

Día de los Muertos

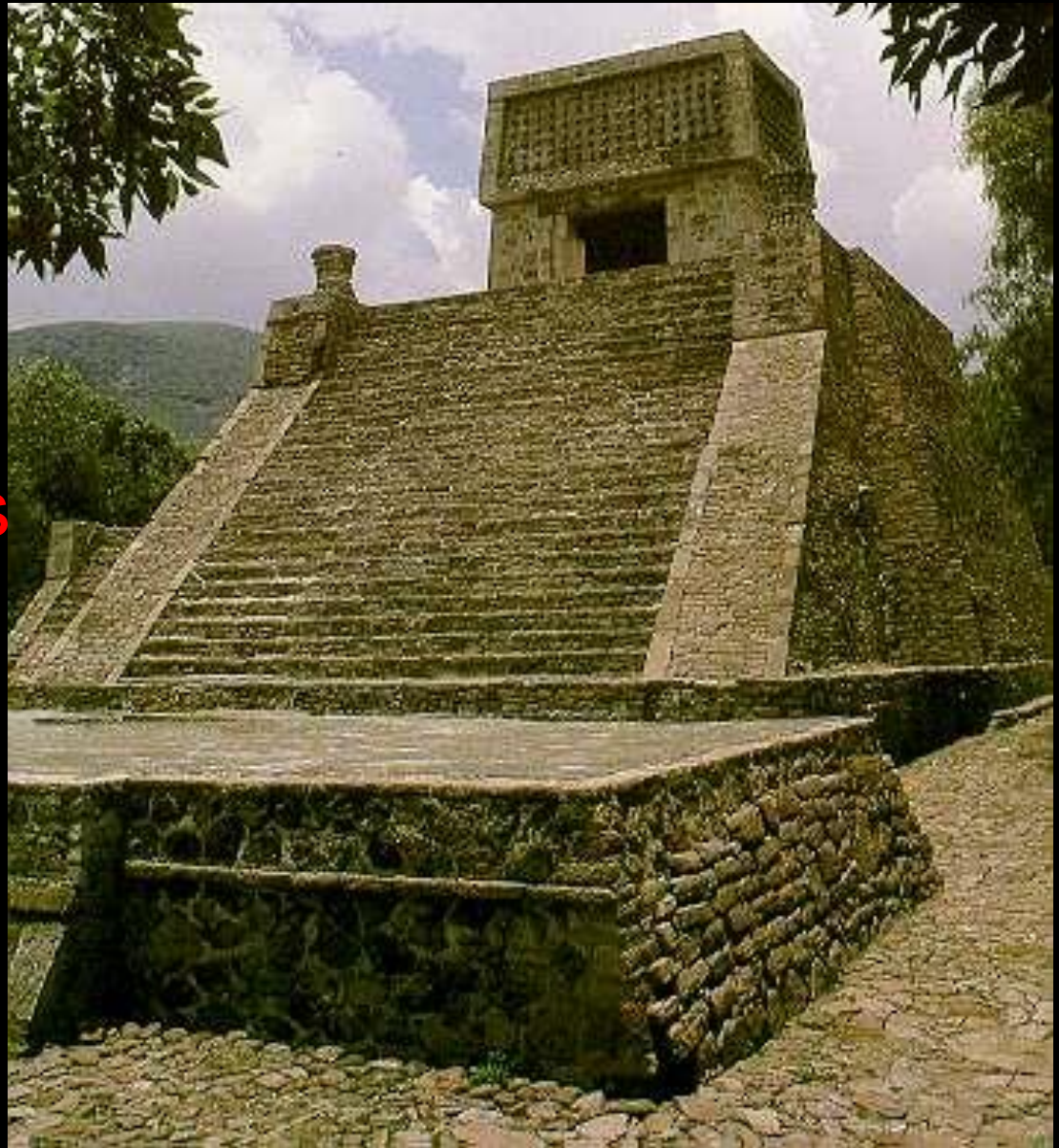


A Platica in Memory of Horacio Sanchez Valderas, about Mesoamerican mythology, and Traditional & Nontraditional Altares.

By Luis Valderas~2008

Origenes espirituales of Dia de los Muertos

Templo Azteca



Origenes espirituales of Dia de los Muertos



Is a combination of Catholic religious beliefs and Mesoamerican spirituality

Origenes espirituales of Dia de los Muertos

- Belief that neither nature nor man were sent to and everlasting death
- Observation of a natural cycle of life and death.
- Life and death are two sides of the same reality

Origenes espirituales of Dia de los Muertos

- Is a feast in honor of our ancestors and deceased loved ones that is observed on November 1st and 2nd of each year.
- It has its roots in Ancient Aztec traditional ceremonies.

