



· M A C I H U A T L I ·

Monstrous being that appears at night on the roads to the maniacal women who travel alone on horseback. Its initial appearance is that of a very beautiful woman, with large black eyes, long curly hair and intensely red lips, dressed completely in black or white. It convinces the men to take her, and later, when the man turns to lasciviously contemplate her, the Macihuatl is transfigured in its true form: its head has become the skull of a horse, with rotten flesh and glaring eyes.

Then the Macihuatl clings firmly to the rider, and the horse runs away terrified until all are lost in the distance. The rider will appear later dead and with eyes open or out of their orbits.

According to tradition, the best way to avoid this outcome is to bring, as long as you travel at night, a hat and some mustard seeds. The hat, when shown face up, leaves the Macihuatl astonished, moment that it is necessary to take advantage of to throw the seeds to him. The monster will try in vain to collect them, and it will not stop until dawn, when it will disappear.





Macihuatli is a **NÁHUATL** creature
Current population: 1.725.620
(Náhuatl speakers)



A language of great diffusion in pre-Columbian times, Nahuatl became the most spoken language in Central America during the Mexica Empire (also called Aztec), which adopted it as a lingua franca. During the Spanish occupation the colonial power also used Nahuatl as a communication language with all the indigenous peoples, even propagating it to communities that had never used it. However, the expansion of Spanish was little by little displacing the native languages.

Indigenous peoples, traditionally rural and self-sufficient, preserved their traditions and culture with vigor until the modernizing reforms of the 20th century, especially those that deprived them of their communal lands and threw them into rural wage labor, or overcrowded cities.

Currently Nahuatl, still the first of the indigenous Mexican languages, is spoken only in small self-sufficient rural communities. The Macihuatl, on the other hand, continues to appear on the roads throughout the country.

