

Yeyi Tonaltzintli: The Three Suns

The three suns are all figures who also represent the sole sun in the sky. They came before the Earth and they will exist after the Earth. They do not depend on their worshippers, but they provide for them nonetheless. They are neutral beings. Each of them serves a different purpose and role for the people that they serve. It is said that from the three suns, the different nations of Yollotl were born. There are three main nations, one for each sun, and each nation is connected to many others that may or may not worship the three suns themselves. The three nations are allied closely though it is prophesized that a schism will one day occur when the nations are in the most desperation. It is for this reason that the suns have now taken it upon themselves to find people to gift with the task of representing them in the battle for survival.

The three suns each provide gifts for their people—Yolia (Alma in the current day). Yolia is the relationship between the people and the suns and the Earth. To use it, they must also give. This is typically in the form of energy. However, more grand offerings are also welcomed if the party seeking to use yolia wants more than their body might be able to exert. Yolia comes in many forms. It can grant someone the ability to move water, mold metal, break stones, bend light, tie the winds to their will. Whatever natural gift they are given, their yolia works with. However, nobody may have more than one gift. The suns will never grant more than one gift. It is up to the worshipper to compensate for where they fall short after that.

The nations are: Yaotlcoatl (Snake Warrior), Cuauhtlitepatli (Eagle Healer), Xochicoyotl (Flower Coyote)

The Matriarch - The Golden Sun

Colors associated with: yellow, gold, orange, white

Symbols: Eagles, sun, stars, eyes

The Golden Sun is the Matriarch of the suns. She was the first sun that was born and from her fire she created the other two suns. She is considered the wisest of the suns and the all-seer. She guides her followers and provides them with the gift of knowledge. She values intellect and those who are devoted to academia. She specializes in healing and is the matron of the nation of Cuauhtlitepatli. She is one who is interested in tradition and expects her worshippers to do the same. She is not fond of change and is not quick to accept new ways of worship from her people.

Her form is not physical. Or at least, nobody but the other suns have seen her. She is considered to be above this realm and thus does not appear to the human eye. Should she appear before a human, it would overwhelm them and possibly cause death. Thus, she appears as eagles typically in order to guide her people and deliver her messages. She has a quiet voice like a whisper that seems to collect more voices the louder it gets.

The Flame - The Warrior Sun

Colors associated with: Red, blue, black

Symbols: Snake, fire, hearts, macuahuitl (obsidian edged club), skulls

The Flame is the warrior sun. He was the first born from the Matriarch's flame and he serves as a protector. He is the most passionate of the suns. He carries a fire for battle and for protecting. He is a soldier and a guardian. He also guides people into the next world when they pass. The Flame is known to be rigid, not easily amused, and has high standards. Though he is not bound to tradition, he demands respect and does not respond if he feels he is not being respected as he should be. He is interested in granting his people strength and he is the patron of Yaotlcoatl. Those who pray to him often seek strength, physical or emotional.

He does not grant yolia easily. To be gifted yolia from him, you are expected to become in tune with the spiritual world and meet him yourself. If you are unable to, you will not get yolia.

He appears typically as a body made of light. He has no eyes or ears, but he does have a mouth that opens into a large jaw that he can unhinge. His head is made of fire and he is always wearing armor. When he is in the Earthly realm he may also appear as a snake. Those who are devoted to him often tattoo themselves with snakes.

The Coyote - The Trickster Sun

Colors associated with: blue, pink, yellow

Symbols: Coyote, rubber ball, teeth, cempasuchil (Mexican marigold)

The Coyote is the youngest of the suns. They were born with a playful nature that seeks thrills. They are the patron of Xochicoyotl. Considered the most troublesome of the suns. They like to pull tricks and often walk the Earthly realm in disguise in order to entertain themselves. They are a youthful energy and they are naturally curious. Because of this, they encourage discovery, adventure, curiosity, and experimentation. They adore watching their people try something new and love change and evolution. They are not one to stick to tradition and they often even encourage their people to question their authority as a sun in order to find themselves. They are also a protector of homosexuals and the arts. It is common for people who are queer to bear symbols of the The Coyote. They are the only one of the suns that has a large population of outsiders that worship them. Across the three nations and the inner cities, people look to The Coyote for protection and guidance.

They often appear as a coyote when on Earth but outside of the Earthly realm, they are a small ball of light that bounces around and that can change in shape and size. They are a shapeshifter and enjoy appearing in different ways. This can make it difficult to identify them initially, but they are always one with tasks and journeys for the people that follow them. They are the most generous of the suns as they view the gift of yolia as something that humans must learn in order for their culture to survive.

The Nations

Yaocoatl (Snake Warrior)

Land of warriors and the largest army of the three nations, Yaotlcoatl is a nation of business and strict law. People there are devoted to their land and their people. Children are trained to fight for their country from a young age and their education is very militaristic. There are other jobs of course. The citizens are not required to actually enlist in the military unless it is times of extreme war. In the cases of extreme war, people are drafted at random. There are no gender restrictions on the military. All genders are expected to serve their nation when brought into the military.

