

Aug 26, 1993

The region of the North <sup>was</sup> ~~is~~ of such primal importance  
to the Aztecs as indeed it <sup>was</sup> ~~is~~ to all other mesoamerican  
nations that I have chosen as <sup>one of the</sup> ~~an~~ opening sections of  
this book some <sup>usual</sup> examples of how the archaeological  
remains of a few key city centers ~~in~~ this reflect this concept  
in spite of a separation of these places <sup>from each other</sup> by both time and  
geography. This is also in keeping with my wish to  
keep this book as <sup>pictorial</sup> ~~visual~~ as possible, that by providing the  
a series of <sup>memorable</sup> ~~memorable~~ images <sup>accompanied by</sup> as well as appropriate  
commentary <sup>the most important</sup> ~~that~~, some of these ~~key~~ <sup>most important</sup> concepts in  
Aztec thought can be more forcefully presented.

The Great Crow By Blackbird

With this book we begin a different kind of journey, a concentrated one to places where mindscapes and landscapes and lost time and remnant present blend and reflect upon each other, into and through and around a something at once so other and yet so basically a part of us and human that it tugs equally at our spirits and imaginations.

Even Bernal Dias, when he saw it wondered whether its wonders were not part of some powerful and exotic dream, some grand enchantment poets used to speak of. And in a way, he was right.

What is it about this land, this Mexico that allows its ancient presences to whisper to us so beguilingly especially to us <sup>who come</sup> from places grown so shrill and god-dead, and dream dead that the deep <sup>and unaltered</sup> unchanging <sup>yearnings</sup> origins in us seem so silent and untouched? What <sup>about this Mexico that quickens them so keenly?</sup> is it that quickens them here? Oh yes, there is filth here too and crime and corruption and hopelessness and ugliness too, but there is a something else, a something which makes all the difference.