway supports stood, from which the concrete was poured and compacted. The walkway supports also served as restraining elements to prevent the concrete from sliding during the pouring of the upper inclined face. At the location of the cut-out block, the outer vertical wall of the concrete box and the internal concrete partition parallel to it are clearly visible. The concrete partitions form when concrete fills the spaces between masonries of stone blocks (the dark rectangular areas) laid inside, which constitute a core of the “monolith”. The stone blocks of the core act as rigid aggregate, significantly reducing the required volume of concrete, greatly simplifying the formwork, and dramatically decreasing concrete shrinkage, thereby preventing the formation of shrinkage cracks. Photo 2019 from wikimedia.org.

In real quarries, both then and now, stone extraction is carried out in successive layers of blocks.[2] To move on to the next layer of blocks (see Photo. 4), one must first finish the current one. But how can one finish the current layer of blocks without removing a defective block or block (in our case, the Stone of the South) that the customer refused? Why did the ancient builders undertake the preparation of the Newly-acquired “Tsar” Parallelepiped (see Photo. 4) – after all, it lies directly in the path of transporting the Stone of the South[8] to the Baalbek construction site[9]?

2. Excavations and conclusions by German archaeologists

In their brief report, the German archaeologists who carried out the excavations claim that the Stone of the South turned out to be defective, which is why the builders abandoned it.[10] Among the discovered defects, the archaeologists note extensive karst formations inside and on the northwest face, as well as a “very long crack”. If, according to traditional history, several thousand years have already passed since the quarrying of the Stone of the South, then the exten-

(b)

Continuation of Photo. 2. Strange wedge-shaped notches making steps on the upper face. The steps are formed by the upper blocks of the inner masonry. The steps served to keep the concrete from sliding down during the pouring of the upper inclined layer. Over time, the top concrete layer disintegrated, revealing the stepped structure underneath. Since the steps run along one half of the “megalith”, similar steps are most likely present under the top concrete layer on the other half, where the concrete adhesion to the inner masonry turned out to be stronger. It follows from the observation that the inner masonry of the “monolith” consisted of two parallel stone masonries. The well-preserved side walls in the wedge-shaped notches also support this conclusion. A clear boundary runs across the West Stone dividing it into two parts. Such a division indicates that the concrete was poured in two stages: first one (lower) half of the “megalith” was cast, and then the other (upper) half. Photo 2019 from wikimedia.org.

sive karst formations have developed within it over that period of time. Consequently, at the time of its quarrying, this stone in question could not have been considered defective by the ancient builders due to its karst formations.

In the photograph presented in the report (see Fig. 4 in Ref. 10), no other long cracks are visible besides the natural crack separating the Stone of the South from the bedrock. It turns out that by the “very long crack”, the German archaeologists meant exactly this crack[11] (see Photo. 5a), which formed naturally in the rock massif. Cracks with planes oriented in the same spatial direction confirm the natural origin of this crack. These cracks can be seen in the limestone outcrops located a dozen paces to the southeast of the Stone of the South.

It is strange why the German archaeologists decided that this crack was so harmful and dangerous that the Stone of the South could no longer be used? After all, logically, when cutting out the monolith, the ancient builders calculated the height of the Stone precisely based on the

Photo. 3. The upper face of the Stone of the South. Visible on the surface: round and square pits, a transverse fold, and several vast rainpits. The pits were left by the supports of the walkways from which concrete was poured and compacted. The walkway supports acted as additional restraints to prevent sliding of the top concrete layer during downhill pouring of the upper face sealing the concrete box. The transverse fold indicates a two-stage pouring process. First, the lower half of the “Stone” was poured, then the upper half. Photo 2019 from wikimedia.org.

depth at which this crack lay and the spatial orientation of its plane. Why, then, didn't the German archaeologists consider the Newly-acquired Tsar Parallelepiped defective for the same reasons? After all, exactly the same kind of crack[11] was found beneath it (see Photo. 5b) as under the Stone of the South.

3. Oddities of the bedrocks beneath the Stone of the South and the Newly-acquired Tsar Parallelepiped

Nowadays, the tired parallelepipeds are considered natural stones cut out from limestone. In principle, having reached the crack in question, the ancient builders should have stopped. However, Photo. 5 shows that they did not stop but continued the cutting as if nothing had happened. This is evidenced by the fact that the planes of the vertical faces of the Stone of the

Photo. 4. The Newly-acquired Tsar Parallelepiped (left) discovered next to the Stone of the South (right). The estimated weight of the excavated megalith is a record 1,650 tons. Just like the West Stone and the Stone of the South, the upper face of the Newly-acquired Parallelepiped shows the following signs of concrete casting: pits, a clearly visible top layer, and a transverse fold in the top layer. The composition of the parallelepipeds carries the symbolism of 9 (Roman numeral IX). Photo 2019 from wikimedia.org.

South and the Newly-acquired Parallelepiped exactly coincide with the vertical planes of the bedrocks beneath them. Moreover, the vertical faces of the megaliths and the vertical planes of their bedrocks are originally processed with the same high quality (for some reason, there are no rough grooves typical of stone blanks left by pickaxe use on the walls). Besides other things, both of these facts indicate that the crack in question did not come as a surprise to the builders.

Why didn't the builders stop when they reached the crack? Suppose the Stone of the South was planned to be placed on rollers[12] or skids, and that's why the cutting out was continued. However, the question of why the vertical walls of the “pedestal” were processed as well as the vertical faces of the parallelepipeds themselves (see Photo. 5) remains unanswered. Indeed, why should the vertical walls of the pedestal be so carefully processed when the pedestals under the parallelepipeds will still have to be destroyed to install rollers or skids anyway?

Similar destruction can be seen beneath the Stone of the South, where large, rough grooves are visible on the walls of the pedestal almost along its entire perimeter (see Photo. 5a, Photo. 6). However, this destruction is secondary, since an area unaffected by it is visible in Photo. 5a. It gives the impression that someone attempted to conceal something by deliberately roughening the surface (see also Sec. 11).

Everything, however, falls into place if the tired parallelepipeds were not cut out but cast from a concrete-like material (hereinafter concrete), no matter how improbable this may sound in relation to the blocks located in the quarry. The observed coincidence of the planes of the vertical faces of the parallelepipeds and the vertical walls of their pedestals, as well as the smoothness and flatness of both surfaces, are indications of concrete casting. The vertical, well-processed

(a)

Photo. 5. Section of the “very long crack” under (a) the Stone of the South, (b) the Newly-acquired Tsar Parallelepiped. The planes of the vertical faces of the monoliths and the vertical planes of their bedrocks coincide and are processed to the same quality (the excavation of material in the bedrock under the Stone of the South, which produced the rough, deep grooves, was performed later). The planes of the cracks are parallel to the upper faces of the megaliths. Photo 2019 from wikimedia.org.

walls of the bedrock pedestal ensured a tight fit of the formwork panels against them and established the vertical alignment of the panels.

The pedestal, together with the narrow shallow trench surrounding it, served to securely fix the formwork panel in its lower part. The panel was installed flush against the vertical wall of the pedestal, after which its lower position was secured, for example, by placing wedging stones into the trench between the panel and its outer wall. The panels were fixed in their mid-height section as usual by means of struts (and stops, if there was a rock wall nearby). The upper edges of the panels were tied together with transverse and oblique beams.

Today, all sides of the Stone of the South can be examined, and no critical defects are visible anywhere. There are several vast rainpits on the upper face (see Photo. 3) and a small internal cavity on the northeast face. It is obvious that both defects are related to the concrete pouring. The abandonment of the Stone of the South in the quarry cannot be justified by any defects. The German archaeologists should come up with another explanation.

In Photo. 4, we see a huge empty space to the left of the Newly-acquired Parallelepiped. Why were stone blocks – or even a whole block comparable in size to the neighboring megaliths – extracted from here? The presence of this empty space here once again does not align with the generally accepted sequence of block extraction in quarries and the logic of their transportation. After all, to haul out the Stone of the South, surrounded by hills on all other sides, the ancient Romans would have first had to fill in a huge pit, then carefully compact the soil there and additionally reinforce it somehow.

4. The Aswan Obelisk and the Baalbek parallelepipeds: Why and for whom were they needed?

In light of the above, there arises a strong suspicion that neither the Aswan Obelisk nor the

(b)

Continuation of Photo. 5. Frame from the video “Lebanon, Baalbek”, 2024.

Baalbek parallelepipeds was ever intended to be moved by anyone to anywhere. It looks like we have been led by the nose and fooled all this time. If a stone block of incredible size and weight (over 1,000 tons!) is found in a quarry, this does not mean at all that it was ever planned to be moved anywhere, installed somewhere, or used in any way.

The goal of the history falsifiers was to point to such a block as proof and convince the masses that our ancestors in the very distant past were capable of cutting out such unliftable objects from the rock with primitive tools, somehow dragging them away, and using them whole. Do the sites where the Unfinished Obelisk and the Stone of the South are located actually look like real quarries at all? So far, despite decades of work by these restorer-falsifiers, all I see is a pathetic imitation of real quarries.

According to historians, stone has been mined in these quarries for centuries, yet for some reason no depressions of corresponding depth have ever formed there. Could any significant volume of stone used for building of the Baalbek temples have been extracted from that modest depression in the ground where the tired Stone of the South “rests” today? Furthermore, these pseudo-quarries show absolutely no traces of a road along which countless stone blocks were transported from there over the centuries. The Stone of the South[8] is surrounded by hills on all sides except in the direction of the Temple of Jupiter[9]. At the same time, it is somehow hard to consider that place a road when tall rectangular stone pillars protrude from the ground there (see Photo. 7).

In the Aswan pseudo-quarry, not far from the tired Tsar Obelisk, restorer-falsifiers fabricated a stone bridge from which a granite block was supposedly broken off in ancient times. The stone bridge is surrounded by recesses – so-called “scoop marks” (a detailed explanation of the formation of these marks is given in book 2). Once again failing to think ahead, the falsifiers created their forgery right on the cliff summit. How the ancient Egyptians managed to lower the cut out block from above and haul it out of the quarry will forever remain a great “mystery”.

The restorer-falsifiers not only got the place of the forgery wrong, but also failed to provide any cover story. Thus, the author was unable to find any information about who discovered this stone bridge and when. There is likewise no information about the almost cut-out granite block

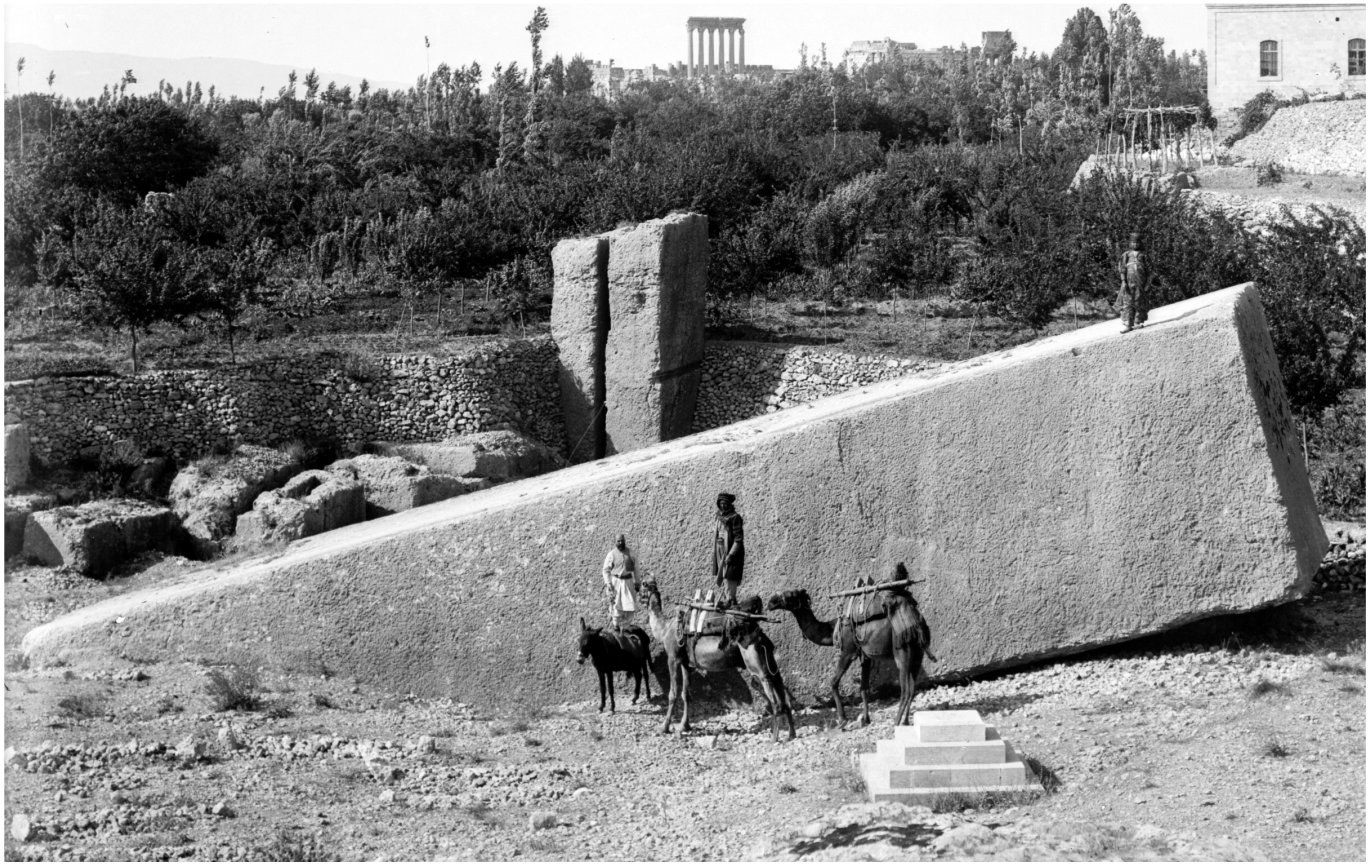
Photo. 6. Deep, rough grooves mark the walls of the elegant pedestal, which today supports the 1,000-ton Stone of the South. No need to worry – the German archaeologists cleared away the soil and slightly cut the pedestal in places, but they had everything calculated. Now, during heavy rain or a small earthquake, “Humanity's World Heritage” has a good chance of falling on its side. Where is UNESCO watching? It looks like everything is ready for some kind of nasty show. But every cloud has a silver lining. After all, should the tired parallelepiped fall from its pedestal, it may break apart – revealing its true inner stuff to us. Photo 2019 from wikimedia.org.

situated here on the summit of the cliff nearby. Who conducted the excavations, what was discovered, where can the primary descriptions of the finds be located, and what were the circumstances of their discovery? Nothing of this is known. We know who discovered the Unfinished Tsar Obelisk and when, but who were the discoverers of this “sweet couple”?

