

Anasazi Solstices Yin Yang

By: Ray Urbaniak © 2003

Lame Deer said, “A clown in our language is called a heyoka. He is upside down, backward-forward, yes-and-no man, a contrary-wise.”¹

It is also known that Sacred Clowns often have a special relationship with the Sun. In the Rio Grande area, Pueblos divide the clowns into Summer & Winter clowns.¹

Native Americans have always seen the need for balancing, the need to maintain equilibrium in the world. Although they never used the words “Yin Yang”, or used the Yin Yang symbol, the concept was the same.

It is therefore not surprising that the Anasazi established opposite Summer & Winter Solstice sites.

In SW Utah the Anasazi established sacred Summer and Winter Solstice marker sites that are opposite in almost all respects.

The Summer Solstice site uses light shafts to mark and celebrate the Solstice on a rocky barren spot(yang), while the Winter site, which is farther North(opposite) is in a treed rolling hill site(very yin). A Spiral serpent petroglyph which marks the Summer site is carved in relief(male, yang) and the serpent is coiled with its head facing out. The Spiral Serpent solstice marker at the Winter site is carved into the rock(female, yin), and the serpent is coiled with it's head in the center.

SUMMER SOLSTICE (SLIDES)⁷

Anasazi Rock Art Site, Summer Solstice 2001

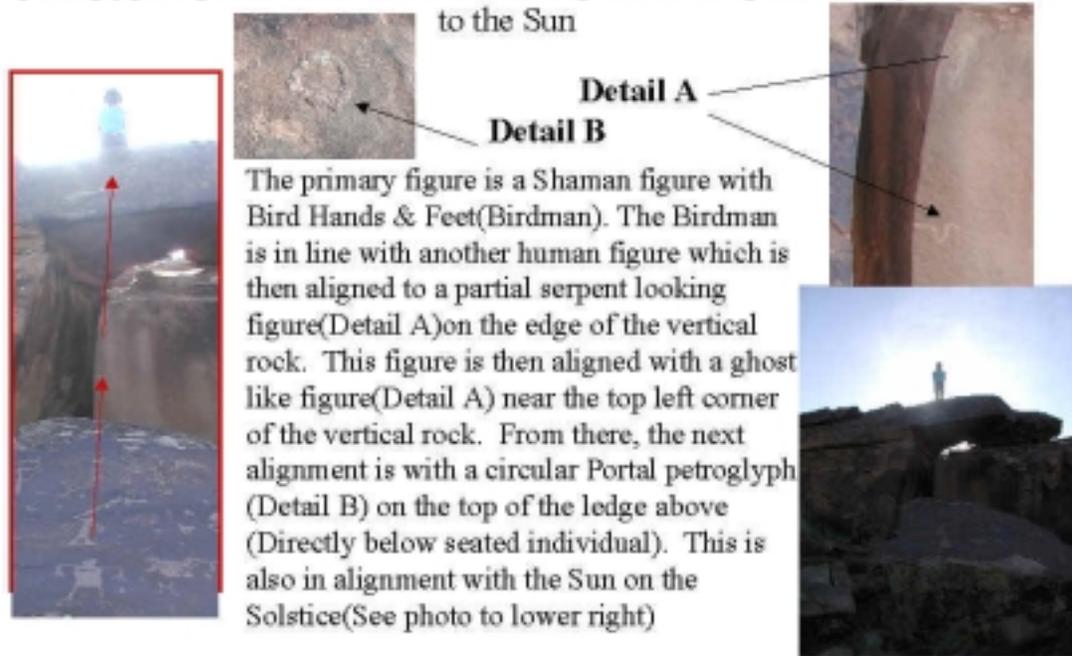
About 2 weeks before the Summer Solstice of June 21, 2001, Boma Johnson and Ray Urbaniak were revisiting an Anasazi petroglyph site which held special appeal to Ray Urbaniak. While at the site Ray noticed a shaft of light which looked like it might intersect a coiled serpent on the Summer Solstice. Boma had made other plans so Ray Urbaniak & his wife, Enilse, visited the site on the Solstice hoping for a simple Sun Dagger.

