

4473-9963

The gate of the sun, Bolivia, time of its use, past.

Tasking:

Move to the optimum position/location and describe the target focussed on in the photograph. Describe ONLY the target and its use and by whom in detail.



Extra Feedback:

The 10 ton Gateway of the Sun is monolithic, carved from a single block of Andesite granite, and is broken right down the center (what sort of seismic disturbance could have done this?). Its upper portion is deeply carved with beautiful and intricate designs, including a human figure, condors, toxodons, elephants and some symbols. Directly in the center of the gate is the so-called "Sun-god," with rays shooting from his face in all directions. He is holding a stylized staff in each hand which may represent thunder and lightning.

This figure is sometimes referred to as the "weeping god" because of the tears carved on his cheeks. The figures flanking the centerpiece are themselves unfinished, leading investigators to wonder what could have interrupted the craftsmen working on the gate that it was left unfinished. This monolith, when first discovered, was broken in half, and was lying askew deep in silt until restored to its proper position in 1908. (In fact, all the ruins were covered in a deep layer of muddy silt until excavated and partially restored.)

Of the animals represented on the Gateway of the Sun, two have been extinct for thousands of years. Jaguars and condors are still with us, but toxodons and elephants? During the Pleistocene epoch *Cuverionius*, an elephant-like proboscisid thrived in the area, but both it and the toxodon disappeared with the Pleistocene Extinction some 11,000-12,000 years ago.

