Handbook of Incan Mythology

# Introduction

* Pachacuti→ to change (cuti) space/time (pacha)
* Ruled supposedly →1350
* Forces
  + Earthquakes, lightening, feminine earth → harvest
  + plate techtonics → volcanoes, earthquakes, tsunami
* Geology of Incan Empire
  + Andes mountains → low oxygen levels
  + forested slopes
  + tropical lowlands
  + High featureless plains → panagantiplano, paramo
  + High altitude lakes
  + Streams and rivers → Maranon, ucayali → amazon
  + Deep gorges → bridges (chaca)
  + Semi tropical andean slopes
  + Atacama desert, some things grow via mist
    - River basins, canals
  + Ocean has cold water current → humbolt
  + El Nino → cyclical, kills plankton w/ warm water
    - Floods
  + Swamps
  + Potatoes and maize
  + June and July are cold→ warfare
* Incan Empire
  + Ayllu → community of extended family
    - Called panaca in Cuzco
    - Called Villca on coast
    - Focus on mummified ancestors
    - Different products at different altitudes → verticalness
    - llamas
    - Inca wanted coca (yunca) and fish (coast)
    - Coastals wanted to retain waterfall
* Pre Incan Civilizations in Andes
  + Goes back to 12000 BC → palca indian
  + 7500 BC → Archaic period
    - Domestication of maize, tuber
    - Towards end → cotton preceramic period (formative)
    - 5,000 BC mumufication by chincharros
    - Construction of large complexes → religious rather than cities
    - U shaped structures, interior niches, large plazas for communal gathering, high walls narrow entrances for restructed.
    - Small sunken plazas
  + Iconography → NO pre conquest written language
    - textiles, ceramic, metal, stone, plaster
    - Crossed hands duality
    - Decreased, some dismembered, wearing hats, holding objects.
  + Charin de Huantar 900BC – 200 BC
    - Huge adobe heads, wide nose, pendant iris, fanged mouth
    - Jawless mouth, feline noses, claws, entwined serpents
    - distinctive art style → first, early horizon
      * Horizon→ time of centralized state control → convergent religious and artistic themes
    - Site of pilgrimige
    - Situated weill in mountain pass
  + First intermediate period 200 BC – 550 AD
    - Fanged and staff weilding figures
    - Mache/ mochica (two polities)
      * Huge adobe pyramids of sun and moon
      * Pampa Grange (?)
      * Hydraulic projects, contorl of coastal river vallyes
      * Precious metals and ceramics
      * The Lord of Sipan → Gold, Silver, Copper
      * Ecological disaster
    - Nazca/Paracas (sand blown by wind)
      * High quality woven and embroidered textiles
      * Mummies → arranged in fetal position
      * bottleneck tombs → caverns, square→ necropolis
      * Paracas oculate being → Nasca killer whale
      * Nazca geoglyphs
  + Middle Horizon 550-1000AD
    - Wari → South central peruvian highlands Huamarga(?)
      * state with provincial admin centers → raods, way stations
      * Rectilinear aesthetic
    - Tiahuanaco → bolivia → cult center
      * Stone monoliths, sunken plazas
      * Giants from a previous age built?
      * Staff weilding diety with winged attendants
  + Late intermediate Period 1000-1400
    - Intense warfare lead by siachi → warlike leaders
    - Pucara → hilltop fortification
    - Chan Chan → center of Chimu / Chimor empire
      * Wells were important, running out of fresh waterfallHigh walled admin units, burial platforms, gardens
      * Huge multivalley aquaducts, but may not have actually worked
      * Also concentrated on natural world → animals birds fish
      * Amaru → Andean double headed serpent dragon
* Formation, Expansion and organization of Incan empire
  + - Manco Capac → First Inca
    - Pachacuti → Ninth Inca, rapid territorial gain
    - Viracocha → Eighth Inca, and son Urco abdicated duties
    - Pacacuti won over Chacas, then overhauled everything
    - Tupa Inca Yupanqui, Huayna Capac
    - Subjugated Chimor kingdom 1470s
    - Spanish introduced disease 1520s
      * Huayna Capac and maybe designated heir died
      * Made conflict between Atahualpe and Huascar → fought for tassel, ensign of sovereignty
    - Suyus → Religious Tahua-ntin-suyu (Four united parts)
      * Anti sector, calla, cunti, Chincha
      * Center was temple of the sun
      * Coricancha →”Gold enclosure” sacred precinct in cuzco
      * lines along conceptual lines called coques (?)