Well, to their amazement, the actual light show far exceeded anyone's expectations. The event involved 3 different shafts of light which entered, traveled, changed shape, and interacted with the glyphs to tell a story. The entire light show took place over a period of about 1 hour.

The following slides cover the progression of the light show. The deciphering took place later and is covered in a subsequent book by Ray Urbaniak entitled: *2001 an Anasazi Odyssey (A Spiritual Journey Carved in Stone)*.

Anasazi Rock Art Site, Summer Solstice 2001

This Rock Art is like a slide show involving 3 large Rocks, Different petroglyph figures, and 3 different moving shafts of light, and alignment to the Sun



RU & ESU 6/21/01.

Light shaft in right hand of Birdman



Shaft of light is passed to Right Hand of Second Figure

Shaft of light
in Right Hand



Second Shaft of Light enters below Birdman



Shaft of Light

**Third(and Strongest) shaft of light enters left
hand of Birdman**



Light Shaft moves toward head of Coiled Serpent



Coiled Serpent



Serpent looking shaft of light touches head of Coiled Serpent



Shaft enters body of Coiled Serpent



Map

Point on map which shows location of rug petroglyph.

Shaft (looking like lightning bolt) over Serpent



**Shaft transforms to a shape sometimes referred to as a
Threshold Guardian**



As shaft moves off rock it passes through other unknown figures



This slide show can also be viewed at http://www.naturalfrequency.net/Solstice/new_page_1.htm

WINTER SOLSTICE
(SLIDE)

Shadow crosses thru head of Serpent



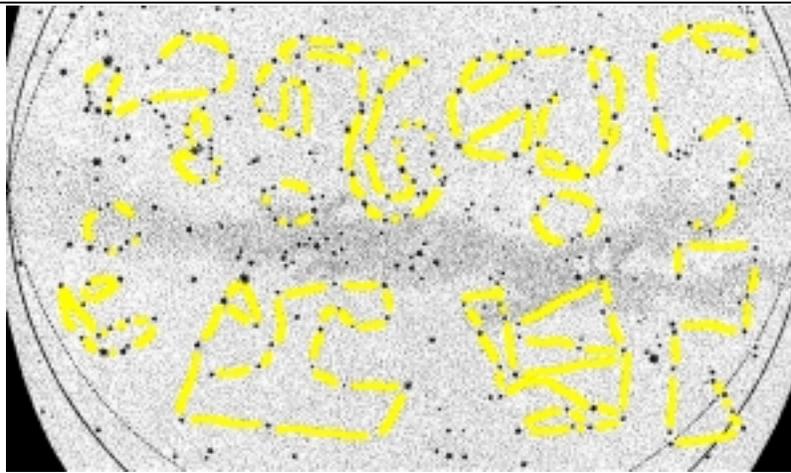
At the Summer Solstice site there is a map on the Solstice rock, which points to the location of a rug petroglyph which is also carved in relief(yang). It was discovered that this rug petroglyph mirrors the sky and displays 8 glyphs which the Anasazi chose to represent Spider Woman. At the Winter Solstice site the Solstice rock includes other constellations, different from those honored at the Summer Solstice site. These glyphs are carved into the rock(yin).

At the Summer Solstice site, the solstice marker appears in the morning of the Solstice(morning is yang), while at the Winter Solstice site the solstice marker appears near sunset(evening yin).

