

The Mythology Of The Aztec And Maya An Illustrated Encyclopedia Of The Gods Myths And Legends Of The Aztecs Maya And Other Peoples Of Ancient 200 Fine Art Illustrations And Photographs

Sharing many common beliefs, deities, and rituals, the religion of the Maya, Aztec, and Inca was rooted in both the earth and the sky, the rhythms of the seasons, and the movements of the sun, moon, and stars. Readers will meet rain and sun gods, corn gods and fertility gods, earth mothers who are both creators and destroyers, and even a feathered serpent. Lavish primary-source images of arts and artifacts are paired with text that is both information-packed and enthralling. Readers who enter this pantheon are in for an awe-inspiring cultural journey through the divine mysteries of time and space.

This book is dedicated to exploring the gods and goddesses that the Aztec people on the pre-Columbian American continent worshiped, and within the pages you will find subtopics like: The origins and influences on Aztec beliefs, or in other words: Where they got it all from. The most important themes in Aztec mythology. Gods and goddesses, and their background stories, from Aztec mythology. Aztec myths about the creation of the world. Details about the Aztec empire, their art, religion, and more. Legends about Aztec women who became goddesses after they died from childbirth. Aztec mythology is intricate, complex, and the ideals behind some of their mythological beliefs were often intertwined with real life events. This book will examine how both myth and fact contributed to the culture and traditions of the Aztecs, and how these influences and some stories continue to live on throughout the centuries. Add this book to cart now.

*Includes pictures *Includes Spanish accounts of the Aztec's human sacrifices *Includes footnotes and a bibliography for further reading "They strike open the wretched Indian's chest with flint knives and hastily tear out the palpitating heart which, with the blood, they present to the idols...They cut off the arms, thighs and head, eating the arms and thighs at ceremonial banquets. The head they hang up on a beam, and the body is...given to the beasts of prey." - Bernal Diaz, a Spaniard who described the Aztec's human sacrifice From the moment Spanish conquistador Hernan Cortes first found and confronted them, the Aztecs have fascinated the world, and they continue to hold a unique place both culturally and in pop culture. Nearly 500 years after the Spanish conquered their mighty empire, the Aztecs are often remembered today for their major capital, Tenochtitlan, as well as being fierce conquerors of the Valley of Mexico who often engaged in human sacrifice rituals. Ironically, and unlike the Mayans, the Aztecs are not widely viewed or remembered with nuance, in part because their own leader burned extant Aztec writings and rewrote a mythologized history explaining his empire's dominance less than a century before the Spanish arrived. While the Mayans are remembered for their astronomy, numeral system, and calendar, the Aztecs have primarily been remembered in a far narrower way, despite continuing to be a source of pride to Mexicans through the centuries. As a result, even though the Aztecs continue to interest people across the world centuries after their demise, it has fallen on archaeologists and historians to try to determine the actual history, culture, and lives of the Aztecs from the beginning to the end, relying on excavations, primary accounts, and more. That said, more is known about Aztec religious practices than any other aspect of their culture, mostly because the major element in the public ceremonies was focused on human sacrifice. The rituals were apparently so gruesome that they horrified even the Spanish, who were not exactly known for their gentility when it came to war and religious fervor. A Spaniard named Bernal Diaz described what happened at one religious ceremony: "They have a most horrid and abominable custom which

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This book offers an examination of the history, myths and legends of the peoples of Mesoamerica spanning almost 3000 years. Stories of sun-gods and blood sacrifice, of pyramids and temples, and of the fabulous treasures of gold raided by the Spaniards have enthralled generations of readers. Architectural and cultural achievements range from the temple-pyramids and stone carvings of the Olmecs to the cities, trading networks and religious societies and systems of the Aztecs and Maya. This book contains startling revelations about the ancient peoples of Central America, including histories of the lands they conquered, the cities they built and the world they developed.

Learn the history, geography, and life of Aztecs and use these tools to investigate Aztec religions, myths, and rituals. Check out maps, sidebars, and more!

