

MAPUCHE PANTHEON

The Mapuches believed in two worlds: the natural world, made up of the earth with its people, and a supernatural one which is magical and religious in the sky. The supernatural world is called Wenumapu, and it is a balanced region between the clouds and the universe. It is where gods, spirits and ancestors live. The Anka-wenu was a disorganized and chaotic space next to Wenumapu where evil spirits or Wekufes live. These cause suffering and harm to mankind.

CHAU was the creator god of the Mapuche. He was also known as Nguenechèn, Father, the Sun, and Antü.

HUEÑAUCA was an evil and fiery spirit who lived in the depths of the Osorno volcano. He produced fire and ruled over a court of beings that could not speak. There was often a male goat protecting the entrance to his cavern.

KAI-KAI FILU was the evil sea serpent who carried two of Chau's rebellious sons within him. Kai-Kai Filu was always planning to take power away from his father the creator. When he got mad he created tidal waves, floods and earth quakes by violently flapping his giant tale.

KÜPUKA FUCHA and KÜPUKA KUSHE were the god and goddess of abundance.

KUSHE means "witch". This goddess was both the wife and mother of Chau (Nguenechèn) the creator god. She was also known as Moon, Blue Queen and Queen Maga.

NAHUEL was a god in the shape of a tiger.

PILLAN was the god of thunder as well as a fire spirit. He protected the elements and humans and was the creator of thunder and lightning. He was loved and dreaded because he created earthquakes and volcano eruptions when he was hungry. When chiefs and warriors died in battle they were absorbed by Pillan who made them into clouds and volcanoes.

TREN-TREN was the good snake spirit who lived in a far away mountain. Tren-Tren was created out of clay by Chau to combat the evil Kai-Kai Filu and protect the Mapuches.

¥ANCU was a god in the shape of an eagle.

