

A walk towards the rock carvings of Azabal

As people who are passionate about history, we believe that we should not neglect the heritage that time has bequeathed us. We are wrong when we do not care of what had meaning and value for our ancestors, so we want to bring this idea to whom it may concern, in order to prevent the petroglyphs of Las Hurdes disappear between ground and undergrowth.

If we had a sad experience with the rock carvings of La Batuequilla recently, it is also worrying what it is happening in Azabal. This has been our experience embarked on the “hunt” of the petroglyphs of Azabal.

We headed to the village, a minor entity of Casar de Palomero, and we found a nice gentleman who informed us about the difficulty of access and find one of the sets of petroglyphs, called the Vegacha del Rozo, because there isn't any signal post on track to reach them.

Fortunately, there is no better guide than a good inhabitant, friendly and willing to accompany the curious to the place itself, since not only the outsider may achieve his objective, but he can learn loads of things of the gentleman in question, about the place, land, history, day by day, and so on. Therefore, this text is a tribute to Elias Martin Moriano, as well as a testimony of our gratitude for his kindness and willingness, for showing his land and his village, the petroglyphs, the cherry-trees and the hermitage of San Cristobal and for teach us a life lesson.

First, Elías took us to the Vegacha del Rozo. To get there, we had to take a track and leave it to take a path descending from cherry to an orchard, where we had to jump over a wall to access the set of rock carvings.

It was a pleasure to get the petroglyphs. In addition, we knew that the anthropomorphic figure was there, the graven image that is the emblem of the rock carvings of Las Hurdes, a totem that can be seen in all signposts.

And there was the anthropomorphic figure, on the smooth area of shale rock, a curious finding that Luis Benito del Rey and Ramón Grande del Brío did and collected in a document to which we will refer later.

Although here we talk about both places, this magazine will deal with the content of the rock carvings on the “History” section, as well as of Azabal in “A village” section.

We were saying that thousands of years ago, our ancestors carved the figures in the rock. When we watched them, the union in place and time made us feel a little more “time travelers”.



Then we drank water in a clear fountain in the orchard and contemplate the place where there was an oak that had a treasure, hidden in its roots y found it when the oak burned. But that episode happened long time ago.

Not so with the supposed treasure of coins that was on the track to the Lagar de la Hoya, according to legend. Tradition says that someone came to find it and, in spite of denying the finding, his economic situation changed significantly.

A few hundred meters away, we reached the Lagar de la Hoya. The place is very beautiful; the stream of Carrascal de la Abuela runs at the bottom and there is an old oil mill and a water channel thar Elías told us told us to come from the Moors period. At that point, on a shale rock, we saw the petroglyphs. We approached, we observe the enclave and the rock carvings, we took photos and we continue our excursion up to the hermitage of San Cristobal ... but this is another story.

We have allowed ourselves to manipulate the images of both stations of petroglyphs to visualize the content better. It is not the best practice, but it is a way to perceive well what our ancestors left for eternity with so much effort.