

this figure would recognize this - a fact that escaped all but a very few Spanish missionaries. The prayers that the Indian offered their votive sculptures of the virgin could also be offered to their own traditional goddess as well right under the noses of their Conquerors.

- (9) Tlalxico, Aztec for "Navel of the Earth." In the Garden of a Juchitana Rancho near San Miguel Allende in Mexico I noticed a block of carved stone ~~which served as~~ ^{seeming} as a pedestal for a potted plant. The Rancho knew only that the stone was ancient and was quite surprised when I told him about it. The block was the center section of a reclining ^{of the deity} ~~rain God~~ - called a "Chue Mool." ~~The hand of the sculpture~~ The complete figure showed the deity reclining on his back with his knees drawn ^{up} ^{at one end} and his head and chest raised at the other end as if he were doing abdominal sit-ups. Only the hand remains intact. It is holding a sacred vessel on its stomach upon which the potted plant sits. The vessel is literally over the figure's navel and both represent the Navel of the Earth from which all life (plant life) emerges. Every hole in the ground whether a cone or ~~of~~ ^{for} how to plant a seed becomes a navel of the earth.