AZTEC ICON #12 – OMETEOTL, Deity of Two
OMETEOTL

OMETEOTL (The Deity of Two) \{o-me-te-ot\} is the creative pair of Omecihuatl (Lady of Two) and Ometecuhtli (Lord of Two), conjoined as the supreme creator and parent(s) of the primary Aztec gods. This deity of duality is transcendental, without cult, rites, or temples and exists somewhere beyond the stars. Also known as Tonacacihuatl and Tonacatecuhtli (Lady/Lord of Sustenance), as Iamacihuatl and Iamatecuhtli (Lady/Lord of Creation), and as CITLALICUE and CITLALATONAC (deities of the stars), Ometeotl represents unity through sexual dualism. The pair rules the highest (13th) heaven of Omeyocan where unborn souls reside. Omecihuatl chooses the days in the ritual calendar for their birth and consequently their fates.

SOURCES

Going through the codices with a fine-toothed comb, the only image I could identify of the dual deity was this explicit one in Fejervary-Mayer. Other “Siamese” couples are combos of Ehecatl and Mictlantecuhtli, symbols of the dualism of life and death, and one of Mictlantecuhtli and Itztli, god of sacrifice, another logical duality. Recognizing the uniqueness of this image, I lifted it bodily for my icon, making only minor adjustments to fit into the starred circle and playing loose with patterns on their clothing and regalia.

Except for the day-signs from various codices, the motifs surrounding the couple are from Borgia. The medallion above them I assume to be a mystical symbol of dualism. The Ehecatl-masks on the serpents and enigmatic little creatures symbolize life, i.e. new souls being born.

FEJERVARY-MAYER

Since Ometeotl is the progenitor of the gods, I’ve surrounded them with some of the major deities, shown here in sequence: Tlauiahcalpantecuhtli, Lord of the House of the Dawn; Quetzalcoatl, the Plumed Serpent; Tlaloc, the storm god; and TEZCATLIPOCOCA, the Smoking Mirror.

BORBONICUS

BORGIA