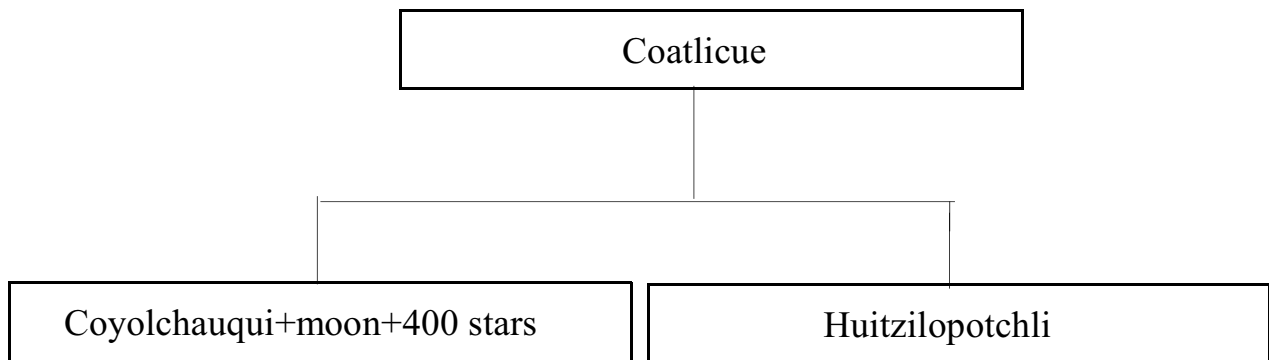


Appendix A

(genealogy of the Aztec Gods)

Coatlicue

This is the visage of Coatlicue per the Aztecs. It is stunning in its grotesqueness. The body and head are made of serpents. The necklace consists of hands, hearts, and a skull. This statue was buried immediately after the conquest. When rediscovered in 1790 it was quickly re-buried after being on display for a short time at the university of Mexico, because it was feared that the image might have a bad influence on Mexican youth. The Aztecs believed Coatlicue had the power of transforming herself into a ravishing beauty!



Coyolchauqui(see circular stone carving,lower right.)

(Painted with bells)

This is the stone carving found at the base of the stairs where the great temple used to be in the heart of Mexico City. Depicted is the dismembered body of Coyolchauqui. Human sacrifices tossed down the stairs of the temple would come to sprawl upon this stone carving.



Huitzilopochtli

Carvings depicting Huitzilopochtli have not been found, At least one existed, however, because Bernal Diaz saw it and described it. Don Bernal

wrote: ", figures like giants with very tall bodies and very fat, and the first, which stood on the right hand, was the figure of Huichilobos [see More, below,p.3] their god of war; it had a very broad face and monstrous and terrible eyes, and the whole of his body was covered with precious stones, and gold, and pearls, and with seed pearls stuck on with a paste that they make in this country out of a sort of root, and all the body and head was covered with it, and the body was girdled by great snakes made of gold and precious stones, and in one hand he held a bow and in the other some arrows. .. Huichilobos had around his neck some Indians' faces and other things like hearts of Indians, the former made of gold and the latter of silver, with many precious blue stones." The ghastly stone carving representing Huitzilopochtli and described by *conquistador*, Bernal Diaz del Castillo, has never been found. What became of it is a mystery. It was probably smashed to pieces and scattered at

the bottom of the lake by the Spaniards.

The Myth

Aztec myth tells that Coyolchauhqui's mother (Coatlicue), after giving birth to Coyolxauhqui, but additionally to the moon, and 400 stars, took a vow of chastity. AND, one day, while sweeping out a shrine on the top of a sacred mountain, where she lived, Coatlicue was impregnated by a ball of feathers. Coatlicue's offspring were furious because they believed their mother had broken her vow. They conspired to murder her. This was not an easy task, as in her womb was Huitzilopochli, who sprang forth to his mother's defense, and killed Coyolxauhqui. The Aztecs referred to Coyolxauhqui as an evil sorceress who spoke to centipedes and spiders. Huitzilopochli became the Aztec god of war.

Guide to pronunciation:

If you are baffled and tongue-tied by the Aztec names, you are in good company. The *conquistadores* had trouble too. Actually, we use words with an Aztec root quite often, but aren't aware of it. Two very common words we use are: *coyote* and *chocolate*. Nahuatl is the Aztec language, and it can still be heard in some small communities close to Mexico city. Nahuatl words often end with the letters T and L. Therefore, coyote and chocolate would be coyotl and chocolatl, respectively. Chicle (chewing gum) is also cited as a Nahuatl word. Here is a list of the Aztec gods, plus a guide to pronunciation:

Bernal Diaz mistakenly called Huitzilopochli Huichilobos, the ending, *lobos*, is *wolves* in Spanish. Incorrect pronunciation was easier to enounce and made some word sense to Spanish speakers.

Coatlicue	ko-at-leek-way
Coyolchauhqui	ko-y'all-chow-key
Huitzilopochtli	wheat-see-low-potch-lee

you know you are a *naco*, when you can say Huitzilopochtli, Ixtacihuatl, and Popocatepetl without making a fool of yourself. Ixtacihuatl, and Popocatepetl (Ixta and Popo for short) are snow capped volcanos that can be seen on clear days from many locations within Mexico City.



Coatlicue(on display at Museo Nacional de Antropologia e Historia, Mexico, D.F., Mexico)