

A Sand Green Bury

In many areas of rural Mexico there survive elements of the ancient, pre-Christian religion. For farmers - people of the earth - the changes of seasons, the forces of sun, wind and rain were and are still seen as manifestation of Divine Power. Small shrines carefully hidden in local woods and ravines ^{often} ~~often~~ still containing fragments of ancient sculpture and getting are visited at important times of the year for the purpose of insuring good rain and harvests.

I have reconstructed one of these secret shrines using a sculpture from my own collection. The piece in question, ^{an Aztec stone carving} ~~the sculpture~~ of a rattlesnake with a man's face emerging from the serpent's mouth, represents the famous God Quetzalcoatl, the faulced deity whose predicted return to rule Mexico exactly coincided with Cortez's arrival in 1519.

I have surrounded the sculpture, as the Aztecs would, with flowers and corn cobs which recall ~~Quetzalcoatl~~ the legend of Quetzalcoatl's descent into the underworld of the Rain God's Kingdom to retrieve corn for the benefit of Man kind. There are seven corn cobs depicted which allude to the Goddess of Food ~~Stuffed~~ Chicomecoatl. This is the Goddess's calendar name meaning ^{"Chicome" = seven} ~~seven~~

and "Coatl" meaning Serpent.

The Serpent "Coatl" is a very complex symbol to ancient Mexicans, but essentially the snake stands for the life force, the procreative and destructive powers of the earth. The rattlesnake is an especially powerful example ~~of this~~ among the Aztecs, since it is extremely fertile, lives much of its time in Cores and is deadly poisonous.

The rattlesnake, like other snakes, sheds its skin at various times of the year - with the effect on the observer that an entirely new snake emerges from the ^{dead} skin of the old. - A potent symbol for death and rebirth. We also know that Quetzalcoatl descended into the underworld to retrieve the bones of humans who had all been exterminated at the end of the fourth aeon. He made a bone meal (an allusion to corn meal) out of the bones and watered them with his own blood to make a dough out of which he ~~first~~ created the present generation of human beings of the Fifth Aeon. ^{Corn kernels are still thought of as the bones of corn from the previous ~~aeon~~ ^{aeon}.}

The God's face emerging from the face of the Snake Sculpture symbolizes his reemergence from the earth, from the underworld. So

insure new life. The seeds from these
corn cobs ~~will~~ ^{part} which have been stored
all year in this sacred grain bin will
be given to local farmers to scatter in their
field to insure the presence of the god ~~as~~
~~part of~~ ~~to insure~~ the health of the new
crops.

Quetzal Coatl was highly regarded as
a ^{essentially} good god. The patron of priests and
scholars and the arts. The bringer of refined
culture and an ancient fertility symbol.

~~7500.00~~
~~7500.00~~

14,000
+ 1,050

15,050

14,000.
2
140.

17
980
70

1,050