

EXPLORING AZTEC MYTHOLOGY:

Los Cuatro Soles (The Four Suns)

When the gods finished creating the earth, the water, and the fire, the other gods from the region of the dead, called Mictlan, were very content with everything that was created. However they noticed that the Sun was not well. It did not shine very little and did not warm anything.

So they got together and decided to create the Sun again.

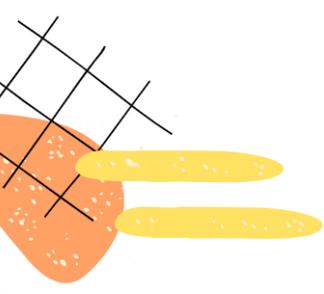
The God Tezcatlipoca Negro spoke to the others and said that he would offer himself to be the Sun. But Quetzalcoatl, after seeing him, had the desire to illuminate the world. He ran to where Tezcatlipoca Negro was and punched him so that he would fall from the sky.

When Quetzalcoatl saw that his brother fell into the water he made himself the sun; however Tezcatlipoca who had the ability of turning into a tiger, swiped at his brother and ate some giants who lived on the earth.

Angrily, Quetzalcoatl let go of the winds and cyclones, the people ran away and said, "If we were animals we could run towards the jungles"

Hearing this the gods turned them into monkeys.

The gods who had recreated the humans twice were disappointed when Tlaloe told them, "Do not worry my precious brothers, I will be the Sun." He then illuminated the earth.



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Everything seemed to be going fine, but Tlaloe who was the god of the rain, caused fire to fall onto the earth, the rivers turned into lava that ran from volcanoes.

The people screamed from everywhere, “If only we were birds that way we could escape this heat.”

The gods were confused with all the chaos and turned the people into seagulls, swallows, mockingbirds, and different sized and colored birds so that they could escape.

“What do we do brothers?” said the gods. Quetzalcoatl proposed that Chalchiuhtlicue, goddess of Water, to be the sun; however it also proved to be an error. As it only caused floods and rains. “If only we were fish” shouted the people. And so the Gods converted them into fish along with every animal in the lakes and rivers.

It rained for days and the sky fell to the earth. Quetzalcoatl and Tezcatlipoca transformed into trees so that they could raise the sky, however they were sad because they had failed in making the sun and destroyed the people.