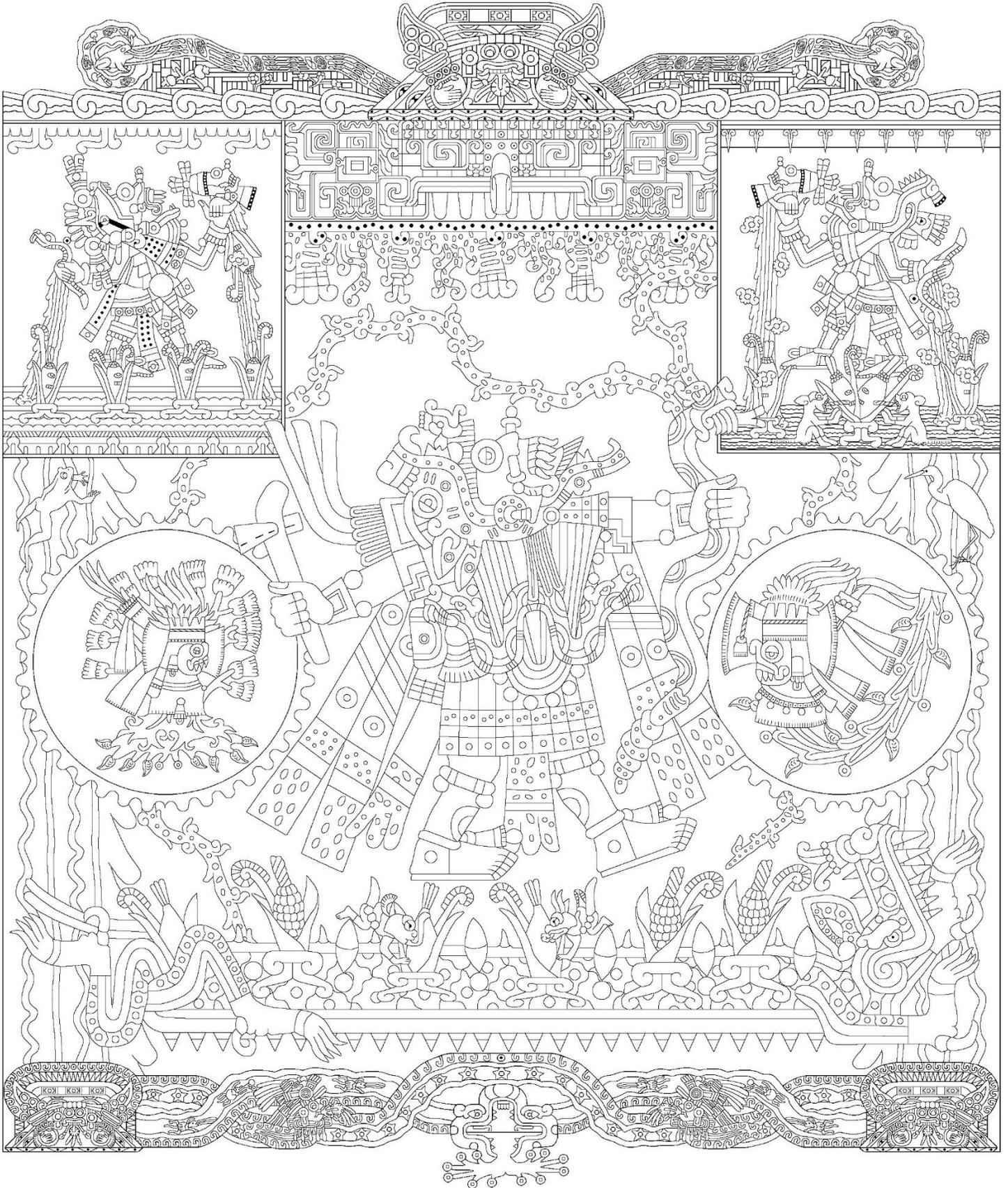


ICON #18 – TLALOC, The God of Storms

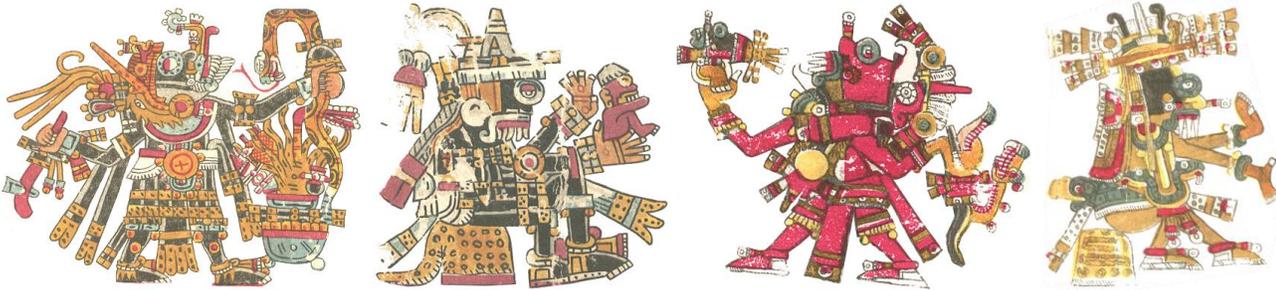


TLALOC

TLALOC {*tla-loc*}, as the God of Storms, rain, lightning, thunder, and general weather, was responsible for both floods and droughts. He was a principle deity in ancient Teotihuacan and revered by the Maya as Chac. A beneficent god of fertility, vegetation, and sustenance, he's associated with springs and caves, and his worship involved child sacrifice. Tlaloc ruled over the Third Sun Four Rain and the Eighth Heaven, a blissful paradise called Tlalocan. At Teotihuacan, his wife, possibly Xochiquetzal, was abducted by Tezcatlipoca, and in a rage, Tlaloc destroyed the Third Sun in a rain of volcanic fire. During the next Fourth Sun (Four Water), its ruler Chalchiuhtlicue was his consort. In the ritual calendar, Tlaloc is the 9th Lord of the Night, 8th Lord of the Day, and patron of the Rain *trecena* and several 20-day months in the solar agricultural calendar.

SOURCES

