



TECCIZTECATL & METZTLI

Tecciztecatl {tek-seez-te-katl}, the son of Tlaloc and Chalchiuhtlicue, is a god of hunters and appears as things shining in the night. In the Nahua cosmology, when Quetzalcoatl and Ehecatl created the current Fifth Sun, Tecciztecatl wanted to become the new sun, but he hesitated to jump into the sacred fire, whereupon the young god Nanahuatzin leapt into the flames to become Tonatiuh. When Tecciztecatl followed, he took second place as the moon, joining the ancestral moon goddess **Metztli** {mets-tlee} in the sacred calendar as patrons of the week One Death. Metztli may have been inherited from Teotihuacan and/or the Maya's lunar goddess Ix Chel. The Aztecs tried to replace her with (the head of) Coyolxauhqui, the dismembered sister of their supreme god Huitzilopochtli. Historically, the Mesoamerican cultures saw a rabbit in the moon, and the conch shell was considered a symbol of the moon.

SOURCES

There are few codex images of Tecciztecatl and even fewer of Metztli, most in calendrical contexts. I have relied largely on Codex Telleriano-Remensis for models, though Codex Rios presents them in similar detail.



BORBONICUS



BORGIA



FEJERVARY-MAYER



AUBIN



RIOS



TELLERIANO-REMENSIS

The other details are also authentic, like the apparently sacrificial animals:



BORGIA



BORBONICUS



AUBIN

The rabbit being eaten by the serpent of the night is based on Borgia and signifies the dark of the moon.