Only the site where the West Stone[7,13] (see Photo. 2) lies resembles a real quarry in terms of size, appearance, and the availability of access roads. Despite several limestone outcrops, the presumed quarry is largely filled with clayey soil mixed with stone debris, which makes it difficult today to determine the actual scale of stone extraction at this site.

5. How history that never was is created

For hundreds of years on the lands where these monuments are located, empires have risen and collapsed, devastating wars have raged, and one people has been replaced by another – yet, as in Peru, we still see the striking preservation of these “worn-out” and completely “exhausted” stone megaliths. Such preservation is, of course, impossible without the involvement



(a)

Photo. 7. A pair of vertical blocks, 9.37 m in height, stands behind the Stone of the South, directly in the path of its transport to the Temple of Jupiter. From certain angles, the vertical blocks bear a surprising resemblance to the infamous Twin Towers. Within this architectural ensemble, the blocks are meant to symbolize the number 11. On the horizon, 6 columns of the Temple of Jupiter are visible, though 9 were originally planned. Fortunately, 6 and 9 are interchangeable in occultism. As a result, no matter how you look at it, the code 911 comes up again. In the foreground are small architectural objects of white stone: (a) a four-stepped truncated quadrilateral pyramid, (b) a quadrilateral obelisk with a truncated top, lying on the ground. No one knows where these small objects come from and where they disappear to. Library of Congress, 1900, loc.gov.

of local authorities. Thus, some forces have compelled the local authorities all this time to strictly guard these artifacts of the so-called “distant” past so that nothing would happen to them. Time and again misled down false paths, we are constantly compelled to grapple with the insolvable “riddles” of the past, while the orchestrators of this historical charade – having successfully achieved all their objectives of domination – simply laugh at our expense.

The audacity of the ancient history falsifiers is always astounding. And now their modern successors unexpectedly excavate yet another tired parallelepiped with even larger dimensions, weighing 1,650 tons (!), next to the Stone of the South (see Photo. 4).[14] Let us show how the legalization of “ancient” artifacts and buildings occurs using the example of the next Baalbek parallelepiped.

At the outset, a country tasked with perpetrating a historical forgery creates an ancient monument on its own territory as secretly as possible, often under the guise of archaeological excavations and/or restoration work. This monument usually exhibits features of incompleteness and unfinished construction. Subsequently, the monument will be repeatedly changed, corrected, supplemented, and updated. Often, after a series of such interventions, nothing at all remains of the original pseudo-antique structure.

In the case of the Newly-acquired Baalbek Parallelepiped, Lebanon acted as the country that fabricated this alleged ancient monument. After its creation, the monument is buried, allowing it to age naturally for some time until it reaches the desired condition. At the appropriate moment,

(b)

Continuation of Photo. 7. Photo 2010 from wikimedia.org.

authoritative European archaeologists (in this case, German ones) are invited to the site of the upcoming archaeological discovery, which they make successfully.

Only the top officials of both sides are aware of what is happening. The details of the object to be “discovered” are discussed and coordinated in advance; appropriate funds are allocated for the project implementation. It would not be long before UNESCO[15] solemnly declares (in fact, finally legalizes) the Newly-acquired Tsar Parallelepiped as “Humanity's World Heritage”. The early tricks of the German “archaeologists”, marked not by glory but by indelible shame, are well known. One such trick, concerning the well-known bust of Queen Nefertiti, is discussed in detail in book 2.

6. Why were the trilithon blocks required, and how did they become part of the podium?

Guys, the history-falsifiers – in this case, all your efforts are completely pointless simply because there are no buildings in which these tired Baalbek parallelepipeds would serve as any irreplaceable structural elements. Exactly the same applies to the slightly smaller “trilithon” blocks that you keep nodding at, and to the even smaller plinth blocks lying under the “trilithon” blocks (see Photo. 8[16]).[7] Let me remind you that the weight of the trilithon blocks is estimated at 800 tons, and the weight of the plinth blocks at 350 tons.[7]

Neither the trilithon blocks nor the plinth blocks play any specific role in the temple constructions of Baalbek. These blocks do not even carry a weight load corresponding to their sizes since there is simply no such load. This can be easily verified by looking at the wall. After all, under the trilithon blocks at the very base of the wall, there are comparatively small and, therefore, already quite transportable stone blocks.

In the Temple of Jupiter, the distance from the edge of the large podium, whose boundaries are defined by the plinth blocks, to the edge of the small podium along which the columns stand exceeds 9 m.[12,17] Therefore, the trilithon blocks carry neither the weight of the columns, nor of the

Photo. 8. Three “trilithon” blocks and a course of large plinth blocks below them on the west side of the Temple of Jupiter. The trilithon blocks are estimated to weigh 800 tons, and the plinth blocks 350 tons. Since the three courses of stone blocks of the fortress wall rest against the ends of the trilithon blocks on either side, the regular bonding pattern is disrupted in these places, thereby increasing the chances of wall collapse on both sides during an earthquake. In addition, in two other locations, the stone blocks of the wall above the trilithon blocks (north and south) are laid with gross violation of the bonding rule. How could the indicated bonding violations occur if the fortress walls were erected much later than the temple podium? Photo by T. R. Dumas, 1860, loc.gov.

ceilings, nor of the roof. They carry nothing but their own weight. A fair question arises: What was the need to use the giant trilithon blocks then? And yet, to date, among hundreds of ancient Roman temples, not a single one is known where blocks similar in size to the trilithon and plinth blocks were used for the podium, not to mention the tired parallelepipeds.

As seen in Photo. 8, Photo. 9a, Photo. 10, Photo. 11, three courses of comparatively small blocks of the fortress wall are abutted against the end faces of the trilithon blocks on both sides. In these places, the normal bonding pattern[18] with the trilithon blocks is interrupted due to the large height of the trilithon blocks. Consequently, the resistive capacity of the walls to the destructive action of earthquakes weakens in these places. There is no doubt that everything below the trilithon blocks will survive, whereas the parts to the left and right of them have a higher chance of falling apart. In the event of the destruction of the walls to the left and right, the likelihood of the collapse of the wall resting on the trilithon blocks also increases.

And although real trilithon blocks, when properly applied, can to some extent improve the earthquake resistance of any building structure, this property could in no way justify their use in the temple podium because of the disproportionate costs involved. As for the existing podium struc-

(a)

Photo. 9. Northwest corner of the Temple of Jupiter. (a) The front side of the north trilithon block protrudes noticeably outward for some reason, although it seems as if nothing prevented the stones of the fortress tower from being put flush with this block. The large plinth block under the trilithon block also protrudes noticeably outward from the wall plane. What are the reasons for the observed protrusion of these blocks? Photo 2019 from wikimedia.org.

ture, the trilithon blocks, even if they were in fact solid stones, would in the event of seismic shocks largely be able to save only themselves from destruction.

Besides the places already mentioned, the bonding rule of the blocks is grossly violated at two other locations in the wall above the trilithon blocks. Photo. 8 and Photo. 10 clearly show the breaks in connections extending through the entire height of the wall, situated respectively above the north and south trilithon blocks. To survive earthquakes, which are not uncommon in the region, or even strong gusts of wind, the unbonded stone blocks above the south trilithon

(b)

Continuation of Photo. 9. (b) On the north side, near the corner and under the conditionally first course of the wall masonry of the fortress tower, some inserts consisting of two small stone blocks are visible. These inserts, together with the peculiarities of the masonry of the courses of blocks beneath the plinth blocks, allow us to conclude that the stone blocks of the fortress tower do not rest on the plinth blocks at all. The latter are simply abutted against the tower wall, whereas they should at least partially extend beneath the wall. It turns out that the plinth blocks are a fiction, as they bear no weight load whatsoever and do not perform the function of diverting rainwater flowing down the wall away from the wall footing. Frame from the video “Inside the massive ancient megalithic complex of Baalbek”, 2022.

block at the very top must be fastened together with steel rods. What kind of fortress, then, according to historians, could the Baalbek complex under consideration have once served as, if the walls above the trilithon blocks are so flimsy that the history falsifiers had to fasten them with steel rods?

Upon close examination, the break in the bonding above the north trilithon block occurs precisely along the south side of the northwest tower (see Photo. 8). As expected, the northwest fortress tower projects outward relative to the comparatively well-preserved north section of the fortress wall (the north side of the small podium). However, contrary to the generally accepted principles of fortification, on the west side the wall of this tower and the fortress wall are somehow located in the same plane.

The tower located on the southwest corner of the small podium (in the southwest corner of the large podium) is difficult to discern due to significant reconstructions caused by the formation of the plinth blocks and the south trilithon block there. Despite this, above the south trilithon block there remains a place where the northwest corner of this tower was formerly located. It is precisely along this corner that the vertical boundary runs today (see Photo. 10), along which the above-mentioned violation of block bonding is observed.

Thus, both locations of the gross violation of the block bonding indicate that the section of the fortress wall between the fortress towers on the west side was moved outward from its original position at the boundary of the small podium and reassembled flush with the walls of the towers at the boundary of the large podium. The relocation of this wall section occurred in connection with the subsequent formation of the plinth blocks and the trilithon blocks at this place. It was precisely this relocation of the fortress wall that caused the noted gross violations of block bond-

Photo. 10. The south trilithon block. A significant portion of the outer concrete layer has already fallen away; soon the internal contents of the “monolith” will be exposed. Humanity's World Heritage is in urgent need of repair. When pouring the left plinth block, the builders either miscalculated the required concrete volume (and the prepared mix was insufficient) or part of the front layer fell off due to premature formwork removal. They didn't bother to correct it and just left it as is. The wall above the trilithon block is built with a gross violation of the block bonding. In the seismically active region of Lebanon, such a wall can only withstand earthquakes if its stone blocks are secured to one another with steel rods. Photo 2019 from wikimedia.org.

ing.

According to the views of modern historians, the fortress walls in Baalbek were built much later than the construction of the large podium of the Temple of Jupiter. If this is so, then why were the stone blocks of these walls laid with the indicated violations of the bonding rules? If the fortress had been built after the construction of the Temple of Jupiter, then its northwest tower and the tower at the southwest corner of the small podium, in accordance with the generally accepted principles of fortification, would not be located within the outline of the large podium, as they are today, but outside it.

As will be proved below, the trilithon blocks and the plinth blocks are not really what they seem. The plinth “blocks” were formed only to mark the boundaries of the large podium around a fortress that had already existed there. The original layout and outline of a part of this initial fortress are today defined by the following: a section of the north fortress wall (the north side of the small podium), the northwest tower, and the remains of a tower at the southwest corner of the small podium.

In order to impress the public with the gigantic dimensions and weight of the trilithon blocks, as well as with the somewhat smaller plinth blocks beneath them, there was absolutely no need to

Photo. 11. Places where the stone blocks of the fortress wall adjoin the sides of the south trilithon block and the plinth block located beneath it. A number of features – the violations of the block bonding and stretcher masonry pattern in the fortress wall; the use of the L-shaped recesses; the adjustment of stone height by cutting away the marginal areas of the face dressing; the formation of a “cornice” of overhanging blocks; the presence of a large gap between the end of the plinth block and one of the stone of the fortress wall; and the location of the tower inside rather than outside the fortress wall – all indicate that the plinth block and the trilithon block were formed within a pre-existed medieval fortress. Such formation led to a substantial reconstruction of the tower at the southwest corner of the podium and to the outward relocation of the fortress walls adjoining this tower. Photo 2019 from wikimedia.org.

haul either from the quarry to the construction site. Of course, all this impossibly heavy magnificence was created right here, on the spot. Evidence of this can be observed in the region of the upper horizontal edge of the middle trilithon block (not far from its upper left corner, see Photo. 12), where the tops of some strange pair of blocks of very modest sizes are peeking out.

Judging by these exposed tops, the trilithon blocks are in fact composed of such comparatively small stone blocks with a concrete layer poured over them in front, on the sides, and above. It is

Photo. 12. Left third of the middle trilithon block. In the area of the upper horizontal edge, not far from the upper left corner of the trilithon block, a small fragment of the outer concrete layer has spalled off (or possibly there was insufficient concrete during pouring). As a result, the tops of two relatively small stone blocks of the fortress wall – which had been relocated here from its original construction site on the west side of the small podium – became exposed. It turns out that the trilithon blocks are in fact concrete boxes encasing masonries made of relatively small and quite transportable stone blocks like these. Photo by the Laboratory of Alternative History, 2016, lah.ru.

clearly seen that the indicated pair of stones quite successfully copes with the weight of the wall above, whose “unbearable” weight the mighty trilithon blocks are supposed to carry. The stone blocks inside the trilithon blocks serve as a rigid filler,[1,2] which is intended to significantly reduce the required volume of concrete, sharply decrease concrete shrinkage – thereby preventing the formation of shrinkage cracks – substantially simplify the formwork design, and also shorten the hardening time.

Most likely, the stone blocks that are now located inside the trilithon blocks are the blocks of that same west fortress wall which was moved outward from the west boundary of the small podium and laid between the fortress towers in the same plane with them. Since the stone blocks of the relocated wall ended up embedded inside the trilithon blocks, the restorer-falsifiers had to lay various unrelated blocks above the trilithon “blocks” that had nothing to do with the west section of the fortress wall.

Another piece of evidence for concrete pouring of the trilithon blocks is the rows of “mysterious” round and square pits on the upper faces of these blocks (see Photo. 13). During the pouring process, walkway supports were located at the positions of these pits. Workers moved by the walkways while performing concrete pouring and compaction. The walkway supports were put on upper faces of the stone masonries forming the core of the “megaliths”. After pouring and compaction of the sealing concrete layer of the upper face, the builders waited for its setting. After setting, the walkways were dismantled and the support posts were extracted from the con-

Photo. 13. The upper concrete layer of the south trilithon block (south is in front; the “fortress” wall is to the right). Rows of “mysterious” round and square pits represent the places where, during pouring, walkways were positioned on short supports made of round logs and squared beams. Workers moved along the walkways carrying out concrete pouring and compaction. Walkway supports stood on the stone masonries being filled with concrete. After the upper sealing concrete layer of the trilithon block had set, the walkways were dismantled, the walkway supports were extracted from the concrete “floor”, and the resulting depressions were filled with concrete. Owing to poor adhesion between the concrete and the depression walls, the concrete within the depressions gradually disintegrated over time, eventually resulting in the pits we observe today. The relatively small blocks in the row on the left, judging by the pits on their surface, were fabricated using the same concrete pouring technology as the trilithon blocks. Photo by unknown author.

crete. The depressions left by the supports were subsequently filled with concrete.

Due to cracking of the set concrete in the walls of the depressions – caused by the removal of the walkway supports – as well as insufficient adhesion to these walls, the concrete in the depressions subsequently began to disintegrate, ultimately leading to the emergence of the observed pits. Round pits formed in locations where round logs served as walkway supports, while square-shaped pits appeared where squared beams were used for that purpose. The presence of similar pits on the surface of other relatively small blocks indicates that these blocks were also cast from concrete over a masonry consisting of stone and/or concrete blocks serving as solid aggregate.

