

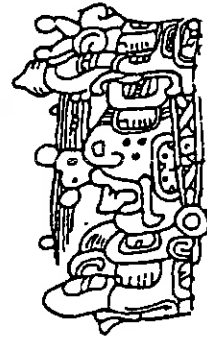
THE MAYAN GODS AND GODDESSES

The Mayas worshipped many gods. Here are some of the more important ones:

Itzamná: He was the head god, lord of the heavens and lord of night and day. His name meant lizard. Carved pictures show him as an old crossed-eyed man. He had a lizard's body. The Mayas believed he invented books and writing.



Kinich Ahau: He was the sun god. He was also the god of the rulers.



Chac: He was the rain god. Carvings show him as a reptile with a large nose pointing down and curling fangs. He had four aspects:

Chac Xib Chac	Red Chac of the East
Sác Xib Chac	White Chac of the North
Ek Xib Chac	Black Chac of the West
Kan Xib Chac	Yellow Chac of the South



THE MAYAN GODS AND GODDESSES (continued)

Yun Kaax: He is the god of maize (corn). He is also the god of all agriculture. Pictures always show him as a young man. He is either carrying a plant or has a plant as a headdress.



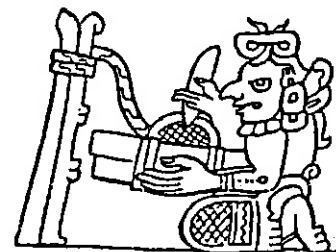
Ah Puch: He is the god of death. Carvings of him show a skull and skeleton.



Ek Chaub: He is the god of trade. Mayan artists painted his face black and he had a drooping lower lip.



Ix Chel: She is the moon and rainbow goddess. She is also the goddess of weaving and childbirth.



Buluc Chabtan: He is the god of war and human sacrifice. Carvings of him show a black line around his eye and down onto his cheek. He is at times shown with a torch or weapon in his hand.

