

Tympanum

The Tympanum is carved in relief with a central Tree of Life with a curving trunk, gnarled roots and simple, concave leaves with a central groove. From its branches to L and R hang two fruits, and each is grasped in the mouth of one of a pair of rearing beasts with doglike heads with pointed ears and lions' manes. Each beast has a pair of front legs only with claws, but the body tapers to a snakelike tail that curves in a loop and ends with an arrow-like tip, pointing upwards.



Along the bottom edge of the central field is the first line of a verse couplet inscription; the letters raised rather than incised. The second line is similarly carved on the chamfered upper edge of the lintel, and the couplet reads:

+PREMIA PRO MERITIS SI QIS DESPET HABENDA

AVDIAT HIC PREEPTA SIBIQVE SIT RETINENDA+

which loosely translates as **"If one despairs of having rewards for his merits, Let this man hear the advice and let it be retained by him."**

The central section is carved with a scene of a dragon. It has a snake-like head with a large oval eye drilled in the centre and pointed ears. Its mouth is open, revealing sharp teeth and a tongue that projects sharply upwards. It rests on short, bent front legs and one of its short wings is shown, folded horizontally above its body. The tail has a single loop and ends in a point.