

Nahuatl Interview

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I interviewed Miss Martha. She is a teacher as well as the Nahuatl chief. She belongs to a group of people called “gente roja.” She is also the grandmother of the “Sun Dance.” They perform Nahuatl style dances for our ancestors as well as weddings and other celebrations. She also has a theater and dancing Aztec company, and is a “Zihuakatekuhtli,” ruling woman of the Aztec dance.

Martha explained that when the Spanish arrived, the Nahuatl people tried to teach them their religion. The Nahuatl adapted their beliefs and found parallels between their god and some of the Spanish saints.

She also mentioned that the pyramids are not truly pyramids. The only pyramids that exist are the ones in Egypt because of their shape. Our constructions are known as “teocallis,” or pyramidal platform. Also, the Nahuatl ancestors weren’t warriors, but were instead called “yao tecatl.” Yao means heart and tecatl means man, so the complete word translates as “protector.”

Martha explained that located in Rome are the “teomochli,” manuscripts made by the Nahuatl ancestors before the Spanish arrived. The Spanish tried to force the Indians to rewrite their manuscripts to show the Indians sacrificing humans to the gods, but this would have been a lie. The myth of human sacrifices came from the days when the Indians practiced medical procedures such as open heart surgeries using obsidian tools as medical devices. While it is true that they did open the chest in order to show the heart to the gods, this was done as a prayer for health. The medical devices still exist. Many museums exhibit them as if they were glasses for blood, but this also was not true.

She also mentioned that the only blood they shed during rituals was turkey blood, as this was believed to help them have good crops in the coming year. Another belief the Nahuatl held was that the phases of the moon could tell you when you were pregnant and if you were going to have a girl or a boy. They could also tell whether their animals would have male or female offspring.

The teacher said that the Spanish language is our dialect and that our own language is Nahuatl due to the fact that the Spanish imposed their way of speaking upon us.

At the end of the video she told us the following poem called “In la Kec’h.”

Yo soy tu, tu eres yo	You are you, you are me
Si te amo, te amo	If I love, I love you
Si me hago daño me lo hago	If I hurt you I hurt me
Si eres igual a mi	If you are like me
Y te puedo ver en los ojos	and I can see you in your eyes
¿Cómo hacerte daño?	How can I hurt you?
Si tu eres yo y yo soy tu	If you are me and I am you