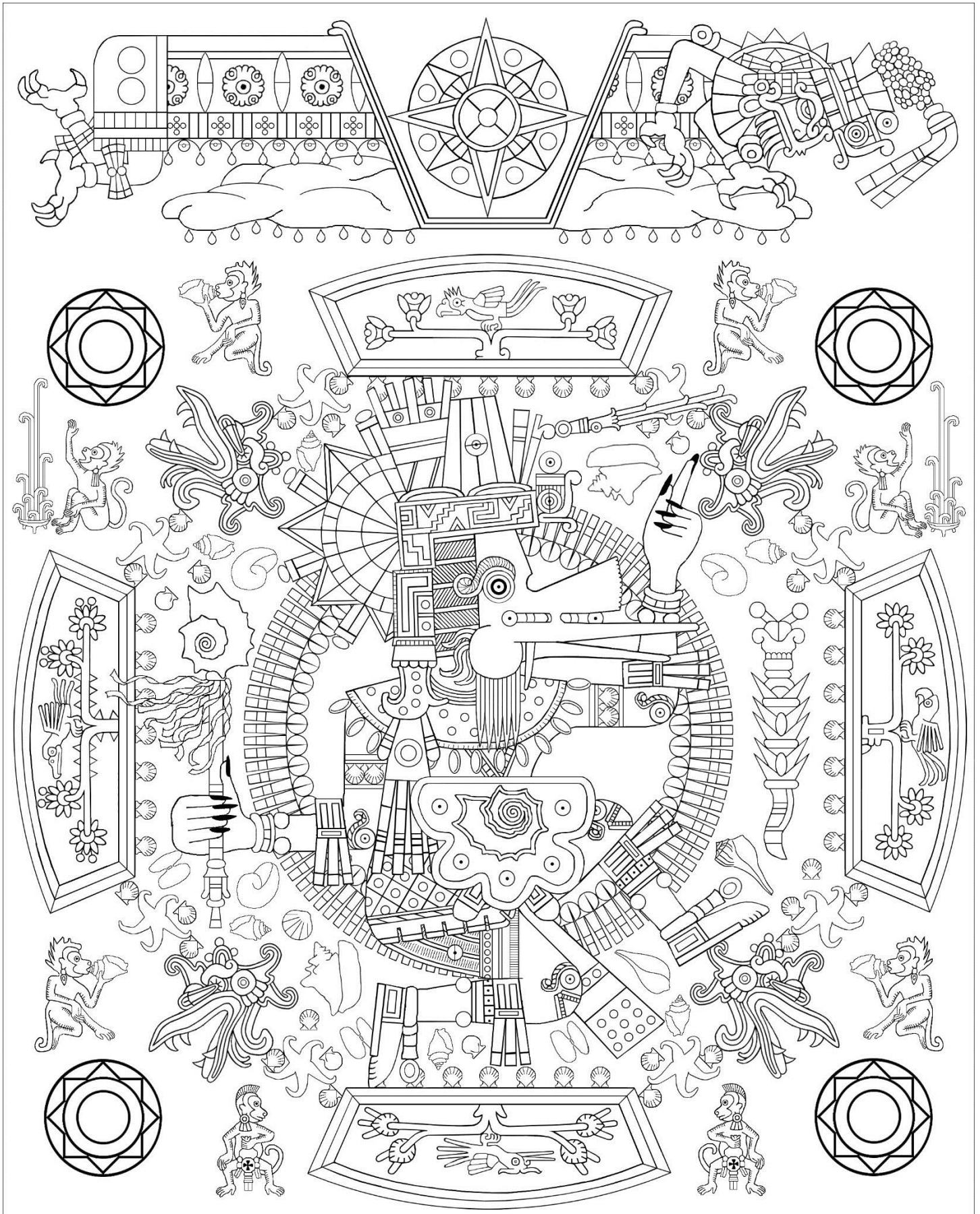


AZTEC ICON #5 – EHECATL, God of the Wind

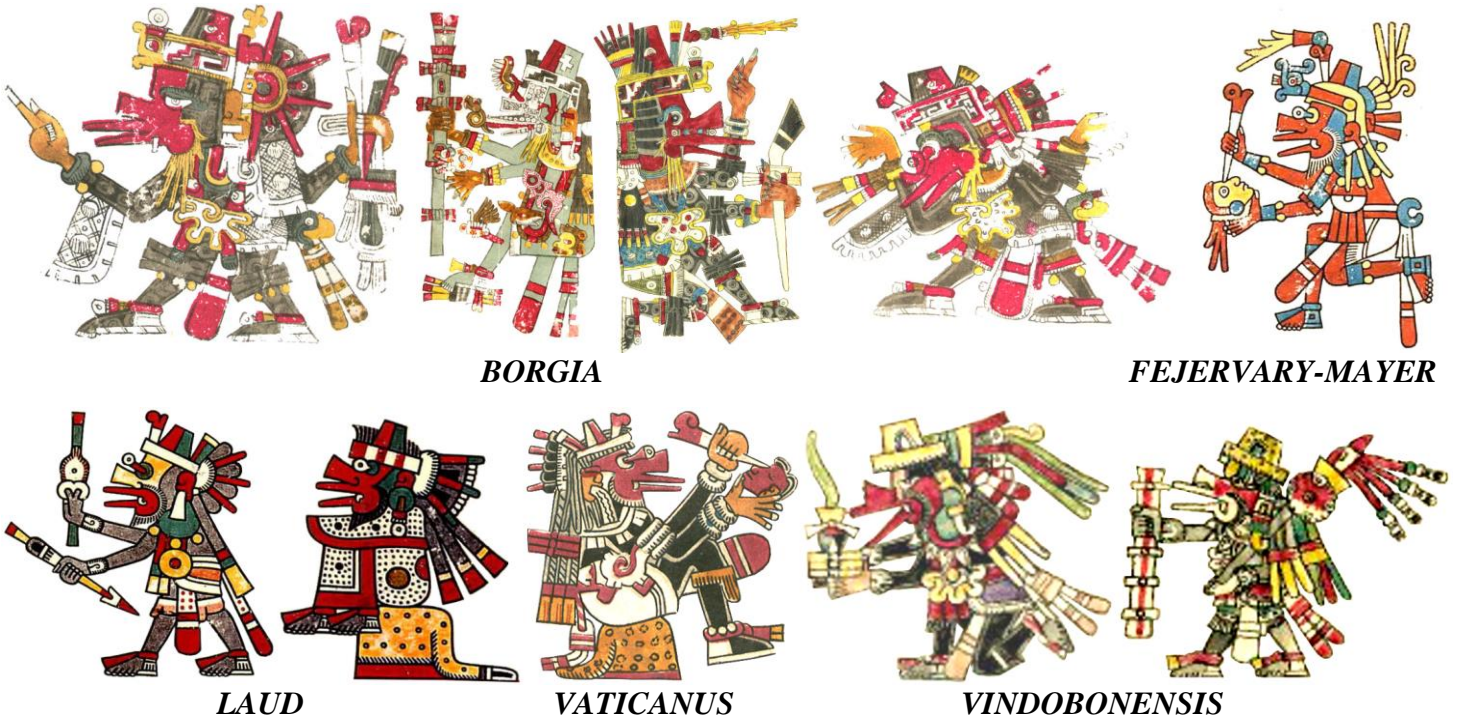


## EHECATL

**EHECATL** (Wind) {*e-he-katl*} is the deified element of air and the breath of life. He's a *nagual* of Quetzalcoatl, whom he helped create the current Fifth Sun by breathing life back into the bones in Mictlan. He is the god of secrets and mystery, intelligence, and spiritual life. Only smoke, feathers, and birds should be sacrificed to him. His temples were round, sometimes with protruding masks for the wind to blow through. His breath moves the sun and drives the high clouds and rain across the sky. Ehecatl is the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of the month, and Nahui Ehecatl (Four Wind) was the day-name for the Second Sun, a world ruled by Quetzalcoatl. When that Sun was destroyed by the eponymous wind (hurricane), its people were turned into monkeys.

### SOURCES

Ehecatl appears frequently in the codices, apparently being more widely revered than the famous plumed serpent Quetzalcoatl. His snouted red face is the unmistakable identifier, regardless of regalia. The magnificent get-up of the third Borgia image was obviously my inspiration.



The eye-boggling halo/aura around the god is my take on a similar circle in Borgia. The hovering figure is also a Borgia motif probably meaning the sky, as below at night with stars, or in the icon in the day with rain-clouds. Taking huge liberties with the design, I substituted the face of Quiahuatl and put an iconic Sun in the center, replacing the enigmatic little man apparently falling through the sky.



By the way, the odd lobed pendant in images above and the icon is a cross-section of a conch shell, the frequent emblem of Ehecatl called a wind-jewel. Sea-shells were popular ornaments in divine and regal finery, and so I scattered scallop shells around the god—as a gift to colorists since they occur in all colors from white through a whole dusky rainbow to black. Another source note: The four vignettes with birds are symbolic of the four directions and were stolen from Fejervary-Mayer.