

The Popol Vuh The Mayan Creation Story

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one of the most extraordinary works of the human imagination and the most important text in the native languages of the americas popul vuu the mayan book of the dawn of life was first made accessible to the public 10 years ago this new edition retains the quality of the original translation has been enriched and includes 20 new illustrations maps drawings and photos

the popol vuu is the most important example of maya literature to have survived the spanish conquest it is also one of the world s great creation accounts comparable to the beauty and power of genesis most previous translations have relied on spanish versions rather than the original k'iche' maya text based on ten years of research by a leading scholar of maya literature this translation with extensive notes is uniquely faithful to the original language retaining the poetic style of the original text the translation is also remarkably accessible to english readers illustrated with more than eighty drawings photographs and maps allen j christenson s authoritative version brings out the richness and elegance of this sublime work of literature comparable to such epic masterpieces as the ramayana and mahabharata of india or the iliad and odyssey of greece

the popol vuuh book of the community is a mayan sacred text compiled around the middle of the 16th century by the k'iche' people in what is now guatemala this text gives an account of the creation of the universe and all living things including humans and the k'iche' themselves

encompassing origin and creation stories as well as other ancient oral traditions the popol vuuh which was originally written in quiché is the bible of the mayan people this translation is widely regarded as the most authoritative available and includes the wonderful limited editions club illustrations by everett gee jackson numerous illustrations 6 halftones

popol vuuh the quiché mayan book of creation is not only the most important text in the native languages of the americas it is also an extraordinary document of the human imagination it begins with the deeds of mayan gods in the darkness of a primeval sea and ends with the radiant splendor of the mayan lords who founded the quiché kingdom in the guatemalan highlands originally written in mayan hieroglyphs it was transcribed into the roman alphabet in the sixteenth century this new edition of dennis tedlock's unabridged widely praised translation includes new notes and commentary newly translated passages newly deciphered hieroglyphs and over forty new illustrations

note proceeds of this book will be donated to the funding of the n g o steps's educational initiatives in their mission to conserve native legends and provide educational activities for underprivileged children in native communities travel back many creations ago as artist emanuel carballo takes you on a neon saturated visual journey through the mythological mayan creation story swim through the empty universe with the gods and witness their several attempts at creation race through the jungles with the epic hero twins as they transverse through the underworld and up into the heavens shine among the stars with the creation of the sun and the moon seen through shades of neon the popol vuuh meaning book of the people is an epic saga that recounts the creation myth and history of the k'iche' mayan ancestors this short story version is a visual representation of one of the very few recorded mayan legends we have left today the majority of their literature in science and the arts were burnt in an instant by the spanish invaders and lost forever luckily this epic journey was stowed away and found years later offering us a glimpse into a culture shrouded in mystery emanuel carballo puts his own artistic flavor to the drawings and converts one of the oldest stories known to mankind into a digitally illustrated neon laden futuristic storybook written in collaboration with the n g o steps in san cristobal de las casas chiapas mexico their aim is to provide education in native communities through the preservation of their very own endangered legends and myths many of their traditions and customs are passed down orally from generation to generation and now face the risk of being lost forever in an ever increasing globalized world proceeds of this book will be donated to the funding of their educational initiatives

includes pictures includes excerpts of the popol vuuh includes online resources and a bibliography for further reading many ancient civilizations have influenced and inspired people in the 21st century the greeks and romans continue to fascinate the west today but of all the world's civilizations none

have intrigued people more than the mayans whose culture astronomy language and mysterious disappearance all continue to captivate people in 2012 especially there was a renewed focus on the mayans whose advanced calendar led many to speculate the world would end on the same date the mayan calendar ends the focus on the doomsday scenario however overshadowed the mayans true contribution to astronomy language sports and art unlike most of the world's sacred books the quran the bible or the i ching for example nobody knows the universal name if there ever was one for the maya's collection of myths instead the title that has been passed down the popol vuh appears to be the specific title given to a particular copy of these tales its meaning roughly translated as the council book refers to the special role of this text it was the shared property of the council of lords that ruled the quich kingdom and was apparently regularly consulted by that body for advice to guide their rule however in the opening sections the scribes who penned the text also give it several other names including the light that came from beside the sea our place in the shadows and the dawn of life pg 63 all of these names were originally in k'ichean maya the language spoken by the maya of the quich kingdom and its neighboring regions the first of these names refers to a pilgrimage by the second generation of quich lords in part v to the yucatan coast to acquire a copy of at least a portion of the original text the second refers to part iv the period before the first dawn the shadows when the ancestral quich earned their particular right to rule the final name refers to part i when the first gods created all of the various parts of life this multiplicity of names and titles for sacred works is not uncommon and perhaps comparable to the bible being referred to as the good book or in reference to the new testament the good news or the gospel the name popol vuh is itself controversial as the original text actually spells the name three different ways popol vuh of course but also pop wuj and popol wuj in general the most correct form in contemporary quiche spelling is probably popol wuj but as the text is best known in english with the word vuh this convention will be maintained here eenriik 2014 there are a number of translations and editions of the popol vuh which vary considerably in quality many early editions were not informed by the latest scholarship in maya linguistics and sometimes the ways they translate names in particular can vary this text will use the second edition 1996 translated by dennis tedlock and published by simon and schuster for all of its quotations and page citations the popol vuh the history and legacy of the maya's creation myth and epic legends examines what's contained within and how the popol vuh survived to the present day along with pictures depicting important people places and events you will learn about the popol vuh like never before

