

MOCKERIES AND METAMORPHOSES  
of an  
**AZTEC GOD**

TEZCATLIPOCA, "LORD OF THE SMOKING MIRROR"

by Guilhem Olivier

TRANSLATED BY Michel Besson



MESOAMERICAN WORLDS SERIES

# Mockeries And Metamorphoses Of An Aztec God

**Amos Megged**



## **Mockeries And Metamorphoses Of An Aztec God:**

**Mockeries and Metamorphoses of an Aztec God** Guilhem Olivier, 2003 This is a masterful study of Tezcatlipoca one of the greatest but least understood deities in the Mesoamerican pantheon An enigmatic and melodramatic figure the Lord of the Smoking Mirror was both drunken seducer and mutilated transgressor and although he severely punished those who violated pre Columbian moral codes he also received mortal confessions A patron deity to kings and warriors as well as a protector of slaves Tezcatlipoca often clashed in epic confrontation with his enemy brother Quetzalcoatl the famed Feathered Serpent Yet these powers of Mesoamerican mythology collaborated to create the world and their common attributes hint toward a dual character In a sophisticated and systematic tour through the sources and problems related to Tezcatlipoca s protean powers and shifting meanings Olivier guides the reader skilfully through the symbolic names of this great god from his representation on skins and stones to his relationship to ritual knives and other related deities Drawing upon iconographic material chronicles written in both Spanish and the native Nahuatl and the rich contributions of ethnography **Mockeries and Metamorphoses of an Aztec God** like the mirror of Tezcatlipoca in which the fates of mortals were reflected reveals an important but obscured portion of the cosmology of pre Columbian Mexico

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*Aztec Philosophy* James Maffie, 2014-03-15 In *Aztec Philosophy* James Maffie shows the Aztecs advanced a highly sophisticated and internally coherent systematic philosophy worthy of consideration alongside other philosophies from around the world Bringing together the fields of comparative world philosophy and Mesoamerican studies Maffie excavates the distinctly philosophical aspects of Aztec thought *Aztec Philosophy* focuses on the ways Aztec metaphysics the Aztecs understanding of the nature structure and constitution of reality underpinned Aztec thinking about wisdom ethics politics and aesthetics and served as a backdrop for Aztec religious

practices as well as everyday activities such as weaving farming and warfare Aztec metaphysicians conceived reality and cosmos as a grand ongoing process of weaving theirs was a world in motion Drawing upon linguistic ethnohistorical archaeological historical and contemporary ethnographic evidence Maffie argues that Aztec metaphysics maintained a processive transformational and non hierarchical view of reality time and existence along with a pantheistic theology Aztec Philosophy will be of great interest to Mesoamericanists philosophers religionists folklorists and Latin Americanists as well as students of indigenous philosophy religion and art of the Americas

**The Aztecs** Frances F. Berdan,2021-06-17 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 Aztecs*** Michael E. Smith,2013-03-01 The Aztecs brings to life one of the best known indigenous civilizations of the Americas in a vivid comprehensive account of the ancient Aztecs A thorough examination of Aztec origins and civilization including religion science and thought Incorporates the latest archaeological excavations and research into explanations of the Spanish conquest and the continuity of Aztec culture in Central Mexico Expanded coverage includes key topics such as writing music royal tombs and Aztec predictions of the end of the world

**Aztec Religion and Art of Writing** Isabel Laack,2019-03-27 Winner of the 2020 Award for Excellence in the Study of Religion Historical Studies In her groundbreaking investigation from the perspective of the aesthetics of religion Isabel Laack explores the religion and art of writing of the pre Hispanic Aztecs of Mexico Inspired by postcolonial approaches she reveals Eurocentric biases in academic representations of Aztec cosmovision ontology epistemology ritual aesthetics and the writing system to provide a powerful interpretation of the Nahua sense of reality Laack transcends the concept of sacred scripture traditionally employed in religions studies in order to reconstruct the Indigenous semiotic theory and to reveal how Aztec pictography can express complex aspects of embodied meaning Her study offers an innovative approach to nonphonographic semiotic systems as created in many world cultures and expands our understanding of human recorded visual communication This book will be essential reading for scholars and readers interested in the history of religions Mesoamerican studies and the ancient civilizations of the Americas This excellent book written with intellectual courage and critical self awareness is a brilliant multilayered thought experiment into the images and stories that made up the Nahua sense of reality as woven into their sensational ritual performances and colorful symbolic writing system Dav d Carrasco Harvard University