It is noteworthy that the trilithon blocks protrude noticeably outward from the plane of the fortress wall (see Photo. 8, Photo. 9a). What prevented the fortress wall from being built flush with

the trilithon blocks? The explanation for the observed “phenomenon” is quite simple. The current position of the trilithon blocks precludes any pressure from the overlying courses of the stone wall on the outer facing concrete layer of the trilithon blocks. The point is that such a load can cause cracks in the outer concrete layer and lead to its rapid destruction.[1,2]

On the other hand, in order to prevent the thick outer concrete layer from detaching under its own weight, it must rest with its base on the underlying plinth blocks – which, for this very reason, also protrude noticeably outward from the plane of the wall. Why else are these blocks – and precisely where the trilithon blocks are located directly above them – additionally protruding outward from the plane of the wall (see the lower-left corner of the north trilithon block in Photo. 9a)? Besides relieving the load on the outer concrete layer of the front side, the outward protrusion of the trilithon blocks visually accentuates their boundaries, thereby enhancing the emotional perception of the structure's grandeur.

A significant part of the outer concrete layer on the front side of the south trilithon block has fallen off, making this layer noticeably thinner than it originally was (see Photo. 10). A little more and the interesting internal contents of the “monolith” will be revealed. It appears that this Humanity's World Heritage urgently needs repair. The destruction of the outer layer occurred due to the insufficient strength of the concrete and the improper placement of the overlying wall blocks. Unlike the north and middle trilithon blocks, the wall blocks placed above the south block exerted their weight also on the front concrete layer (and apparently continue to exert pressure today on the remaining parts of this layer).

Part of the facing concrete layer is missing from the plinth block lying directly beneath the left side of the south trilithon block. Either the builders miscalculated and the prepared volume of concrete was simply insufficient, or part of the facing layer spalled off during the removal of the formwork when the embedded wooden bars were extracted from concrete that had not yet fully set (see also Sec. 10). They did not bother to correct the mistake. To put it mildly, the unusual appearance of the block is commonly explained by the fact that its mechanical processing was never completed.

Having piled some oddly shaped and sized stone blocks on top for no apparent reason – blocks that clearly have nothing whatsoever to do with these walls – the restorer-falsifiers somehow decided that this absurd structure would thereby look more like a fortress. A medieval fortress whose fortress walls are dry-laid stone masonry and only one block thick? What historians today are trying to pass off as fortress walls were obviously never such.

In order to somehow support the rapidly crumbling myth of a fortress, stone blocks with narrow loopholes, looking straight ahead for reasons unknown, were heaped onto the very top of the walls. At the same time, the fortress walls with loopholes adjoining the northwest tower somehow turned out to be higher than the tower itself. Conclusion: the fortress walls and towers in Baalbek are an imitation. The high walls of the “fortress” were needed by the history falsifiers in order to conceal for as long as possible from accidental witnesses the creation here of their sacred site in the form of pseudo-ancient ruins, the construction techniques used for this purpose, and at the same time to somehow limit the theft of materials and tools that occurs at any construction site.

It is impossible not to notice that the trilithon blocks and the blocks from which the fortress towers are built, forming three masonry courses to the left and right of the trilithon blocks, look incongruous in relation to one another. First of all, these elements do not correspond to one another in size. As noted above, the trilithon blocks also protrude outward (Photo. 8, Photo. 9a). In principle, in order to at least somehow reduce this incongruity and at the same time correct the disturbed course of the bonding, the three courses of blocks to the left and right of the trilithon blocks – which, according to the traditional interpretation, are usually attributed to a later construction – should form a single course.

In other words, the stone blocks of the fortress tower in these places should have a height equal

to the height of the trilithon blocks and a length, say, comparable to their height. Furthermore, the next course of the tower blocks should have a height that is although smaller, but still comparable to the height of the trilithon blocks; the next course should be even smaller, and so on. However, blocks of such size were most likely too heavy and inconvenient for the builders of the fortress. In that case, a possible compromise solution could have been the construction of two courses of masonry instead of one. Incidentally, stones of suitable height, and even of matching color and texture, were available to the builders, yet for some reason they chose to place them on top of the middle block of the trilithon (see Photo. 8, Photo. 12).

Another possible solution would have been to insert the tower’s stone blocks into the body of the north trilithon block on the left and into the body of the south one on the right. However, a full insertion would have damaged the lateral sides and part of the front face of the concrete casing, while also irreparably disfiguring the appearance of the trilithon blocks themselves. The cut-in was in fact carried out in a few places in the form of L-shaped recesses, but only to a very limited extent, to the bare minimum (see details below).

The current position of the trilithon blocks within the large podium proved to be technically possible only because these blocks are not genuine. In actual constructions, large and heavy blocks are placed at the base, while smaller and lighter ones are laid above. Thus, the trilithon blocks should lie at the base of the podium, above them the plinth blocks, and above those the blocks on which the plinth blocks rest today. However, in the west part of the podium of the Temple of Jupiter, everything was somehow done exactly the other way around. Why?

Probably simply because, if placed in the foundation, the trilithon blocks would end up buried in the ground, become invisible, and would no longer impress anyone with their size. But most importantly, they will then be unable to serve as the visual demonstration, intended by the falsifiers, of the feasibility of transporting the tired parallelepipeds that are “resting” today in the Baalbek quarries.

7. The actual structure of the podium plinth

The plinth blocks on the west side of the large podium continue onto its north and south sides.[19] The plinth blocks on the north side, set several meters away from the original fortress wall, were made in a highly careless manner. These blocks are supported by at least three courses of comparatively small blocks (see Photo. 14). In several places, the masonry of these blocks exhibits gross violations of the bonding rule (see Photo. 14, Photo. 15). There is a section of the stretcher course, visible from the fortress wall (see Photo. 14), which for some reason is laid with headers.

In several places, the outer concrete casing of the plinth blocks has severely deteriorated due to the low quality of the concrete mix and the sloppy executed work. There are even plinth blocks whose rear vertical wall has almost entirely collapsed (see Photo. 16). The coarse gravel, which served as aggregate in the concrete used, is clearly visible in the remains of the collapsed wall. If what we are looking at is not concrete but natural limestone, does limestone from the known quarries of Baalbek really contain such large inclusions and in such quantities?

The thickness of the outer wall of the plinth blocks can be estimated from Photo. 14 and Photo. 15. However, this does not represent the entire thickness of the rear wall, since the outer concrete wall has not completely collapsed (see Photo. 16). Photo. 17 shows a cross-sectional view of a plinth block. The view is seen from a passage left in the block by the builders (the passage was used for the movement of workers themselves, construction materials, tools, contrivances, and equipment).

The existence of the passage during construction is indicated by the square depressions preserved on the end of the adjacent plinth block (see Photo. 15 and Ref. 20). If the passage had been cut through later, as some researchers suppose, these depressions would have been filled with concrete. In the cross-section shown in Photo. 17, the remains of the outer concrete

Photo. 14. Chain of plinth blocks forming the north side of the large podium, rear view. This example demonstrates that the systematically recurring “mysterious” square depressions were located not only on the front faces of the plinth blocks but also on their rear faces. The assumption that the square depressions served solely for installing anchors to secure facing slabs cannot be considered correct, since the rear sides of the plinth blocks were hardly intended to be clad. The masonry is laid with gross violations of the bonding rule; in addition, there is a section of a stretcher course laid with headers. Photo 2019 from wikimedia.org.

wall layer, as well as an internal longitudinal concrete partition, are clearly visible. The observed internal structure of the plinth block qualitatively replicates that of the West Stone (see Photo. 2a), revealed where a block had been cut out of its upper surface by someone.

It appears that some of the holes on the upper faces of the plinth blocks on the north side, left after the dismantling of the walkways, were not even filled with concrete. Overall, the impression arises that further construction at this part of the complex was not originally intended, which is why little attention was paid to the correctness and quality of the masonry. Apparently, the task facing the falsifiers was merely to mark the boundary of the incredibly large podium on this side.

Since the plinth block in Photo. 15 covers the end of the last plinth block running along the north side of the northwest tower, it is impossible to see whether the tower’s stone blocks rest on the plinth blocks and to what extent the latter are embedded in the wall, or whether the plinth blocks, as we assume, are in fact merely placed against the tower. The arrangement of the plinth blocks in relation to the north and west walls of the tower can be attempted to be investigated by carefully examining the gap between these walls and the plinth blocks and probing it

Photo. 15. Area of adjacency of a plinth block to the east side of the fortress tower positioned at the northwest corner of the large podium. The laying of the stone blocks forming the tower corner at the abutting area is the same as that found higher up in this area. The preservation of the tower wall block laying pattern indirectly indicates that the plinth blocks running along the north side of the tower were merely abutted to it. The plinth block abutting the tower wall end-on, together with similar blocks (the block to the right and those following it), are wider than the plinth blocks placed against the north tower wall by approximately the height of the stone blocks of which the tower is built. Photo 2019 from wikimedia.org.

with a rod.

Although access to the end face that interests us is blocked by the adjacent plinth block, it is still possible to judge indirectly that the plinth blocks are in fact merely placed against the north side of the tower. This judgment is based on the fact that the masonry pattern of the stone blocks on the east side of the northeast corner of the tower, at the place where the ends of the adjacent plinths meet (see Photo. 15), does not differ from the masonry pattern located above this place.

From the stone blocks at the northeast corner of the tower, it is also possible to estimate how much wider the plinth blocks in Photo. 14, Photo. 15, Photo. 16 are than the plinth blocks placed against the north side of the tower. The difference in width between these blocks is approximately equal to the height of the stone blocks forming the northeast corner of the tower. Incidentally, Photo. 15 shows the upper part of the real plinth of the tower, which existed here from the beginning. This plinth is located two courses of the tower wall blocks below the level of the upper faces of the plinth blocks of the large podium.

Moving along the west side (see Photo. 18, Photo. 9a) and turning around the northwest corner (see Photo. 9b[21]), one can notice that the stretcher course of blocks beneath the plinth blocks on the west side becomes a header course on the north side, while the header course of the west side lying beneath the stretcher course becomes a stretcher course on the north side. In

Photo. 16. Rear face of one of the plinth blocks on the north side of the large podium. The outer vertical concrete wall of this face has almost completely collapsed. The coarse gravel aggregate in the concrete filler did not settle at the bottom of the wall during pouring; instead, it is distributed more or less uniformly across all heights. On the left, where the wall has not yet fully collapsed, the remnants of square depressions are visible. The absence of the square depressions on the remaining surface indicates that their depth was equal to the thickness of the outer concrete layer of the wall. Photo 2019 from wikimedia.org.

addition, on the west side, stretcher courses lie both above and below the header course.

Thus, the described sequence of laying blocks beneath the plinths corresponds to standard masonry of walls one block thick with a single-course bonding pattern.[18] In such masonry, the length of a stretcher in a header course equals twice the length of a header in a stretcher course. Accordingly, the length of a stretcher in the header course equals the width (the cross-sectional dimension) of the plinth block. Further confirmation of the identified type of masonry is that the length of the stretcher in the header course in Photo. 15 equals the width of the plinth block.

The stretchers in the stretcher courses and the headers in the header courses of the masonry under consideration on the west and north sides are unequal. The heights of the blocks in the stretcher courses are not equal to the heights of the blocks in the header courses. On the west side, the length of a stretcher in a stretcher course is approximately equal to four times the length of a header in the header course (see Photo. 18). On the north side, the length of the headers in the header course is doubled (see Photo. 9b), while the relative length of the stretchers in the stretcher course remains the same (approximately equal to twice the length of a header in the header course). On the north side, where the plinth blocks abut the fortress tower, the length of the stretchers in the header course and the length of the headers in the stretcher course should be the same as in the corresponding courses of blocks on the west side.

The doubling of the header size in the header course on the north side is due to the fact that the plinth blocks set away from the fortress wall (see Photo. 14, Photo. 15, Photo. 16) are significantly wider, and therefore considerably heavier, than the plinth blocks adjoining the tower walls

Photo. 17. Cross-sectional view of the plinth block from the side of the passage left by the builders. On the right, along the edge, remnants of the collapsed outer concrete wall are located; in the center – the internal concrete longitudinal partition. The darker areas to the left and right of the partition represent the internal masonry of stone blocks, which serve as a solid filler. Frame from the video “Showing inside the “megafence” of Baalbek”, 2023.

on the west and north sides. For the same reasons, the lengths of the stretchers in the header course and the headers in the stretcher course are increased beneath the plinth blocks set away from the north fortress wall.

If the plinth blocks are simply placed against the fortress wall, their width (cross-sectional dimension) equals the horizontal distance from the plane of the west (or north) fortress wall of the tower to the tip of the corner at the base of the plinth block (see Photo. 9b). It can be easily determined from Photo. 9b that this distance is nearly equal to twice the height of the masonry of the blocks located beneath the plinth blocks. According to Photo. 18, the relative size of the header in the header course on the west side (the second row down from the base of the plinth blocks) is approximately equal to the height of the stretcher course above it (the plinth blocks rest on the blocks of this course). It turns out that the distance representing the width of the cross-section of the corner plinth block placed against the fortress wall in Photo. 9b is also equal to twice the length of a header in the header course.

Thus, the determined relative dimensions of the masonry, as well as the fact that the masonry of the blocks beneath the plinth blocks corresponds to a one-block-thick wall with a single-course bonding pattern,[18] serve as evidence that the plinth blocks are simply placed against the west fortress wall and the northwest tower. The relatively low strength of the concrete used to make the plinth blocks also indirectly suggests that they were merely placed against the wall. This is evidenced by the rear faces of the plinths on the north side of the large podium that have fallen off under their own weight (see, for example, Photo. 16). Such plinths are hardly capable of supporting even part of the weight of the fortress walls.

The corner block lying beneath the corner plinth block (see Photo. 9) becomes only partially covered by the ground level after the completion of construction (see, for example, the base of the podium of the nearby Temple of Bacchus), whereas the corner block located one course lower and the blocks of its course are completely buried by the soil. In this connection, the use

Photo. 18. Stretcher, header, and again stretcher courses of the stone blocks beneath the plinth blocks on the west side of the large podium. Since the header course on the north side becomes a stretcher course, and the stretcher courses become header courses, we are dealing with a typical wall construction one block thick, employing a single-course bonding pattern. In such masonry, the length of the stretcher in a header course equals twice the length of the header in a stretcher course. The length of the stretcher in a stretcher course is approximately equal to four times the length of the header in a header course. The heights of the blocks in stretcher and header courses of the masonry are unequal. The length of the header in a header course is approximately equal to the height of the stretcher course masonry. Photo 2019 from wikimedia.org.

of the corner block – more complex to manufacture and more expensive – for this course of blocks that is concealed by soil makes no sense. Nevertheless, the corner block was placed here for some reason. The point is that this corner block prevents the headers of the pair of outermost blocks at the corner of the masonry from being seen. Had the headers of this pair of blocks been visible, it would not have been difficult to realize that the plinth blocks are merely set against the wall, represent an imitation of a plinth, and appeared here not before but after the erection of the so-called fortress.