SUMMER SOLSTICE RUG PETROGLPH



SKY SHOWN MIRRORING THE CONSTELLATION OF RUG PETROGLYPH

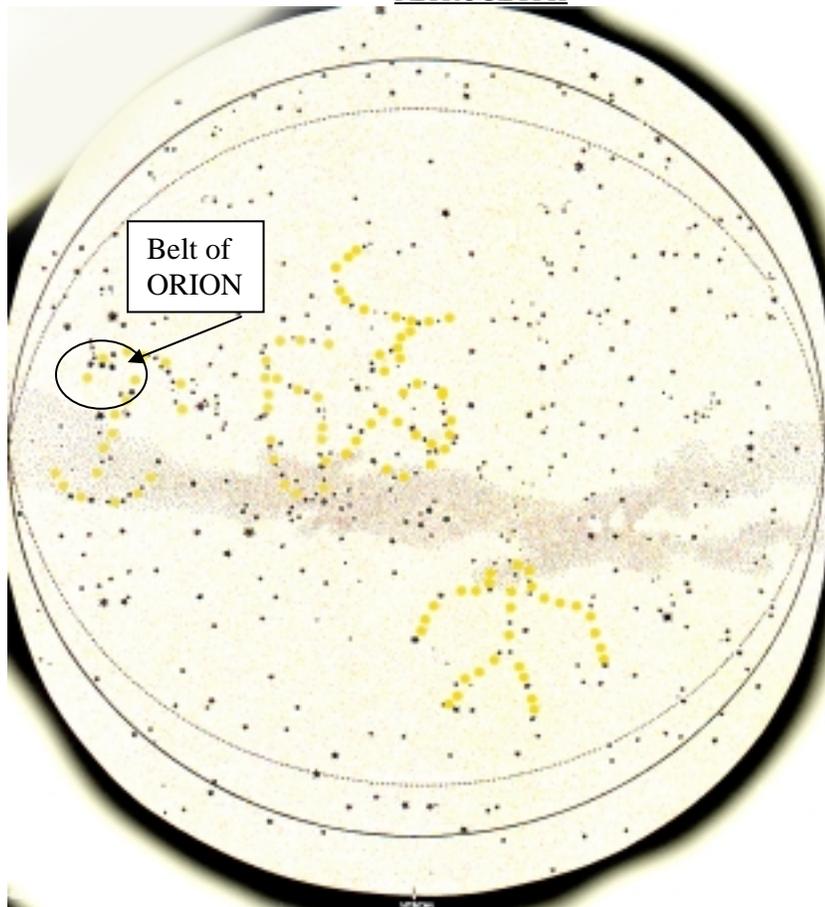


In *Orion Zone* by Gary David, he states: “Prior to dawn, runners are sent out to the shrines of both Massau’u(Orion) and Tawa (the sun) in order to deposit *pahos* (feather sticks), prayer offerings to the two gods whose complex interaction helps assure the seasons’ cyclic return, keeping the world in balance for yet another year.”²
The large glyph at the Winter Solstice site incorporates part of Orion which also makes the Winter Solstice connection.

CONSTELLATIONS AT WINTER SOLSTICE SITE



SKY SHOWN MIRRORING THE CONSTELLATIONS OF WINTER SOLSTICE
PETROGLYPH



When light hits mouth of coiled serpent on the summer solstice the serpent uncoils and recoils. Serpent uncoils & wraps around head, so head is in center of spiral, $\frac{1}{2}$ wrap represents each month or 6 months.

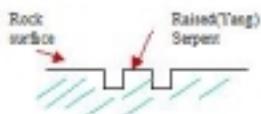


Yin & Yang

Site Comparison Summer & Winter Solstices

Summer Solstice

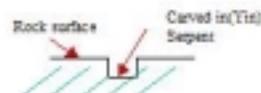
- Rocky cliff, yang area
- Petroglyph of Rug & Serpent carved in relief(male)



- Serpent coiled out
- Six $\frac{1}{2}$ turns

Winter Solstice

- No large rocky cliff, more yin surroundings
- Petroglyphs carved into rock(female).



