

## **Expanded Glossary: Child of the Flower-song People**

*anthropologist*: one who studies human races, societies and cultures

*atole* (ah-TOH-lee): a porridge made of corn flour

*Aztecs* (AS-teks): The Nahuatl's ancestors, the powerful Aztecs, consisted of several Nahuatl speaking groups. The center of the Aztec (1300-1521 CE) empire was located in what is now Mexico City. They were powerful warriors and excelled in trade, architecture, art, agriculture, astronomy, and poetry. Their myths, religion and poetry were laden with metaphor and layered meaning. Spanish conquistadors and indigenous enemy groups led by Hernán Cortés defeated the Aztec empire (1519—1521). Smallpox carried by the Spanish killed additional thousands of indigenous people. These Nahuatl speaking groups did not use the term “Aztec” to refer to themselves.

*frijoles* (free-HOH-les): beans

*Fernando Horcasitas* (fehr-NAN-doh ohr -kah-SEE-tahs): (1924/1925 – 1980)  
Professor of anthropology who investigated, taught and wrote many books on Nahua culture and language.

*Iztaccihuatl* (ees-tahk-SEE-wah-tul): “Sleeping Lady” or “White Woman” volcanic mountain range in the highlands of Central Mexico, east of Milpa Alta

*Lord of Chalma*: The Aztecs worshipped many gods who lived in sacred caves and mountains. After the Spanish conquest, priests established Catholic churches in some of the same sacred places, including Chalma. They replaced Aztec gods and relics with Catholic symbols and teachings. Through worshipping the Christian Lord of Chalma, the people were able to keep some of their Nahua customs.

*maguey* (mah-GAY) An agave plant

*Malintzin* (mah-LEET-seen): An enslaved Popoluca woman, Malintzin (also known as Malinalli, Malinche, or Marina) (c. 1496 or c. 1501 – c. 1529) acted as interpreter and advisor to conquering Spaniard Hernán Cortes and gave birth to his son. People hold conflicting views of Malintzin as betrayer of Mexico or, in giving birth to a metizo child (of Native and Spanish blood), as the “mother” of modern Mexico.

*metate* (meh-TAH-teh): flat grindstone

*Mexican Revolution (1910-1920)*: Led by many men seeking to rule Mexico, the

revolution was a revolving door of presidents and rebels, who also fought each other for control. The revolution began with several efforts to get rid of President Porfirio Díaz, who ruled the country from 1876-1880 and 1884-1911. During the war, Milpa Alta became a center point for the revolutionary Emiliano Zapata, a Nahuatl speaker, who fought for the peasants and land reforms against federal forces. But Milpa Alta suffered under federal forces and both revolutionary leaders Zapata and Venustiano Carranza's armies. These factions forced people to give them their food, money, and shelter. They killed those who didn't follow orders and burned homes and other buildings. While fighting Zapata's men, Carranza's army massacred most of the men and boys of Milpa Alta in 1916.

*Milpa Alta* (MEEL-pah AL-tah): (High Field/Cornfield) is the name of a town, now a municipality of Mexico City

*Nahua* (NAH-wah): the Aztec people

*Nahuatl* (NAH-wah-tul): the Aztec language

*pilgrimage*: journey to a religious place

*Oxtoteotl* (Osh-toh-TEH-oh-tul): the Dark Lord of the Cave was represented by a man-sized idol believed to have healing and magical powers found in a cave near Chalma. The indigenous people made pilgrimages Oxtoteotl over difficult trails, wearing flowers, and bathing in a sacred spring before entering the cave. Different versions explain how this figure was transformed into an image of a black Christ on a cross, which helped convert the native people to Christianity.

*Popocatepetl* (poh-poh-kah-TEH-peh-tul): "Smoking Mountain," a volcano in Central Mexico southeast of Milpa Alta, near Iztaccihuatl

*popote* (poh POH teh): broom plant (Luz used the word in this way. Modern translation is for drinking straw)

*Teuhtli* (TEWT-lee): Teuhtli is an extinct volcano that is one of geographical boundaries and a symbol of Milpa Alta. There are many legends about the god it represents.

*Tepozton* (teh-POS-ton): Tepozton means “child of the mountain.” In a Nahua story, a fisherman who found this half human and half-god baby floating on a river gave him this name because he wore a necklace of a stone only found in the mountain.

*Xochicuicatl* (shos-chee-KWEE-kah-tul) A Nahua word for poetry, which is translated literally as “floricanto” in Spanish and “flower-song” in English.