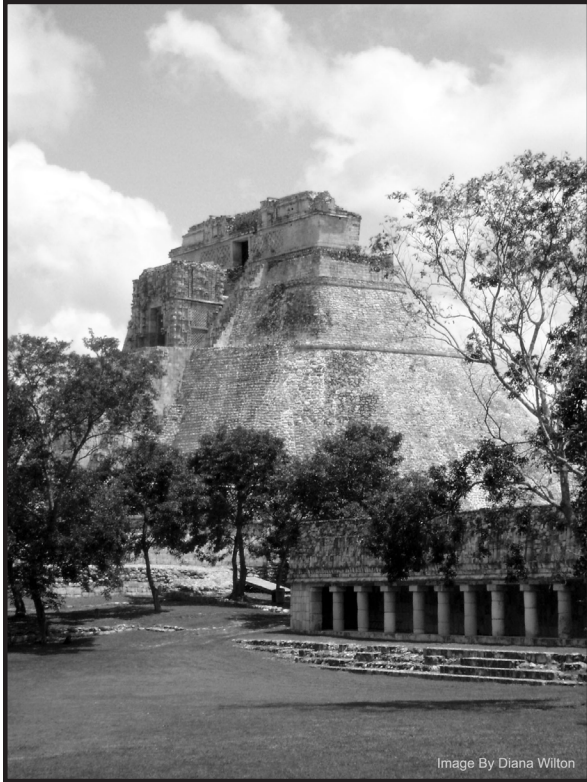


The Goddess Ixchel, the Moon, and Shaman Women



The pyramid site of Uxmal was said to have been built by a group of Mayans who were dedicated to the worship of the Moon.

The POPOL VUH is the book that best narrates the history of the Creation of the Ancient Mayans. According to this book, after living many adventures on the Earth, the divine twins HUNAHPU and IXBALANQUE ascended to the sky in order to become the Sun and the Moon, respectively.

There are plenty of stories and myths among the Mayans of Tradition that narrate the birth of the Sun and the Moon. In such legends, the Moon is the Sun's sister or mother since they both are very similar in brightness and for sharing their job. One works during the day while the other one works at night.

There are many versions that say that the eclipses are due to a fight between both of them. It has also been claimed by many people that the ancient Mayans considered the Moon and Sun as the creators of all the existing things in

the world. In very ancient times, IXCHEL was considered the Goddess of the Moon; she was also known as the first weaver, and Lady of the sea and water.

In those times, many rituals and ceremonies were held to honor IXCHEL, like the ones that some women used to hold at the "cenotes". IXCHEL was also considered a healer, patron of childbirths and protector of newborn babies. Sometimes, this goddess was represented with the figure of a female rabbit blended with the lunar symbol.

Alfredo Barrera translates the "Chant to the Flower" from the sacred Mayan book "**Songs of Dzibalche**": *The beautiful Moon has appeared over the forest; she has started shining in the sky where it is hanging to light all the forests on the earth. Sweetly in the air, her perfume comes. She has arrived amid the sky; her light glows all over the earth. All the*

good beings feel joyful. We have penetrated the part of the forest where nobody can witness what we are going to do. We have brought with us the feathered flower, the Mayan flower of the Chucum, the Jasmine flower that can be found everywhere on the Mayan roads. We have also brought with us the sacred Copal to offer its aroma to the Goddess Moon and her perfumed flowers.

We have brought for the Mayan Goddess IXCHEL the new powder of hard calcite and the new cotton thread to spin, the new Maya cup or “jicara” and the big and fine stone that we will use in the great ritual to honor the gods that granted us our lives in this world. So we will do this Full Moon ritual to honor our Goddess Moon and our Goddess IXCHEL. The purpose of this ritual will be to ask these goddesses to be with us forever and not to ever leave us alone.

Everything will be new during this ritual, even the headbands we will tie around our heads to hold our hair and the buzzing seashell that will let us know when it is the right time to begin the midnight ritual. However, we will not start this ritual until the old woman in combination with the heart of the forest and the great beautiful star that twinkles over the forest give us the following command: “Take off your clothes, untie your hair and let us begin the cosmic ritual of the Goddess Moon and the Goddess IXCHEL.”

This ritual was carried out by the Maya women when they lived in cosmic harmony, and they did it for several thousands of years in the times when life was worth being lived. It was the time when the Maya women used to be ready to become cosmic mothers, when they used to prepare the land for the cosmic seed to be deposited in her body. That was the way those Maya women used to give birth to the beings of the Moon, beings of the Sun, beings of the cosmos, but IXCHEL was the one in charge of welcoming them during the childbirths and breastfeeding them with cosmic milk. This fact would allow human beings to always have a Cosmic Mother.

**- Hunbatz Men
Maya Itza Tradition**



**These women are celebrating their relationship with Ixchel
at the pyramidal site of Uxmal in the plaza in front of the
Mayan Women's meditation and education center.**



Star Johnson-Moser of the Cahokia Mysteries School and Patricia Morris Cardona of the Cosmic Mysteries School teaching the firewoman full moon ceremony at Lol Be 2008.

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