

ENGLISH

Arqueoastronomía Mexica “Between time and Space” FINAL VERSION 14 septiembre 2017	
IMAGE	VOICE
	<p>The sky, with its voice made of stars, tells us the story of four suns...</p> <p>At the time of the first sun...</p> <p>...the jaguars devoured mankind.</p> <p>At the second...</p> <p>...life was devastated by the wind.</p> <p>At the third...</p> <p>...a rain of fire turned everything into ashes.</p> <p>At the fourth...</p> <p>...water flooded all voices, drowning them out.</p> <p>Life and the four suns extinguished.</p>
	<p>Gathered in <i>Teotihuacán</i>, the gods created the fifth sun.</p> <p>A sun which, in order to stay alive and keep the cosmos moving, would only claim one offering from human beings: their heart.</p>

	<p>The sun ignites, and the sky, now with a fiery voice, tells us about the exact moment of creation.</p> <p>Everything begins with the mother of all gods: <i>Coatlicue</i>, “the one with the serpent’s skirt”.</p> <p>She was sweeping, at the Cerro Coatepec.</p> <p>When an eagle’s feather lay on her breast...</p> <p>...and made her pregnant. Knowing that, her daughter <i>Coyolxauhqui</i> — the Moon — and her brothers — the stars — the 400 southerners — felt dishonored, and planned to kill her.</p> <p><i>Coatlicue</i> was saddened, but <i>Huitzilopochtli</i>, who was already inside her, comforted her.</p> <p>He would defend her.</p> <p><i>Huitzilopochtli</i> was born an adult, and with a fire snake, beheaded and dismembered <i>Coyolxauhqui</i>.</p> <p>She rolled down the hill’s slope.</p> <p>In an eternal cosmic fight, <i>Huitzilopochtli</i>, overpowered the Moon,</p> <p>and <i>Coatlicue’s</i> 400 brothers, too — the stars, who still hide behind the night.</p>
	<p>Now it is <i>Huitzilopochtli</i>, the god of war, who speaks for the sky.</p> <p>His words are spears of fire: all obey him.</p> <p>He commands his people, the</p>

	<p>Aztecs, to leave Aztlán, to seek new lands, until they find an eagle on a Paddle cactus, feeding on a snake, which would point out how to find their kingdom.</p> <p>They must find the promised land, so that the Sun will never cease to shine.</p> <p>And after that, all of them would be called Mexicas, Mexicans...</p>
	<p>The journey is very long.</p> <p>It's an intense pilgrimage that only those chosen by the fifth sun can make:</p> <p>people who walk and do everything with their heart.</p> <p>That's what keeps the Sun alive.</p>
	<p>The Aztecs seem to walk without course...</p> <p>They are lost...</p> <p>But in this unending search of the promised land, every place, that they set up, turns into a sanctuary.</p> <p>Over their footsteps grow chinampas, flowers, songs...</p> <p>and, above all, buildings to get closer to the stars.</p>
	<p>It's on this road that the place where men become into gods is discovered.</p> <p>It's an ascending route where steps and stairs persist towards the sky.</p>

	<p>These temples are meant to look like the shape of the mountains</p> <p>Cities of precise geometrical design. Places where the Moon is worshiped, and especially <i>Tonatiuh</i>.</p> <p>Pyramids that rise, reconstructing the horizon, oriented to the west and the south, to chase the Sun and the stars.</p>
	<p>Places where <i>Quetzalcóatl</i> is worshiped:</p> <p>Creator of mankind...</p> <p>Bird and snake in one body.</p> <p>In these buildings also lives <i>Tláloc</i>...</p> <p>Different gods with obsidian eyes...</p> <p>Feathered snails...</p> <p>Colourful birds...</p> <p>Snakes and claws...</p> <p>Eagles that head to the west, to be transformed into the Sun: <i>Tonatiuh</i>.</p>
	<p>We hear <i>Tonatiuh</i> through his tale of god transformed as the Eagle Knight...</p> <p>He always extends his solar wings to illuminate the day.</p> <p>And his eternal companion is the</p>

	<p>night: the Jaguar Knight.</p> <p>While wandering through the darkness, he has as many spots as the sky has stars.</p> <p>The eagle unfolds his flight to reach the top of that monolithic pyramid.</p> <p>A big snake guards its entrance. Its forked tongue extends across the ground.</p> <p>Two eagles, and a jaguar also protect the enclosure.</p> <p>The central eagle is illuminated by the Sun's rays at the winter solstice: the day when <i>Huitzilopochtli</i> was born.</p> <p>In this place, some warriors receive one of the highest honours: to become Eagle and Jaguar Knights — animals tied to the Sun and the night.</p> <p>The eagle perches to observe, from these places, Alpha Centauri in the south — the direction of <i>Huitzilopochtli</i>, the closest star to the Earth.</p> <p>The stars, there, while moving, create arches in the Celestial sphere.</p> <p>The trajectories of the constellations go from south to north, becoming longer in each movement.</p> <p>Like paths that multiply.</p>
	<p>All the constructions of the people of the fifth Sun are oriented</p>

