

Lower Arrow Canyon

Lower Arrow Canyon is located in Southern Nevada. It is known for its interesting geology that shows the severe uplifts that occurred eons ago (Figure 1 & 2). The canyon is also known for its paleontology as well as its rock art.



Figure 1



Figure 2

The first rock art area is located in the “wide” part of the canyon and consists of a number of panels in close proximity (Figures 3 – 11).

The glyphs appear to be from different time periods because of the different intensity of the glyphs (Figures 4, 5 and others).

There also appears to be a different “pecking” style of some of the glyphs – some appear completely pecked while others appear to leave spaces between pecks so that the pecks appear as dots (Figures 6, 7 and 8).

The “sheep” image in the lower right portion of Figure 8 is unique as is the image in Figure 11.



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6



Figure 7



Figure 8



Figure 9



Figure 10



Figure 11

The second rock art area is located in a narrow slot portion of the canyon where the walls are estimated by some to be well over 200 feet tall (Figure 12).

The main rock art consists of a main panel (Figures 13 – 17) plus a couple of isolated glyphs.

The area around the rock art in this portion of the canyon has experienced a large amount of graffiti (Figure 13 and 17 for example).

The glyphs in Figure 13 and 14 appear to be a time line, with events associated with it. The glyph is at the bottom of the wall and it appears that the glyphs continue under the current floor of the canyon. Is the figure at the bottom left of Figure 14 a Kokopelli? It looks as if this could be a latter addition due to the slightly lighter color.



Figure 12



Figure 13



Figure 14



Figure 15



Figure 16



Figure 17



Figure 18

Figure 15 is the first of two “shield” type petoglyphs at this site. The shield is truncated, not completely round. Inside the shield are designs around the perimeter and what appears to be a mountain range in the center. Could the mountain in the center of the shield be the mountain in Figure 16? Figure 16 is the view from the mouth of the large portion of Arrow Canyon with the mountain across the valley.

Could the arrow shown in Figure 18 be the namesake for the canyon – Arrow Canyon?

Arrow Canyon and the glyph shown in Figure 17 are the subject of an entire chapter in Nal Morris’ book “The Parowan Gap Archaeoastronomy Report, Volume II – A Path of Discovery”.

Nal’s first conclusion was that the sunrise on the equinox would rise directly at the mouth of the slot canyon portion of Arrow canyon. This was proven with photographs shown in his book. He also shows that there are some interesting shadow patterns that occur at the site of the shield glyph in Figure 17 during the equinox sunrise.

He then focused on the Figure 17 glyph, which he called “The Fourth Shipapu and Emergence Glyph”. Notice the three rings, or portals, on the outside, lower right of the shield (at about 4 o’clock). These represent the portals from the three prior worlds and the shield represents the portal (shipapu) into the fourth world. Nal then looks at the images on the inside of the shield. He goes counterclockwise starting with the rectangular image at approximately 11 o’clock. He then points out that the 4th image (at about 7 o’clock) has rounded corners which he thinks looks like an insect with his eyes and antenna just over

the edge of the shield. The next figure (at about 6 o'clock) looks to him like an ant (he goes on to tell about the Hopi creation story involving the ant people). The figure at about 5 o'clock looks like a human. He surmises that the ant person has transformed into a human. Hence he concludes that the glyph tells the story of the emergence of the human race into the fourth world. He calls the image in the center an insect, but I think that this could be spider woman.

Nal then ties in the emergence story with the equinox sunrises to "prove" his theory about the glyph.

Read his book and then you decide.

John Mangels