

Codex Nuttall Pages 19a – 19b

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This is the explanation of my mural, that is, pages 19a and 19b of the Codex Nuttall, a Mixtec Codex. It was the year 6 rabbit day 12 wind: the sacred month. In the sky, the place of the sun and the moon, and of the stars and of the night, Sir 12 wind eye that smokes, was instructed by Sir 4 lizard feathered snake coyote and Sir 11 lizard precious feathered snake. This is how 12 wind eyes that smokes received the temple and the new fire, a sign of the foundation of the lordship. Then being surrounded by darkness out came Sir 12 wind eye that smokes and under the sky joined by Sir 3 flint, a figure seen holding the staff Venus, and a figure seen holding the staff of Sipe*.

They exited over the sacred rope that slithered through the air. Sir 12 wind eye that smokes made his arrival to earth carrying the temple with a rattle in hand. Following him in the figure is Sir 5 Dog Feathered Arrow seen with a branch used to carry the sacred wrapping and the instrument for drilling the new fire. Sir 7 Eagle Playpen is pictured holding a palm and a puncturing device for sacrifice, and Sir 9 Movement Torch of the Burning Tobacco is pictured as the carrier of the snail. Over there (new part of the codex) Sir 12 Wind Eye that Smokes was received ceremoniously acclaimed by the elderly porters of the tobacco bouquet. Sir 10 Herb and Sir 10 Rain both offered a quail, followed by Sir 12 Lizard offered a ceremonial vestment, and they were all followed by Sir 12 Zopilote who demonstrated his reverence by crossing his arms over his chest.

Meanwhile from the altar of the vessel of the god of the rain on the hill of the insect through a path on the mount Sir 6 Water and Sir 6 Death brought the bride. The first figure carried her on her back, holding a staff in his hand and the other followed him with Maguey flowers. Sir 1 Flower came to meet them, offering them a ceremonial vestment, and Sir 9 Cane Arrowhead brought herbs and a bag full of copal*.

Ahead with the bridal party also came Sir 10 Lizard who brought the fire and another who brought a snail in hand. The elderly carrier of the tobacco bouquet, Sir 7 Flower is also seen carrying a censer and maraca. Last in the line of figures is Sir 6 Movements with precious flowers.

The year is 10 house, day two eagle, and such was the sacred day. The retinue brought the bride to the cave where they all met Sir Eye That Smokes. The betrothed bathe inside of the cave, seated while being covered by a green palm. The pair were bathed by Madam 10 House and Madam 6 Flint, who poured water on them from above out of gourds. The young lady 1 Eagle gave them a rolled blanket. This happened at the foot of the White Hill of Flints, where the symbols of the lordship were located. The sacred wrapping with the roll of paper and the instrument to drill the new fire were like the Knife of Steel. The sacred arrow of this place was the year 8 Flint, day 8 movement. Afterward, the newlyweds Sir 12 Wind Eye that Smokes and Madam 3 Flint laid together in the palace under the blanket that they received from Lady 1 Eagle. To one side of the palace, Sir 10 Cane and Sir 10 Zopilote safely stored the staffs of leadership: the Staff of Venus and the Staff of Sipe. The elderly carrier of the tobacco bouquet, Sir 10 Rain Jaguar, seen seated on a throne, occupied a position of grand authority. He made offers the Grandfather of an herb, a quail, and a gourd while bunches of green palm were

placed on the ground. All this took place on the first day 1 Lizard of the great hunched rock where the cave of the fiery serpent was found, the place whose sacred date was year 5 day 12 lizard.

In the same place on the other side was also found the precious temple of the sacred wrapping of the knife of flint and the instrument to drill the new fire, which were found inside the altar. The temple was crenellated by the fiery serpent in the entrance of the pastime of darkness. There in the recreational area between the ears of corn came Madam 1 Death from out of the ground. She is likely the daughter of Sir 12 Wind and Madam 3 Flint. They came to offer her tribute and acclaim her as the princess and heiress. Sir 13 Flower brought salt with flowers and a bag of copal, Sir 1 lizard came with the Staff of Venus, Sir 6 Death brought leaves and bags of paper, Sir 6 Water brought leaves and a puncturing device for sacrifice, Madam 13 Quetzal Flower brought a spinning wheel and a machete to sow, Sir 1 Lizard, Jaguar of the Star brought arms and Sir 12 Lizard Eagle with two heads of the Grand Lord brought leaves of the bag of copal, and Sir 10 Lizard came as well. They all offered tribute and brought gifts to the new princess.





The staff of Sipe which was seen as a sign of authority though its meaning is not fully known. (Alfonso Caso 86).



Copal was an incense-like substance based on tree resin that was used in the rituals of many pre-Columbian tribes like the Aztec, Maya and Mixtec.

Links to look at:

<https://arqueologiamexicana.mx/mexico-antiguo/codice-nuttall>

I also made sure to include a PDF covering a comparative analysis of iconographic symbols in Mayan and Mixtec codices.