Bigchalk.com, inc. presents information related to the study and teaching of the mythology of the Aztecs, who lived in Mexico. This information is intended to provide curriculum enrichment for middle school classes. Bigchalk includes information on Aztec deities.

Aztec Mythology: Captivating Aztec Myths of Gods, Goddesses, and Legendary Creatures
Independently Published

One of the great documents of colonial Mexico, the *Codex Chimalpopoca* chronicles the rise of Aztec civilization and preserves the mythology on which it was based. Its two complementary texts, *Annals of Cuauhtitlan* and *Legend of the Suns*, record the pre-Cortésian history of the Valley of Mexico together with firsthand versions of that region's myths. Of particular interest are the stories of the hero-god Quetzalcoatl, for which the *Chimalpopoca* is the premier source. John Bierhorst's work is the first major scholarship on the *Codex Chimalpopoca* in more than forty years. His is the first edition in English and the first in any language to include the complete text of the *Legend of the Suns*. The precise, readable translation not only contributes to the study of Aztec history and literature but also makes the codex an indispensable reference for Aztec cultural topics, including land tenure, statecraft, the role of women, the tribute system, warfare, and human sacrifice.

Davíd Carrasco draws from the perspectives of the history of religions, anthropology, and urban ecology to explore the nature of the complex symbolic form of Quetzalcoatl in the organization, legitimation, and subversion of a large segment of the Mexican urban tradition. His new Preface addresses this tradition in the light of the Columbian quincentennial. "This book, rich in ideas, constituting a novel approach . . . represents a stimulating and provocative contribution to Mesoamerican studies. . . . Recommended to all serious students of the New World's most advanced indigenous civilization."—H. B. Nicholson, *Man*

If you're looking for a captivating collection of Aztec myths then keep reading... The Aztecs believed that offerings of human blood and human lives were necessary to the

continued running of the universe. Indeed, in Aztec myths the gods themselves make sacrifices of their own blood and even of their entire bodies in order to create a universe humans can live in and, in one story, to create humans themselves; humans therefore must make blood sacrifices in turn to feed the gods and to keep the universe in existence. To the ancient Aztecs, these practices seemed fitting, necessary, and honorable, helping to connect the world of humans to the divine world of the gods, a universe that in Aztec myth took shape in cycles of creation, destruction, and rebirth. Aztec Mythology: Captivating Aztec Myths of Gods, Goddesses, and Legendary Creatures invites you to go on a startling journey to discover stories such as: The Legend of the Suns The Deeds of Mixcoatl The Origin of Maize and the Creation of Pulque The Fall of Xochiquetzal The Fate of Souls Huitzilopochtli and the Founding of Tenochtitlan Huemac Plays the Ball Game And many more! So if you want a captivating collection of Aztec myths, click the "add to cart" button!

Explores the importance of mythology to Aztec and Mayan cultures, highlighting popular gods and creation myths.

To the ancient Aztecs, these practices seemed fitting, necessary, and honorable, helping to connect the world of humans to the divine world of the gods, a universe that in Aztec myth took shape in cycles of creation, destruction, and rebirth.

The myths of the Aztec and Maya derive from a shared Mesoamerican cultural tradition. This is very much a living tradition, and many of the motifs and gods mentioned in early sources are still evoked in the lore of contemporary Mexico and Guatemala. Professor Taube discusses the different sources for Aztec and Maya myths. The Aztec empire began less than 200 years before the Spanish conquest, and our knowledge of their mythology derives primarily from native colonial documents and manuscripts commissioned by the Spanish. The Maya mythology is far older, and our knowledge of it comes mainly from native manuscripts of the Classic period, over 600 years before the Spanish conquest. Drawing on these sources as well as nineteenth- and twentieth-century excavations and research, including the interpretation of the codices and the decipherment of Maya hieroglyphic writing, the author discusses, among other things, the Popol Vuh myths of the Maya, the flood myth of Northern Yucatan, and the Aztec creation myths.