- Serpent coiled in
- Six $\frac{1}{2}$ turns

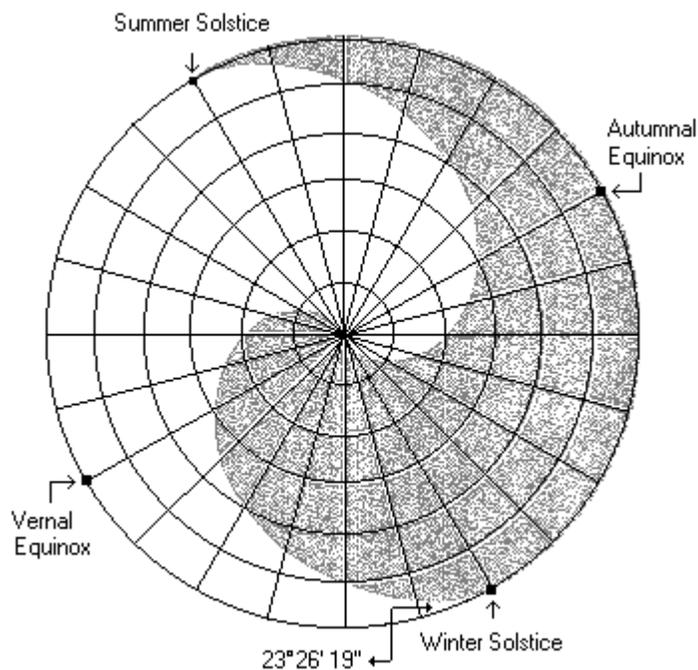
Below the small cliff above which the Winter Solstice marker sits is a round faced petroglyph, with horns, which resembles a Katsina style face that appears on the Sun Katsina(face divided \perp), but more importantly, this style face appears on a leather shield which is actually used in the Soyal ceremony(Hopi, Winter Solstice Ceremony). The shield is used in a sacred singing and dance ceremony which is judged(blessed) by the head of the 2 Horn Society.³ In addition there is a white Soyal Katsina which was historically used in the ceremony.⁶ This petroglyph is gray to white, which is rare in this area where the rocks are red, brown or black. There is definitely a lunar connection in addition to the solar connection since the moon is white and the crescent moon has been called a horned moon.⁴

The petroglyph faces 220 degrees SW, which is exactly where the sun sets behind the hills on the Winter Solstice. (Note 1) Furthermore, it has 3 lines projecting from another line which is coming out of it's head. These 3 lines point West. Most likely, they correspond to the 3 days of the "standstill of the Sun". At the Winter Solstice the Sun is at its most Southern point and actually rises and sets at the same place for 3 days prior to slowly resuming a Northerly course. It can only be concluded that this is indeed a Sun-Moon petroglyph that played an important part in the Anasazi Winter Solstice ceremony.

Note 1: The resemblance to a Sun Katsina & orientation were suggested by Gary David, author of *The Orion Zone*.



The Sun is Yang and the Moon is Yin. This petroglyph contains both elements. In fact, the Chinese symbol is actually a solstice symbol...



Yin begins at Summer Solstice and Yang begins at Winter Solstice. This is why a small white(Yang) circle is placed at the Yin Winter Solstice position and a small shaded (Yin) circle is placed at the Yang Summer Solstice position. ☯₅

There is another panel that is also associated with the solstice & it too has a lunar connection. This further confirms that the Anasazi observed the moon at this Winter Solstice site.

Panel Interpretation(panel near by)

This looks like a series of dots, but it isn't.

Starting here there are 6 dots corresponding to the 6 months before the Winter solstice(counted in the direction of the arrow).

This figure in silhouette represents the Sun. And it is pointing East, the direction the Sun starts traveling after the Winter Solstice.

This is another Sun figure which shows that the Sun also starts traveling North after the Winter Solstice.

Starting here you count another 6 dots or 6 months.

Then you come to here which is 2 arrows facing each other which means the Sun again changes direction.



Ghost Figure Represents Solstice Sun



Enilse with sun behind her on Summer Solstice.

The following figures had been noticed at a number of sites, but a connection to the Sun was not made until the silhouette picture above was remembered and connected to the above glyph.