**The Oxford Handbook of the Aztecs** Deborah L. Nichols,Enrique Rodríguez-Alegría,2017 The Oxford Handbook of the Aztecs the first of its kind provides a current overview of recent

research on the Aztec empire the best documented prehispanic society in the Americas Chapters span from the establishment of Aztec city states to the encounter with the Spanish empire and the Colonial period that shaped the modern world Articles in the Handbook take up new research trends and methodologies and current debates The Handbook articles are divided into seven parts Part I Archaeology of the Aztecs introduces the Aztecs as well as Aztec studies today including the recent practice of archaeology ethnohistory museum studies and conservation The articles in Part II Historical Change provide a long term view of the Aztecs starting with important predecessors the development of Aztec city states and imperialism and ending with a discussion of the encounter of the Aztec and Spanish empires Articles also discuss Aztec notions of history writing and time Part III Landscapes and Places describes the Aztec world in terms of its geography ecology and demography at varying scales from households to cities Part IV Economic and Social Relations in the Aztec Empire discusses the ethnic complexity of the Aztec world and social and economic relations that have been a major focus of archaeology Articles in Part V Aztec Provinces Friends and Foes focuses on the Aztec s dynamic relations with distant provinces and empires and groups that resisted conquest and even allied with the Spanish to overthrow the Aztec king This is followed by Part VI Ritual Belief and Religion which examines the different beliefs and rituals that formed Aztec religion and their worldview as well as the material culture of religious practice The final section of the volume Aztecs after the Conquest carries the Aztecs through the post conquest period an increasingly important area of archaeological work and considers the place of the Aztecs in the modern world

**Social Memory in Ancient and Colonial Mesoamerica** Amos Megged, 2010-02-26

Before the Spanish Conquest and well into the eighteenth century Mesoamerican peoples believed that time and space were contained in earthly and heavenly receptacles that were visualized metaphorically This circumscribed space contained the abodes of the dead There deities and ancestral spirits could be revived and the living could communicate with them In **Social Memory in Ancient and Colonial Mesoamerica** Amos Megged uncovers the missing links in Mesoamerican peoples quest for their collective past Analyzing ancient repositories of knowledge as well as social and religious practices he uncovers the unique procedures and formulas by which social memory was communicated and how it operated in Mesoamerica prior to the Spanish conquest He also explores how cherished and revived practices evolved how they were adapted to changing circumstances and how they helped various ethnic groups cope with the tribulations of colonization and Christianization Megged s volume also suggests how social and cultural historians ethnohistorians and anthropologists can rethink indigenous representations of the past while taking into account the deep transformations in Mexican society during the colonial era

**Holy Organ or Unholy Idol?** Lauren G. Kilroy-Ewbank, 2019-01-28

**Holy Organ or Unholy Idol** focuses on the significance of the cult of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and its accompanying imagery in eighteenth century New Spain Lauren G Kilroy Ewbank considers paintings prints devotional texts and archival sources within the Mexican context alongside issues and debates occurring in Europe to situate the New Spanish cult within local and global developments She

examines the iconography of these religious images and frames them within broader socio political and religious discourses related to the Eucharist the sun the Jesuits scientific and anatomical ideas and mysticism Images of the Heart helped to champion the cult s validity as it was attacked by religious reformers      Night and Darkness in Ancient Mesoamerica Nancy Gonlin,David Millard Reed,2021-12-01 Night and Darkness in Ancient Mesoamerica is the first volume to explicitly incorporate how nocturnal aspects of the natural world were imbued with deep cultural meanings and expressed by different peoples from various time periods in Mexico and Central America Material culture iconography epigraphy art history ethnohistory ethnographies and anthropological theory are deftly used to illuminate dimensions of darkness and the night that are often neglected in reconstructions of the past The anthropological study of night and darkness enriches and strengthens the understanding of human behavior power economy and the supernatural In eleven case studies featuring the residents of Teotihuacan the Classic period Maya inhabitants of Rio Ul a and the Aztecs the authors challenge archaeologists to consider the influence of the ignored dimension of the night and the role and expression of darkness on ancient behavior Chapters examine the significance of eclipses burials tombs and natural phenomena considered to be portals to the underworld animals hunted at twilight the use and ritual meaning of blindfolds night blooming plants nocturnal foodways fuel sources and lighting technology and other connected practices Night and Darkness in Ancient Mesoamerica expands the scope of published research and media on the archaeology of the night The book will be of interest to those who study the humanistic anthropological and archaeological aspects of the Aztec Maya Teotihuacanos and southeastern Mesoamericans as well as sensory archaeology art history material culture studies anthropological archaeology paleonutrition socioeconomics sociopolitics epigraphy mortuary studies volcanology and paleoethnobotany Contributors Jeremy Coltman Christine Dixon Rachel Egan Kirby Farah Carolyn Freiwald Nancy Gonlin Julia Hendon Cecelia Klein Jeanne Lopiparo Brian McKee Jan Marie Olson David M Reed Payson Sheets Venicia Slotten Michael Thomason Randolph Widmer W Scott Zeleznik

