

GIANT CARVED FEET AT USGALIMAL – GOA - 6

Two side-by-side giant feet (137cm long x 56cm wide) are also very conspicuous carvings at the northern edge of the eastern pool – that is abutting the river – as seen in the picture below to the left the labyrinth.

Such feet-carvings, seen elsewhere have been interpreted to represent a person's journey through the rock to another world or to those of the dead who cross over between worlds when their souls part their bodies. In analogy to the caves, the deep waters represent the underworld. (Aldhouse-Greene)



In Egypt, the feet of Osiris were a symbol of visitation. “With my two feet I have come and taken possession – Book of the Dead” (Rolleston). Feet are also sculptured on dolmens in Brittany and rocks in Scandinavia.

The symbols of feet from the historic times are also seen in many parts of India, several are attributed to Buddha and Jain saint, as hallowed grounds.

At Usgalimal, during the religious rituals, the priest or shaman may have presided from this exalted spot, as a symbolic figure of the visitation by the Water Goddess arising from the underworld.



Giant feet and some animals* acting as guards/attendants on either side
Note the last two digits of the left foot appear as heads



Photo - Romy Whitesell

In a different setting, on a rocky face at Wadi Rum** (Valley of the Moon), Jordan, similar carved feet are seen below the larger human figure – perhaps a person's or god's journey through the rock.

Reference;

1. Miranda & Stephen Aldhouse-Green, *The Quest for the Shaman*, **Thames & Hudson Ltd**, London, 2005.
2. T. W. Rolleston, *Celtic Myths and Legends*, **Social Science**, July 24, 2012.

* Several others are not seen in the picture.

** UNESCO World Heritage Site.

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