Looks at the gods, myths, and legends of the Aztecs and the Mayas.

Briefly describes the history of Mesoamerican cultures, explains concepts found within their folklore and mythology, and presents several myths.

A highly readable, authoritative history of Mesoamerica and its many peoples, from the Olmecs and Maya to the Toltecs and Aztecs ... Discover Mesoamerican myths and legends from creation tales to stories of the gods and goddesses, and the mythology of fertility, harvest and the afterlife"--P. [4] of cover.

If you're looking for a captivating collection of Inca Myths, then keep reading...

This book includes four captivating manuscripts: Maya Mythology: Captivating Maya Myths of Gods, Goddesses and Legendary Creatures Aztec Mythology: Captivating Aztec Myths of Gods, Goddesses, and Legendary Creatures Inca Mythology: Captivating Inca Myths of Gods, Goddesses, and Legendary Creatures Central American Mythology: Captivating Myths of Gods, Goddesses, and Legendary Creatures of Ancient Mexico and Central America In the first part

of this book, you'll find the following Maya myths and topics covered Two Creation Myths The Downfall of Seven Macaw The Boyhood Deeds of Hunahpu and Xbalanque Ballgames in Xibalba The Deaths and Resurrections of Hunahpu and Xbalanque The Man Who Became a Buzzard How the Sun and Moon Became Man and Wife Rabbit Gets His Drink And many more! In the second part of this book, you'll find the following Aztec myths and topics covered The Legend of the Suns The Deeds of Mixcoatl The Origin of Maize and the Creation of Pulque The Fall of Xochiquetzal The Fate of Souls Huitzilopochtli and the Founding of Tenochtitlan Huemac Plays the Ball Game And many more! In the third part of this book, you'll find the following Inca myths and topics covered Stories of the Gods Inca Political Myths Five Andean Folktales and an Inca Play And much, much more! In the fourth part of this book, you'll find the following Central American myths and topics covered Olocupinele Creates the World (Dule/Cuna, Panama) Watakame' and the Great Flood (Wixáritari/Huichol, Mexico) Yomomuli and the Talking Tree (Yoeme/Yaqui, Mexico) How the Sea Was Made (Cabécar, Costa Rica) Mother Scorpion's Country (Miskito, Nicaragua) The Childhood of the Sun and the Moon (qne-a tnya-e/Chatino, Mexico) The Invisible Hunters (Miskito, Nicaragua) The King of the Peccaries (Bribri, Costa Rica) How Opossum Stole Fire (Mazatec, Mexico) Uncle Rabbit and Uncle Tiger (Nicaragua) And much, much more! So if you want to learn more about these four mythologies, click "buy now"!

This book discusses the origins of Aztec myths and how some of these myths have been manipulated over time. The book details the major gods found within the mythology along with some of the most memorable tales, such as creation of the world and the making of humanity. Readers learn how Aztec myths have penetrated popular culture.

"Read about the creation of people according to the Popol Vuh, the origin of the sun, moon, world, music, and four other important myths"--Provided by publisher. Read for FREE with Kindle Unlimited!Aztec Mythology: A Comprehensive Guide to Aztec Mythology including Myths, Art, Religion, and CultureDo you want to learn about Aztec Mythology? The Azt???, wh? ?r?b?bl? ?rigin?t?d as a n?m?di? trib? in northern M?xi??, ?rriv?d in M????m?ri?? ?r?und th? b?ginning of th? 13th century. From th?ir m?gnifi??nt capital ?it?, T?n??htitl?n, the Azt??? ?m?rg?d ?? th? d?min?nt force in ??ntr?l M?xi??, developing an intricate ???i?l, ??liti??l, r?ligi?u? ?nd ??mm?r?i?l ?rg?niz?ti?n that brought m?n? ?f th? r?gi?n'? city-states und?r th?ir ??ntr?l by th? 15th ??ntur?. Invaders l?d b? th? Spanish ??n?ui?t?d?r H?rn?n Cortes ?v?rthr?w the Aztecs b? force ?nd captured Tenochtitlan in 1521, bringing an end to M????m?ri??'s last gr??t n?tiv? civilization. Th? ?x??t ?rigin? of the Azt?? ????l? are un??rt?in, but th?? ?r? b?li?v?d t? h?v? b?gun as a n?rth?rn trib? ?f hunter-gatherers whose n?m? came fr?m that ?f their h?m?l?nd, Aztl?n (?r "Whit? Land"). Th? Azt??? w?r? also known as th? T?n??h?? (from which the n?m? f?r th?ir ???it?l city, T?n??htitl?n, w?? derived) or the M?xi?? (the ?rigin of the name ?f th? ?it? that would r??l??? Tenochtitlan, as well ?? the name f?r the