	<p>towards it, and are related to events that define the numbers in the Mesoamerican calendar.</p> <p>These buildings do not point to space, but to time...</p>
	<p><i>Cipactonal</i> and <i>Oxomoco</i>, priests, wizards, women and men, they gather to know the destiny of mankind.</p> <p><i>Oxomoco</i> with an incense burner.</p> <p><i>Cipactonal</i> throws corn grains at random, as a way to predict the future.</p> <p>They are the gods that invent time, and they order it in a calendar.</p> <p>And afterwards, they deliver it to <i>Quetzalcóatl</i>...</p>
	<p>So that he would give it away to mankind.</p>
	<p>Time is a combination of two calendars:</p> <p>One solar...</p> <p>The other ceremonial...</p> <p>Both, begin at the same time...</p> <p>But after the first 260 days,</p> <p>they come out of phase: each one following their own course.</p> <p>And 73 cycles of 260 days have to pass by...</p> <p>...or 52 years of 365 days, in order for the calendars to match again, and once more, align.</p> <p>This way, every 52 years, the New</p>

	<p>Fire is lit, and distributed from “Cerro de la Estrella”, celebrating that the world will continue to live.</p>
	<p>Quetzalcóatl celebrates in Tula.</p> <p>In his temple, he parties. He is happy.</p> <p>He drinks and drinks pulque until he is drunk.</p> <p>But he is embarrassed about his state...</p> <p>And flees...</p> <p>He hides behind the Sun.</p> <p>He travels east, and transforms into the morning star, Venus.</p>
	<p>Quetzalcóatl has to return...</p> <p>Meanwhile, following the orders of Huitzilopochtli, in every step we leave our footprints and our hearts.</p>
	<p>Here is where our story begins:</p> <p>The 13th of April 1325, when we arrived in the Anáhuac valley, in the middle of the island of Texcoco, the Sun was eaten, Tonatiuh Cualó.</p> <p>In the middle of the day, everything was devoured by the night.</p> <p>We thought we had encountered death...</p> <p>But the luminous arms of Tonatiuh extended...</p> <p>We had found the signal: the claws in the sky, merging with the</p>

	<p>strength of the Earth.</p> <p>It was here, in this place, where the Eagle, on the top of a Paddle cactus, was eating a snake, that we founded <i>Meschico Tenochtitlán</i>.</p> <p>Here, in the centre of the world, in the centre of the Universe, stands our empire.</p>
	<p>The orientation of our Great Temple was chosen to indicate the division of the solar year into periods of 73 days.</p> <p>The Sun sets for the first time in this place, and after 73 days, the summer solstice begins.</p> <p>Upon its return, it takes 73 days to reach the same place.</p> <p>In its round trip to the winter solstice, the Sun takes three times 73 days.</p> <p>These are numbers that we always mark in our calendars.</p>
	<p>As in <i>Ilhuicatitlan</i>, the temple dedicated to the morning star: Venus,</p> <p>where we observe that eight periods of 73 days have to elapse before <i>Quetzalcoatl</i>, disguised as Venus, the morning or evening star, would appear.</p> <p>Every eight years, then, Venus would appear five times between the same stars...</p> <p>We knew you would return, <i>Quetzalcoatl</i>...</p>

	<p>We also knew that our hearts would give us a new day.</p> <p>The Earth rises through seven different levels, in ascending order.</p> <p>Our pyramids, the great bodies, reflect the vertical image of the Universe.</p> <p>And every sovereign has the mission to enhance the Great Temple, and with that, to show his might.</p>
	<p>We build an artificial platform to have the observation point we need, to reach the horizon.</p> <p>We want to be close to the top, to be closer to the stars and recover our origin: the sky.</p>
	<p>Only in this place can the Great Temple be built.</p> <p>In no other place on Earth do the Sun and time converge as they do here.</p> <p>Only from here is the origin of all things named: Tenochtitlán.</p>
	<p>In these two enclosures, two holy mountains, duality coexists.</p> <p>That which burns and that which freezes.</p> <p>Light and dark.</p> <p>Fire and water.</p> <p>Here we built two shrines, two altars: one is for Huitzilopochtli, the god of war,</p> <p>the other for <i>Tláloc</i>, the god of</p>

	<p>rain.</p> <p>Water and fire unite, and together, they symbolise war.</p> <p>They loop towards the sky.</p> <p>They embrace each other without merging.</p> <p>No one drowns, no one ignites.</p> <p>They give orders, from this temple, to the Universe.</p>
	<p>{Voices in Nahuatl, not to be narrated in English}</p> <p><i>Vitzilopochtli yaquetl Aya iya</i> <i>Acoinaiin obsuihuihuia</i> <i>Amen niccuic tusgemitl</i></p>
	<p>We are the people of the fifth sun.</p> <p>Our history is that of feathered snails, jaguars as kings, the flight of the eagles and snakes that enrich our cosmos.</p> <p>We imprint our footsteps on the water, where the spirit of gods and warriors burn.</p> <p>We are proud to be the true heirs of the Sun, and of our cosmic clock.</p> <p>We offer our beating heart to space and time, to <i>Tonatiuh</i>, to the Sun...</p> <p><i>In Teotl quitoznequitonatiuh (not to be narrated in English)</i></p> <p>God means Sun.</p> <p>A bird of yellow, vibrant wings.</p>

	Bird of all times, which lies in our blood, with the privilege of being Mexica, Mexican.
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