    - Wives → principal and secondary
      * maternal side of the family was important
    - elites were formed of pucara → kin based groups that calo cared for mumy of deceased inca
    - New pucara formed after each Inca death
    - Incas by privilege→ allies close to cuzco
    - Form of Cuzco → rectangular towards streams
      * trapezoidal plaza, sacred temples, sacsahuaman
      * private estates outside of the city
      * ollantuyfambo, pisac, machu pichu
    - Subjugation
      * Warfare, reciprocity -. wari and taihhuaraco had controlled large areas before
      * reused roads and infrastructure
      * Mit'a → turn of service= labor tax
      * Tocoyrikoq →> provincal governors
      * Curacas → Non inca chiefs of ethnic groups
      * Collcas → storehouses
      * Produce retained in the name of the sun/moon/incas
      * Chica → maize drink given to mit'a workers
      * For tax, Curacas would receive luxuries (textiles)
      * Moved people and sacred objects to capitol
        + Especially sons of nobles→ ensure loyalty
      * Huaca → Sacred object
      * Yanacona → Inca selected retainers
      * Aclla → Chosen woman who went to cults
        + Acllahuasi → acllahouses
        + Control over reproduction of ethnic groups
      * Mitmaq → curaca and community displaced as colonists
    - Heirarchy
      * Decimal units ranging up to 40k
      * Males expected to serve in the mility 25-50
      * Quipo→ knotted colored string suspended from central cord
      * Runa-Quipo-Camayoc→ census beaurocrat
      * Hatun-Runa→ great populace
* Concepts of creation: Myths of origin
  + Viracocha the creator→ conTici Viracocha Pachayachachic
    - Emerged from lake titicaca
    - Made a world of giants that lived in moonlight
    - Destroyed them → created a sun and humans
    - Made animals and birds
    - Created in a path following the sun
      * Also followed the river ended at the pacific ocean
    - Trickster → appeared as beggar
    - Could be staff bearing figure
    - Apu Awsangate or Inca King Irkarri→ Mountain Deities
  + Founding Ancestors and places of origin
    - At Macro level believed to be decendent from celestial bodies, lightening dieties and mountain dieties
    - Believed themselves to be children of father sun, mother moon
    - At local level→ protohuman, emerged from pacarinas
      * Pacarinas→ Places of origin. Could be natural features, crag, spring
    - Incas believed ancestors come from a cave Tambo-Toco (Way station window)
    - Ayar→ Founding ancestors
      * First inca Ayar Manco (Manco Capac) Moved through land and shaped area
      * Gave canals/irrigation
    - Mallqui/Munao → mummifies ancestors → founders of indiv Ayllu
    - Huari → central highlands people who believed ancestors became Huanca
    - Chacrayoc → Field protectors
    - Marca – yoe(?) Town protectors
* Deities and Cultural Heroes
  + - Hanan Pacha → Sky/celestial world
    - Ukhu Pacha → Inner earch (also Hurin Pacha)
    - Cay Pacha → World of mankind
    - Deities spaces → local, regional, pan regional, universal
* Celestial, Earth and Mediating Deities
  + - Initially the world was just moonlight
    - Inti→ solar cult idol
    - Quilla → moon, guardian of all female aspects
    - Chasca Qoyllur (?) → venus
    - Dark cloud constellations
    - Pachamama → Earth mother, male and female aspects
    - Cycle of male/female, water cycle
    - k'uychi→ rainbow → double headed serpent Amaru
    - Thunder and lightening deity →returns life back to earth. Rainbows connect all parts of the cosmos
    - Huaca → Sacred thing, diety, mummy, place of origin, natural feature, oracle
  + State vs local
    - Incans attempted to coopt other dieties into pantheon
      * Gave their own higher precidence though
    - Sometimes acceptedd foreign gods
      * Puria Caca was a Huarochiri' diety that was a war god
      * Acceptance helped quell rebellion
* Incan belief system
  + - Duality of cosmos, gendered cosmos, animate cosmos
    - World is full of complementary and dynamic forces
  + Duality of cosmos
    - * Night vs Day/ Sun vs Moon / Sky vs Earth / Above vs Below
      * Gold vs Silver / Wild vs Tame / Richness vs Poor / Solid vs Liquid
    - Humans are the intermediate between earth and sky
    - Lightning = up→ down
    - Rainbow = down → up
  + Gendered Cosmos
    - Male = vertical, femal = horizontal
    - Male = break earth, Female = sow seeds
    - Male = production of pottery, mining, long trading trips
      * Peaks are male
    - Male celestial forces of outsider/ conquerer
    - Animated cosmos
      * Infuses all material things→ textiles natural features, bones of dead
      * World can change to hinder progress
    - Camaqueen(?)/camac/upani/amaya → vivifying essense
    - Camayonc→ (maker?)
    - Santuyoc → Possessing the saint → mastery/ control
    - Saniyoc → Genius
* Reciprocity
  + - Vital essence is manifest in human energy → water/wind/light
    - Water and light channel this force in circle
    - Anyi→ give and take mink'a?
    - Delieved that the rivers flowed down then up again
    - Sun descends through earth to rise again
    - Milky Way = celestial river which draws up moisture to an orbital sun → chaska Mayu
    - Thunder uses this water to make rain
    - Puquio → springs where the amaru is throught to dwell
    - Huayra → wind, believed to live in a cave in high cold puna
    - Important people Manco Capac and Tutoy Quiri wore light reflecting apparel
    - Qoyllur Riti→ glacial ice and solistial sun → collect ice
    - Most powerful concentration of light is lightning
      * Rayo/relampago
    - Qhaqha→ a person struck by lightning
* What happened to Inca
  + - Peru was a name given by the spanish 1520s
    - Cajanarca (1532)→ religious pretext captured Atahualpa and then killed him, demanding gold
    - Went to capitol and split it up
    - Haciendas → spanish estates
    - Ecomienda → royal grants of indian labor
    - Corregidor → magistrate
    - Cabildo → town councilor
    - 1540 conflict between original conquistadors and royalists