

This monument stands on a small level in the saddle between the two highest peaks of the crater rim. It may represent a fire or mountain god. For the time being we would not venture to ascribe it definitely to any culture.

Clouds had gathered around the mountain top and it was raining slightly while we were working with this monument, but when



FIG. 42—San Martín Pajapan, Ver. Drawing of same Idol as FIG. 41, as it now stands.

we started our descent the wind tore a momentary rift in the clouds and we got a most magnificent view of the Coatzacoálcos basin, with the town of Pajápan and the Laguna de los Ostiones in the foreground, and a glimpse of the Chiapas mountains far away to the southeast.

Our old guide was searching the landscape for his dear "pueblo." It is remarkable to note how these people are attached to their home towns. It is the first and last to them; the fate of the country as a whole does not concern them.

The descent was not so bad as we had expected, though in some places we were sliding rather than walking downwards. A family of monkeys followed us for a while, jumping from one tree top to another.

Returning to Tatahui-cápa we found everybody busily engaged in preparing for a fiesta. Hunters were out to kill deer in the forests, pigs were being slaughtered, and boys came in with bundles of fire wood. The women were gathered in groups of fifty or sixty in different parts of the village. Sheltered by light structures built of palm leaves, they were grinding corn, baking