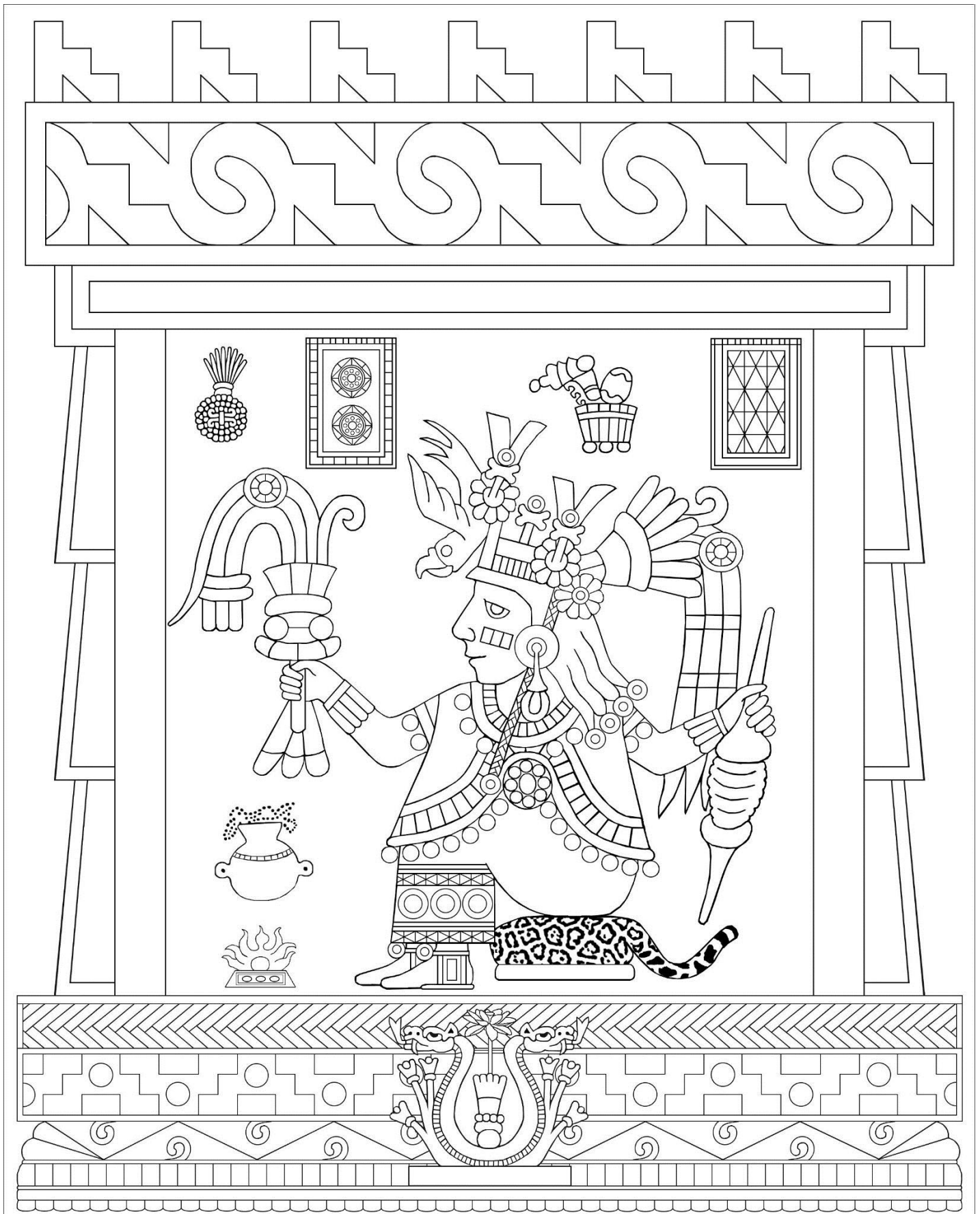


AZTEC ICON #4 – CHANTICO, Lady of the House



CHANTICO

CHANTICO (The Lady of the House) {*chan-tee-ko*} is the goddess of fire in the family hearth and fire of the spirit, as well as fire of the earth (volcanoes), and logically the wife of Xiuhtecuhtli, the god of fire. Patroness of cooking, eating, domesticity, and weaving she represents the feminine side of life, fertility, and the waters of birth. She is also the goddess of precious things, the lady wealth and jewels, defensive of her possessions and vindictive with gods or mortals who take her treasures. Her own particular omen-bird (parrot?) is attached to her headdress. (Each deity has one.) The jaguar-pelt seat indicates a divine or royal being.

SOURCES

The goddess is identified in at least four codices, each with a watery feature off the back of her headdress, an iconographic marker I didn't notice until long after completing my own drawing:



AUBIN



BORBONICUS



TELLERIANO



RIOS

In other codices, I've found no other women with that marker, but any of them might be the goddess incognito. Once again, I opted for a figure in the style of Nuttall:



NUTTALL



BORGIA



FEJERVARY-MAYER



VATICANUS

The house of the goddess is an exaggeration of the already ornate Aztec temple or *calli* ('house'):



VINDOBONENSIS