

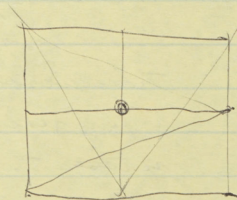
Orders

① The principle of an organized cosmos

No one knows how old the basic structure of

When ~~we~~ ^{we} begin to make a study of Meso American religions and encounter a ~~multitude~~ a confusion of gods involved with the intermeshing of two calendars, unfolding ⁱⁿ cycles that are in themselves parts of larger cycles

The Maya King stood in the center of the cosmos that consisted of three interconnecting vertical worlds, ~~and~~ ^{As} was the living embodiment of the great apes linking them together he stood also at that point ^{from which the} ~~where~~ the earth's cardinal directions emanated becoming, for his people the personification of the ritual center of the ritual focus, the sacred fire, and he stood as the guardian of the portal



In presenting a brief description of the maya conception of Cosmic order, its relationship with the Calendars and its expression within the society itself ~~the best~~ ^{a good} way to begin is with a description of the ^{unique} position ~~and function~~ of ~~the king~~, occupied by the king.

As prime ruler he occupied a place that was ~~at the center of the~~ ^{at the center of} the three cosmic worlds and ~~the center of~~ functioned both as the middle of the tripartite Cosmos ^{of three interconnected worlds} and as a center of the earth's plane

As prime ruler ^{the king} he occupied a place in the middle of a tripartite Cosmos made up of an underworld ~~middle world~~ of nine layers, a middle world consisting primarily of the natural world, and a thirteen layered upper world. In a unique ^{connection} ~~function~~ the middle ^{world or earth surface} also shared one level with each of the other two thus allowing ~~interior~~ access into and out of each through ^{to a} sacred portals ~~and~~ sanctified by fire as the center of the ~~earth's surface~~, that point from which ~~emanated~~ of the earth's cardinal directions.

~~The king stood as symbolic axis of this system.~~

The king became symbolic of the great ^{world} axis linking these worlds through their respective centers and in a very real sense ~~the~~ ^{of} his obligations the prime guardian of these the sacred portal