

AZTEC ICON #1 – ATL, God of Water



ATL

ATL (God of Water) {atl} is the deified element of water, and a *nagual* (manifestation or bodhisattva) of Tlaloc, the ancient God of Storms. In the tonalpohualli or ceremonial count of days, also called the Turquoise Year, Atl is 9th of the 20 named days in the month, a lucky day. Nahui Atl (Four Water), the 4th of the 13 numbered days in one of the weeks, is the day-name of the Fourth Sun, the previous world ruled by Chalchiuhtlicue and destroyed by Water. Its humans were turned into fish. The four dots are the Aztec number 4. The extended upper lip (harelip?) were traditional for Mesoamerican water deities since the Olmec.

SOURCES

Images of the God of Water aren't evident in the surviving codices, so I went to sculptural evidence and interpreted wildly. I did the same for Quiahuitl, God of Rain, in the crest:



Atl



(from the Stone of the Suns) *Quiahuitl*

While there were many Codex images of fishy creatures, most were quite fanciful, and I only used a few, otherwise, shamelessly drawing from nature.



NUTTALL



BORGIA



VATICANUS



FEJERVARY-MAYER

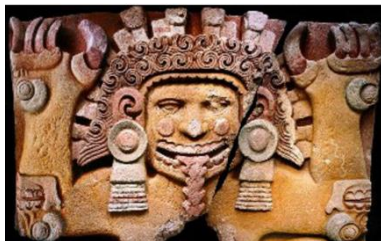


LAUD



VINDOBONENSIS

Other details in the border are also modelled on sculptural examples, including an esoteric reference to ancestral Teotihuacan:



STONE OF TLALTECUHTLI



MASK OF TLALOC, TEOTIHUACAN