Bosses

Tlaltecuhtli (pronounced Tlal-teh-koo-tlee and sometimes spelled Tlaltecutli) is the name of the monstrous earth god among the [Aztec](https://www.thoughtco.com/the-aztec-empire-of-central-mexico-170039). Tlaltecuhtli has both feminine and masculine attributes, although she is most often represented as a female deity. Her name means "The one who gives and devours life", and she represents the earth and the sky, and was one of the gods in the [Aztec pantheon](https://www.thoughtco.com/deities-of-mexica-mythology-170042) most hungry for human sacrifice.

**The Tlaltecuhtli Myth**

According to Aztec mythology, at the [origin of time](https://www.thoughtco.com/aztec-creation-myth-169337) (the "First Sun"), the gods [Quetzalcoatl](https://www.thoughtco.com/quetzalcoatl-feathered-serpent-god-169342) and [Tezcatlipoca](https://www.thoughtco.com/tezcatlipoca-aztec-god-of-night-172964) began to create the world. But the monster Tlaltecuhtli destroyed everything they were creating. The gods turned themselves into giant serpents and wrapped their bodies around the goddess until they tore Tlaltecuhtli's body into two pieces.

One piece of Tlaltecuhtli's body became the earth, mountains and rivers; her hair became trees and flowers; her eyes the caves and wells. The other piece became the vault of the sky, although in this early time no sun or stars were embedded in it yet. Quetzalcoatl and Tezcatlipoca gave Tlatecuhtli the gift of providing humans with whatever they need from her body: but it was a gift that didn't make her happy.

**Sacrifice**

Thus in Mexica mythology, Tlaltecuhtli represents the surface of the earth, but she was said to be angry, and she was the first of the gods to demand the hearts and blood of humans for her unwilling sacrifice.

Some versions of the myth say Tlaltecuhtli would not stop crying and bear fruit (plants and other growing things) unless she was moistened with the blood of men.

Tlaltecuhtli was also believed to devour the sun every night just to give it back every morning. However, the fear that this cycle could be interrupted for some reason, such as during eclipses, produced instability among the Aztec population and was often the cause of even more ritual [human sacrifices](https://www.thoughtco.com/meaning-of-aztec-sacrifice-169338).

### Tlaltecuhtli Images

Tlaltecuhtli is depicted in [codices](https://www.thoughtco.com/codex-ancient-books-of-prehispanic-americas-170521) and stone monuments as a horrific monster, often in a squatting position and in the act of giving birth. She has several mouths over her body filled with sharp teeth, which were often spurting blood. Her elbows and knees are human skulls and in many images she is portrayed with a human being hanging between her legs. In some images she is portrayed as a caiman or alligator.

Her open mouth symbolizes the passage to the underworld inside of the earth, but in many images her lower jaw is missing, torn away by Tezcatlipoca to prevent her from sinking beneath the waters. She often wears a skirt of crossed bones and skulls with a great star sign border, symbol of her primordial sacrifice; she is often depicted with large teeth, goggle-eyes and a flint-knife tongue.

It is interesting to note that in the Aztec culture, many sculptures, particularly in the case of representations of Tlaltecuhtli, were not meant to be seen by humans. These sculptures were carved and then set in a hidden place or carved on the underside of stone boxes and chacmool sculptures. These objects were made for the gods and not for humans, and, in Tlaltecuhtli's case, that the images faced the earth they represent.

<https://www.ancient.eu/Tlaltecuhtli/>

<https://www.thoughtco.com/tlaltecuhtli-the-monstrous-aztec-goddess-169344>

**Boss Stages**

1. **Action:** Devour Light. (Lunges to eat player/Lamp).
2. **Enemies:** No enemies but instead she sucks the life from the area (making the floor crumble) drawing the player in close to her.
3. **Puzzle:** The player must reflect their light to burn a rope off of a cage holding people ready for sacrifice. Once this is done the Boss will devour them, and fall down sated with her mouth open so the player can progress into the underworld.