the popol vuh is one of the world's greatest creation stories comparable to the power and beauty of genesis the fruit of ten years of research this great classic of central american spirituality is now available in an authoritative scholarly and accessible translation

this is the first english spanish and yucatec maya trilingual children version of the popol vuh the popol vuh is the story of creation according to the quiche maya of the region known today as guatemala the popol vuh was probably written c 1554 1558 ce translated as the council book the book of the people or literally the book of the mat the book has been referred to as the mayan bible it is regarded as an account of the ancient word and of

the creation of the world it narrates the exploits of the hero twins hunahpu and xbalanque in the underworld and their triumph over the lords of death the creation of humans and the early history of quiche migration and settlement up until the spanish conquest in the 16th century ce

this is the first complete version in english of the book of the people of the quiche maya the most powerful nation of the guatemalan highlands in pre conquest times and a branch of the ancient maya whose remarkable civilization in pre columbian america is in many ways comparable to the ancient civilizations of the mediterranean generally regarded as america s oldest book the popol vuh in fact corresponds to our christian bible and it is moreover the most important of the five pieces of the great library treasures of the maya that survived the spanish conquest the popol vuh was first transcribed in the quiche language but in latin characters in the middle of the sixteenth century by some unknown but highly literate quiche maya indian probably from the oral traditions of his people this now lost manuscript was copied at the end of the seventeenth century by father francisco ximénez then parish priest of the village of santo tomás chichicastenango in the highlands of guatemala today the most celebrated and best known indian town in all of central america the mythology traditions cosmogony and history of the quiché maya including the chronology of their kings down to 1550 are related in simple yet literary style by the indian chronicler and adrian recinos has made a valuable contribution to the understanding and enjoyment of the document through his thorough going introduction and his identification of places and people in the footnotes

papers from the 1987 maya weekend conference at the university of pennsylvania museum present current views of maya culture and language also included is an article by george stuart summarizing the history of the study of maya hieroglyphs and the fascinating scholars and laypersons who have helped bring about their decipherment symposium series iii university museum monograph 77

the popol vuh is the new world s richest mythological mine there is no document of greater importance to the study of the pre columbian mythology of america than the popol vuh it is the chief source of our knowledge of the mythology of the kiché people of central america and it is further of considerable comparative value when studied in conjunction with the mythology of the nahuatlacâ or mexican peoples this interesting text the recovery of which forms one of the most romantic episodes in the history of american bibliography was written by a christianized native of guatemala some time in the seventeenth century and was copied in the kiché language in which it was originally written by a monk of the order of predicadores one francisco ximenes

a look into the ancient mayan text the popol vuh is a translation of the sacred book of the quiché maya people details includes illustrations of the popol vuh

this volume offers an integrated and comparative approach to the popol vuh analyzing its myths to elucidate the ancient maya past while using

multiple lines of evidence to shed light on the text combining interpretations of the myths with analyses of archaeological iconographic epigraphic ethnohistoric ethnographic and literary resources the work demonstrates how popol vuuh mythologies contribute to the analysis and interpretation of the ancient maya past the chapters are grouped into four sections the first section interprets the highland maya worldview through examination of the text analyzing interdependence between deities and human beings as well as the textual and cosmological coherence of the popol vuuh as a source the second section analyzes the precolumbian maya archaeological record as it relates to the myths of the popol vuuh providing new interpretations of the use of space architecture burials artifacts and human remains found in classic maya caves the third explores ancient maya iconographic motifs including those found in classic maya ceramic art the nature of predatory birds and the hero twins deeds in the popol vuuh the final chapters address mythological continuities and change reexamining past methodological approaches using the popol vuuh as a resource for the interpretation of classic maya iconography and ancient maya religion and mythology connecting the myths of the popol vuuh to iconography from preclassic izapa and demonstrating how narratives from the popol vuuh can illuminate mythologies from other parts of mesoamerica the myths of the popol vuuh in cosmology art and ritual is the first volume to bring together multiple perspectives and original interpretations of the popol vuuh myths it will be of interest not only to mesoamericanists but also to art historians archaeologists ethnohistorians iconographers linguists anthropologists and scholars working in ritual studies the history of religion historic and precolumbian literature and historic linguistics contributors jaime j awe karen bassie sweet oswaldo chinchilla mazariegos michael d coe iyaxel cojtí ren hector escobedo thomas h guderjan julia guernsey christophe helmke nicholas a hopkins barbara macleod jesper nielsen colin snider karl a taube

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