On the northern side of the fortress tower, near its northwest corner, slightly above the horizontal edge of the corner plinth block, beneath the conditionally first course of masonry, some two strange stone inserts can be seen (see Photo. 9). These inserts resemble the two strange blocks whose tops protrude from behind the front concrete face of the middle trilithon block at the place where a small fragment has broken off from the face (see Photo. 12). Most likely, these inserts were required due to the settlement of the wall masonry at this location of the tower. The settlement itself was caused by the washing out of the foundation by rainwater running down the wall. The washing out occurred because the “plinth” blocks were not properly recessed into the wall, as is standard in construction, but were simply cast directly against it.

Unlike the plinth blocks on the north side, the plinth blocks on the south side do not rest on any multi-course masonry of blocks beneath them; however, they are not laid directly on the ground either. If these blocks had no foundation whatsoever, they would hardly stand today as evenly as they did at the moment of their casting. If one looks at these blocks today, it gives the im-

(a)

Photo. 19. Concrete plinth blocks on the south side of the Temple of Jupiter large podium. (a) The dimensions of the concrete platforms on which the plinth blocks stand are comparable in length to the bases of the blocks themselves, while exceeding them in width. At present, the concrete platforms are covered with earth and are not visible. The absence of a reliable foundation beneath the plinth blocks in the form of several courses of relatively large blocks indicates that further construction of the podium at this location in the complex was not originally planned. The giant podium is a late imitation. Photo from site of the Library of Congress, 1900, loc.gov.

pression that they stand on the ground. However, if one turns to old photographs (see Photo. 19a),[22] it becomes clear that the freshly cast plinth blocks rest on freshly cast concrete platforms, which are now simply covered with soil.

These platforms cannot be regarded as stone blocks lying beneath the plinth blocks, as on the west or north sides of the large podium. First, the length of these platforms is comparable to that of the plinth blocks themselves. Second, in width the platforms noticeably project outward beyond the front faces of the plinth blocks. Third, if these platforms were stone blocks, they would have had to be laid in the same way as on the north side, that is, as headers rather than stretchers. It follows that here on the south side as well, when the plinth blocks were being cast, there were no plans from the outset to continue the further construction of the podium. This branch of plinth blocks was required only to mark the boundaries of the gigantic podium.

8. What else is wrong with the trilithon blocks and the adjoining stone masonries?

The trilithon blocks and the stone blocks of the medieval fortress are made of completely different types of stone. Neither the color nor the texture match. Why was it necessary to finish the blocks of the medieval fortress with rustication[23], if the trilithon blocks (and the plinth blocks), due to their rough surfaces, large inclusions, and disproportion in relation to the surrounding blocks, imply cladding?

Let us assume that due to their gigantic size, the choice of stone for the trilithon blocks (and the plinth blocks) was predetermined, especially since these very blocks, according to the currently accepted view, were originally installed. Then the three courses of blocks of the fortress towers

(b)

Continuation of Photo. 19. (a), (b) Even from the characteristic external appearance of the blocks (perfectly even, smooth, flat faces of large area), it is clearly evident that they were never hewn from any stone and never transported from any quarry – they were fabricated on site by casting concrete into a form. Photo 2019 from wikimedia.org.

on the left and right of the trilithon blocks should have been made from the same or similar stone. As noted above, it would be best to use, instead of these three courses of blocks, a single course of large blocks (and subsequent courses of less large ones). In this case, the issue of bonding would have been resolved, but then the northwest tower and the associated north fortress wall would look completely different today.

The inconsistencies, contradictions, and absurdities that were found are easily explained if one assumes the following. Initially, fortress towers were erected at the northwest and southwest corners of the small podium, and along the north and west sides of the small podium – fortress walls. Stone blocks finished with rustication were used for the construction of the walls and towers.

Having produced the giant tired parallelepipeds in the quarries, the falsifiers realized that, for the sake of plausibility, they should demonstrate elements somewhere in the complex that were comparable in size and weight to the tired parallelepipeds. For this demonstration, the large podium had to be devised. To this end, the west fortress wall was dismantled and reassembled between the towers flush with their walls. To minimize costs and time, the fortress wall was reassembled without bonding to the tower walls. If the medieval fortress was built after the construction of the Temple of Jupiter, then why was the north wall of this fortress, dressed with rustication, laid not on the plinth blocks as on the west side, but along the north side of the small podium?

After that, the chains of the plinth blocks marking the boundaries of the large podium were cast in concrete along the north, west, and south sections. The plinth blocks on the west section and on the short north section of the large podium were cast along the west fortress wall and along the fortress towers located at the ends of this wall. For stability, the plinth blocks were cast on the base consisting of the several courses of the stone blocks beneath them (in the case of the

(c)

Continuation of Photo. 19. (c) Completely “impossible”, according to some researchers, long parallel grooves on the plinth blocks. By crudely scoring long grooves to imitate stone quarrying and/or surface preparation for cladding, the falsifiers attempted to conceal the obvious signs of concrete casting. Since the scholarly community of historians and archaeologists obediently keeps silent, bashfully looking away, and the general public largely fails to notice, the falsifiers decided not to bother processing the remaining plinth blocks in the same manner, limiting themselves to just one pair. Frame from the video “Lebanon, Baalbek”, 2024.

south section – on the concrete platforms).

Next, on the west side, the trilithon blocks were formed by concrete casting in the fortress wall and partly in the walls of the fortress towers. These “blocks” are not stone monoliths but masonries composed of stone blocks from the fortress wall relocated here and enclosed in a concrete casing as a solid filler. The outlined above method of fabrication of the trilithon blocks easily and simply explains the incredible precision of their fitting, which has amazed more than one generation of Baalbek researchers.

To confirm the assumption made, let us consider in more detail the four courses of stone blocks of the tower that, in Photo. 9a, adjoin the north trilithon “block” on the left and above. In this section of stone masonry, the conditionally first course is similar to the third, and the second to the fourth. Obviously, the third stone block from the corner in the second course, which adjoins the side wall of the trilithon block, appears to have been cut to length before the casting of the left concrete wall of the trilithon block. To verify this, it is sufficient to compare the length of this stone block with the length of the third from the corner intact (original) stone block of the fourth course of the masonry.

To fabricate the concrete shell of the trilithon blocks, the original wall of the northwest tower was dismantled from the top down at least to the conditionally third course. At the location where the left side wall of the north trilithon block now stands, a groove was most likely cut in the masonry. Due to this groove, after the casting of the concrete shell an illusion arises of the presence of a side wall of the trilithon block at this place.

After the casting of the upper layer of concrete of the north trilithon block, the third stone block

from the corner in the fourth course could no longer be placed in its position. For this reason, a small L-shaped recess had to be made in the concrete for the lower right corner of this block. The L-shaped recess somewhat restored the proper bonding pattern of the blocks (rather, it created the appearance of such a restoration). Actually, the height of the step formed during the making of the recess is the thickness of the upper layer of concrete of the trilithon block.

Since the L-shaped recess is entirely uncharacteristic of this type of stone masonry, it could not have arisen during the construction of the fortress tower and the fortress walls on top of the plinth blocks and the trilithon blocks, as modern historians believe. Such a recess could have appeared only when the north trilithon block was formed in an already finished wall made of dressed natural stone.

Because of the casting of the upper concrete layer of the north trilithon block, the remaining blocks of the fourth course to the right of the L-shaped recess had to be reduced in height (or replaced with smaller stone blocks that had previously been positioned much higher in the masonry). The height reduction of these blocks was required so that the plane of their upper faces would coincide with the plane of the upper faces of the three larger original blocks on the left at the beginning of the masonry of the fourth course. This made it possible to continue laying the original stone blocks of the tower in the fifth and subsequent courses, i. e., to reassemble the original wall of the tower without making any further changes to its blocks.

It is obvious that if the north trilithon block had been cut from a natural stone, transported here from the quarry, and installed in its place before the fortress building, then the stone blocks in the first three courses of the tower masonry to the left of the north trilithon block would simply have been made somewhat higher so that the level of the bases of the stone blocks of the fourth course of the wall masonry would be exactly at the level of the upper face of the cut trilithon block. In this case, the L-shaped recess would no longer have been needed, and the blocks following the third block in the fourth course would have had the same height as it, i. e., all the blocks in the conditionally fourth course of the tower would have had the same height. However, we see that this was not done. It follows from this that the fortress tower existed here before the trilithon block once “materialized” within it.

The three courses of the tower masonry to the right of the south trilithon block (see Photo. 11) coincide in height with the height of this block. The coincidence was achieved by a more careful selection of the stones in these courses by height. This is evidenced by the forced mixing of the stretcher and header types of the masonry, whereas to the left of the north trilithon block only the stretcher type of the masonry was used. Moreover, the coincidence in height was achieved by hewing some of the stones. This can be clearly traced from the noticeably smaller sizes of the lower and upper margins in the dressing of the front surface, as well as from the absence of such margins.

After the casting of the southmost plinth block of the west wall (partially located beneath the south trilithon block, see Photo. 10, Photo. 11), its height turned out to be somewhat less than the three courses of the stone masonry to its right. In order to further eliminate the fitting of the wall blocks caused by this circumstance, a small L-shaped recess was cut in the upper left corner of the stone adjoining the end of the plinth block (conditionally the third course of blocks relative to the plinth block). Since the presence of such recesses is completely atypical of this type of masonry, it can be concluded that the step was made in the block during the reassembly of the wall carried out after the casting of the plinth block at the tower wall and the formation of the south trilithon block above it.

In order to have at least some bonding with the plinth block, it was decided not to cut the stone abutting it in the conditionally middle (relative to the plinth block) course of the fortress wall, but to make a corresponding L-shaped recess in the plinth block itself. Here it should again be noted that such recesses are not characteristic of the masonry type used and constitute evidence that the plinth block was cast directly against the fortress wall dressed with rustication that had already existed here earlier.

Let us now draw attention to the large gap between the end face of the plinth block and the stone in the conditionally first (relative to the plinth block) course of the fortress wall masonry. If the fortress wall had been added to a large podium that had already existed here earlier, this gap could not have arisen, since this stone block would have been laid directly against the plinth block. The gap arose because the builders did not want, at the cost of eliminating this gap, to further substantially remake the fortress wall to the right due to the subsequent inevitable refitting of its blocks.

The presence of three blocks of the fortress wall overhanging the upper right corner of the plinth block is completely inappropriate. Albeit awkwardly, the falsifiers, in any case, had to somehow cover the end face of the last plinth block on this side of the large “podium”. Otherwise, the fact that the plinth blocks had simply been placed against the wall would have been easily detected, giving rise to unnecessary questions and doubts. In order to cover the end face of the plinth block, the fortress tower in the southwest corner of the large “podium” and the adjoining fortress wall to the south had to undergo substantial reconstruction.

The original wall extending southwards from this tower was completely dismantled, moved outward, and reassembled almost flush with the tower (there is a slight kink between the tower and the wall, see Photo. 11). Since the stone blocks of this wall are bonded with those of the tower, the wall reassembling at a new location entailed substantial alteration of the tower itself.

As a result of the relocation of the fortress wall, the tower, in violation of established fortification principles, ended up inside (!) the fortress walls. This could not have occurred if the fortress had been built after the erection of the large podium of the Temple of Jupiter. In the course of the described reconstruction, the end face of the outermost plinth block was covered by the fortress wall moved forward, but this resulted in an absurd “cornice” of the overhanging blocks (see Photo. 11). It is obvious that all these blunders could not have arisen if the fortress wall had been erected after building the Temple of Jupiter.

Are there any other grounds for assuming that inside the trilithon blocks, within their concrete casing[1,2], there is masonry of stone blocks? First of all, the described method of creating the trilithon blocks proves to be the simplest. Otherwise, it would have been necessary to create a massive framework of steel reinforcement[1,2] and a very strong, large-scale formwork structure capable of withstanding the enormous pressure of the volume of concrete poured into it.

Moreover, such a concrete pour would have required an incredible amount of it at once. Pouring the concrete in batches, on the other hand, produces clearly distinguishable characteristic layers, which immediately suggests a concrete origin of the trilithon blocks. The presence of layers is highly undesirable, since the Baalbek limestones, when present as a solid monolith, are sufficiently homogeneous and do not exhibit clearly defined layers.

There exists a hypothesis according to which the large blocks in the west wall form the basis of a retaining wall that prevents the slope of the hill and the structure resting on it from sliding. At the base of a true retaining wall, the largest blocks should be placed, with progressively smaller blocks above them, and not the other way around. Only one single conclusion follows from the observed picture: the retaining wall hypothesis is untenable.

9. Another method of forming trilithon blocks that does not require their transportation from a quarry

Actually, to create the appearance that the trilithon blocks were moved into place from a quarry by giants, it was not at all necessary to cast them in concrete right on the construction site. In principle, these blocks could have been made from natural stone as well. As indicated in Refs. 1, 2, large-scale construction projects were generally carried out in locations where building material was already available nearby. In the ideal case, a suitable stone hill or mountain was chosen for the construction site, with its upper part gradually used up for building the structure. With such organization, only a small portion of the stone building materials had to be delivered from

outside.

Initially, a horizontal terrace – the future upper face of the immovable trilithon blocks – is created on the suitable side of such a hill. After that, a vertical wall is formed perpendicular to the terrace – this becoming the future front face of the trilithon blocks. Then, at the base of the vertical wall, a niche is cut out for the plinth (not necessarily across the full depth of the trilithon blocks). This niche is then filled with relatively small natural stone blocks and/or large plinth blocks are cast in concrete directly within it. Thereafter, the next niche is cut out and then filled or cast. Then the next one, and so on, until a supporting masonry of plinth blocks forms beneath the future trilithon blocks.

During the formation of the niches, wire saws[24] are used to make cuts on the upper face and front surface, creating the illusion of fantastically precisely fitted joints between the trilithon blocks. Once the niches are completed, excess stone is removed from the sides and rear so that the resulting body appears externally as trilithon blocks. Finally, the gigantic “blocks” of the trilithon cut out from the rock are clad on the sides and rear with stone blocks.

This is roughly how an alternative method of manufacturing an “ancient” structure from gigantic stone blocks could have looked – a method that, just like the one used in Baalbek, requires no actual transportation of these blocks from the quarry to the construction site.

10. “Mysterious” square depressions

Some of the “mysterious” square depressions found on the vertical walls of the Baalbek quarry were mechanically hollowed out and used for securing ladders, scaffolding, and various mining equipment. Such depressions can occasionally be found on stone blocks in Baalbek structures. Usually these depressions are located in random places on the block (but in positions where they cannot spoil the external appearance of the structure). That is why it is sometimes impossible to understand what purpose some of these depressions were intended for.

The majority of the load-bearing structures and floors throughout the complex, featuring “mysterious” rectangular and square holes, contained metal reinforcement in the form of large-section rods inside (see Photo. 20[25]).[26,27] Reinforcement significantly enhanced the strength and stability of the cast concrete structural elements. Obviously, the blacksmiths of ancient Roman times were not capable of forging the multi-meter rods of such large cross-sections – and even less so in such quantities. These rods could only have been manufactured during the era of industrial production of iron and large-scale products of it.

