

Art of Spanish Colonial South America

Week 2 questions

1. Derivation of the word “llama,” referring to the Andean ruminant animal.

I checked several sources, which indicate that this is a Quechua word. So it is not related to the Spanish words “llama” (flame) or “llamar” (to call).

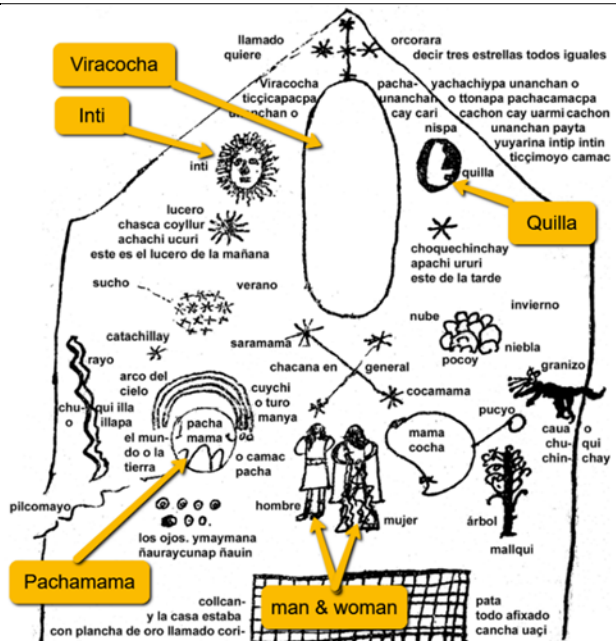
2. Explanation of Andean cosmology

This part of our understanding of Andean cosmology is based on an image located on a wall in the Coricancha (temple of the sun) in Cuzco.

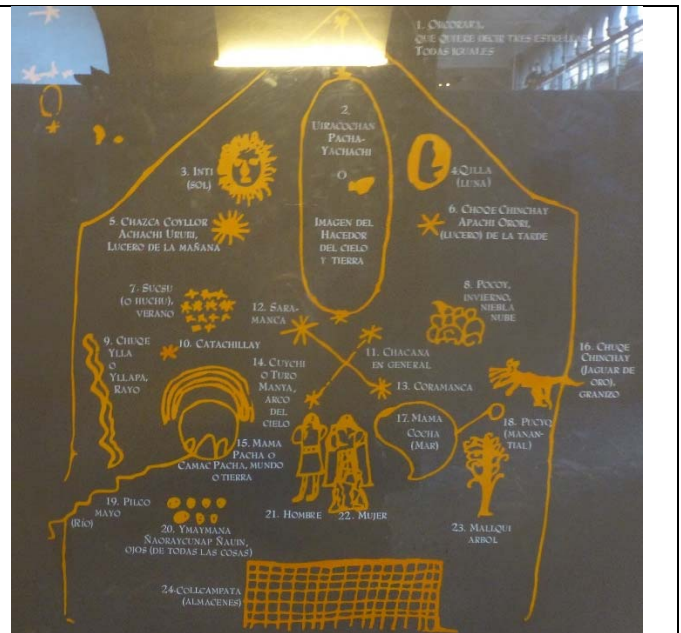
You can see this image if you visit the Coricancha in Cuzco.



This image was reproduced in a drawing by Juan de Santa Cruz Pachacuti Yamqui in his book, *Relación de las antigüedades deste Reyno del Perú* (Account of the Antiquities of This Kingdom of Perú) from around 1613. This drawing, in a slightly marked-up form, was shown in class.

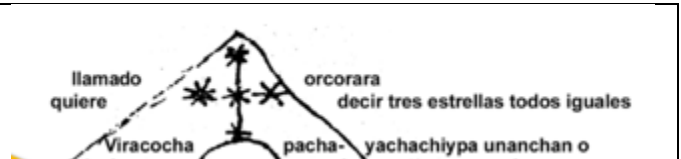


In the Coricancha, there is a bilingual (Spanish/English) wall text that explains the elements of the image; along with a drawing of the image with the elements identified in Spanish.



The cosmological elements are as follows. There are, or may be, other meanings than those given here. Note that most of the indigenous words are Quechua. A few are Aymara (an ethnic group conquered by the Inca.) The sense of the whole is an integrated cosmos of complementary parts, all under a supreme deity who is not figurative. This is not a polytheistic system, as that is usually understood (or misunderstood) by its Christian interpreters.

