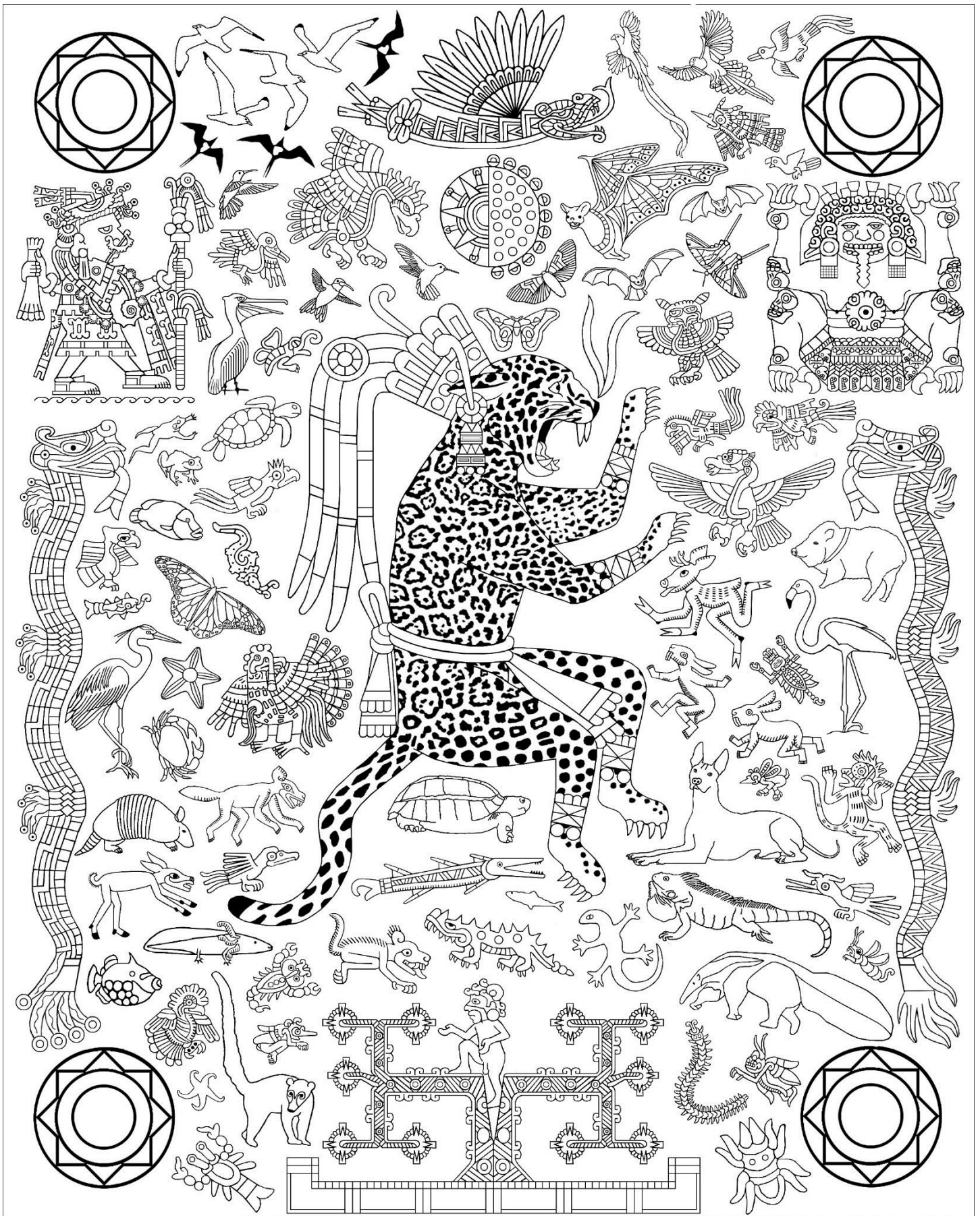


AZTEC ICON #11 – OCELOTL (Jaguar), Lord of the Animals



OCELOTL

OCELOTL (Lord of the Animals—Jaguar) {*o-se-lotl*} is the Aztecs' deity of all animals of land, sea, and air, including Man. It is a *nagual* of the god Tezcatlipoca who created the First Sun, Nahui Ocelotl (Four Jaguar), a world peopled by giants who were devoured by divine jaguars. Ocelotl, the 14th day of the month, was usually a lucky day, but anyone born on the day Ce Ocelotl (One Jaguar) was destined for sacrifice to one god or another. Ocelotl is patron of scouts and warriors, and the elite corps of warriors of the night were known as the Jaguar Knights. In Mesoamerica ever since the Maya, jaguar pelts in shades of tawny gold to white were the sacred possessions of priests and royalty.

SOURCES

Jaguars appear in many situations in the codices, and most have very stylized pelts, usually with dots or small circles. Modelled on the Vaticanus beast, my jaguar has naturalistic markings and less stylized claws. The Mexican fauna drawn from nature obviously contrasts with that drawn from codex images.



BORGIA

FEJERVARY-MAYER LAUD

The bugs, some fishes, and many birds are from codex models. The Nuttall-style eagle to the left of the Borbonicus day/night symbol is Huitzilopochtli, god of day creatures, and the “batterfly” to the right is my own surreal concoction for Itzpapalotl, goddess of night creatures. At the top Quetzalcoatl, the Plumed Serpent, based on the Stone of the Suns, represents the creatures of the sky.



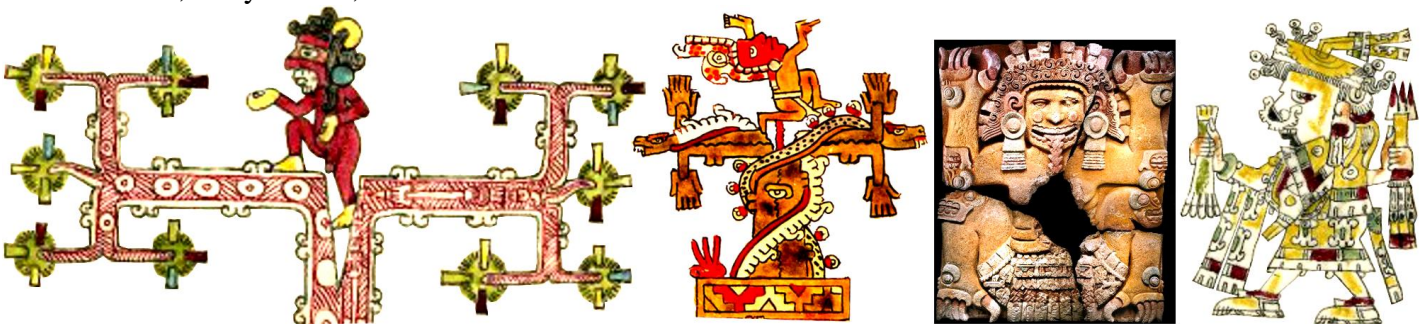
NUTTALL

VATICANUS

COSPI

VINDOBONENSIS BORBONICUS

The vignette at the bottom shows the Mixtec myth of the origin of Man from a mystical tree, a motif also found in Selden. The deities to the right are Tlaltecuhli, Lord of the Earth, for creatures of the land and Huixtocihuatl, Lady of Salt, for creatures of the sea.



VINDOBONENSIS

SELDEN

**STONE OF
TLALTECUHTLI**

BORGIA