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THE ANCIENT MEXICAN CREATION MYTH

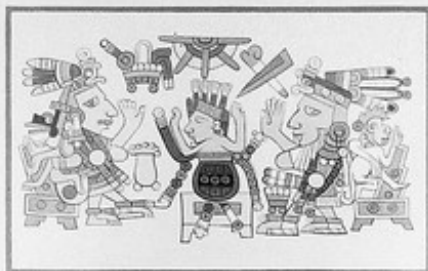
I. THE FIRST GODS AND THE FIRST CREATION OF THE WORLD

THE ANCIENT MEXICANS, THE AZTECS, HAD AN ELABORATE CREATION MYTH WHOSE CHIEF FEATURES WERE THE FORMATION OF THE WORLD FROM A MONSTROUS ANIMAL, THE SEQUENCE OF FOUR IMPERFECT WORLDS BEFORE THE PRESENT ONE, AND THE CREATION AND CONTINUED NOURISHMENT OF THE SUN BY SACRIFICE

IN THE BEGINNING THE GOD TONACATECUTLI AND THE GODDESS TONACACIUALT created themselves and dwelt in the thirteenth or highest heaven.



CAMAXTLI



TONACATECUTLI AND TONACACIUALT



QUETZALCOATL



YAYAUHQUITEZCATLIPOÇA
THE BLACK TEZCATLIPOÇA

FROM THESE DEITIES WERE BORN FOUR SONS CAMAXTLI, YAYAUHQUITEZCATLIPOÇA, QUETZALCOATL, UIZILOPOCHTLI, TO WHOM THE CREATION OF THE WORLD IS DUE. AFTER SIX HUNDRED YEARS QUETZALCOATL AND UIZILOPOCHTLI MADE FIRE AND A HALF-SUN, THE FIRST MAN AND WOMAN OXOMOCO AND CIPACTONAL, THE UNDERWORLD AND THE DEITIES OF THE UNDERWORLD, THE TWELVE HEAVENS BELOW THE THIRTEENTH, WATER AND THE MONSTROUS REPTILE CIPACTLI WHO DWELT IN IT.



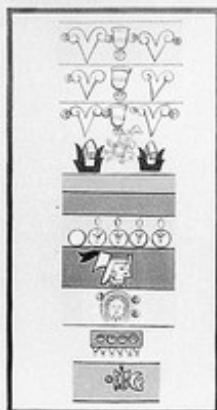
UIZILOPOCHTLI



THE HALF SUN



OXOMOCO AND CIPACTONAL



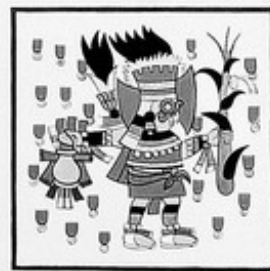
THE TWELVE HEAVENS BELOW
THE THIRTEENTH



MICTECACIUALT AND MICTLANTECUTLI
THE DEITIES OF THE UNDERWORLD



CIPACTLI IN THE WATER



TLALOC, THE GOD OF RAIN



CIPACTLI AS THE EARTH



CHALCHIUHTLICUE, THE GODDESS
OF RUNNING WATER

WHEN THE EARTH WAS FINISHED TEZCATLIPOÇA TRANSFORMED HIMSELF INTO THE SUN TO GIVE LIGHT TO MEN AND THE FIRST AGE OF THE WORLD BEGAN.