[Huitzilopochtli](https://www.ancient.eu/Huitzilopochtli/) (pron. Huit-zi-lo-pocht-li) or ‘Hummingbird of the South’ or ‘Blue Hummingbird on the Left’ was one of the most important deities in the [Aztec](https://www.ancient.eu/Aztec/) [pantheon](https://www.ancient.eu/Pantheon/) and for the Méxica he was the supreme god. He was the god of the sun and [war](https://www.ancient.eu/war/), considered the patron of the Aztec capital Tenochtitlán and associated with [gold](https://www.ancient.eu/gold/), warriors and rulers. His calendar name was Ce Técpatl (1 Flint) and his nagual or animal spirit was the eagle.

### Worship of Huitzilopochtli

Huitzilopochtli’s rival as the most important Aztec god was Tezcatlipoca but at his [city](https://www.ancient.eu/city/) of Tenochtitlán the god was supreme. The focal point of worship to Huitzilopochtli was at the Aztec capital where he had a wooden statue and shrine alongside that of Tláloc atop the Temple Mayor [pyramid](https://www.ancient.eu/pyramid/) or Hueteocalli. The god’s temple was on the south side and marked the winter solstice and dry season - the traditional time of war - and the steps leading to Huitzilopochtli’s temple were painted bright red to symbolise blood and war.

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**Human sacrifices were offered to feed the great god of war.**

As Huitzilopochtli was such an important deity he was the beneficiary of human sacrifices whose blood would feed and strengthen the god. Victims usually came from war captives and they were led to the top of the Temple Mayor, their hearts were removed, they were skinned and the corpse decapitated and dismembered, perhaps in homage to Coyolxauhqui and her similar fate at the hands of Huitzilopochtli. The torso of the victim was flung down the steps of the pyramid to land at the base where, significantly, stone-carved snakes recall Mt. Coatepec and a massive round stone depicting a dismembered Coyolxauhqui was found. Meanwhile priests and nobles ate parts of the sacrificed flesh with the heart being most prized. In a more picturesque homage to Huitzilopochtli, flowers and quail eggs were offered to the god, images of him were strung with garlands and women danced the traditional serpent dance.

Huitzilopochtli was worshipped in the ceremony of Panquetzaliztli in the month of the same name when the god’s birth on Mt. Coatepec was commemorated and he was also celebrated during the month of Toxcatl when an effigy or tzoalli made from dough using the amaranth plant and dressed as Huitzilopochtli was taken to the god’s temple in a great procession and then eaten.

**[[](https://www.ancient.eu/image/1439/)](https://www.ancient.eu/image/1439/)**

[Temple Mayor, Tenochtitlan](https://www.ancient.eu/image/1439/)

The Méxica, especially, revered Huitzilopochtli as they believed he had led them from the legendary Aztlán cave in the northwest desert on a protracted journey that eventually led to their new capital Tenochtitlán. During this migration priests had carried a huge idol of the god who whispered directions, gave the Méxica their name and promised great wealth and prosperity if he was suitably worshipped. Along the way the Méxica settled at different spots, none of which really suited their purpose. A decisive event in the migration was the rebellion incited by Copil, son of Huitzilopochtli’s sister Malinalxochitl. This was in revenge for the goddess’ abandonment by the Méxica but with Huitzilopochtli’s help Copil was killed. The great war god instructed that the rebel’s heart be thrown as far as possible into Lake [Texcoco](https://www.ancient.eu/Texcoco/) and where it landed would indicate the place the Méxica should build their new home, the precise spot being marked by an eagle sitting on a prickly-pear cactus. This is exactly what came to pass and the new capital of Tenochtitlán was built.

### Representations in Art

There are few surviving depictions of Huitzilopochtli, probably because the god was relatively young in the Aztec pantheon and he was typically sculpted in wood rather than stone so that there are no surviving monumental representations of him. When he is represented, Huitzilopochtli may be depicted carrying his snake-shaped spear-thrower (atl-atl) which represents the fire-serpent Xiuhcóatl. He may also carry a shield, hold feathered arrows or darts and be painted with blue arms and legs. The god could be symbolised by either a hummingbird (huitzilin) - whose feathers he wore in his helmet - or an eagle sitting on a prickly pear cactus holding a snake in one of its talons, an image seen today in the national flag of Mexico.

**Boss Phases**

**One. Action:** Throws spear. Dodge.

**Two. Enemies:** Either stun/avoid summoned eagle.

**Three. Puzzle:** Must reflect light off of shield when he stands defensively to drop ceiling (held up with rope) on his head.