This nation honors The Flame. Blood offerings are common in the form of tattoos for The Flame. Lots of tattoos are seen as a sign of status. The more of you is inked, the more that you are blessed by The Flame. Body modifications are also a form of sacrifice and offering. Popular body modifications include stretched earlobes, nose piercings, ear piercings, lip piercings, and tongue splitting.

This is the nation of strength and it values the ability to remain strong in the face of any challenge. This does not mean that mental health is neglected or seen as unimportant. Yaotlcoatl has excellent medical access for the people which includes mental health services. The people value a strong mind and understand that a strong mind is one that knows when to ask for help. Machismo is seen as a sign of weakness or a trait of a man unfit to be in the community.

The nation encourages the people to fight when they feel they are being exploited or oppressed. Protests are common and this nation breeds many amazing activists. People fight for what is right and the nation has undergone various forms of government in order for the people to feel properly represented. They are the first of the three nations to have abolished the concept of a monarchy.

Yaotlcoatl is made up of 9 districts which are all composed of multiple cities. However, the largest district is Tleltlalli which has the largest temple to Yaocoatl. It is also home to one of three pyramids among the three cities. This pyramid is also dedicated The Flame.

Cuauhtlitepatli (Eagle Healer)

Land of healing and compassion, Cuauhtlitepatli is a land that values the act of caring. They have a limited military and only go to war when absolutely necessary. It is a diplomatic land filled with people who seek for peaceful resolutions rather than turning to violence. Carnage, bloodshed, and death at the hands of humans are greatly frowned upon in this nation. It is seen as an act of weakness, irrationality, and impulse to go to war over things that can be solved diplomatically. This nation produces many great leaders who then go on to represent other cities and even the other two nations blessed by the suns.

Tradition is heavily valued in this nation and stories, practices, and more are all revered as important parts of history that must be passed on so that they might continue to live. It seems like a nation trapped in time at times. New things are brought in slowly and the people tend to remain connected to the traditional manner of doing things rather than the most convenient way. It is believed that the love and time taken into each action is what creates the strength and breathes the life that keeps the people alive.

Sentimental at its core, this nation is known for its grand funerals. Celebrations of the lives their loved ones lived and the passage into the next cycle of life, death is not seen as evil but as natural as the waves lapping against the shore. It is a belief that even just a few drops of the water of the lake that the capitol city of Aacatl will serve as a great offering for their loved ones to give to the death spirits in order for safe passage. This water is also believed to hold great healing properties and as a result, many medical centers are located in the capitol. Cuauhtlitepatli is revered for its medical advancements and is considered the location to go to for education on medicine and healing.

Blessed as having The Golden Sun as their matron, this nation is the oldest of the three nations and has 6 districts. It is believed that life in the continent sprouted from the rich soil there and moved outwards. As a result, it remains the head of many decisions and is greatly protected by its neighbor Yaotlcoatl

Xochicoyotl (Flower Coyote)

Land of innovation and growth, Xochicoyotl is the opposite of its sister nation, Cuauhtlitepatli. It likes to throw tradition out of the window and embraces growth and change. Though, it still remains faithful to the values of the two elder nations. Here is where people go when they have bright ideas and developments for the future. Though its neighbors do not adopt change as quickly, they do still take a lot of what is created in Xochicoyotl after deeming it worthy. This is the pride of the people of Xochicoyotl. To develop for their people is their goal and they seek to uncover new things.

Xochicoyotl is the nation where academics and art meet and flourish. It is home to a grand palace (that now serves as a meeting place rather than a home) that has a large garden open to the public. It also is home to the largest public library on the continent. History, innovation, and more can all be found within the walls of Xochicoyotl. The people value finding what is new and testing new things.

This is also where the yolia is present the most. Though it is not as strong as it is in Cuauhtlitepatli, more people in Xochicoyotl have the gift of yolia than the other two nations. However, the difference in usage is also important. While the neighboring countries use yolia for traditional purposes or for battle, in Xochicoyotl it is embraced as a state of being that is open for everyone. This does get it viewed as lower from the other nations and there are often stereotypes that the way the people of Xochicoyotl use it is weak and wrong. Despite this, the people enjoy engaging with this gift and they use it liberally. They care little for the perception others have of how they use their gift.

This is also considered the most religiously diverse of the nations. Though its patron is The Coyote, many worshippers of the other suns exist in the city as do many other beliefs from neighboring nations. Diversity is welcome and the people are quick to adopt other cultural norms into their own to create new practices and beliefs. Of course, The Coyote remains their patron and who every house honors, but The Coyote is not as jealous as the other suns and thus allows to be in the presence of other beliefs and figures.

There are 13 districts in Xochicoyotl.

The Ahmiquini

The Ahmiquini are the people chosen as representatives of the suns. They are chosen in small handfuls as seen as necessary by the suns. What differs them from others who use yolia is that their yolia is extended in ways others do not have access (i.e being able to change what type of metal something is rather than just molding it) and they are granted immortality. They must then also carry the burden of creating strength for the suns so that they may continue to fight for their place on the Earth. Without the Ahmiquini, the suns would eventually cease to the plague Industrialization has caused.