Where it did not threaten collapse, the iron reinforcement was removed from the ruined structures by the falsifiers themselves – in order to avoid unnecessary questions. In addition, part of the reinforcement was torn out from the ruined structures by local “prospectors” during times of famine and chaos, in order to sell it as scrap iron.[27] However, the falsifiers, as usual, were too lazy to seal the numerous holes left after the reinforcement removal. Or maybe it is not laziness at all, but rather such a sophisticated form of mockery of profanes?

The plinth blocks were cast from concrete using roughly the same technology as the trilithon blocks or the tired parallelepipeds. In the place where, according to the plan, a plinth block was supposed to be located, stone blocks of the internal masonry were laid in such a way as to form a parallelepiped (or a parallelepiped with a beveled front face) of the required dimensions, minus the thickness of the outer walls. For the formation of the parallelepiped, stone blocks approximately 5-6 times smaller in size than the plinth block itself were used.

Gaps were deliberately left between the stone blocks in the masonry and stone spacers were installed between the masonry courses; both allowed during pouring the concrete to penetrate into the spaces between the blocks and fill them. The stone blocks in the described method served as a solid filler. Thanks to this approach, not only were the required volumes of relatively expensive concrete at that time sharply reduced, but the shrinkage of the concrete structure was also substantially decreased. Since the described technology required relatively little con-

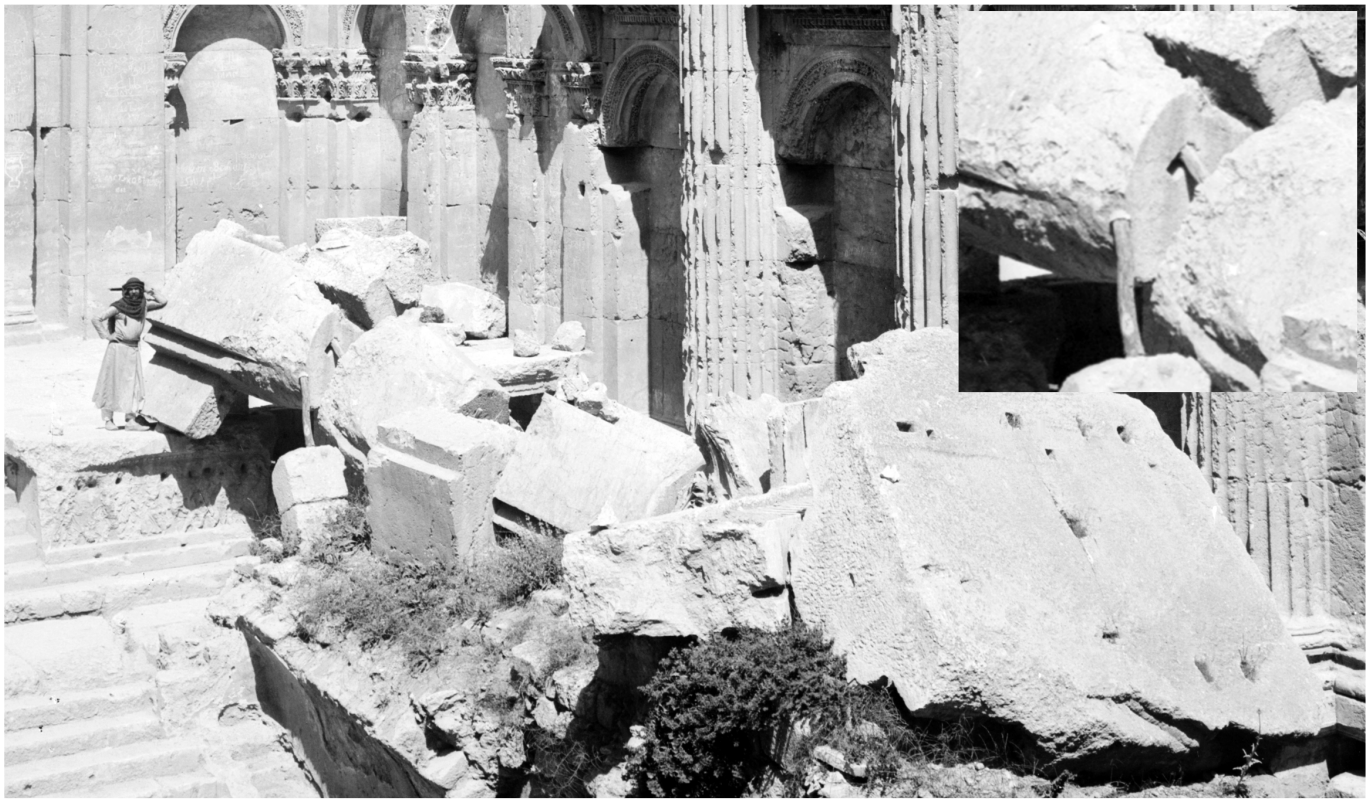


Photo. 20. A collapsed construction element in the Temple of Bacchus with “mysterious” rectangular and square holes from which protrude long metal reinforcing bars of large cross-sections (see the end face of the farthest block from us). Judging by the volumes of concrete casting and the type of reinforcement used, the “ancient Roman” temple was erected in the era of industrial production of iron and large-scale products of it. Photo from site of the Library of Congress, 1898, loc.gov.

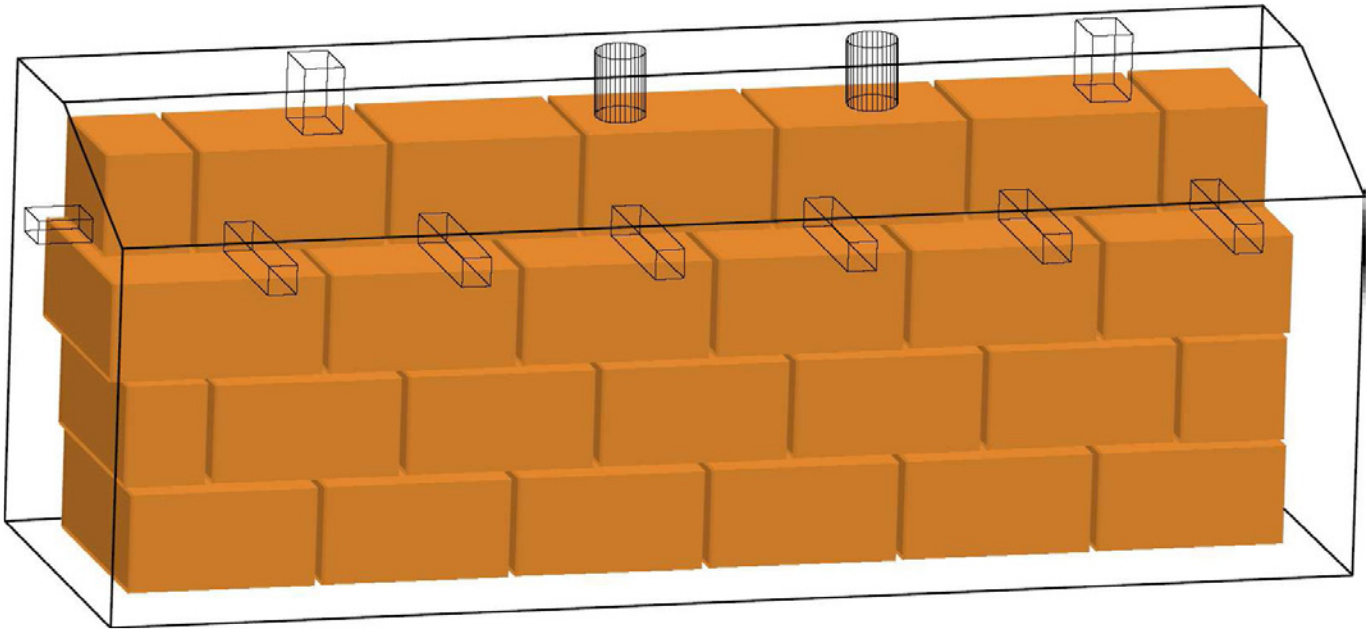
crete, the formwork construction turned out to be comparatively simple and lightweight. Such a formwork did not need to hold back hundreds of tons of concrete mass.

Fig. 1 schematically shows the presumed structure of the plinth blocks of the large podium. The casting of the narrow plinth blocks located near the fortress walls was carried out from scaffolding and from narrow walkways of these blocks. Both were attached to the walls. With regard to the plinth blocks shown in the figure, it is assumed that on the right side they adjoin the preceding plinth block. Therefore, for casting these blocks, three formwork panels installed on three sides (left, front, and rear) are sufficient. The width of the blocks in the uppermost course of the internal masonry is reduced to form a ledge (step) on which the free ends of the embedded wooden beams rest. The required ledge can also be obtained by moving the blocks of the corresponding course of the internal masonries outward or inward during laying.

In wide plinths, instead of an internal stone masonry in the form of two parallel stretcher courses separated by an internal vertical concrete partition, a masonry in the form of the single wall one block thick with a single-course bonding pattern could be used, for example. However, such internal masonry was unlikely to have been used due to the poor filling of the spaces between its stone blocks with concrete during casting.

Since the quality of the stone and the external appearance of the trilithon blocks and plinth blocks imply cladding, it would be logical to assume that the rows of the “mysterious” square depressions on the front faces of the plinths (see Photo. 10, Photo. 11, Photo. 19) were intended for fastening cladding panels. However, inspection of the rear faces of the plinths on the northern side of the podium shows (see Photo. 14, Photo. 15, Photo. 16) that the “mysterious” square depressions are present on these faces as well (and also on the end faces of the plinths, see Photo. 17 and Ref. 20), which were obviously not intended to be clad.

In reality, the square depressions on the vertical faces of the plinths are, first and foremost, related to the technology of concrete casting. These depressions arise as a result of using short



(a)

Fig. 1. Schematic representation of the presumed structure for (a) narrow plinth blocks abutting the west wall and the north side of the northwest tower of the fortress; (b) wide plinth blocks marking the south and north boundaries of the large podium. The inner courses of stone masonries made of relatively small stone blocks serve as a solid internal filler. The frame lines indicate the boundaries of the outer concrete shell. The vertical holes in the upper face of the concrete shell were left by rectangular and cylindrical supports of walkways. The walkways were installed on the upper surfaces of the internal masonries to carry out the pouring and compaction of the concrete shell from them. To increase the strength of the plinth blocks, gaps were left between the stones of the internal masonries, which were filled with concrete during casting.

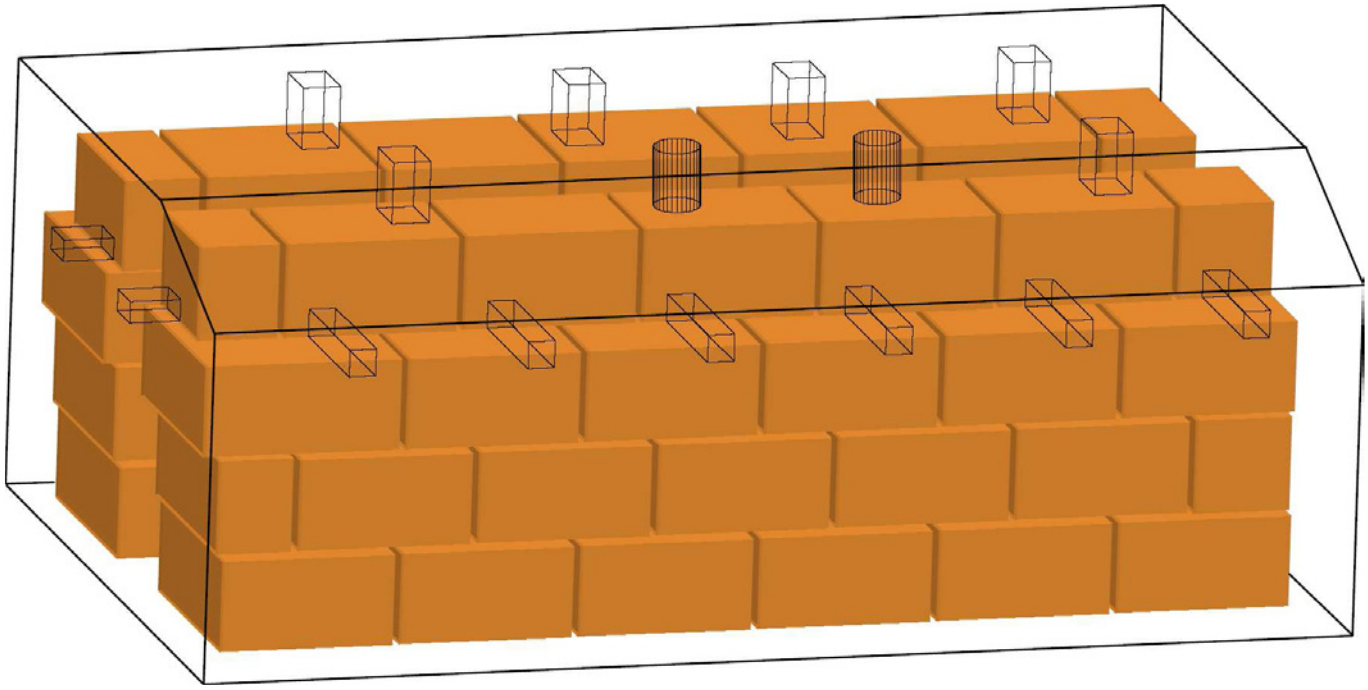
wooden blocks attached perpendicularly to the formwork panels. Short wooden blocks protruding from the formwork panels performed a whole range of functions.

Firstly, by abutting the end faces of their free ends against the walls of the inner masonries, the wooden blocks – together with the struts – reliably fixed the position of the formwork panels in the mid-height part of the formwork. Precisely for this reason, square depressions are absent on the collapsed external walls of the plinth blocks (see Photo. 16) (remnants of several depressions can still be seen in those places where the wall has not completely collapsed).

Secondly, the wooden blocks prevent the large aggregate gravel from sinking to the bottom of the poured form. This function of the wooden blocks follows from the fact that the large aggregate gravel in the collapsed wall (see Photo. 16) did not accumulate at the wall bottom during pouring but was more or less evenly distributed throughout its height. To enhance the effect, the positions of the wooden blocks in the second row were shifted horizontally by half a step relative to the positions of the blocks in the first row.

In addition to the obstruction provided by the wooden blocks protruding from the formwork, the viscosity of the concrete used also has a noticeable influence on preventing the large stones of the aggregate from sinking. To withstand the concrete pressure, the free ends of the embedded wooden blocks were supported on the top faces of the course of internal masonry blocks. For this purpose, the width of certain blocks of the internal masonry was slightly reduced, or, during laying, certain blocks were shifted somewhat inward or, conversely, projected outward, forming the necessary ledges (steps) in the required places.