?)ntir? ??untr?). Th? Aztecs ?????r?d in Mesoamerica-as the ??uth-??ntr?l region ?f pre-Columbian M?xi?? i? kn?wn-in th? ??rl? 13th ??ntur?. Th?ir ?rriv?l came ju?t ?ft?r or ??rh??? h?l??d bring ?b?ut, th? f?ll of th? ?r?vi?u?l? dominant M????m?ri??n ?iviliz?ti?n, th? Toltecs. Here Is A Preview Of What You'll Learn...

Aztec Gods and Goddesses Aztec Calendar? Creation Myth Water Deities Fire Deities Death Deities Much, much more! ACT NOW! Click the orange BUY button at the top of this page!Then you can begin reading Aztec Mythology: A Comprehensive Guide to Aztec Mythology including Myths, Art, Religion, and Culture on your Kindle device, computer, tablet or smartphone.

Explore the fascinating diversity of the myths and legends from two of the world's most ancient cultures - the Aztecs and the Maya. In an accessible A-Z format, this book provides concise, easy-to-locate entries on over 200 key characters and religious sites.

One of the great documents of colonial Mexico, the Codex Chimalpopoca chronicles the rise of Aztec civilization and preserves the mythology on which it was based. Its two complementary texts, Annals of Cuauhtitlan and Legend of the Suns, record the pre-Cortésian history of the Valley of Mexico together with firsthand versions of that region's myths. Of particular interest are the stories of the hero-god Quetzalcoatl, for which the Chimalpopoca is the premier source. John Bierhorst's work is the first major scholarship on the Codex Chimalpopoca in more than forty years. His is the first edition in English and the first in any language to include the complete text of the Legend of the Suns. The precise, readable translation not only contributes to the study of Aztec history and literature but also makes the codex an indispensable reference for Aztec cultural topics, including land tenure, statecraft, the role of women, the tribute system, warfare, and human sacrifice.

The Aztec Book of Destiny summarizes traditional Mesoamerican beliefs about the spiritual nature of time and its influence on one's personality and fate. The ancient Aztec, Toltec and Maya believed that the day of birth, as defined in their sacred calendar, affects destiny; and this philosophy has guided their daily lives for more than 3000 years. This book condenses the scattered and disparate literature about these beliefs into a fun and informative narrative; but it goes far beyond what academics and popular authors have published to date. The author presents a unique perspective shaped by the wisdom of a traditional calendar-keeper he met in Mexico in 1973. The book's message is that the calendar is not simply an ancient and forgotten curiosity - it is as relevant today as in ancient times. The majority of the book projects the timeless Mesoamerican philosophy into contemporary Western society encouraging introspection and self-awareness.

Like other Mesoamerican cultures, Aztec myths explained life and death by linking them to the earth, sky and sea in a grand cosmic scheme. This collection explores the history, gods, calendar and tales of this people, from the war god Huitzilopochtli to the supreme deity Tezcatlipoca; from migration legends to the

origin myth of the Five Suns.

Retells a Mexican legend in which the sky god and the wind god bring music from Sun's house to the Earth.

