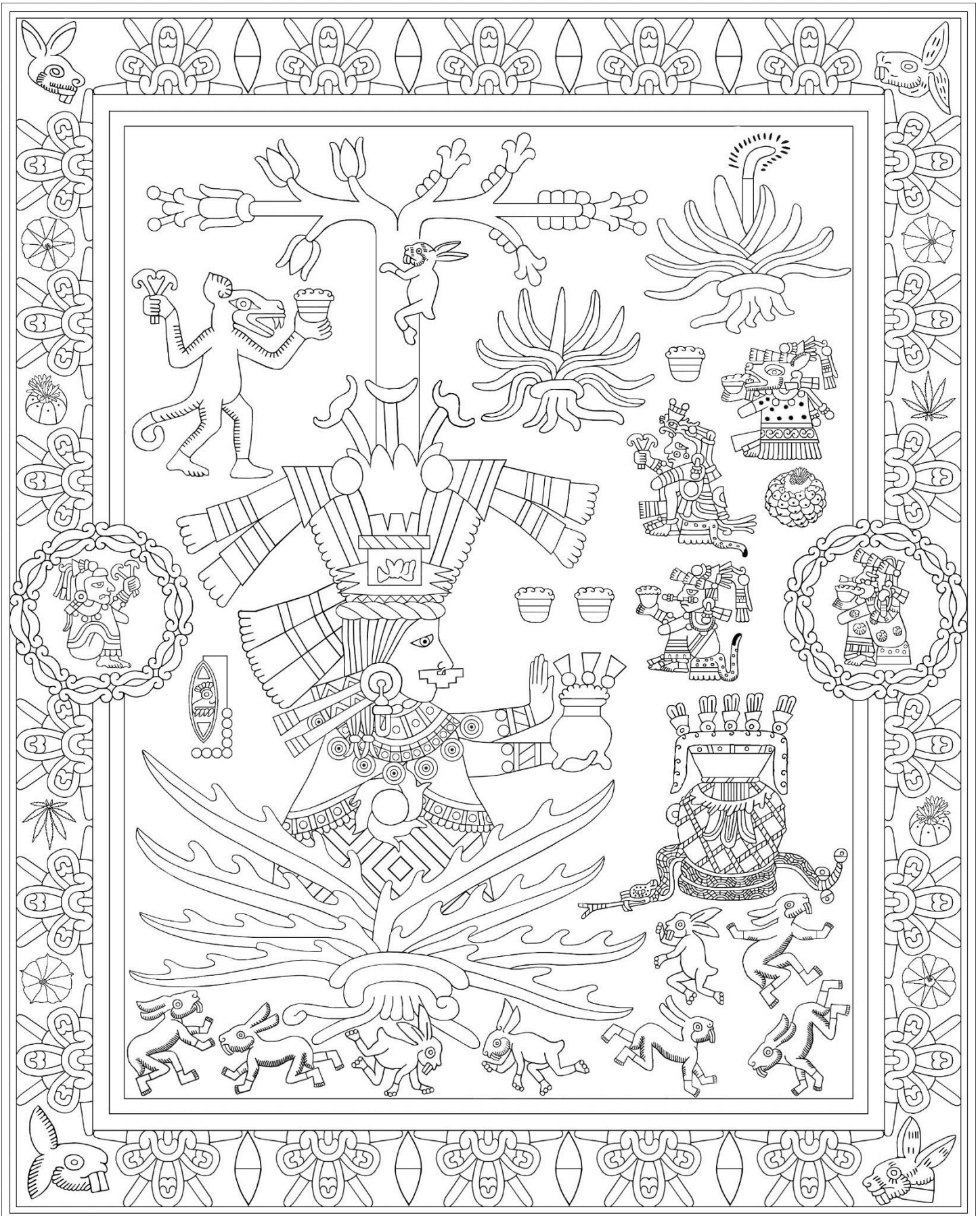


AZTEC ICON #9 – MAYAUUEL, Goddess of Pulque



MAYAUEL

MAYAUEL {*ma-ya-wel*} is the personification of the maguey plant and a maternal and fertility goddess connected with nourishment. Besides fibers for ropes and cloth, the most important maguey product is the alcoholic beverage pulque (or octli). As a pulque goddess, she is the mother of the Centzon Totochtin (400 Rabbits), octli gods that cause drunkenness. There were rabbit deities for all kinds of intoxication. (Drinking was generally only permitted in ceremonies, but the elderly were free to drink whenever they wished.) With the birth-name of Eight Flint, she also protects mature wombs and is the wife of Patecatl, among others.

SOURCES

The pulque goddess is a very popular deity in the codices. I again drew her after Borbonicus:



BORBONICUS



BORGIA



FEJERVARY-MAYER



LAUD



VATICANUS



A frequent motif is the pulque “brew-pot,” which also appears even without the goddess (and sometimes with a human head in the foam, apparently symbolic of something). Particularly in Vindobonensis, there’s a lot of drinking and “shrooming.”



VATICANUS



VINDOBONENSIS

The drunken rabbits in the icon are playful variations on calendrical day-signs.