

Document A Map

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Map Sources:

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Documentary Sources

Source # 1:

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d u d n s d n r d t d c n m t s m s d d n t r d n e n c r m d c a d e n d
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s d y s d d s n m s r s d n c r c r e d c s d r d u d r d o d s d c s n a m s d
n c m e t m m s a d m S t r t m r e d m e a n n c n e d m r d d m d r r s n
o s d n c r s d c t d m e s n d d o s d m s t n c m a m d

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Documentary Source

Source

Source: Friar Bernardino de Sahagun, *Florentine Codex, II*, circa 1555.

Note: Bernardino de Sahagun was a Spanish priest who interviewed Aztecs about their lives and culture. This is a 17-year-old Aztec scribe's impression of ritual sacrifice, as told to the friar sometime after 1529.

When I saw this ceremony last year as a member of the priestly school, I was amazed by the physical beauty of the enemy warrior who was killed at the end of the festival. This seasoned warrior, whom we change from a human into the god Tezcatlipoca ["tehs-cah-tlee-poh-cah", the god of war], can have no blemish upon his body, and he is treated like our most royal family member during the long year leading up to his sacrifice. During that time he is given all the finest luxuries from the nobles' storehouses, including foods, clothes, teachers, women, and instruction. He walks among us as a living god, and I was impressed and felt pride for my altepetl [village] when the younger people stopped their work or play and were mesmerized by him and his entourage of servants and guards as they strolled through the city or rode in the canoes along the canals.

Many of us become attached to this living god, and a terrible sadness comes over some of the women when, at the end of the year, he is taken to Chalco and dismembered in public view. Let me share with you my images and memories of what happened last year when I followed his every movement. It will help me prepare my paintings in the book of sacred history.

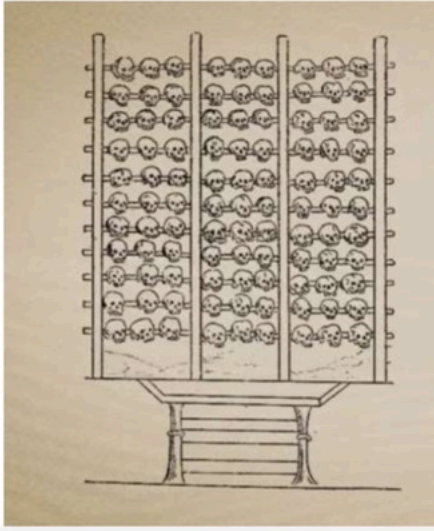


Aztec image of the god Uetzalcoatl

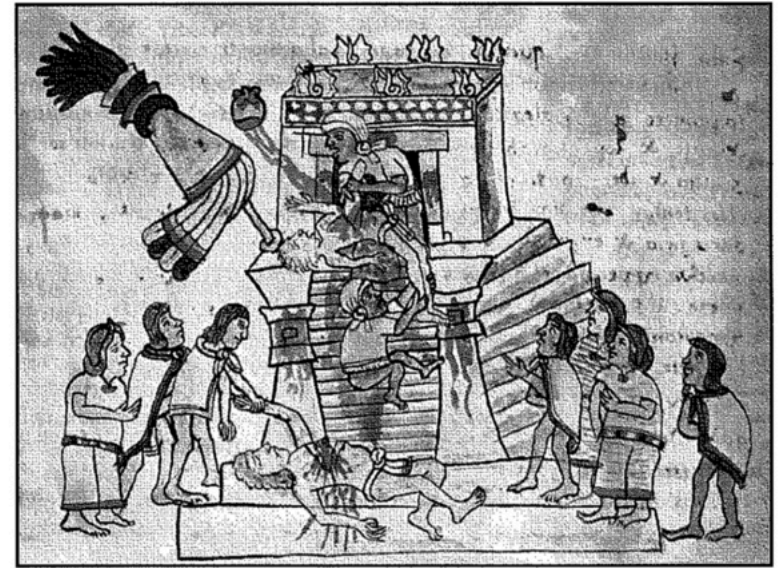
Bn sdr dc d d mdc antss d rgn nePtdy n s
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 tns m ad sersatr Bn sdr r mdm nes d
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 ns d n c

Pyramid of Uetzalcoatl:

S r r s deud ræloodc sd odo c m m r c
 sn dnn r r nc n nm rrn sdc s s d
 æ s d dc nc Ptdy n s sr od or s d nrs
 o drr ud at c m nes d m dms d m nes d ysd r



Source: *Codex Mendoza*, 1542. The *Codex Mendoza* was commissioned by the Spanish Viceroy of Mexico in 1541 to provide King Charles V of Spain a clearer idea about his new subjects. The illustrations in the *Codex* were drawn by Aztec artists. The text was written by Spanish priests.



“The prisoners taken at Teuclepec were brought out. Motecuhzoma and Chihuacoatl began to sacrifice them, slicing open their chests and extracting their hearts. First, they raised the hearts to the sun, they threw them into the shrine before the gods. This sacrifice began at midday and ended at nightfall. Two thousand three hundred men were killed and their blood bathed the entire temple and stairway. Each time the priest cut out a heart, they rolled the body down the stairs.”

In the middle of Tenochtitlan stood the Temple Mayor, now referred to as the Temple of Skulls. During the height of the Aztec Empire, this structure served three purposes: to publicly display victims of sacrifice, to honor the gods for whom the victims were sacrificed, and a showcase of the strength of the military.

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