

Bryant Knox /
TEMPLE OF THE INSCRIPTIONS,
PALENQUE, CHIAPAS:
A 20th Century Descent

There are over one hundred steps to the depth of the crypt;
one descends to meet antiquity
on ground of its own —
each step, hewn by hand,
upon which we stand for each moment's descent,
is a threshold approaching that of the crypt's;
for you see, it is not the crypt
or moisture of the limestone's tint,
nor the capstone of the corbelled vault,
but the hand hewn stone,
gigantic lintels
upon which we step,
as if passing over silent portals
we are unable to pass through.