The codices are crawling with images of Tlaloc. This icon's central figure is based on a stylistically consistent series in Codex Vaticanus, of which the first image below is one. The upper corner vignettes reflect a similar series in Codex Borgia, as in the third image. Both codices contain many examples in other poses with identical goggle eyes and fangs as in the second and fourth examples.



VATICANUS

BORGIA

Images from other codices display these same standard features, often including the lightning serpent. (Except in several instances with these features in Codex Nuttall, Tlaloc is rarely depicted in the historical codices.)



AUBIN

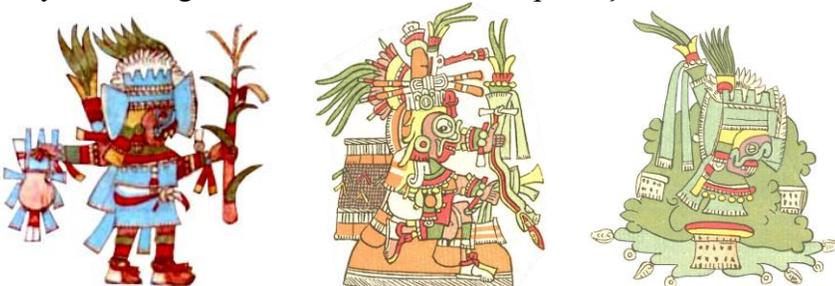
BORBONICUS

FEJERVARY-MAYER

LAUD

RIOS

The circular vignettes (for the months Atlcualco and Atemoztli) were modelled on Codex Rios; the first image below is its symbol for the month Etzalqualiztli, and the third is from Codex Telleriano-Remensis for another Tlaloc-dedicated month Huey Panchtli. To include the deep history of Tlaloc, the upper and lower registers of his icon are based on a mural from ancestral Teotihuacan, and below the top crest is a mask of the ancient Mayan storm-god Chac drawn from a temple façade as shown in the last example.



RIOS

TELLERIANO-REMENSIS



.....MAYAN CHAC FAÇADE