1. Orcorara (this is an Aymara word meaning “herd of male animals”). A constellation in the night sky.

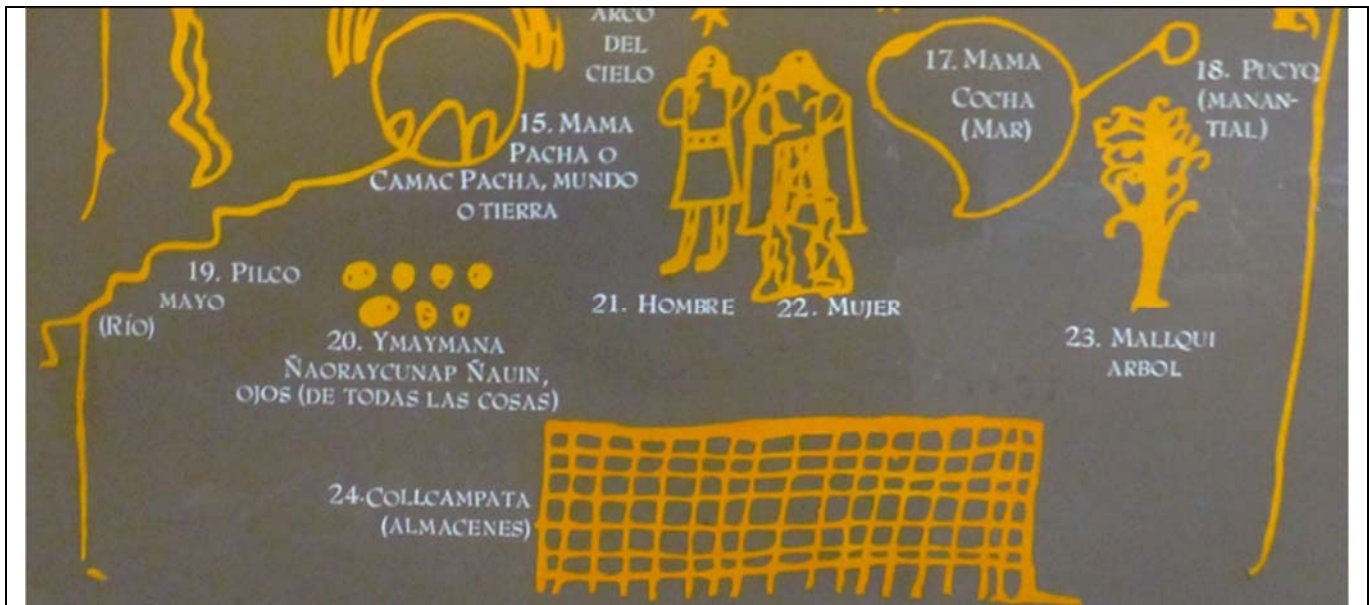




2. Viracocha. The supreme deity, symbolized in the prehispanic Coricancha by a golden plate.
3. Inti. The sun god.
4. Quilla. The moon goddess, wife of the sun.
5. Chazca Coyllor. Curly star or bright star (in Quechua) or Grandfather star (in Aymara). Planet Venus as the morning star.
6. Choque Chinchay. Golden feline (in Quechua), or grandmother star (in Aymara). A planet, possibly Venus as the evening star.
7. Sucusu. "To be ill or weak." The constellation of the Pleiades.
8. Pocoy. "The season when crops ripen." The rainy season (December-January).



9. Illapa. The god of thunder and lightning.
10. Catachillay. A constellation representing a female llama with her kid.
11. Chacana. "Bridge" or "crossbeam." The three stars in the belt of the constellation Orion.
- 12 & 13. Saramanca. Pot of corn. & Coramanca. Pot of herbs.
14. Cuychi. Rainbow, emblem of the Inca dynasty.
15. Pachamama. Mother earth, earth goddess.
16. Chuque Chinchay. Golden feline. Mythical creature represented in a star or constellation. (See also number 6.)



17. Mama Cocha. Mother sea. Goddess who provides fish and food. Could refer to the Pacific Ocean or to Lake Titicaca.
18. Pucyo. Water spring.
19. Pilcomayo. River of many colors, referring to a particular river (which river is not known).
20. Ymaymana ñaoraycunap ñauiñ. "Eyes of all kinds of things." An uncertain reference, possibly to germinated seeds related to the fertility of Pachamama.
- 21 & 22. Man and Woman
23. Mallqui. Tree or ancestor mummy (probably because in ancient times trees were venerated as ancestors).
24. Collcanpata. Place or terrace of granaries. Refers to lands assigned to provide grain to the Coricancha; could also refer to the constellation of the Pleiades.