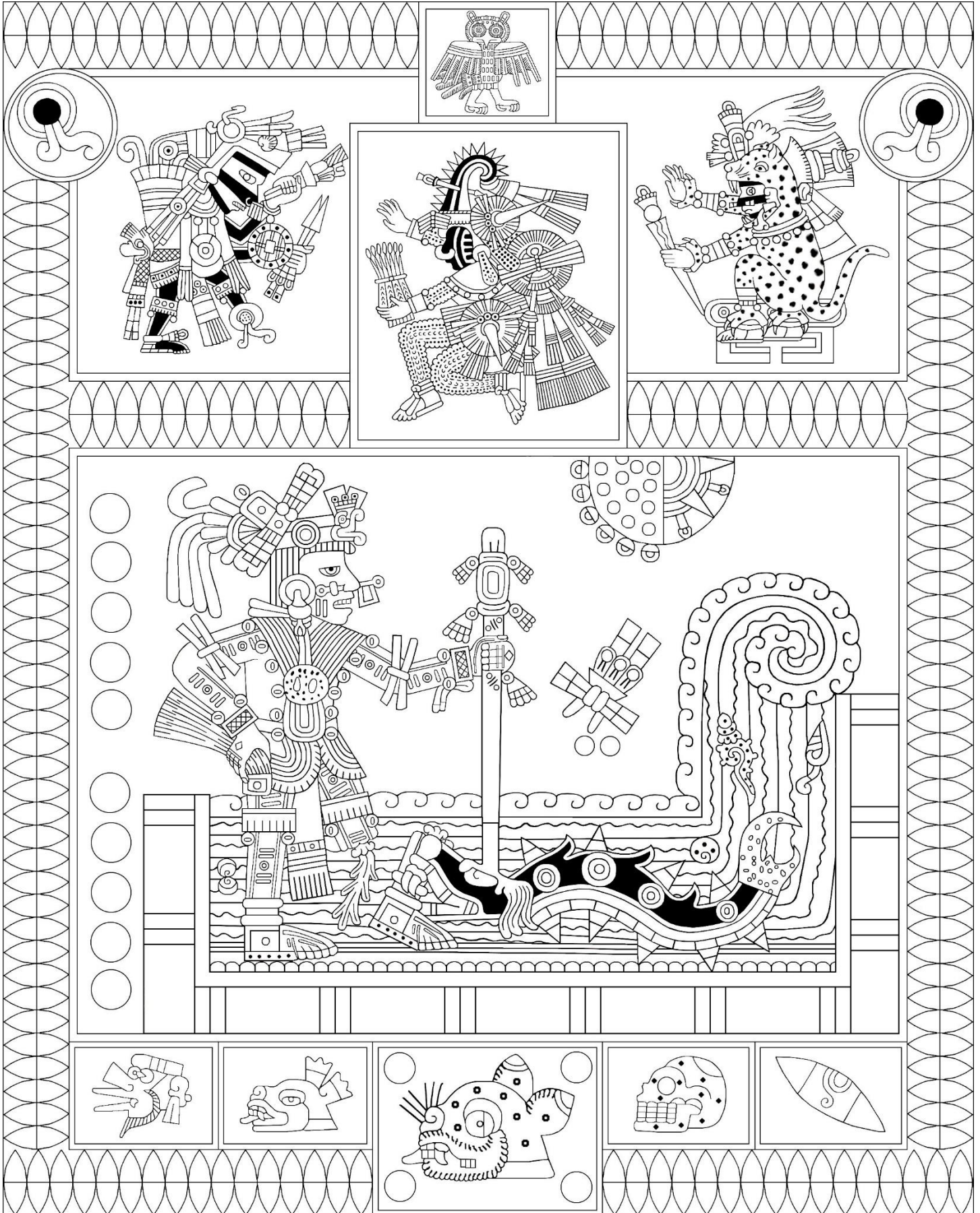


ICON #19 – TEZCATLIPOCA, the Smoking Mirror



## TEZCATLIPOCA

**TEZCATLIPOCA** {*tez-ka-tee-po-ka*}, the Smoking Mirror, is the deity of the night sky, discord, war, change through conflict, violence/destruction, and sovereignty, but he is also a creator-god and presides over the material world. With the birth day-name Two Reed, he is 10<sup>th</sup> lord of the day, 2<sup>nd</sup> lord of the night, and god of the North. He's also the creator of fire, protector of slaves, and patron of magicians and divination and brings and cures diseases. As nemesis/alter-ego of Quetzalcoatl, he's called the Black One (while Xipe Totec is called the Red Tezcatlipoca) and appears in many manifestations, the most surreal being Itztlacolihqui, Curved Obsidian Blade, god of stone, cold, sin, and blind justice. In doing battle with the Earth Monster, Tezcatlipoca lost a foot and then created the First Sun (or world), Four Jaguar, on her back. He's often depicted with the lost foot replaced by a smoking mirror (made of obsidian, a smoky volcanic glass). Generally considered invisible (though eternally youthful and handsome), Tezcatlipoca signaled his presence in rituals by the sound of a footstep or by a single footprint appearing in a box of sand.

### SOURCES

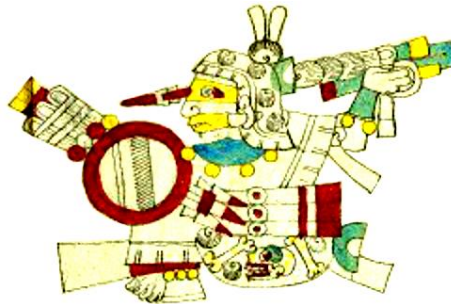
Being invisible, Tezcatlipoca is envisioned in widely varying images in most of the pre-Conquest codices, perhaps most frequently in Codex Borgia. He's often shown with a black- and yellow-striped or eyeless face, the obsidian mirror for a foot, and personal regalia like the circular pendant with red leather bow. Among the following selected examples, the models for the icon are obvious: Borbonicus, Borgia, Rios and Vaticanus.



*BORBONICUS*



*BORGIA*



*COSPI*



*FEJERVARY*



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*LAUD*



*MAGLIABECHIANO*



*RIOS*



*RIOS*



*TELLERIANO*



*VATICANUS*