Mesoamerican Memory Stephanie Wood,Amos Megged,2012-11-08 Euro Americans see the Spanish conquest as the main event in the five century history of Mesoamerica but the people who lived there before contact never gave up their own cultures Both before and after conquest indigenous scribes recorded their communities histories and belief systems as well as the events of conquest and its effects and aftermath Today the descendants of those native historians in modern day Mexico and Guatemala still remember their ancestors stories In Mesoamerican Memory volume editors Amos Megged and Stephanie Wood have gathered the latest scholarship from contributors around the world to compare these various memories and explore how they were preserved and altered over time Rather than dividing Mesoamerica s past into pre contact colonial and modern periods the essays in this volume emphasize continuity from the pre conquest era to the present underscoring the ongoing importance of indigenous texts in creating and preserving community identity history and memory In addition to Nahua and Maya recollections contributors examine the indigenous traditions of Mixtec Zapotec Tarascan and

Totonac peoples Close analysis of pictorial and alphabetic manuscripts and of social and religious rituals yields insight into community history and memory political relations genealogy ethnic identity and portrayals of the Spanish invaders Drawing on archaeology art history ethnology ethnohistory and linguistics the essays consider the function of manuscripts and ritual in local regional and now national settings Several scholars highlight direct connections between the collective memory of indigenous communities and the struggles of contemporary groups Such modern documents as land titles for example gain legitimacy by referring to ancestral memory Crossing disciplinary methodological and temporal boundaries Mesoamerican Memory advances our understanding of collective memory in Mexico and Guatemala Through diverse sources pictorial and alphabetic archaeological archival and ethnographic readers gain a glimpse into indigenous remembrances that without the research exhibited here might have remained unknown to the outside world The Adventure of the Human Intellect Kurt A. Raaflaub, 2016-04-27 The Adventure of the Human Intellect presents the latest scholarship on the beginnings of intellectual history on a broad scope encompassing ten eminent ancient or early civilizations from both the Old and New Worlds Borrows themes from The Intellectual Adventure of Ancient Man 1946 updating an old topic with a new approach and up to date theoretical underpinning evidence and scholarship Provides a broad scope of studies including discussion of highly developed ancient or early civilizations in China India West Asia the Mediterranean and the Americas Examines the world view of ten ancient or early societies reconstructed from their own texts concerning the place of human beings in society and state in nature and cosmos in space and time in life and death and in relation to those in power and the world of the divine Considers a diversity of sources representing a wide array of particular responses to differing environments circumstances and intellectual challenges Reflects a more inclusive and nuanced historiographical attitude with respect to non elites gender and local variations Brings together leading specialists in the field and is edited by an internationally renowned scholar

**The Neo-Indians** Jacques Galinier, Antoinette Molinié, 2013-10-28 The Neo Indians is a rich ethnographic study of the emergence of the neo Indian movement a new form of Indian identity based on largely reinvented pre colonial cultures and comprising a diverse group of people attempting to re create purified pre colonial indigenous beliefs and ritual practices without the contaminating influences of modern society There is no full time neo Indian Both indigenous and non indigenous practitioners assume Indian identities only when deemed spiritually significant In their daily lives they are average members of modern society dressing in Western clothing working at middle class jobs and retaining their traditional religious identities As a result of this part time status the neo Indians are often overlooked as a subject of study making this book the first anthropological analysis of the movement Galinier and Molinié present and analyze four decades of ethnographic research focusing on Mexico and Peru the two major areas of the movement s genesis They examine the use of public space describe the neo Indian ceremonies provide analysis of the ceremonies symbolism and explore the close relationship between the neo Indian religion and tourism The Neo Indians will be of great interest to ethnographers anthropologists and scholars of Latin