The Ahmiquini do not decide or really get a choice in their role. They are chosen and that is that. They must follow their role and serve the sun they are representing.

Modern Practice

Due to colonization and the impact it has had on the people, the yolia is also called an alma now. It is also weaker and not as present with the people as it once was. Very few get this gift and it is almost certain that if you develop an alma, you will be made into an Ahmiquini.

Modern worship of the three suns still occurs. However, it has been combined with Christianity and the suns are combined with the Holy Trinity of the Christian doctrine to create folk saints/figures.

The Matriarch - Mother God

The Flame: The Holy Spirit

The Coyote: The Son

Other Spirits

Other spirits that exist and that have been named by the people have become folk saints. This includes:

La Muerte (Death)

Originally named Mictahtlacalt, La Muerte is the embodiment of Death. She is one of many spirits that existed to guide people into the next life. She is the last that is still honored currently. She has gained a grand cult following in Mexico. She is seen as the protector of the lost and rejected. Offerings to her are not restricted as she accepts anything. She is the biggest of the folk saints in Mexico and is respected deeply even by people that do not honor her. She is a jealous being however and does not take kindly to being made second. If you begin a relationship with her, she expects to be prioritized. Do not devote yourself to her if you cannot dedicate the time to.

Her symbols include the skull, the crow, the owl, and the globe

El Huitzilin (The Hummingbird)

El Huitzilin is a minor folk saint of The Flame. His story goes that he was a young man in pre-colonial Yaotlcoatl whose lover fell ill. Desperate to help him, he took him to the neighboring nation

Cuauhtlītepatli in search of healing. When that did not work, he carried himself and his lover to the top of the pyramid in Yaotcoatl and offered his body to The Flame in return for the ability to heal his lover. He was gifted with the yolia of metal. However, his lover left him and now he forever serves as an Ahmiquini of The Flame. He grants strength and perseverance. He is considered the patron saint of the heartbroken, the abandoned, and the homosexuals.

His symbols include hummingbirds, the sun, and feathers

La Llorona (The Weeping Woman)

Once a young woman from the Yucatan region, she married a Spaniard for security during the era of colonization. However, her husband made a deal with the devil to exchange her sanity for wealth and immortality. She slowly went mad and drowned herself and her twin boys. Now she is forever tied to the water around the Yucatan. At least, that is the story told most often. Despite her grim circumstances, she became a folk saint. She is the matron saint of those cheated on, children, and lesbians.

Her symbols include water drops, clasped hands, and snakes

El Soldado (The Soldier)

Once a fierce soldier who followed every order, El Soldado went to fight in the Mexican Revolution and helped in its influence. He was revered as a hero by his fellow soldiers and they honored him greatly. He was a proud figure and many women offered their hand to him but he never did settle. Still, he continued to fight for the rights of his people in Mexico. However, when it was discovered that he was born a woman, he was killed by his fellow soldiers. The people still honored him for his sacrifices and all that he did for Mexico. He is considered the patron saint of veterans, the exploited, and transgender folk.

His symbols include the falcon, the star, and the blade

La Mujer Caballo (The Horse Woman)

La Mujer Caballo was once a beautiful woman from Aguascalientes who was married to a white Mexican. She was quite content with her life despite her husband's angry and aggressive nature and was living well until she met and fell in love with an indigenous man from a neighboring pueblo. She had an affair with him and was caught by her husband one day. As punishment, he killed her lover and tied her to a horse and had the horse drag her around town until she was disfigured and died. Honored by the women in her town due to the circumstances of her death, she became a folk saint. She is the matron saint of abuse victims, forbidden lovers, and the women of Aguascalientes

Her symbols include the heart, an X, and the horse

La Valiente (The Valiant)

La Valiente was a woman who was made a mistress to a wealthy Spaniard. However, the story goes that she fell in love with the Spaniard's wife, a Maya woman. The two of them had a secret romance, planned a future together, and even held a private wedding for themselves. However, the Spaniard found out and was enraged. In his fury, he cast the mistress out and had his wife killed. La Valiente upon finding out about the death of her lover was so overcome by grief that she became a rider and went through the Yucatan region killing unfaithful men until her own death on the 10th anniversary of her lover's death. She threw herself against her grave and lay there until she passed. She is now considered the patron saint of closeted queer folk, the discriminated, and the vengeful.

Her symbols include the heart, the gun, and books

El Charro (The Rider)

El Charro was a sickly man who was down on his luck. Desperate to survive for the sake of his daughter, he made a deal with the devil for his illness to go away so that he might stay by his daughter's side. However, as time went on, his daughter grew ill instead and he devoted all his time to healing her. She eventually passed and the man cursed the devil demanding he bring back his daughter. The devil, amused with him, agreed to bring her back at the cost of his own humanity. He did not care and he wished it to be so. His daughter returned healthy, but as for him, his skin, muscle, and fat all melted away until all that was left was bones. His daughter, too scared to come near him, ran off. In despair but determined to protect her still, he took one of their horses from their rancho and took to riding around town to protect it from danger. He is now the patron saint of children, the sick, and the disabled.

His symbols include: the skeleton, the horse, the saddle