Thirdly, after pouring, the wooden blocks bear part of the weight of the concrete layer located above, thereby transferring a portion of the load from the formwork to the internal stone masonry. As a result, before the concrete began to set, it was possible to reduce the bursting pressure of the concrete mass at the lower part of the formwork panels. To enhance the effect, the second row of wooden blocks was shifted horizontally by half a step relative to the first row.



(b)

Continuation of Fig. 1.

Fourthly, the square depressions were used to secure scaffolding, with the help of which grooves were planned to be applied to the surface of the plinth blocks to conceal traces of the concrete casting and imitate quarried stone (see Sec. 11 below). Fifthly, the square depressions on the front faces of the plinth blocks on the west wall served as attachment points for scaffolding and formwork elements employed in casting the overlying trilithon blocks. The square depressions on the front faces of the stone blocks located beneath the plinth blocks (see Photo. 9b, Photo. 11, Photo. 18) could have served as attachment points for scaffolding and formwork elements used in the casting of the plinth blocks above them.

It is easy to notice that the number of square depressions on the vertical faces of the plinths, as well as their placement, varies each time (see Photo. 10, Photo. 11, Photo. 14, Photo. 15, Photo. 16, Photo. 19). Both factors are determined by the tasks being solved, the size and quantity of aggregate gravel in the concrete, and the viscosity of the concrete mix. In addition to the factors mentioned, the varying placement of square depressions from block to block also depended on the specific positioning of the particular stone blocks within the internal masonries (see Fig. 1).

The sides of the “mysterious” square depressions are always oriented horizontally. Primarily, such orientation is set by the horizontal ledges of the internal masonries of the blocks serving as filler. Moreover, the wooden blocks in this orientation provide maximum resistance to the downward-sliding gravel of the concrete aggregate during pouring, and are also capable of supporting larger masses of the overlying concrete layer.

Next, formwork panels were installed on three sides (with the fourth side being the end face of the previously cast plinth block) in such a way that the embedded wooden blocks rested with their free ends on the ledges specially provided for them in the inner masonries and abutted with end faces of these free ends against the vertical walls of the inner masonries. The formwork panels were secured with stops and struts, while the upper edges of the panels were connected by transverse and oblique beams. After that, the walkway on supports were placed on top of the parallelepiped-shaped structure built of stone blocks forming the inner masonry – or, more likely, on a pair of such parallelepipeds arranged in parallel (see Fig. 1b and also Sec. 12). The height of the supports was made such that it slightly exceeded the thickness of the upper concrete layer.

Photo. 21. Round and square pits on the upper faces of the plinth blocks on the south side of the large podium. The reason for the formation of these pits is exactly the same as for the pits on the upper faces of the tired parallelepipeds and trilithon blocks: the supports of the walkways from which the workers carried out the pouring and compaction of concrete. The supports were placed on top of the internal stone masonries that were being filled with concrete. On the plinth in the center, a fold characteristic of concrete casting is visible. Photo 2019 from wikimedia.org.

Now, the pouring of the plinth block was carried out from the installed walkways. After the concrete had set, the walkways were dismantled, the walkway supports were removed, and the formwork panels were taken down together with the embedded wooden blocks. Finally, the holes left by the walkway supports were filled with concrete. Later, due to poor adhesion and erosion of the concrete, round and square pits appeared at the locations of the former holes (see Photo. 21) – exactly the same as those observed on the upper faces of the tired parallelepipeds (see Photo. 2, Photo. 3) and the trilithon blocks (see Photo. 13). Besides the pits on the upper faces of the plinth blocks, concrete folds are also present (see the center of Photo. 21), similar to the folds observed on the tired parallelepipeds.

Although the square depressions on the vertical faces of the plinth blocks are a by-product of the concrete casting, they could subsequently have been used for installing anchors to secure a cladding. Among the square depressions of ordinary size, there are also square depressions roughly twice as large (see Photo. 11, Photo. 15). These depressions were formed in the same way as the ordinary ones, except that the wooden block used for this purpose was the one that served as a support for the walkways. Most likely, at the time of assembling the formwork, the builders did not have a wooden block of the required cross-section available, so – as is often the case on a construction site – they used whatever happened to be “at hand”.

The square depressions discussed above could not have been used as locations for installing Lewis bolts intended for lifting the stone blocks, for the following reasons. First, only depressions located on the upper horizontal surface can be used for lifting purposes. Secondly, the internal profile of the depressions does not match the required one. Thirdly, the lateral dimensions of the depressions are too small in relation to the size and weight of the blocks being moved. Fourthly, the strength of the concrete used is insufficiently high (the concrete crumbles easily), and it contains a large number of coarse inclusions that readily crumble and chip out. Evidence

for the last point is provided by the grooves picked into the surface of some plinth blocks after casting (see Photo. 19c).

11. “Mysterious” parallel grooves

The “mysterious” deep parallel grooves on the face surface of some plinth blocks on the south side of the podium (see Photo. 19c[28]) could have been made in order to make the mortar used for facing adhere better to the wall. But most likely, these grooves were simply an attempt to conceal the obvious traces of concrete casting (see Photo. 19a, b): perfectly even, smooth, large-area flat faces, concrete layers, flow marks, and so on. Thus, in particular, the obvious grooves on the upper face of one of the plinth blocks cannot be justified by any cladding.

At first, the falsifiers still attempted to roughen and cover with grooves the concrete-cast plinth blocks. But, having soon realized that the scholarly community of historians and archaeologists obediently stays silent, bashfully looking away, while the vast majority of visitors fail to notice the obvious, the falsifiers grew completely brazen and stopped doing it altogether. Comparative short grooves, as well as completely “impossible” (in the opinion of some researchers) long parallel grooves, were made manually by gradual chipping with a pickaxe or a special hammer with pointed ends.[29,30]

The work on creating the grooves was started from the top (see Photo. 19c), while standing on construction scaffolding. The scaffolding was secured at 3-4 points to anchors inserted into the familiar square depressions we already know. Standing on scaffolding, they chipped downward from the top, creating a slightly inclined and slightly curved groove about 30-40 cm long. They then shifted slightly sideways along the edge of the front face of the plinth, and chipped the next adjacent groove downward from the top, parallel to the previous one; then the next one, and so on until they reached the edge of the plinth. After that, already sitting, they continued chipping the row of started grooves further downward, moving sideways from one groove to the next. Now, already kneeling or sitting on the scaffolding desk, they continued to chip the row of the grooves further downward. After that they descended one level down along the scaffolding and repeated the sequence of actions described above. The work ended upon reaching the base of the plinth with the grooves.

12. The tired parallelepipeds are not what they seem

The simplest method of fabricating the tired parallelepipeds that the author can envisage would consist in using a wire saw[24]. The technology of stone cutting with a wire saw allows creating flat faces tens of meters long on all sides of a parallelepiped or prism, including the bottom face of the base. In addition, cutting a monolith with a wire saw when it is inclined is just as simple as when the monolith lies horizontally. The reason why, apparently, the method of forming the tired parallelepipeds by means of wire saw cutting had to be abandoned was that in the available quarries no solid rock of suitable size was found close to the surface.

Few people would likely argue that casting a gigantic parallelepiped in concrete when it lies horizontally is much simpler than when it is positioned at an incline. However, inclined concrete casting could not have posed any obstacle for the history falsifiers, since in accordance with the overall artistic style they had already firmly adopted (see Photo. 1), they absolutely needed precisely the inclined spatial position of the parallelepiped.

Thanks to the extensive natural cracks, flat rock bases of the required size with an acceptable angle of inclination were found for the Stone of the South and the Newly-acquired Tsar Parallelepiped. Flat rock bases substantially facilitated the work of creating the parallelepipeds, since there was no need to construct a massive artificial foundation for the latter. As an example of such a foundation, one can point to at least a four-course masonry beneath the plinth blocks on the west side of the large podium (see Photo. 8).

Taking into account the suspiciously even, crack-free, extensive areas in the immediate vicinity

of the Stone of the South on its southwest and northeast sides, the claim regarding the natural origin of the foundations would be worth verifying further by additional means. The fact is that these areas appear too perfect against the background of the highly fractured rock outcrops located immediately to the east.

Suspicions regarding the concrete casting of the tired parallelepipeds intensified when the vertical faces of the parallelepipeds and the vertical walls of the “pedestals” beneath them turned out to be processed, firstly, with high quality (no rough pick marks are present; compare with Photo. 19c) and, secondly, with uniformly high quality (see Photo. 5). Neither of these phenomena should occur in the case of mechanical quarrying of monoliths directly from the rock outcrop.

On the upper faces of the tired parallelepipeds there are round and square pits (see Photo. 2, Photo. 3, Photo. 4) exactly the same as those on the upper faces of the trilithon blocks (see Photo. 13) and on the upper faces of the plinth blocks (see Photo. 21). The mechanism behind the formation of these pits has already been described in detail above. Since the upper faces of the tired parallelepipeds were poured at an incline, the walkway supports – which are the cause of these pits – served as an additional means of preventing the concrete from sliding down.

In addition to the pits, another indication of concrete casting is that the upper faces of the tired parallelepipeds represent a quite clearly distinguishable layer (see, in particular, the Newly-acquired Parallelepiped in Photo. 4). This layer was used to “seal” the concrete box from above, concealing the blocks of the internal masonries, the end faces of the outer vertical walls, and the end faces of the internal vertical partitions.

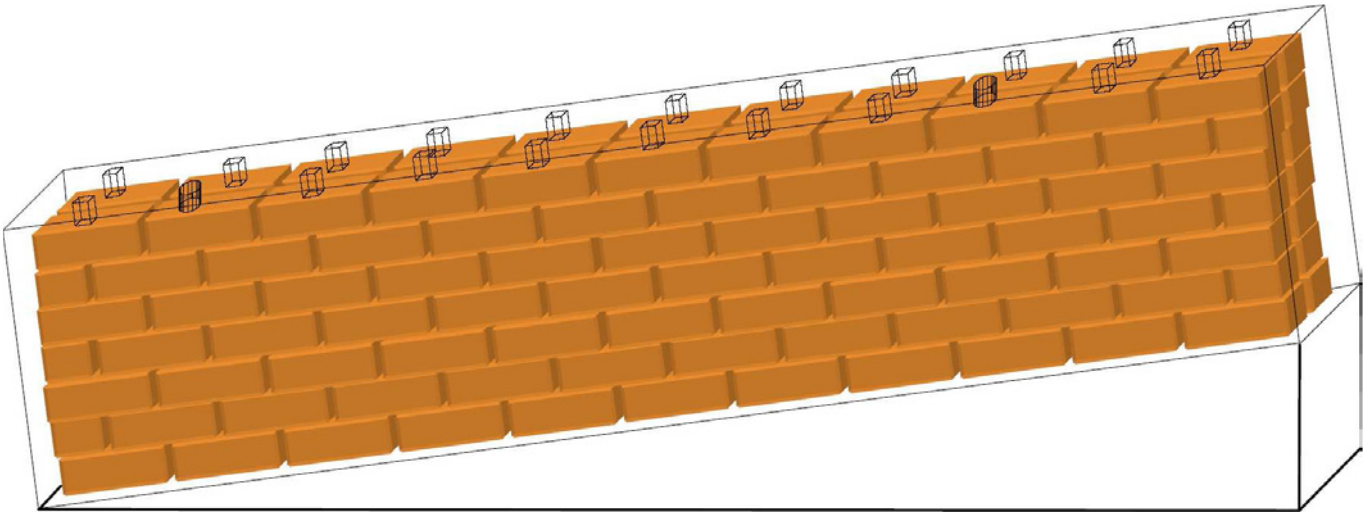
Moreover, the upper concrete layer of the tired parallelepipeds also features either a transverse fold or a quite distinct transverse boundary (see Photo. 1c, Photo. 2, Photo. 3, Photo. 4), dividing it into two parts. In the case of the Stone of the South, for example, it is clearly visible that the transverse fold on the upper face continues onto the southwest vertical face and then descends along this face at an angle toward the base (see Photo. 1c).[31] The transverse fold in question formed because the concrete pouring, due to its relatively large volume, had to be carried out in two stages. Initially, the lower half of the parallelepiped (the one situated lower on the slope) was poured first, followed by the upper half.

During the fabrication of other tired parallelepipeds, a similar two-stage pouring took place. The two-stage pouring was necessitated, first and foremost, by the difficulties of erecting formwork for the entire tired parallelepiped at once. Secondly, despite the internal stone masonries filling the greater part of the internal space of the tired parallelepiped, the volume of concrete poured and compacted at a single time still turned out to be relatively large for the manual pouring method used at that time.

A direct proof of concrete casting is the structure of the internal “stuff” of the West Stone (see Photo. 2a). The structure became directly observable after a block was cut out from the upper face of the “monolith”. As in the case of one of the tired stones of Ollantaytambo,[2] some local stonemason, disregarding the existing prohibition, could not resist and decided to break up the seemingly abandoned “monolith” into smaller blocks. However, after separating the block, to his surprise he discovered a very strange stuff inside. The desire to profit from the “freebie” vanished immediately due to the complete unsuitability of the “stone” he had obtained.

At the site where the block was cut out from the West Stone, the outer vertical wall of the concrete box and a concrete partition parallel to this wall are perfectly visible. The concrete partitions arise when concrete fills the spaces between the internal masonries of stone blocks that constitute the core of the “monolith”. On Photo. 2a, the stones of the internal masonry appear as dark rectangular areas.

The boundary between the stones of the internal masonry and the concrete walls/partitions is strongly blurred (see also Photo. 17). Firstly, the blurring occurs due to the specially left gaps



(a)

Fig. 2. Schematic representation of the presumed structure of the tired parallelepipeds. The internal stone masonries made of relatively small stone blocks served as a solid internal filler. The frame lines indicate the boundaries of the outer concrete box. The vertical holes in the upper face of the concrete box were left by rectangular and cylindrical supports of the walkways from which the pouring and compaction of the concrete were carried out. In addition, the walkway supports prevented the upper sealing layer of concrete from sliding. (b) For better retention of the upper inclined layer, the horizontal planes were formed on the top faces of the stone blocks of the uppermost course, creating a stepped surface.