American history religion and cultural studies      **The Gifted Passage** Stephen Houston, 2018-02-27 In this thought provoking book preeminent scholar Stephen Houston turns his attention to the crucial role of young males in Classic Maya society drawing on evidence from art writing and material culture The Gifted Passage establishes that adolescent men in Maya art were the subjects and makers of hieroglyphics painted ceramics and murals in works that helped to shape and reflect masculinity in Maya civilization The political volatility of the Classic Maya period gave male adolescents valuable status as potential heirs and many of the most precious surviving ceramics likely celebrated their coming of age rituals The ardent hope was that youths would grow into effective kings and noblemen capable of leadership in battle and service in royal courts Aiming to shift mainstream conceptions of the Maya Houston argues that adolescent men were not simply present in images and texts but central to both      *Encounter with the Plumed Serpent* Maarten Jansen, Gabina Aurora Perez Jimenez, 2017-10-01 The Mixtec or the people of the Savi Nation of the Rain God one of the major civilizations of ancient Mesoamerica made their home in the highlands of Oaxaca where they resisted both Aztec military expansion and the Spanish conquest In *Encounter with the Plumed Serpent* two leading scholars present and interpret the sacred histories narrated in the Mixtec codices the largest surviving collection of pre Columbian manuscripts in existence In these screenfold books ancient painter historians chronicled the politics of the Mixtec from approximately a d 900 to 1521 portraying the royal families rituals wars alliances and ideology of the times By analyzing and cross referencing the codices which have been fragmented and dispersed in far flung archives the authors attempt to reconstruct Mixtec history Their synthesis here builds on long examination of the ancient manuscripts Adding useful interpretation and commentary Jansen and Perez Jimenez synthesize the large body of surviving documents into the first unified narrative of Mixtec sacred history Archaeologists and other scholars as well as readers with an interest in Mesoamerican cultures will find this lavishly illustrated volume a compelling and fascinating history and a major step forward in knowledge of the Mixtec      **Stormy Weather** William E. Connolly, 2024-09-03 Composed as a counter history of western philosophical and political thought *Stormy Weather* explores the role western cosmologies have played in the conquests of paganism in Europe and the Americas the production of climate wreckage and the concealment of that wreckage from western humanists and earth scientists until late in the day A lived cosmology Connolly says contains embedded understandings about the beginnings of the earth and the way time unfolds The text engages the major western cosmologies of Augustine Descartes Kant Tocqueville together with pagan and minor western orientations that posed challenges to them or could have Hesiod Ovid William Apess Amazonian and Aztec cosmologies Catherine Keller s minor Christianity James Baldwin and Michel Serres instigate key responses often challenging binary logics and the subject object dichotomy with a world of multiple human and nonhuman subjectivities Connolly pursues a conception of time as a multiplicity of intersecting temporalities to come to terms with the vicissitudes of climate destruction and the grandeur of an earth neither highly susceptible to mastery nor designed to harmonize smoothly with humans The



book revisits the improbable necessity of a politics of swarming to respond to the ongoing wreckage and potential fascist responses to vast infusions of climate refugees from the south into temperate zone capitalist states Stormy Weather draws on the work of earth scientists indigenous thinkers naturalists humanists and students of nonwestern cosmologies Ultimately Connolly contends that critical intellectuals today must not remain enclosed in disciplinary silos or even in the humanities as currently defined to do justice to our moment of climate wreckage

The Legacy of Rulership in Fernando de Alva Ixtlilxochitl's Historia de la nación chichimeca Leisa A. Kauffmann, 2019-06-30 In this book Leisa A Kauffmann takes an interdisciplinary approach to understanding the writings of one of Mexico's early chroniclers Fernando de Alva Ixtlilxochitl a bilingual seventeenth century historian from Central Mexico His writing especially his portrayal of the great pre Hispanic poet king Nezahualcoyotl influenced other canonical histories of Mexico and is still influential today Many scholars who discuss Alva Ixtlilxochitl's writing focus on his personal and literary investment in the European classical tradition but Kauffmann argues that his work needs to be read through the lens of Nahua cultural concepts and literary historical precepts She suggests that he is best understood in light of his ancestral ties to Tetzucoco's rulers and as a historian who worked within both Native and European traditions By paying attention to his representation of rulership Kauffmann demonstrates how the literary and symbolic worlds of the Nahua exist in allegorical but still discernible subtexts within the larger Spanish context of his writing