Do you know that the Mayans believed that the Earth was flat with four poles supporting the sky? Or that the Inca Emperors were thought to be the direct descendant of the sun god himself? The early Mesoamericans were a mysterious bunch. In this book we will dive deep into their world of Myths and captivating stories of the creation of the world, adventures of heroes and even love stories between goddess and mortal. Some of the stories in this book are: Classic Mayan Myths including: the Great Giants of the Earth the Defeat of the Great Crocodile the Origin of the Maize and People the Hummingbird Suitor and More Fascinating Incan Myths including: Myth of Creation the Flooding of the New World the Shepherd and the daughter of the Sun the Rod of Gold and more Captivating Aztec Myths including: Origin of Heaven and Earth the Birth of Huitzilopochtli the Restoration of the Sky and Earth the Creation of the Fifth Sun and more Get this book and indulge yourself in the fascinating world of the Ancient Mesoamerican Mythology today!

The authors of *Masks of the Spirit* present modern English translations of the important myths of the Olmec, Toltec, Maya, and Aztec civilizations of pre-Columbian Mesoamerica, along with the strange imagery of the original codices and stallaes. Illustrated with 100 photographs (25 in color) of crucial monuments, murals, masks, and friezes.

Fifth Sun offers a comprehensive history of the Aztecs, spanning the period before conquest to a century after the conquest, based on rarely-used Nahuatl-language sources written by the indigenous people.

Aztec Mythology: A Comprehensive Guide to Aztec Mythology Including Myths, Art, Religion, and Culture

In this rich and surprising book, Frances F. Berdan shines fresh light on the enigmatic ancient Aztecs. She casts her net wide, covering topics as diverse as ethnicity, empire-building, palace life, etiquette, origin myths, and human sacrifice. While the Aztecs are often described as “stone age,” their achievements were remarkable. They constructed lofty temples and produced fine arts in precious stones, gold, and shimmering feathers. They crafted beautiful poetry and studied the sciences. They had schools and libraries, entrepreneurs and money, and a bewildering array of deities and dramatic ceremonies. Based on the latest research and lavishly illustrated, this book reveals the Aztecs to have created a civilization of sophistication and finesse. The ancient Aztecs dwelt at the center of a dazzling and complex cosmos. From this position they were acutely receptive to the demands of their gods. The Fifth Sun represents a dramatic overview of the Aztec conception of the universe and the gods who populated it—Quetzalcoatl, the Plumed Serpent; Tezcatlipoca, the Smoking Mirror; and Huitzilopochtli, the Southern Hummingbird. Burr Cartwright Brundage explores the myths behind these and others in the Aztec pantheon in a

way that illuminates both the human and the divine in Aztec life. The cult of human sacrifice is a pervasive theme in this study. It is a concept that permeated Aztec mythology and was the central preoccupation of the aggressive Aztec state. Another particularly interesting belief explored here is the "mask pool," whereby gods could exchange regalia and, thus, identities. This vivid and eminently readable study also covers the use of hallucinogens; cannibalism; the calendars of ancient Mexico; tlachtli, the life-and-death ball game; the flower wars; divine transfiguration; and the evolution of the war god of the Mexica. A splendid introduction to Aztec religion, *The Fifth Sun* also contains insights for specialists in ethnohistory, mythology, and religion.

Many leading deities of the Aztec pantheon were worshipped by previous Mesoamerican civilizations, gods such as Tlaloc, Quetzalcoatl and Tezcatlipoca, who were venerated by different names in most cultures throughout the history of Mesoamerica. For the Aztecs especially important deities were the rain god Tlaloc, the god Huitzilopochtli-patron of the Mexica tribe-as well as Quetzalcoatl the feathered serpent, wind god, culture hero, and god of civilization and order, and elusive Tezcatlipoca, the shrewd god of destiny and fortune, connected with war and sorcery.