Origenes espirituales of Dia de los Muertos

- According to ancient Aztec tradition, Dia De Los Muertos represents a time when our loved ones leave **Mictlan** (the underworld—land of the dead) and journey to visit and live with us for a brief moment.

Origenes espirituales of Dia de los Muertos

Warriors that died in battle and women who died during childbirth were said to journey to the highest heaven ...where they would fly with *Tonatuiah - the sun*, on its daily journey across the sky.

Those who drowned or died of anything related to water journeyed to the paradise called *Tlalocan—the place of Tlaloc*, the water god

All others went to *Mictlan-the underworld* that lay beneath the great mountains of the north—a cold barren place.

Origenes espirituales of Dia de los Muertos

- Death was a stage in the journey of the soul to heaven...or hell
- The soul had to pass through several trails in order to get there.
- The way in which people died dictated where they would begin their journey and trails.

La Muerte

La Muerte



Mictlantecuitli

Lord of the Underworld

La Muerte



To the Aztecs, death was a horror that was constantly in their thoughts and ever present in their lives.

The Underworld

The Lord and Lady of the Underworld ruled over this world all the souls of humans that traveled into the underworld.



Life and Death

The Red Tezcatlipoca
and Micltlantecuitli
Battled over the human
soul



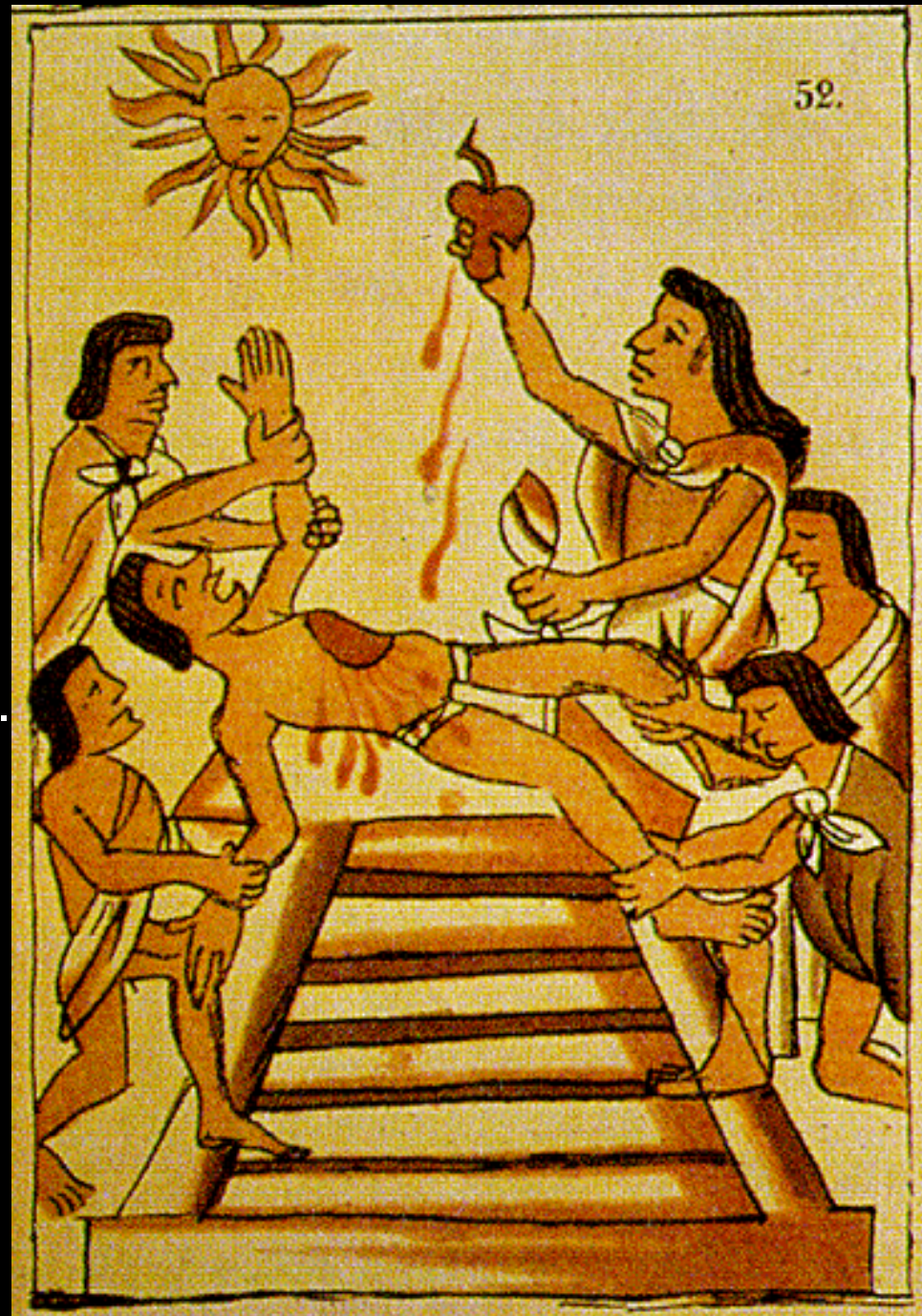
Tecpactl the Flint Knife

Instrument and deity of physical and
spiritual sacrifice.



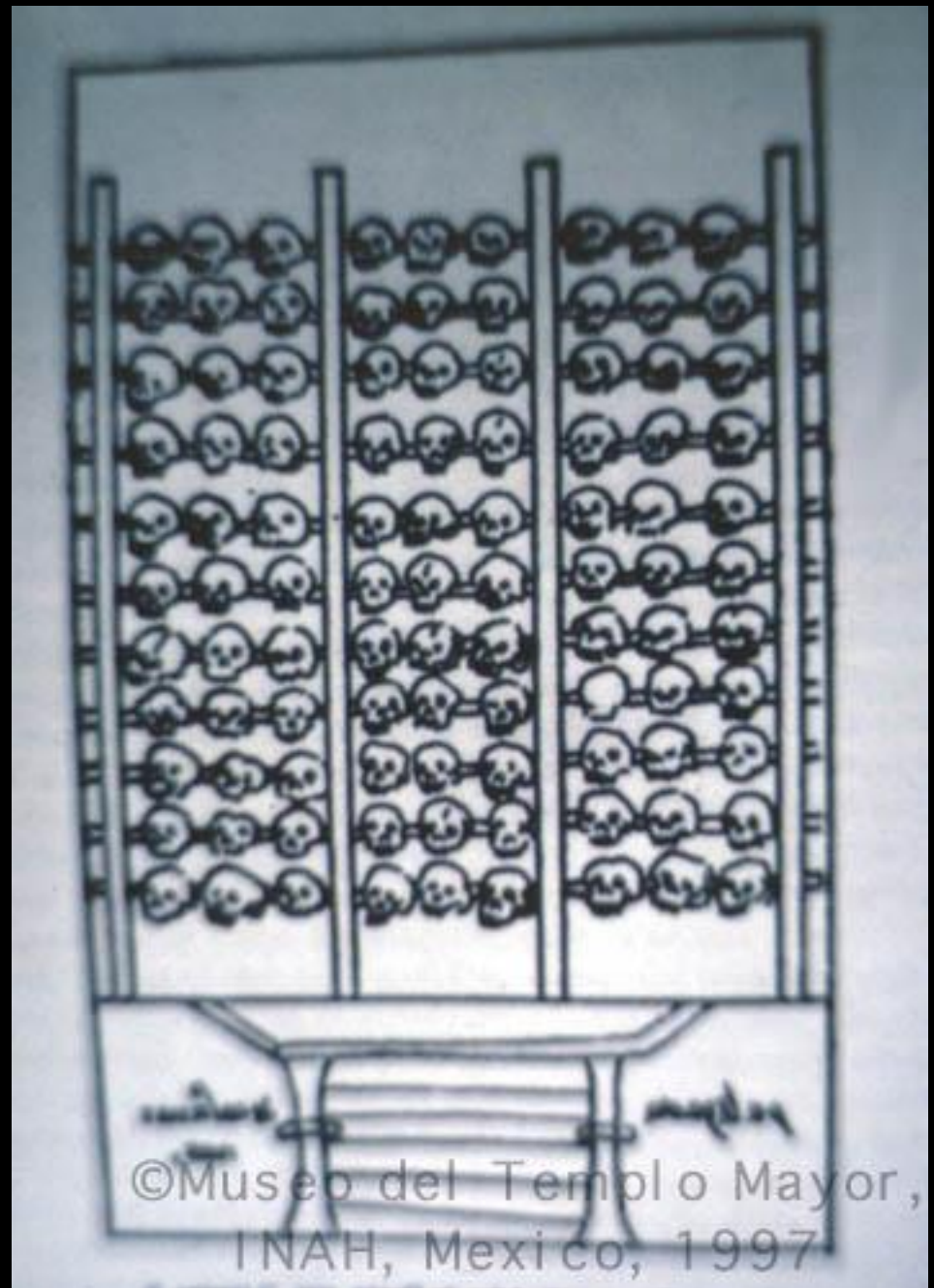
La Ceremonia

Heart Sacrifice for nourishment and sustenance of *Tonatiuh* —the Lord Sun, was a primary cosmic principle.