In the Realm of Nachan Kan Marilyn A. Masson, 2015-04-01 The prevailing view of the lowland Maya during the Postclassic period A.D. 1050-1500 has been one of an impoverished degenerated society devoid of cultural accomplishment However Marilyn A Masson offers a fresh interpretation of this society as one that represented a complex sophisticated extensive organization of semiautonomous units that were closely integrated yet embraced a decentralized political economy In the Realm of Nachan Kan opens a window on Postclassic Maya patterns of cultural development and organization through a close examination of the small rural island of Laguna de On a location that was distant from the governing political centers of the day Using diachronic analysis of regional settlement patterns ceramic traditions household and ritual features and artifacts from the site Masson tracks developmental changes throughout the Postclassic period These data suggest that affluent patterns of economic production and local and long distance exchange were established within northern Belize by the eleventh century and continued to develop virtually uninterrupted until the time of Spanish arrival In addition Masson analyzes contemporary political and religious artistic traditions at the temples of Mayapan Tulum and Santa Rita to provide a regional context for the changes in community patterns at Laguna de On These cultural changes she maintains are closely correlated with the rise of Mayapan to power and participation of sites like Laguna de On in a pan lowland economic and ritual interaction sphere Offering a thoroughly new interpretation of Postclassic Mayan civilization In the Realm of Nachan Kan is a must for scholars of Mesoamerican history and culture

Networks of Power Edward Schortman, Patricia Urban, 2011-02-18 Little is known about how Late Postclassic populations in southeast Mesoamerica

organized their political relations Networks of Power fills gaps in the knowledge of this little studied area reconstructing the course of political history in the Naco Valley from the fourteenth through early sixteenth centuries Describing the material and behavioral patterns pertaining to the Late Postclassic period using components of three settlements in the Naco Valley of northwestern Honduras the book focuses on how contests for power shaped political structures Power seeking individuals including but not restricted to ruling elites depended on networks of allies to support their political objectives Ongoing and partially successful competitions waged within networks led to the incorporation of exotic ideas and imported items into the daily practices of all Naco Valley occupants The result was a fragile hierarchical structure forever vulnerable to the initiatives of agents operating on local and distant stages Networks of Power describes who was involved in these competitions and in which networks they participated what resources were mustered within these webs which projects were fueled by these assets and how and to what extent they contributed to the achievement of political aims **Mexico's**

**Indigenous Communities** Ethelia Ruiz Medrano, 2011-11-15 A rich and detailed account of indigenous history in central and southern Mexico from the sixteenth to the twenty first centuries Mexico's Indigenous Communities is an expansive work that destroys the notion that Indians were victims of forces beyond their control and today have little connection with their ancient past Indian communities continue to remember and tell their own local histories recovering and rewriting versions of their past in light of their lived present Ethelia Ruiz Medrano focuses on a series of individual cases falling within successive historical epochs that illustrate how the practice of drawing up and preserving historical documents in particular maps oral accounts and painted manuscripts has been a determining factor in the history of Mexico's Indian communities for a variety of purposes including the significant issue of land and its rightful ownership Since the sixteenth century numerous Indian pueblos have presented colonial and national courts with historical evidence that defends their landholdings Because of its sweeping scope groundbreaking research and the author's intimate knowledge of specific communities Mexico's Indigenous Communities is a unique and exceptional contribution to Mexican history It will appeal to students and specialists of history indigenous studies ethnohistory and anthropology of Latin America and Mexico

## Unveiling the Magic of Words: A Overview of "**Mockeries And Metamorphoses Of An Aztec God**"

In some sort of defined by information and interconnectivity, the enchanting power of words has acquired unparalleled significance. Their ability to kindle emotions, provoke contemplation, and ignite transformative change is actually awe-inspiring. Enter the realm of "**Mockeries And Metamorphoses Of An Aztec God**," a mesmerizing literary masterpiece penned by way of a distinguished author, guiding readers on a profound journey to unravel the secrets and potential hidden within every word. In this critique, we shall delve in to the book is central themes, examine its distinctive writing style, and assess its profound affect the souls of its readers.

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