

Tlatelolco

Jan 24, 1995

Of the several models of ^{the sacred precinct} of Tenochtitlan which exist at the present

The first extensive Aztec ruin I ever saw was that of the sacred precinct of Tlatelolco uncovered in the early sixties. At that same time only a ^{front} corner and part of the southern side of the base of the Templo Mayor of Tenochtitlan had been exposed offering little to see and nothing in the way of context.

Inside a small museum at the sight was the beautiful model of the entire square based upon the investigations conducted earlier in the century by Batres and others and summarized by the eminent architect-archeologist Ignacio Marfuma. As impressive and as beautiful as it was I could not reconcile its symmetrical harmonies with what I had seen at Tlatelolco. Nor for that matter did its layout resemble the plans of any of the other sites I had studied - those of other Mexican cultures in the Maya country, at Monte Alban or that great example of ancient order, the City of Teotihuacan.

My studies of the Aztecs were in their beginnings then, yet that strange impression of Tlatelolco kept intruding upon my struggles to accept what I had been reading and looking at as authority on the subject.

Supplemented by an increasingly penetrating study of the Aztec gods, their functions and relationships within themselves