Ghost Figures

Ghost Figures



Anasazi Canyon



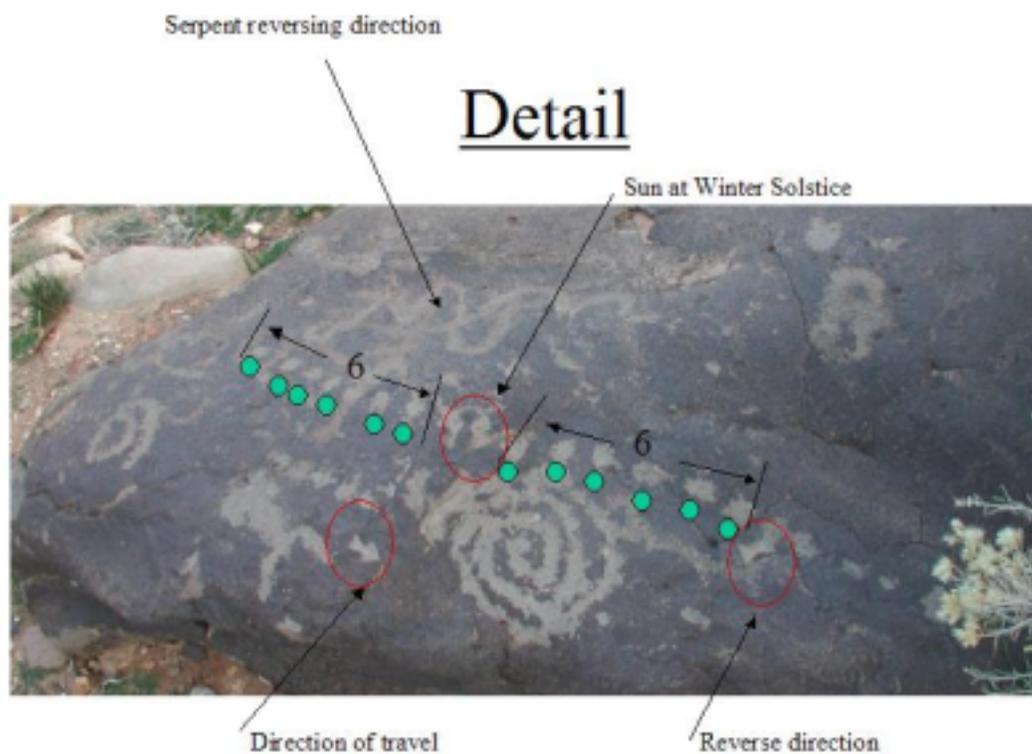
Anasazi Ridge



Winter Solstice
Pueblo

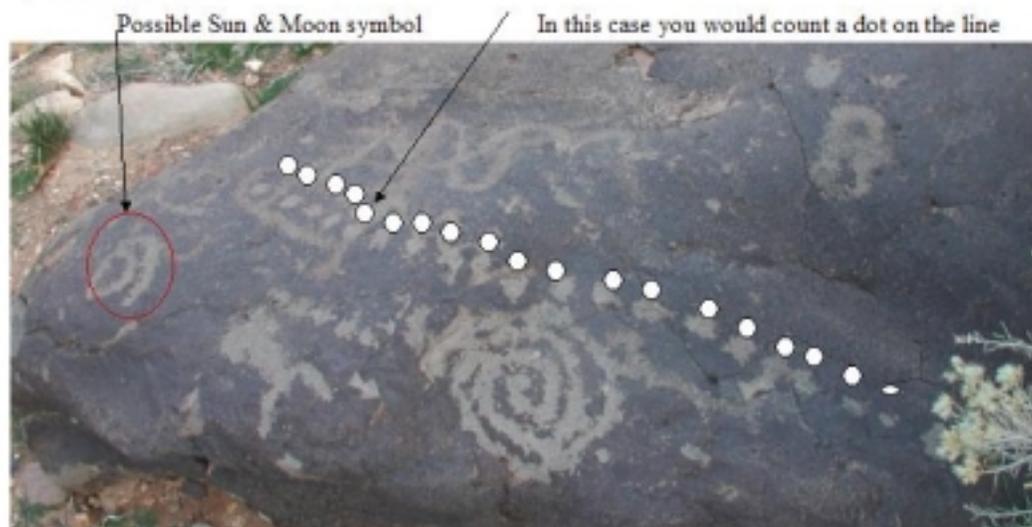
Later, in *Book of the Hopi*, by; Frank Waters on page 211 states, “Those going north under the Guidance of Spider Woman included members of the Spider Clan, the Ghost Clan-sometimes known as Fire Clan-the Sun Clan”.

