



The aztec calendar

La piedra del sol, called the *Aztec Calendar*, its signs and meaning.

This enormous basalt stone, weighing approximate 25 tons and measuring 3.60 m. (11 ½ feet) in diameter, on which the Aztec Calendar is carved, was found on the southeast corner of the "Zocalo" (the Main Square) of Mexico City, on December 17, 1760.

1. *The face of tonatiuh* (the sun).

The lord of the heavens around whom all daily and periodic phenomena of the Universe occurred.

2. *The sign 4 ocelotonatiuh* (the ocelot sun).

First and most remote of the 4 cosmogonic eras, inhabited by giants who had been created by the gods and who did not work the earth. They lived in caves, eating wild fruit and roots and finally were attacked and devoured by wild beasts.

3. *The xochitl day* (flower).
4. *The quiahuitl day* (rain).
5. *The tecpatl day* (obsidian dagger).
6. *The ollin day* (earthquake).
7. *The coscacuahtli day* (bizzard).
8. *The cuauhtli day* (eagle).
9. *The ocelot day* (ocelot).
10. *The acatl day* (sugar cane).
11. *The malinalli day* (grass).
12. *The ozomatli day* (monkey).
13. *The sign of 4 atonatiuh* (water sun).
Signifies the fourth era in which everything was razed by heavy, tempestuous rains which covered the highest mountains. The humans were turned to fish to save them in this universal deluge.
14. *The god tonatiuh* (the sun) in profile.
Emmitting spiral scrolls of smoke in great anger, due to the daily struggle against the god of night. Both gods wore "xiucoatls", the mythical and celestial serpents.
15. *The god xiuthtecutli* (lord of turquoise and god of night).
The nose ring, ear hoop and ornaments proper to this deity, and the half-covered face, indicate the darkness of night.
16. *The sign 4 quiauhtonatiuh* (the fire shower sun).
The third cosmogonic era in which everything was extinguished by a shower of lava and fire. Men were turned into birds which flew out of reach of this calamity.
17. *The itzquintli day* (dog).
18. *The atl day* (water).
19. *The tochtli day* (rabbit).
20. *The mazatl day* (deer).
21. *The miquiztli day* (death).
22. *The coatl day* (snake).
23. *The cuetzpallin day* (lizard).
24. *The calli day* (home).
25. *The ehecatl day* (wind).
26. *The cipactli day* (crocodile).
27. *The sign 4 ehecatonatiuh* (the wind sun).
Second era in which the human race was destroyed by hurricanes. The gods turned men into monkeys that, grasping with all four feet, resisted being swept away by the strong winds.
28. The "V" shaped figures represent rays of sun.
29. The edge of the Aztec Calendar, with the signs of *ilhuicatl*.
30. *Obsidian daggers like sunrays in the diurnal sky.*
31. *The sign of the planet Venus in the diurnal sky.*
32. *The stars in the nocturnal sky.*