

**THE MAGIC AND MYSTERIES OF
MEXICO: OR, THE ARCANE
SECRETS AND OCCULT LORE OF
THE ANCIENT MEXICANS AND
MAYA**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649641581

The Magic and Mysteries of Mexico: Or, the Arcane Secrets and Occult Lore of the Ancient
Mexicans and Maya by Lewis Spence

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

LEWIS SPENCE

**THE MAGIC AND MYSTERIES OF
MEXICO: OR, THE ARCANE
SECRETS AND OCCULT LORE OF
THE ANCIENT
MEXICANS AND MAYA**



TEZCATLIPOCA AS A WER-JAGUAR

THE MAGIC AND MYSTERIES OF MEXICO

OR

THE ARCANES SECRETS AND
OCCULT LORE OF THE ANCIENT
MEXICANS AND MAYA

BY

LEWIS SPENCE

AUTHOR OF

"THE GODS OF MEXICO," "THE CIVILIZATION OF ANCIENT
MEXICO," "THE MYTHS OF MEXICO AND PERU," "THE
PROBLEM OF ATLANTIS," "THE HISTORY OF ATLANTIS,"
"THE MYSTERIES OF BRITAIN," "THE MYSTERIES OF
EGYPT," ETC.

410500

9. 3. 43

LONDON: RIDER & CO.
PATERNOSTER ROW, E.C. 4

Printed in Great Britain at
The Mayflower Press, Plymouth. William Brendon & Son Ltd.

TO
W. G. BURN MURDOCH, Esq.
OF WEST LOCH, BERWICKSHIRE
ARTIST AND PATRIOTIC SCOTSMAN

PREFACE

THIS, the first effort to include in one volume all that is known regarding the arcane knowledge and occult lore of the ancient Mexican peoples and their neighbours, the Maya of Central America and Yucatan, is the result of more than thirty-five years of research in a sphere which has richly repaid the writer by the companionship of its fascination, and which he hopes will prove equally absorbing to the reader who seeks passing amusement and to the serious student.

The book is so compiled as to be useful to both, popular in its general treatment, yet sufficiently authoritative in its sources and data to be of avail either to the practical anthropologist or the student of Mysticism. The historical passages essential to the introduction of the main subject are necessarily sketchy, but embody sufficient information to permit the reader ignorant of Central American chronicles to approach the consideration of the curious knowledge of the more enlightened peoples of Isthmian America in the fields of pure Magic, Astrology, Witchcraft, Demonology and Symbolism.

The chapters on the difficult question of Mexican and Maya Astrology have been reduced to a simplicity of presentation which, it is hoped, will render this vexed subject plain to everyone, and its basic importance to the whole survey of Mexican occult knowledge has been demonstrated with an equal desire for clarity.

10 THE MAGIC AND MYSTERIES OF MEXICO

That this astrological lore was inevitably accompanied by a philosophy of dualism, recalling that of ancient Persia, is also shown, and that a system of initiation resembling that connected with Asiatic and European wisdom-religions was also in vogue in Central America is now for the first time suggested, and, it is hoped, adequately proved.

The mystical books of the Mexicans and Maya are described and the relationships between the religions of these people and their magical beliefs fully discussed. Nor have minor questions, such as popular superstitions, augury, and the use of charms and amulets been neglected. In fact, every effort has been put forth to render the volume as complete a treasury of the occult lore of Central America as our present acquaintance with the facts permits.

The writer has, above all, striven to preserve the romance inherent in the subject, and has tried to cast light on the darker places by an occasional appeal to fiction, but when such an aid is invoked its imaginative character is duly indicated.

The Magic of old Mexico, although it closely resembles that of other lands, has distinct racial characteristics of its own, and is capable of illuminating other systems through its peculiar preservation of what many of them have lost or cast aside. Its inherent unity of idea with the arcane systems of the Old World makes it a valuable mine of analogy and comparison, even if the differences brought about by environment seem to render it superficially distinctive. But, above all, its indwelling spirit of gloomy wonder and mystical exclusiveness perhaps reveal it as the most fascinating of the world's secret systems.

I. S.

CONTENTS

CHAPTER I

	PAGE
A GLANCE AT ANCIENT MEXICO	17
Neglect of Mexican Magic as a subject—Difficulties surrounding it—The Races of Mexico—The Nahuatl—The Toltecs—Brinton's theory that Toltecs were "mythical"—The modern view—Maya sources—Attempt at a solution—Story of the fall of the Toltecs—The Aztecs—Mexico at the period of the Spanish Conquest—The great temple of Uitzilopochtli—Culture of the Aztecs—Their system of hieroglyphic writing—Castes and classes—Architecture and its remains—Sketch of Aztec history—Tribal feuds—Aztec tyranny and human sacrifice—Fall of the Aztec state.	

CHAPTER II

THE MAGICAL ASSOCIATIONS OF MEXICAN RELIGION	44
Magic the basis of Mexican religion—The Rain-cult—The Earth-Mother—Blood as a rain-maker—The festival of the <i>Xaliquia</i> —Quetzalcoatl and the myths concerning him—Tezcatlipoca the wizard and his scrying-stone—Legends regarding him—Uitzilopochtli, the humming-bird wizard—The Spanish friars on his origin—Cinteotl, the maize-god—Tlazoltcotl, the witch-goddess, and Cuicacoatl, the "Serpent-woman"—Xipe, lord of human sacrifice—As "Pied Piper" and vampire—Itzpapalotl, "the obsidian-knife butterfly"—Gods of death and Hades—Mexican faith illustrates a phase in the development of wisdom-religion—Its position at the period of the Conquest—Its inner significance.	

CHAPTER III

MEXICAN MAGIC	67
The <i>naualli</i> , or sorcerer class—Ancient accounts of them—Use of drugs and intoxicants—Night as the sorcerer's heyday—Higher castes of sorcerers—Devil-worship and its secret cult—Appearance and Magical customs of the <i>naualli</i> —Divination—Magical character of religious festivals—The Obsidian Religion of Mexico—Lesser superstitions—The story of Total and the Naualli.	