

Legend of the 5th Sun

After creating the four gods for the four suns, the supreme creator god gave birth to 1,600 more gods. Each god was a star in the heavens. The four creator gods then realized that a fifth sun was needed, however, this could only be done by sacrificing another god. The four creator gods built a huge fire, but after 3 days none of them were willing to make the sacrifice. Finally they decided that it had to be one of two other gods, Nanahuatl or Teucciztecatl. Nanahuatl, sometimes called Huitzilopochtli, was very poor and ugly in fact his whole body was covered with sores – over 78 of them. The creator gods did not want to choose him because of this. The other god, Teucciztecatl ran four times toward the fire, but was too afraid to sacrifice himself. Nanahuatl then bravely threw himself into the fire becoming the sun. Teucciztecatl seeing this finally gained enough courage and threw himself into the fire becoming the moon.

The four creator gods then looked in all four directions but could not see the new sun. Later they discovered that Nanahuatl would not rise unless he received the hearts and blood of other gods for his food and drink. This angered Lord Morning Star the fiercest of the 1,600 gods who then challenged Nanahuatl to a duel. Nanahuatl destroyed Lord Morning Star, in a battle lasting 7 hours, who was then cast into the underworld. The 1,600 gods then agreed to sacrifice themselves so that Nanahuatl could be seen rising in the east each day.

Questions:

1. How many gods in total did the supreme creator god birth? (1604)
2. For how many days did the gods refuse to jump in the fire?
3. Who were the two gods who decided to jump in the fire?
4. How many sores were on Nanahuatl's body?
5. What did Teucciztecatl become?
6. What is the name of the god who challenged Nanahuatl?
7. How long did their battle last?