

Creation of the Maya

Art of Guatemala

Rebecca Hinson

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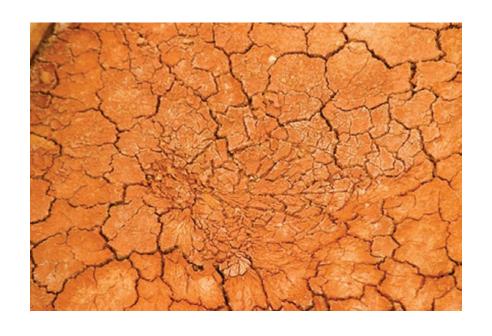
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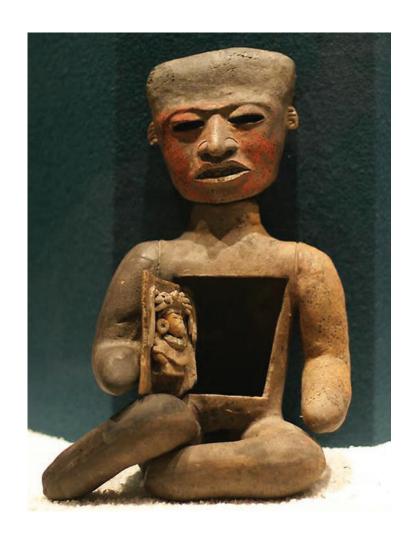
The ancient Maya believed that, long ago, their gods created the earth.



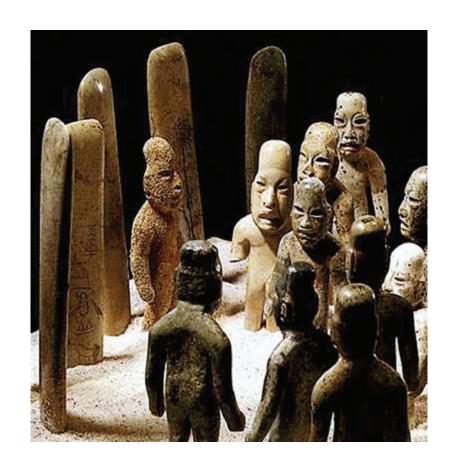
The earth was beautiful, but there were no people to enjoy it.



So the gods took clay and formed the first people,



but when the rains came the clay dissolved and washed away.



Next, the gods carved people out of wood, but their hearts were hard and they could not love, so the gods destroyed them.



As the gods planned their next creation, a bobcat,



a coyote,



a parrot,



and a crow appeared. "Come with us," they said. "We'll show you what to do."



They led the gods to the villages, Paxil and Cayalá, where there were fields of white corn,



black corn,



and yellow corn.