

# The crocodile in the pre-hispanic cosmivision of Mexico

Ricardo Adrián Ojeda Adame\*<sup>1</sup> and Helios Hernández Hurtado<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Centro Universitario de la Costa Sur, Universidad de Guadalajara, Autlán de Navarro, Mexico.  
(ricardoadrian.ojeda@alumnos.udg.mx)

<sup>2</sup>Centro Universitario de la Costa, Universidad de Guadalajara, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.  
(helios@cuc.udg.mx)

*Abstract:* The pre-Hispanic myth tells us: “In the beginning, there were only chaotic waters, home of a large crocodile, who was sacrificed by the solar gods, from his body, the world was created, and the time began, however, he will destroy the world at the end of time”. This fundamental myth has the clue to understand, the role of the crocodile in prehispanic cultures, role that has mostly studies by an anthropological perspective. So, using that information we propose a theoretical approach to their understanding. The myth state that the violent confluence between two opposite qualities, to create a third unifying one, it is this union that creates life and therefore death, it is the union of the hot with the humid, of the masculine with the feminine, of the divine with the material, the sun whit the earth, fundamental stone of the pre-Hispanic cosmivision. With this key, the role of the crocodile emerges as a symbol of fertility, of the humid, of earth, of the nocturnal and also of dead; this is antagonist with the sun, which is warm and dry, but indispensable to create life, reason why we can see the crocodile as the beginning and end of the sunstone. Thanks to this decoding, we can understand the other mythical representations, like the relationship between the crocodiles and the corn (as we can see in the Codex Borgia), with Tlaloc and with the Earth goddesses (like Tlaltecuhltli). Also allows us to know the relationship whit the Mayan cosmic tree, the place of communication between the underworld and the overworld. In conclusion, the role of the crocodile must be re-interpreted to give him her true place in the pre-Hispanic cosmivision, a place it shares with such important animals as the eagle or the jaguar. This mythological analysis gives us an important tool to create identity, an indispensable condition for cultural and biological conservation.

*Key words:* Cipactli, Ain, Mythology, History

*Type of presentation:* Oral

*Thematic Area:* Socio-economic Issues (P10: Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities: Perception and Culture)