A study of Tezcatlipoca, one of the greatest but least understood Mesoamerican pantheon. Analyzing the sources and problems related to Tezcatlipoca's protean powers and shifting meanings, the author guides readers through the symbolic names of this great god, from his representation on skins and stones to his relationship to ritual knives and other deities. For many years, the Aztecs have captured our imaginations. Stories from the original European invaders combined with unique, awe-inspiring ruins and legends that speak of palaces of gold create an image of Aztec society defined by grandeur, wealth, and splendor. Please note that the content of this book primarily consists of articles available from Wikipedia or other free sources online. Pages: 46. Chapters: Ahuiateteo, Atlahua, Aztec mythology, Aztec religion, Black Sun (mythology), Centzonhuitznahua, Centzonmimixcoa, Chalchiuhtlatonal, Chalchiuhtlicue, Chanegue, Chantico, Child sacrifice in pre-Columbian cultures, Cihuatecayotl, Cihuateteo, Cinteteo, Citlalatonac, Citlalicue, Cochimetzl, Coxcox, Dogs in Mesoamerican folklore and myth, Feathered Serpent (deity), Five Suns, Huehuetotl, Huitztlampaehecatl, Human sacrifice in Aztec culture, Itzpapalotl, Ixtlilton, List of Aztec deities, Lords of the Day, Lords of the Night, Mesoamerican creation myths, Mexitli, Mictlanpachecatl, Nagual, Nanahuatzin, New Fire ceremony, Opochtli, Piltzintecuhli, Pipilzintzintli, Pulque, Quinametzin, Tecciztecatl, Tepoztecatl, Tezcatlipoca, The Stinking Corpse, Tianquiztli, Tlalocayotl, Toci, Tonalamatl, Tonal (mythology), Tonantzin, Toxcatl, Xelhua, Xiuhcoatl, Xochipilli, Yolteotl, Zacatzontli.

Embark On a Unique Historical Journey and Learn More about Aztecs, Their Culture, Gods, And Mythology! One of the most magnificent journeys you can undertake is embarking on a historical adventure to discover the fascinating cultures of an ancient civilization - that is precisely what this overview of Aztec culture and mythology offers. Through captivating narrative, *Aztec Mythology: Gods, Heroes, Legends, and Myths of the Aztec People* by Jim Barrow, will take you all the way back to the year 1325 and even before - it will be like you have your personal time machine, perfect for any history lover out there. How Aztecs founded their city, Tenochtitlan, which would later go on to become one of the largest empires in the American region? How they managed to build such a rich and interesting culture? Who were the gods that they worshipped and prayed to? What are the stories that they passed on

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through generations? You will find the detailed descriptions, answers to these questions, and answers to many other questions you may have about Aztecs. Here are some of the topics that this Mesoamerican mythology guide covers: The early Aztec history - where did they come from, and how they settled The blossoming Aztec society - all about their politics, art, economy, agriculture Fascinating Aztec religion explained - Complete Aztec pantheon with major and lesser deities Captivating Aztec culture and customs - main legends and myths; breakthroughs in medicine and science What happened to Aztecs and what is left of them today And much more! If you want to quench your thirst for knowledge and learn more about the magnificent culture of Aztecs, let this book take you on a unique historical journey where you will get all of that and much more. So what are you waiting for? Scroll up, click on "Buy Now with 1-Click," and Get Your Copy Now!

Who is Itzamna? What is Xolotl? Why are myths so important in our lives? Myths are a rich source of history. People use them to make sense of our world. Even before myths were written down, people told and retold the stories of the gods and goddesses of their homeland. Readers of Mayan and Aztec Mythology will learn the history of myths, as well as their deeper meaning. From the Aztec feathered serpent god Quetzalcoatl to the Mayan rain god Chac, this book helps kids understand the myths that shape and direct people's lives. Abdo & Daughters is an imprint of Abdo Publishing, a division of ABDO.