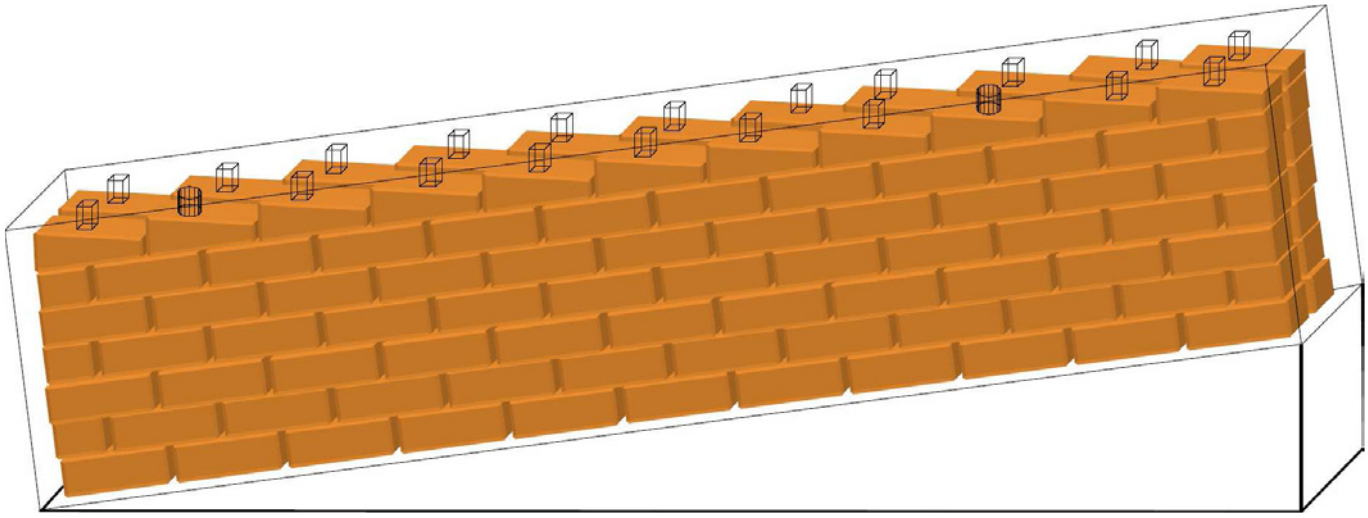
between the stone blocks of the internal masonry, into which concrete must flow during pouring. Secondly, the blurring is related to the fact that the concrete mixture contained a large amount of limestone gravel.[32] In other words, the concrete used was, in fact, composed of essentially the same material as the stones of the internal masonries.

Another direct evidence of the concrete casting of the tired parallelepipeds is the wedge-shaped notches located on the upper face of the West Stone (see Photo. 2b). These wedge-shaped notches form a stepped structure, the existence of which is linked to the pouring of the upper concrete layer at an angle to the horizon. The steps are formed by the upper blocks of the internal stone masonry. The steps served to retain the concrete from sliding during the pouring of the upper inclined layer. Over time, the upper concrete layer deteriorated and disintegrated, exposing the stepped structure beneath it.

It is worth paying attention to the fact that the steps under consideration are located along the “megalith” only on one of its halves. In this connection, one may assume that similar steps are also present beneath the upper concrete layer on the other half of this “megalith”. The adhesion of the concrete to the internal masonry on the other half simply turned out to be stronger. The discovered features indicate that the internal masonry of the West Stone consisted of at least two parallel stone masonries. Most likely, the Stone of the South, the Newly-acquired Tsar Parallelepiped, the trilithon blocks, and the wide plinth blocks also contain inside themselves at least two parallel stone masonries.

In addition, one should pay attention to the well-preserved side walls of the steps in the wedge-shaped notches of the West Stone. It seems that the outer longitudinal walls and the longitudinal partition running along the middle of the “monolith” between the rows of the internal masonries were formed separately before the pouring of the upper sealing layer.

Fig. 2 provides a schematic representation of the presumed structure of the tired parallelepipeds. As in the case of the wide plinth blocks, instead of the internal stone masonry in the form of two parallel stretcher courses separated by the internal vertical concrete partition, a masonry, say, in the form of a single wall one block thick with a single-course bonding pattern could be used. However, such internal masonry was most likely not used in the tired parallelepipeds due to the same insufficient filling of the spaces between the stone blocks with concrete.



(b)

Continuation of Fig. 2.

Since the tired parallelepipeds are inclined at a noticeable angle, there was a risk that the stone blocks might slide along the courses and slip downward under their own weight. To reduce this risk, L- and U-shaped recesses may have been formed in the bedrock before laying and also within the masonry courses for certain blocks, thereby preventing downward slippage. Most likely, the parallelepipeds were cast in two stages, among other reasons, due to the indicated risk of slippage. In the case of two-stage casting, the laying of the upper part of the “megalith” (from one-third to one-half length) was carried out after the masonry of the lower part had acquired the necessary cohesion of its blocks due to the hardened shell concrete.

It might seem that the concrete casting of the tired parallelepipeds is impossible due to the fact that they are positioned at an incline. From a technical standpoint, casting inclined concrete structures is undoubtedly a more complex task than casting structures positioned horizontally. Nevertheless, the task is solved by selecting the appropriate viscosity of the concrete mix; by multiple sequential laying of relatively thin concrete layers; by installing elements that prevent sliding of the upper inclined concrete layer (steps of the internal stone masonry, reinforcement); and by using formwork panels that cover the poured form from above (at large inclination angles of 20-45°). In the case of, for example, the Stone of the South and the Newly-acquired Parallelepiped, the task of pouring at an angle turns out to be not so complicated, since the inclination of these “megaliths” is not too great, on the order of 16°; the visually determined inclination of the West Stone is even smaller.

Since numerous walkway support pits are visible on the upper faces of the tired parallelepipeds, the pouring of the upper inclined concrete layer was carried out without the use of formwork panels covering the form from above. Most likely, the pouring was carried out in relatively thin layers; compaction was performed by tamping. Layer-by-layer pouring subsequently led to rapid deterioration of the upper face – for example, of the Stone of the South: the transverse fold became exposed, several large washouts appeared, the upper face as a whole acquired the shape of a slightly concave trough; the concrete poured into the walkway support holes soon crumbled and was washed out by rains.

In conclusion, let us once again note that in the ancient world there existed no technical means either for manipulating or for transporting the trilithon blocks, let alone the tired parallelepipeds. Those who still remain unconvinced should simply look at the thickness of the steel cable used to lift a load weighing “only” 100 tons. Yes, to drag a load on sledges – say, along an oiled cobblestone pavement of sufficient strength – requires an order of magnitude less force and much lighter rigging. However, in real economic conditions (with constraints on time and costs) and during actual construction, heavy structural elements still have to be lifted entirely – even if only to a small height – or at least partially raised by one edge.

13. Objective means of investigating the internal “stuff” of the Baalbek “megaliths”

The signs of concrete pouring mentioned above stubbornly point in favor of precisely this method of forming the tired parallelepipeds – no matter how incredible it may sound in relation to objects located in a quarry. In our time, there are objective measuring instruments and methods that make it possible to try to verify the fact of concrete pouring and thus confirm the assumptions we have made.

Nowadays, the construction industry possesses portable ultrasonic (US) flaw detection instruments for concrete structures. Modern flaw detectors enable non-destructive detection of cracks, voids, inclusions, inhomogeneities, material interfaces, and determination of their depths in the investigated object.

In fact, to establish the fact of concrete pouring, it is sufficient to “sound” the outcrop of the limestone rock in the quarry and the tired parallelepiped using the simplest flaw detector designed for working with stone/concrete. If the measured speed of sound in limestone differs significantly from that in the tired parallelepiped, then, most likely, the tired parallelepiped is cast from concrete.

Since the Stone of the South and the West Stone are accessible from all sides, the through (direct) ultrasonic measurement scheme can be applied for their examination. In this scheme, the US-transmitter and US-receiver are placed on opposite sides of the concrete structure. The through scheme will also be suitable for investigating a number of plinth blocks on the northern side of the podium.

The investigation of the internal “stuff” of the Newly-acquired Tsar Parallelepiped, the trilithon blocks, and the plinth blocks on the west and south sides of the podium can be performed using the surface (indirect) measurement scheme. In this scheme, the US-transmitter and US-receiver are placed only on one accessible (front or top) side of the concrete structure. The surface measurement scheme is more versatile and convenient in practical use; however, it has a limitation on the depth of the analysis performed.

The best results today in distinguishing the internal components of a concrete structure, precisely determining their depths of occurrence, and 3D-visualization are provided by a low-frequency US-tomograph.[33] Such a tomograph is capable of “looking” inside a concrete structure to a depth of 1-2 meters. The US-tomograph operates in the surface acoustic probing mode (indirect scheme). Thus, the instrument can be used to investigate both the tired parallelepipeds, the trilithon blocks, and the plinth blocks.

14. The alarming symbolism of the Baalbek parallelepipeds

Let us examine more closely the “pedestal” on which the Stone of the South now rests (see Photo. 6). Why is this pedestal so narrow? Before the base of the Stone of the South was undercut along its perimeter, it was the same as in the preserved section in Photo. 5a, or as it is today in the Newly-acquired Tsar Parallelepiped (see Photo. 5b). Why was it necessary to undercut the base of the Stone of the South along its perimeter if this “stone” itself, according to the German archaeologists, was rejected due to defects?

Why are the German archaeologists so careless? Why, after removing the soil around the Stone of the South and undercutting it in some places, did they effectively create an undercut beneath the Stone, whose weight exceeds 1,000 tons!? What will eventually happen to the Stone of the South in rainy weather or during an earthquake, given the existing undercut, is not difficult to predict.

It seems someone is staging yet another mystery here. Apparently, Humanity's World Heritage is to be turned on its side. Otherwise, why did the history falsifiers, having unearthed the Stone of the South, grossly violate their own long-established and already classical landscape “order” (see Photo. 1)? For us, the anticipated tipping over of the Stone of the South may prove useful,

(a)

Photo. 22. A small architectural object in the form of a five-stepped truncated pyramid. The pyramid is located in the Aswan quarry near the tired Tsar Obelisk (visible in the foreground). Previously, one to several fairly large trees grew on the upper platform of the pyramid. Today, only the stumps of these trees remain. Photo by I. Bondareff, 2018, bondareff.ru.

since in the event of the destruction of the “ancient” artifact, its actual internal stuffing will be revealed. Most importantly, no careless tourists should be hurt when the Stone is toppled from its “throne”.

While standing at the observation platform (see Photo. 4), a trained eye can readily discern the symbolism of the number 9. Such observation platforms are usually constructed deliberately and solely to compel an ordinary observer to look directly at a somewhat concealed sign or symbol (in this case, of enormous size) while perceiving nothing. The Newly-acquired Parallelepiped measuring 19.6×6.0×5.6 m[34] (codes 666, 911) forms the Roman numeral I, while the Stone of the South, together with its base, forms the Roman numeral X. It is now clear why the base of the Stone of the South is so peculiar and deviates from the system of parallel rows and layers of blocks[2] typical of any quarry.

Note that, in order to read the X, there was no need to remove the soil directly from beneath the Stone of the South or to undercut the pedestal in certain places. Nevertheless, both were done.

(b)

Continuation of Photo. 22. Recently installed Γ-shaped elements of night lighting at the four corners of the upper platform of the pyramid and at the four corners of its first step. The Γ-shaped elements do not harmonize with the small architectural object itself. In the background on the left, the tired Tsar Obelisk can be seen. Photo by M. Restano, 2024, flickr.com.

This means that the toppling of this parallelepiped is planned for the near future. However, it will be claimed that everything happened entirely by chance and that no one is to blame.

Where a 9 has been identified, one should also look for an 11 nearby. Indeed, somewhat to the north stand the familiar “Twin Towers” (see Photo. 7), and they have been standing here for quite a long time. In Photo. 7a[35], 6 columns of the Temple of Jupiter are visible on the horizon, although according to the original plan[26,36] there should have been 9. Since in occultism 6 and 9 are “interchangeable”,[37] taking into account the identified towers, we again obtain the code 911. Incidentally, the height of the towers turned out to be 9.37 m,[34] or, when rounded to whole numbers, 369 inches, which corresponds to the code 369, known as “Nikola Tesla’s code.”

Traditionally, code 911 is associated with corpses, many corpses. Symbolically, it is proposed to fill with corpses 16 burial sites[34] that were conveniently discovered during excavation right beneath the observation platform. According to report 34, 15 of these sites are burial crypts with arcosolia[38]. 4 crypts with 2 arcosolia each and 11 crypts with 3 arcosolia. Thus, there are 8+33=41 arcosolia. Each arcosolium contains one, and in two cases two, rectangular burial chambers hewn into the rock. In total, this yields $(16-15)+(41-2)\cdot 1+2\cdot 2=1+39+4=44$ bodies, i. e., code 44. Code 44 is used to mark disasters, crashes, accidents, and similar events involving mass loss of life. For example, at the site of the collapse of each of the Twin Towers in New York, 44 searchlights shine into the sky.

The fact that this is indeed a code follows from the cumbersome method of calculating the number of burial sites that Margarete van Ess, being the head of the German expedition in Baalbek and the person responsible for the report, compelled the reader to use. The point is that, in scientific reports, it is not customary to encode the final value in such a convoluted manner. Moreover, in scientific reports it is customary to always present the final value explicitly. I doubt that Margarete van Ess, who holds a doctoral degree, is unaware of these simple rules.

Incidentally, “Margarete van Ess” yields the codes 1008 and 168 in English and simple gematria,[39,40] respectively. The same codes are shared, for example, by the following ominous phrases: “skulls and bones”, “goodbye blue sky”, “reign of terror”, “ceremonial sacrifice”, and

Photo. 23. A fountain-reservoir on the site of the demolished North Tower of the World Trade Center in New York. An identical fountain-reservoir has been constructed on the site of the demolished South Tower. Taking into account the square opening at the center, the monument can be regarded as an inverted pyramid with proportions distorted due to the absence of the middle (intermediate) step. Note the corner ∟-shaped decorative elements (squares) in the inner corners of the large squares. Similar elements, but oriented vertically, now “decorate” the corners of the pyramid in the Aswan quarry. Photo by A. Krupp, 2018, flickr.com.

“adolphus hitler”; the codes: 333 (“three three three”), 104 (“one hundred four”), and 131 (“one thirty one”); as well as “new york city” and “year of the horse”. In Hebrew gematria, “Margarete van Ess” corresponds to the code 1235 or “new messianic age”.

In the foreground of Photo. 7a, we see a small architectural object (a kind of satellite accompanying the tired parallelepiped) in the shape of a truncated four-stepped quadrangular pyramid (again, code 44). The pyramid in the photograph appears newly built, made of white stone. Why is it here, and what does it mean? In earlier photographs, there is no pyramid at this location.

At some point, the moment comes when another small architectural object (form), in the shape of a quadrangular obelisk with a truncated top (see Photo. 7b), replaces the pyramid, the traces of which are lost in time and space. The obelisk, like the pyramid, is also made of white stone. The obelisk is laid on the ground parallel to the Stone of the South and is oriented with its top toward the northwest. At present, the obelisk, like the pyramid, has disappeared without a trace, having departed in an unknown direction.

Interestingly, there is also a pyramid in the Aswan quarry, which although attracts little attention (see Photo. 22). The Aswan pyramid is truncated, five-stepped, made in modern times, and its dimensions exceed those of the Baalbek one several times. The dimensions of the upper platform of the pyramid, for some unclear reason, violate the proportion adopted for the underlying platforms. The upper platform of the pyramid is earthen. In earlier photographs, at different times, several small trees and, at one point, a fairly large tree of unidentified species grew on this platform. Today, only stumps remain where the trees once stood.

