We have discovered a new ruin. This temple is remarkably imposing. One can easily understand that it was meant to induce a sense of fear and foreboding. Or perhaps that is my own emotions. I am not too proud to admit that there is something unsettling about this new temple, though I can not determine exactly why that is. But my wife and I have both decided it is best to examine it first before allowing Kira to join us.

From what I can understand, it appears that the locals were able to tame local wildlife and train them to perform tasks they themselves were unsuited for. Though they tend to refer to it in a more spiritual connection, as if their souls were linked to their animal companions. Typical primitive superstitions.

The religion of these people is an interesting look into how their society functions. A polytheistic religion, but their deities are based on local wildlife. They seem to have a respect for nature that is unlike anything else I’ve ever seen.

It seems that temples each had a god it was dedicated to, but that the temple god could enslave other gods to defend their temple. These battles were the stuff of legends, often coupled with storms or earthquakes. These are likely the stories that came up to explain natural occurrences that locals had no other frame of reference for.

The fire jaguar god, Ak'b'al, is their god of the underworld and war. This isn’t analogous to the western idea of the “devil.” It seems this god was respected for guarding the world of the living from threats underground.

These people also worshiped a crocodile god called Cipactli. They believed that the world existed on the back of this crocodile, who was resting in a pool of water lilies. This leads to many lesser gods that resemble the greater deity that filled various roles. The one I keep finding referenced here is Nohochacyum, who seems to be a god of protection.

A most interesting find, this temple seems to be dedicated to some kind of trickster god. But I’m not sure if I’m translating correctly. It seems to refer to this temple being more of a prison than a place of worship. I’ll have to find more information to really determine the true purpose.

It seems my original interpretation was wrong. Ak’b’al and Nohochacyum weren’t enslaved to protect this temple. They were placed as guards. This temple was indeed a prison for the trickster god and the others were imprisoned as well to make sure that no one released it.

One of the defenses the gods determined to imprison the trickster put into place was the temple itself. It is called a temple of illusions. If the trickster couldn’t trust what he was seeing, he would be unable to use his powers to escape. Seems like dodgy logic to me, but these are mythical beings after all.

This story is fascinating. Apparently the trickster played a role in a feud between the sun god and the moon goddess and that was why he was imprisoned. He was sealed away in this room with the rest of the temple serving to keep anyone from coming to free him. There’s a depiction here of the moon goddess holding the trickster god, a rabbit. . .