This supports the connection of the Ghost to the Sun!



Lunar symbol

Lunar Connection

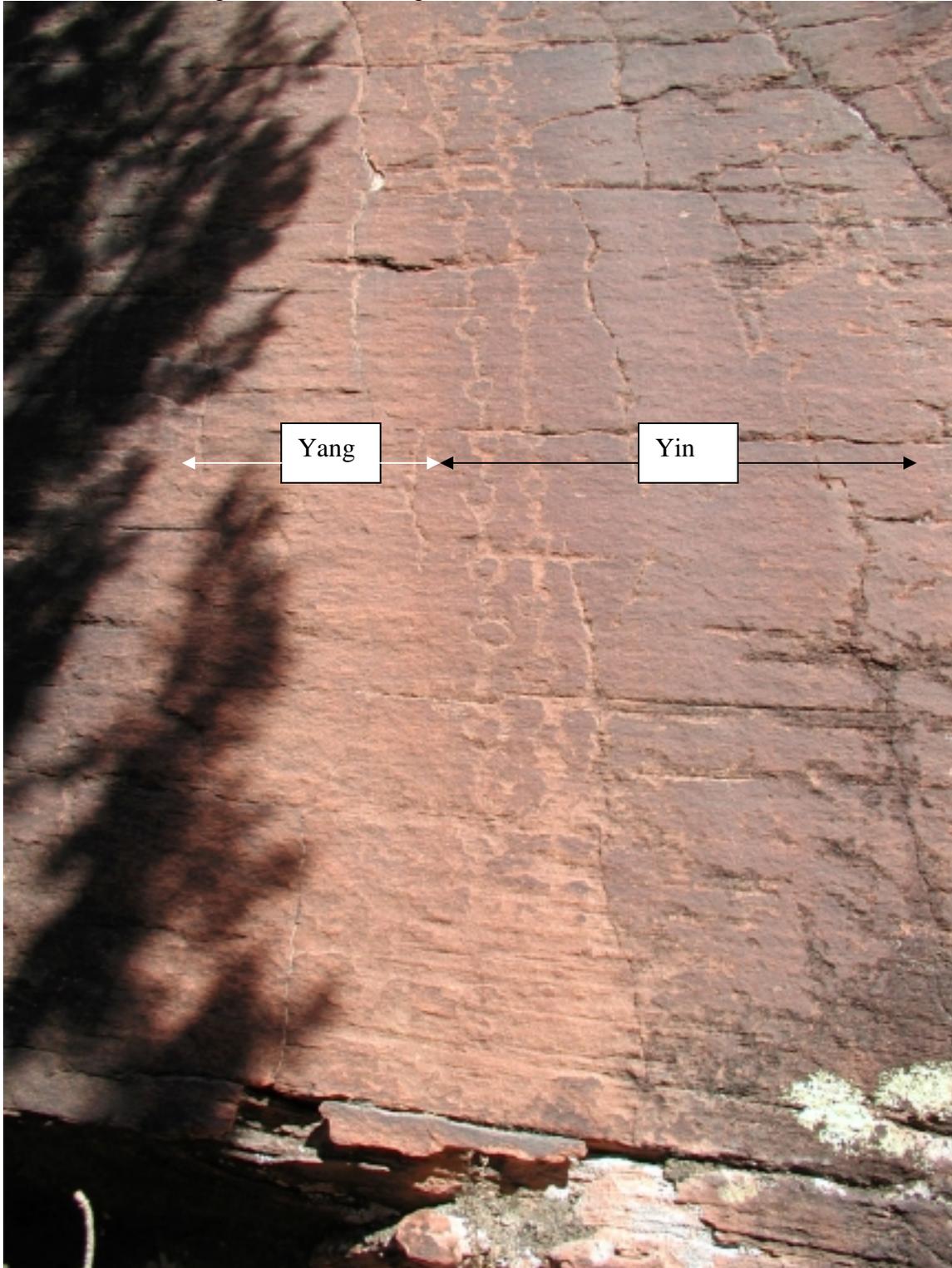


It also appears that if you count another way, you get approx 18.6 which is equivalent to the Lunar 18.6 year declination cycle.

In addition to the above panel, another panel also appears to confirm that the Anasazi studied the Moon. This ties in with the fact that the Pueblo Indian ceremonies are designed to guarantee that the Sun will return North. The full Moon nearest to the Soyal is called “sacred, but dangerous moon”, showing the concern that the Sun might not return north.

It is also reported that the Zunis have attempted to organize their calendar so that Winter Solstice occurs at or near the full moon.

The following panel has a number of connected days which apparently were used to track the moon prior to the Winter Solstice. The primary reason for this belief is the fact that the connected days appear just before the rock panel turns lighter to the left side of the dots, from dark to light(Yin to the Yang).



There is yet another panel, which was probably also a Winter Solstice marker but the rock that projected the shadow has eroded and tilted down the hill far enough so that it no longer casts a shadow across the coiled serpent on the rock.

The following panel is also near the Winter Solstice site. It is felt that it was an additional important Winter Solstice marker. Yet the reader should note that this panel is more Yin than the other Winter Solstice rock showing that there are degrees in Yin even at the same site.

This panel is further West, therefore more Yin.(East is Yang & West is Yin)