Honoring the Sacrifice

- *Tzompantli*
the skull rack



Honoring the Sacrifice



Tzompantli —stylized skull rack on temple wall

*Horacio
Sanchez
Valderas*

Pre-WW II years

Horacio ~El Charro 1942



Pre-WW II years

Deacon for
Sacred Heart Catholic Church

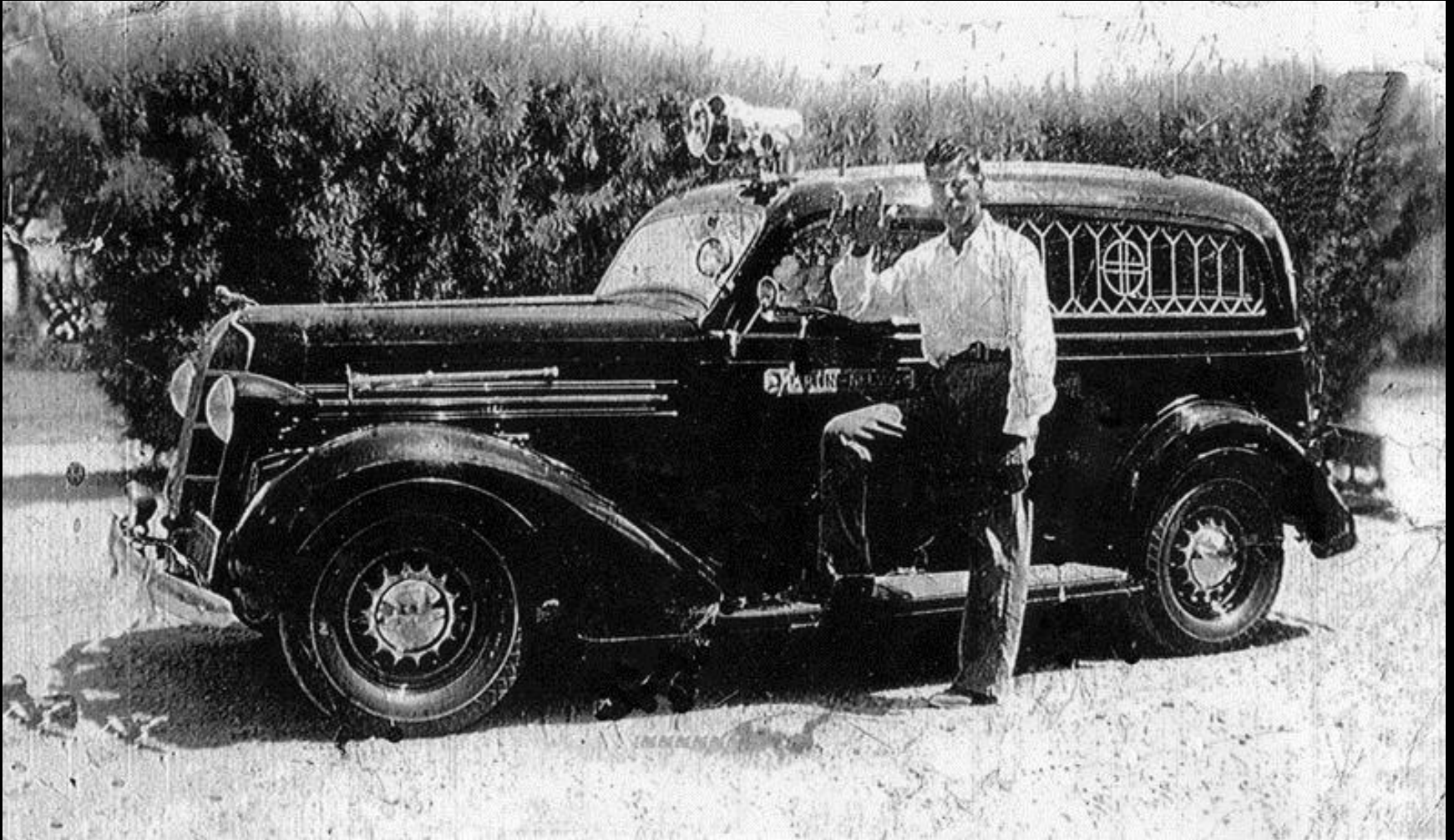


Pre-WW II years



El Lasso

Pre-WW II years



Working for Martin-Nelson Funeral Home. Horacio y “*La carossa*”.

