

MAYAN PANTHEON

Very little is known about the Mayan pantheon, because so much information has been lost, but it is clear that the Maya had more than 150 gods in total. The Mayans believed that the universe was divided into thirteen layers. Each of these layers had its own god. Gods had many qualities that humans don't have. One god could have more than one sex, or be both old and young, etc. Though Tepeu and Gucumatz were responsible for the creation of humans, some stories mention that they were only the planners and that they asked another god, Hunab K' U to do the creating. Besides these three gods, some of the main gods were:

ALOM was the god of the sky.

(XIB) CHAC was the rain god. He was associated with creation and life (also closely related to Kukulcan).

COYOPA was the ruler of the sound of thunder.

HACAUITZ was the god of the mountains.

The JAGUAR god is one of the many spirits of the forest that the Maya believed in. In order to keep evil away some villages place jaguar "spirits" at each of the villages entrances.

ITZAMNÁ is the god who invented writing. He is also the patron of the arts and sciences as well as the god of the sky. Itzamna is one of the most important deities in the Maya pantheon. He was entirely good.

IXTAB is the suicide god (always represented with a rope around her neck). Mayans believed that if people committed suicide they would go to heaven.

IX CHEL is the goddess of weaving, medicine and childbirth. She was also the ancient goddess of the moon. She sends floods and powerful rainstorms to earth, and is the wife of Itzamná.

TOHIL was the god of fire.

XIB CHAC was the Mayan rain god.

XPIYACOC was the god of marriage.

YUM CIMIL was the Death God (also called Ah Puch), or god of the underworld.