For at least two millennia before the advent of the Spaniards in 1519, there was a flourishing civilization in central Mexico. During that long span of time a cultural evolution took place which saw a high development of the arts and literature, the formulation of complex religious doctrines, systems of education, and diverse political and social organization. The rich documentation concerning these people, commonly called Aztecs, includes, in addition to a few codices written before the Conquest, thousands of folios in the Nahuatl or Aztec language written by natives after the Conquest. Adapting the Latin alphabet, which they had been taught by the missionary friars, to their native tongue, they recorded poems, chronicles, and traditions. The fundamental concepts of ancient Mexico presented and examined in this book have been taken from more than ninety original Aztec documents. They concern the origin of the universe and of life, conjectures on the mystery of God, the possibility of comprehending things beyond the realm of experience, life after death, and the meaning of education, history, and art. The philosophy of the Nahuatl wise men, which probably stemmed from the ancient doctrines and traditions of the Teotihuacans and Toltecs, quite often reveals profound intuition and in some instances is remarkably "modern." This English edition is not a direct translation of the original Spanish, but an adaptation and rewriting of the text for the English-speaking reader.

Discover the mythology of the Aztec civilization The Aztec civilization of Central Mexico consisted of several communities with distinct cultures and languages. The Nahuatl-speaking tribes were the most popular and celebrated rituals based on their own version of myths and stories. While the Mesoamerican cultures shared many stories, rituals, and myths with the Aztecs, they were recognized as a separate community. The Aztecs were believed to come from the regions around Lake Texcoco and the Anahuac Valley. These regions collectively form the modern Mexico City we know today.

*Includes pictures *Includes Spanish accounts of the Aztec's human sacrifices *Includes footnotes and a bibliography for further reading "They strike open the wretched Indian's chest with flint knives and hastily tear out the palpitating heart which, with the blood, they present to the idols...They cut off the arms, thighs and head, eating the arms and thighs at ceremonial banquets. The head they hang up on a beam, and the body is...given to the beasts of prey." - Bernal Diaz, a Spaniard who described the Aztec's human sacrifice From the moment Spanish conquistador Hernan Cortés first found and confronted them, the Aztecs have fascinated the world, and they continue to hold a unique place both culturally and in pop culture. Nearly 500 years after the Spanish conquered their mighty empire, the Aztecs are often remembered

today for their major capital, Tenochtitlan, as well as being fierce conquerors of the Valley of Mexico who often engaged in human sacrifice rituals. Ironically, and unlike the Mayans, the Aztecs are not widely viewed or remembered with nuance, in part because their own leader burned extant Aztec writings and rewrote a mythologized history explaining his empire's dominance less than a century before the Spanish arrived. While the Mayans are remembered for their astronomy, numeral system, and calendar, the Aztecs have primarily been remembered in a far narrower way, despite continuing to be a source of pride to Mexicans through the centuries. As a result, even though the Aztecs continue to interest people across the world centuries after their demise, it has fallen on archaeologists and historians to try to determine the actual history, culture, and lives of the Aztecs from the beginning to the end, relying on excavations, primary accounts, and more. That said, more is known about Aztec religious practices than any other aspect of their culture, mostly because the major element in the public ceremonies was focused on human sacrifice. The rituals were apparently so gruesome that they horrified even the Spanish, who were not exactly known for their gentility when it came to war and religious fervor. A Spaniard named Bernal Diaz described what happened at one religious ceremony: "They have a most horrid and abominable custom which truly ought to be punished and which until now we have seen in no other part, and this is that, whenever they wish to ask something of the idols, in order that their plea may find more acceptance, they take many girls and boys and even adults, and in the presence of these idols they open their chests while they are still alive and take out their hearts and entrails and burn them before the idols, offering the smoke as sacrifice. Some of us have seen this, and they say it is the most terrible and frightful thing they have ever witnessed." Naturally, Cortés and other Spaniards depicted the Aztecs as savages greatly in need of conversion to Catholicism. The Spanish used the Aztec's religious practices as a justification for Cortés' conquest, but even though the Spanish attempted to burn as much as they could, plenty of information about Aztec mythology also survived. The Mythology and Religion of the Aztec examines the history and legacy of the religion practiced by the famous Mesoamerican empire. Along with pictures and a bibliography, you will learn about Aztec religion and mythology like you never have before, in no time at all.

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