Another Winter Solstice Panel?



Sun Jogger Detail



There is a "T" symbol to represent a spiritual passageway & the Sun Jogger(Spider Woman?) is pulling the sun to the East.

Continued



The erosion, and subsequent sliding & tilting of the shadow casting rock noted above has taken place in the approximately 800 years following the departure of the Anasazi.

SW Utah is the Western most reach of the Anasazi in their migration. It is possible that these sites are tied into this fact and are unique, but it is more likely that other such sites exist.

It appears that this is the first time solstice sites have been looked at from a Yin Yang perspective. Given how important the concept of opposites and balance were to the Anasazi it is highly likely that there are more Yin Yang sites out there, it is just that they have simply not been viewed from this perspective.

1. Peggy V. Beck, Anna Lee Walters, Nia Francisco, *The Sacred* (Navajo Community Press, Tsaile, AZ, Northland Publishing Co., 1990), pg. 291-292, 303.
2. Gary David, *The Orion Zone* (On line Publication), http://azorion.tripod.com/article_frames.htm, chapter 3.
3. Frank Waters, *Book of the Hopi* (Penguin Books, Viking Penguin Inc., 1977) pages 161-162.
4. Robert Baker, *An Introduction to Astronomy* (D. Van Nostrand Co., Inc., 6th Edition, Aug. 1966) 6.4, page 91.
5. Allen Tsai, *Where the Yin Yang Symbol Came From*, (On line Publication) <http://www.chinesefortunecalendar.com/yinyang.htm>.
6. Barton Wright, *Hopi Kachinas* (Northland Press/Flagstaff, 9th edition 1987) pages 32, 33, 35 & 123.
7. Ray Urbaniak, *2001 an Anasazi Odyssey (A Spiritual Journey Carved in Stone)*, (Ray Urbaniak, Hurricane, UT 2002).