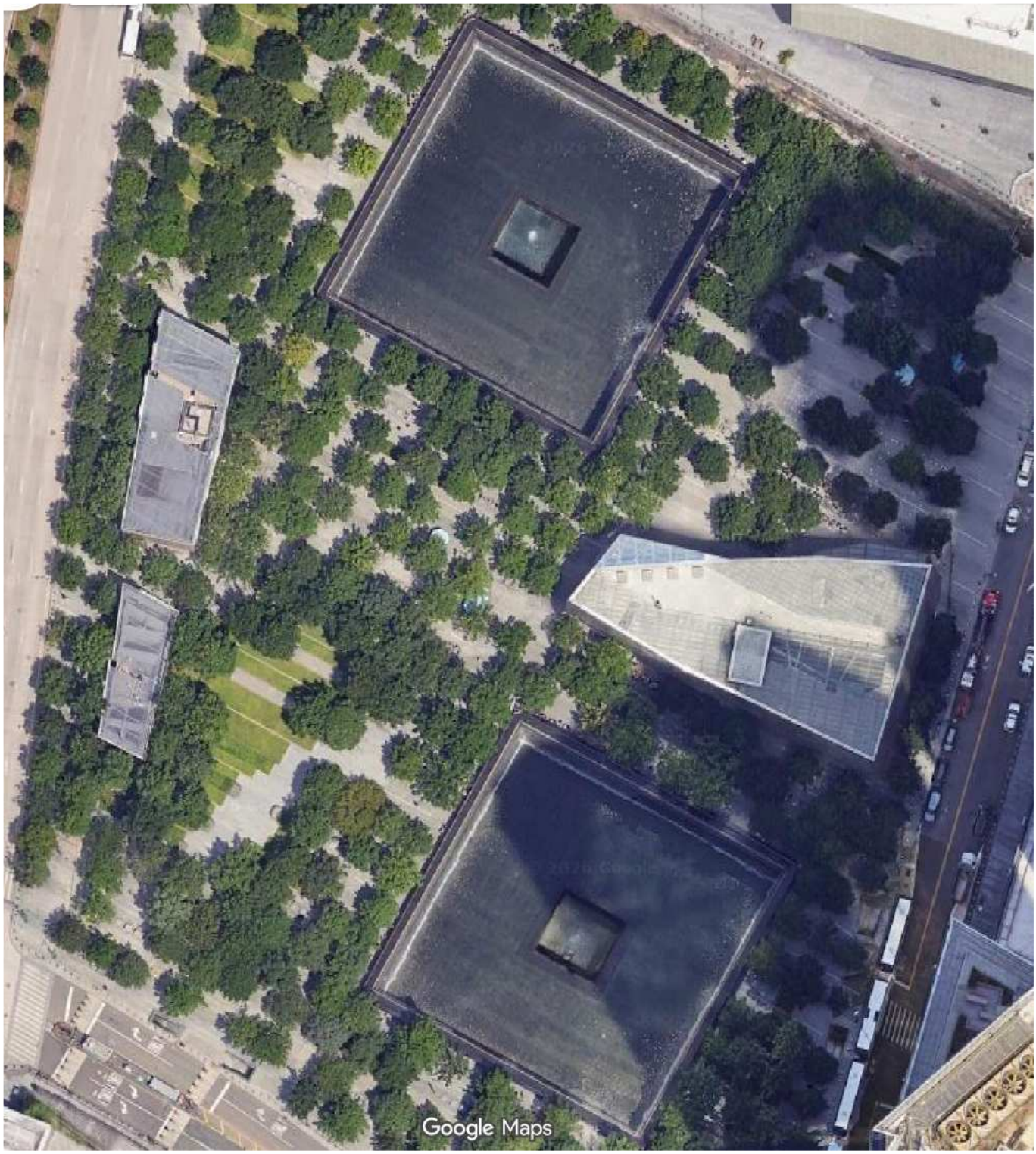


Photo. 24. The modern Ground Zero site includes: square fountain-reservoirs (bottom and top) at the sites of the demolished Twin Towers of the World Trade Center, and the pavilions of the Memorial to the victims of the September 11, 2001 act of terror (left and right). The two pavilions on the left, by their outlines, resemble a monolith lying on the ground, split into parts, or a pair of monoliths laid in a line. Photo from Google maps, 2026, google.com.

Initially, in the four inner corners of the upper platform of the Aswan pyramid, there were square-shaped elements from the centers of which short cylindrical projections extended upward. Recently, in the four corners of the upper platform and in the four corners of the first tier (again the code 44), strange Γ-shaped elements (nonequilateral squares) of night lighting, oriented along the diagonals, have appeared (see Photo. 22b). The former fence posts of the extensive flat area at the entrance to the Aswan quarry were replaced with the same elements.

Photo. 25. The Unfinished Obelisk and the strange Ground Zero pavilions shown side by side for comparison. The width-to-length proportion of the obelisk is preserved, but its orientation to the cardinal directions is not. The left image is taken from the documentary “More mysterious than the Egyptian pyramids: The Aswan quarry in 3D”, Proto Civilization, 2025.

It is obvious that placing the Γ-shaped elements being full of disproportionate “grace” in the corners of the pyramid is aesthetically unacceptable. First of all, the Γ-shaped elements are completely inappropriate at the corners of the lower step of the pyramid. And, if one takes into account that groups of tourists like to gather, relax, and take photographs on the steps of the pyramid (especially as people were drawn to the shade of the trees when they still grew there),

(a)

Photo. 26. The strange-looking pavilion (a) north, (b) south, located at the Ground Zero site in New York, near the square waterfall fountains. Side view. It is impossible not to notice the obvious similarity between the pavilion (a) and the Stone of the South in Baalbek – the shape, the inclined position, the pedestal, and the parallel panels of the pedestal. Photo from Google maps, 2017, google.com.

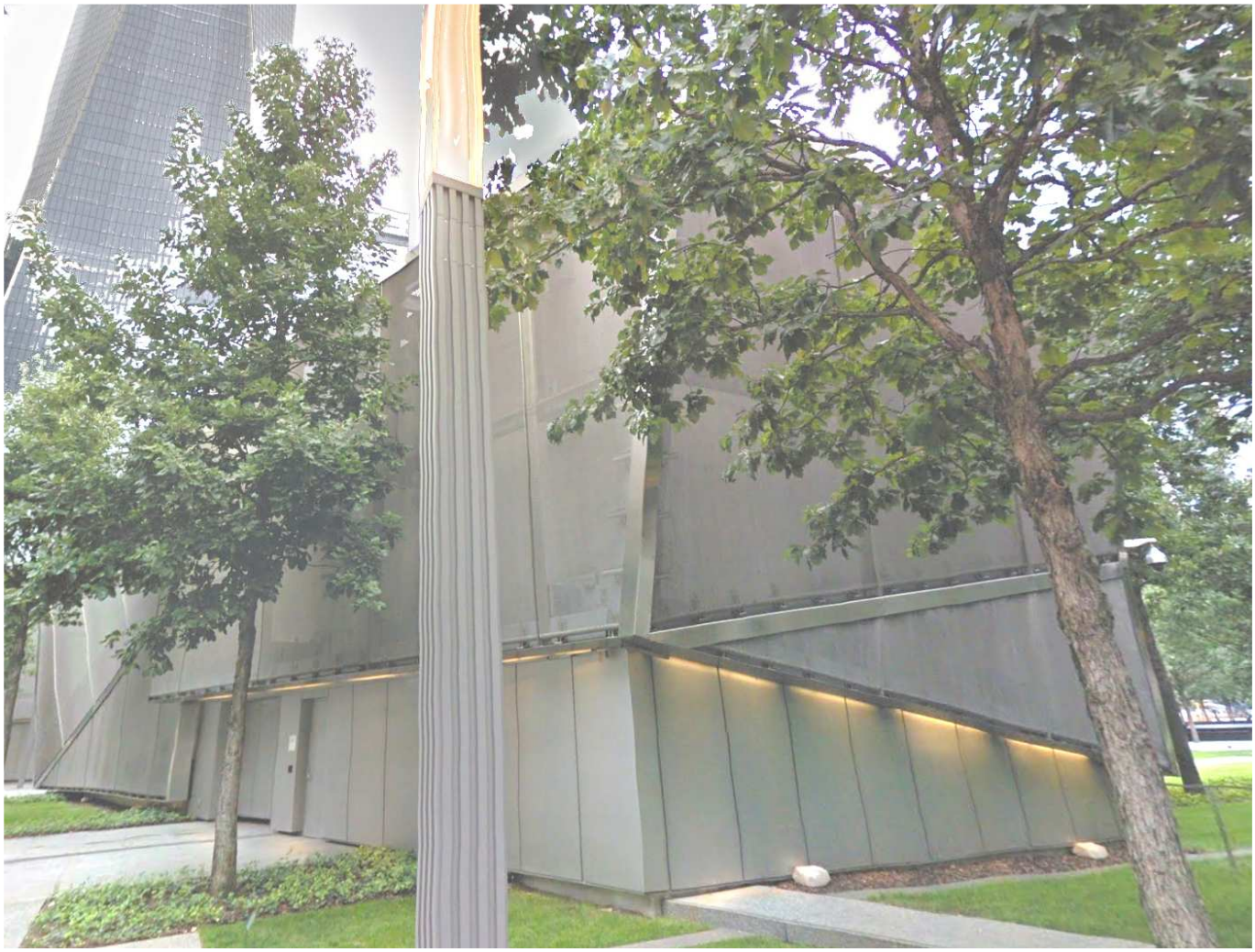
then placing Γ-shaped elements at the corners of the first step of the pyramid will inevitably lead to injuries among inattentive visitors to the pseudo-quarry.

Photo. 1c shows another interesting object, now, like others of its kind, no longer existing. What is meant here is a small architectural object in the form of a circular reservoir or a small fountain. The author was unable to find any photographs in which this reservoir is filled with water. It appears that the planned event after which the “tears” fountain was supposed to begin operating could not be carried out, or it was postponed. As we can see, the small architectural forms (objects) emerge, transform, and disappear as certain events occur, as well as in the course of the development of the object they accompany.

It is noteworthy that the Ground Zero[41] in New York, where the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center (WTC) were brought down on September 11, 2001, is also designed in the form of fountains (see Photo. 23). However, the shape of the waterfall fountains is not circular but square, replicating the outlines of the demolished towers. Water is a symbol of life. One has to admit that a water reservoir, let alone a fountain, is, after all, a somewhat unusual way of marking a site of death, a grave, or mourning. It turns out that death and suffering for some are joy, celebration, and good spirits for some others.

The appearance of the Ground Zero fountains allows these structures to be regarded as a kind of inverted (negative) pyramids with proportions distorted due to the absence of the middle (intermediate) tier (see Photo. 24[42]). The corners of the large squares of the fountains are decorated with ∟-shaped elements (squares), which resemble the Γ-shaped elements at the corners of the truncated pyramid of the Aswan quarry (see Photo. 22b).

Unlike the squares set upright in Aswan, the squares in New York are equilateral and laid hori-



(b)

Continuation of Photo. 26. The south pavilion depicts a cracked stone parallelepiped that has slipped sideways off its pedestal. Photo from Google maps, 2017, google.com.

zontally. Incidentally, just as the proportions of the inverted pyramids at Ground Zero are distorted, the proportions of the Aswan pyramid are also distorted. Furthermore, the truncated pyramid in the Aswan quarry can, in a sense, also be regarded as a reservoir, although for now it is filled not with water but with soil.

The connection between Ground Zero and the tired megaliths of “antiquity” does not end here. On the territory of the Memorial to the victims of the September 11, 2001[43] act of terror, there is a pair of pavilions of a rather unusual shape. When viewed from above, this pair of pavilions is stylized as a monolith lying on the ground split into pieces, or as a pair of monoliths arranged in a line (see Photo. 24).

In particular, the strange pavilions look as if a section located between two transverse incisions (this section is partially visible in Photo. 22a, see also Photo. 25) had been removed from the Unfinished Obelisk, and its top – the pyramidion (see Photo. 25) – had been cut off along a line passing through three disproportionately large slots for splitting wedges. For comparison, Photo. 25 shows a 3D-scan of the Unfinished Obelisk next to the pavilions, obtained from a quadcopter[44] (the width-to-length proportions of the obelisk are preserved, while its orientation to the cardinal directions is not).

When viewed from the side (see Photo. 26[45,46]), the strange pavilions resemble the Stone of the South in Baalbek. In particular, the north pavilion (see Photo. 26a) closely resembles the Stone of the South. In particular, it is clearly visible that the elongated section of the north pavilion has the distinct outline of a stone lying at an incline. Moreover, the pavilion is “undercut” below along its perimeter, i. e., it rests on what we earlier referred to as a pedestal (see Photo. 6).

The lower edge of the “stone” outline of the north pavilion along its long side is inclined at approximately 6° relative to the horizontal, while the upper edge is inclined at approximately 11° (due to significant image distortions in Google Maps, the values given here and below are approximate). Judging by the inclination angle of the upper edge, the “stone” of this pavilion more closely corresponds to the Unfinished Obelisk.

The south pavilion depicts a stone parallelepiped that has split and slid sideways off its pedestal (see Photo. 26b). The lower edge of the “stone” outline of the south pavilion at the end face is inclined at approximately -9° relative to the horizontal, while the “crack” line is about 9°. The “crack” line on the east side of the south pavilion is inclined at approximately -6°.

The plinths of both pavilions are finished with parallel vertical panels, which in a stylized form are meant to represent the coarse parallel grooves on the walls of the pedestal of the Stone of the South or the vertical parallel stripe-undercuts of the Unfinished Tsar Obelisk. To make perception more difficult and to obscure the recognition of the resemblance between these pavilions and stone parallelepipeds/obelisks, the trees around the pavilions were deliberately planted too close to these structures.

The creation of fake artifacts and pseudo-monuments of ancient history is neither an innocent prank nor a harmless fraud nor an amusing whim of the authorities. Naive tourists assume that they are having a good time, becoming acquainted with ancient history and culture, and expanding their horizons. In fact, naive people are being deliberately misled at their own expense. In some cases, huge masses of unsuspecting visitors of “ruins”, moving along a defined route from one strange installation to another, unknowingly participate in rituals whose purpose and true meaning are known only to their organizers.

Moreover, many pseudo-monuments of antiquity are somehow discovered just before the world wars – the Great Butcheries (GB). The point is that, according to the planners’ design, without proper “pumping up” a given nation with a sense of greatness, the GBs turn out to be insufficiently bloody.

Besides Lebanon, Turkey is another place where falsifiers of history are actively frolicking nowadays. Turkey is full of blatant modern forgeries – they are everywhere. Some of the Turkish “ruins” should be “sour” in the rain and wind for the next 50 years at least to acquire a proper appearance, but time is running out. If Turkey managed to remain on the sidelines during World War II, then this time, I am afraid, it is unlikely to be able to do so. People of Lebanon, Egypt, and Turkey, you are in great danger!

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