WW II years

South Pacific portrait for
la familia back home.



WW II years



Basic Training in Yuma, Arizona

WW II years

Pvt. 1st Class Horacio
Sanchez Valderas
1944



WW II years

Somewhere in Yuma,
Arizona.



WW II years



Basic Training barracks—Yuma, Arizona.

WW II years

Horacio and friend
-the Army Chaplain
Yuma, Arizona '44.



WW II years

"Here we go" deployment to
the South Pacific after basic
training



"Here we go"

WW II years

Horacio and friend, *el Sacerdote Catolico* somewhere on Guadalcanal in the South Pacific.



WW II years

A Guadalcanal foxhole.



Post-WW II years



Auto mechanics class of '46 — using the G.I. Bill.

The Fifties



Drinking coffee with the Maytag Co. 'brass'.

The Fifties

Horacio (top salesman)
at the Maytag Corp.
Headquarters

~Plant No.1~
Newton, Iowa

to visit the “big brass”.



The Nineties



Horacio on Bob's fire truck.

Los Altares

by Luis Valderas

Components of a traditional Altar

- Anywhere from 3 to 7 levels in the altares-representing the stages traversed by all that die and travel the underworld. Four elements represented, the four stages of life-birth, life, death and rebirth, the allusion to the temple-as an astronomical calendar cycle.
- An arch of flowers-the entry to the underworld
- Water –to cleanse and quench the thirst of the deceased
- Earth-seeds fruits, vegetables-nature's blessing
- Fire- Candles (to light the way for the deceased)
- Wind-Papel picado
- Flowers (marigolds are the typical flower used. They are sprinkled around the altar to help the deceased find his/her way)
- Pictures of the deceased
- Offerings of food and drink (typically favorite items of the deceased when he/she was alive. Can include *tamales*, *mole*, *pan de los muertos*)
- Favorite items enjoyed by the deceased when he/she was alive
- Candy *calaveras* or skulls

Components of a traditional Altar



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Water

-

Components of a traditional Altar

- Candy calaveras or skulls or effigies



- Candles (to light the way for the deceased)

Components of a traditional Altar

- Pictures of the deceased
- An arch of flowers



- Favorite items or belongings of the deceased when he/she was alive.

*Nontraditional
Dia de los Muertos
altar in honor of:*

Horacio Sanchez Valderas
03.07.09~04.30.02



El Soldado y La Sandia installation

Heroic size installation for
“Dia de los Muertos~2004
@ Blue Star” Contemporary Art
Space—SATX.



La Cruz de Sandillas



El Soldado y La Sandia installation

Heroic size installation for
Dia de los Muertos~2004
@ Blue Star Contemporary Art
Space—SATX.



*White
Rocket tezcatlipoca*

Back side of heroic size installation
for
Dia de los Muertos~2004
@ Blue Star Contemporary Art
Space—SATX.



Dia de los Muertos Altar
@ Gallista Gallery-2006

Luis & Horacio Valderas



Setting up the
flowers



El Mantel y las Flores



Los escalones con calaveras



Libros con Paisano



Las Heramientas



El Templo



Las Calaveras





Evening at Aztlan 2007



Altar @ Centro Cultural Aztlan-2007 SATX





Calaveras con La Fruta

La Fruta





La Muerte con la sandilla



Los Vegetales

Sus Libros



El Pillonsillo



The 3 stages of man ~symbolized through corn~



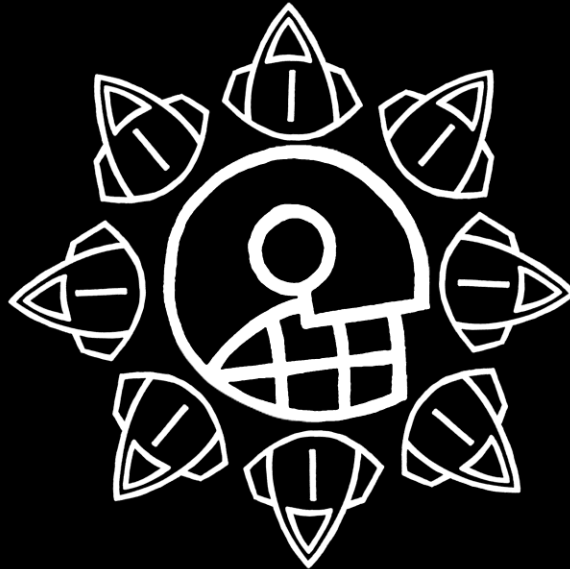
• Youth

• Adulthood

• Old Age

Un Obsequio de su hermano





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