

# The REAL Story of COATLICUE and Her Children: The Moon, The Sun, and all 400 of Her Stars

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**SETTING:** On a hill in Coatepec, México

**TIME:** Before the year CE-ACATL, 1519 AD

## **CAST OF CHARACTERS:**

**COATLICUE** {coh-ah-TLEE-coeh}: Mother Earth; loving mom; well-grounded

**COYOLXAUHQUI** {coh-yohl-SHAU-kee}: MEXICA (Aztec) Energy of the Moon; teenager; thinks SHE knows best

**HUITZIL** {wee-TSEE-l}: hummingbird; sneaky; mischievous

**HUITZILOPOCHTLI** {wee-tsee-loh-POCH-tlee}: MEXICA (Aztec) Energy of the Sun; teenager; only speaks Spanish; thinks HE knows best

**OMECIHUATL** {oh- meh-SEE-wah-tl}: MEXICA (Aztec) Energy of Creation; grandmother; silly

**OMETECUHTLI** {oh- meh-teh-COO-tlee}: MEXICA (Aztec) Energy of Creation; grandfather; funny

**ENSEMBLE OF 400 STARS:** chorus; loyal to COYOLXAUHQUI

## **Playwright's Notes**

This play is to be performed with **dignity** and **respect**, as if in ceremony. The characters, which to many can be considered gods and goddesses, represent energies that are venerated still 'til this day by many indigenous people of Anahuac. In addition, the languages and vernacular dialects used in this play: Nahuatl, Spanish, English, and Spanglish should be embraced and pronounced correctly without stereotypical accents. It should also be noted

that all elements of this play including dances, songs, props, masks, puppets, drums, and regalia should be as close to the original ones used in Mexica (Aztec) ceremonies. Lastly, all participating in this play should most importantly, **have fun!**

**MEANING AND PRONUNCIATION KEY for NAHUATL WORDS:**

**CE-ACATL {Ce}-{ah-CAH-tl}**: year 1-Reed; year Hernan Cortez entered Mexico

**CHIMALLI {ch-ee-ma-LEE}**: shield

**CIHUATL {sEE-wa-t}**: woman

**COATLICUE {coh-ah-TLEE-cooeh}**: Mother Earth

**COYOLXAUHQUI {coh-yohl-SHAU-kee}**: MEXICA (Aztec) Energy of the Moon

**CUEITL {cu-EE-tl}**: skirt

**HUEHUETEOTL {weh-weh-teh-otl}**: drum

**HUITZIL {wee-TSEE-l}**: hummingbird

**HUITZILOPOCHTLI {wee-tsee-loh-POCH-tlee}**: MEXICA (Aztec) Energy of the Sun

**MEXICA {meh-SHEE-ka}**: Aztecs

**MICTLAN {mEEk-lawn}**: MEXICA (Aztec) underworld

**OLLIN {o-LEEN}**: movement

**OMECIHUATL {oh- meh-SEE-wah-tl}**: MEXICA (Aztec) Energy of Creation; “Lady of Duality”

**OMETECUHTLI {oh- meh-teh-COO-tlee}**: MEXICA (Aztec) Energy of Creation; “Lord of Duality”

**OMETEOTL {oh- meh-TEO-tl}**: MEXICA (Aztec) Energy of Duality

**POPOXCOMITL {po-po-sh-co-MEE-tl}**: MEXICA ceremonial incense burner

**TEOTLACHCO {teotlah-CH-co}**: place where the MEXICA (Aztec) game of soccer is played

**TONANTZIN {toh-nahn'-SEEN}**: Mother Earth; COATLICUE

**TLACHCO {tlah-CH-co}**: MEXICA (Aztec) game of soccer

**SCENE 1: CE**

**(Opening Ceremony- A POPOXCOMITL sits center stage lit with the incense of tree sap or *copal* burning. The HUEHUETEOTL and conch shell will begin to sound to the beat of the acknowledgement of the 6 directions: east, west, south, north, Father Sky, Mother Earth. Each will prompt a different character to enter. OMECIHUATL and OMETECUHTLI walk on stage last)**

OMECIHUATL: According to our MEXICA ancestors, earth was considered the mother that gives sustenance to all of humanity...

ENSEMBLE OF 400 STARS: *Madre Tierra*  
Fertility  
Harmony  
Protection  
*Amor*  
TONANZIN  
Purity  
Mother Earth  
*Naturaleza*  
Inspiration  
Balance  
COATLICUE

**(COATLICUE walks on stage with a broom sweeping)**

OMETECUHTLI: ...she gives life, nurtures and expects nothing in return other than respect. HOWEVER, when DISRESPECTED, especially from her own children, has to restore balance by ANY MEANS NECESSARY.

OMECIHUATL: One morning on the hill of Coatepec, Mexico COATLICUE decided to sweep the front porch of her home. When suddenly, HUITZIL, a hummingbird, circled her head and began to flirt with her...

HUITZIL: Do you like my feathers?

COATLICUE: ¿Qué?  
HUITZIL: Do you like my feathers?

COATLICUE: Ay, I'm sorry, *pero* I'm really busy right now and-

HUITZIL: You mean not even a little bit

**(COATLICUE blushes)**

COATLICUE: ¡AY! FINE! I like your feathers. Now *compermisito*, but I have to finish sweeping because I am celebrating a very special day for my daughter COYOLXAUHQUI. She became a CIHUATL today!

**(HUITZIL being sneaky)**

HUITZIL: A young woman huh?

COATLICUE: Yes, a CIHUATL. She is now able to bring me lots of *nietos*, if you know what I mean.

HUITZIL: **(Mischievously)** Ahhhh, you mean she can bring you grandchildren!

COATLICUE: ¡AY! *SIN VERGUENZA, Orale*, get out of here!

HUITZIL: Ok, Ok, how about I leave her a present?

COATLICUE: What kind of present?

HUITZIL: Some of my beautiful feathers of course! But, do not forget to give them to her before nightfall, as they have VERY SPECIAL POWERS.

COATLICUE: What kind of SPECIAL POWERS?

HUITZIL: Just make sure to give them to her. And whatever you do, DO NOT PUT THEM IN YOUR CUEITL!

**(HUITZIL flies away)**

COATLICUE: WAIT! ¡ESPERA! What kind of special powers? But I don't have anywhere else to put them! Ay, OH WELL, *¡pues ni modo!*

OMECIHUATL: COATLICUE continued sweeping until the sun went down and forgot about what HUITZIL told her NOT to do. Nightfall approached and COATLICUE put the feathers close to her heart and in her CUEITL for safe keeping.

**(As COATLICUE continues sweeping, COYOLXAUHQUI walks up to COATLICUE in a fit of rage)**

COYOLXAUHQUI: MOOOOOOOM!!!! WHAT IN MICTLAN IS HAPPENING TO ME! My womb feels as if a thousand snakes are living inside of me!

COATLICUE: Now, now *mija*, you are a CIHUATL now and have the power to give life.

COYOLXAUHQUI: Yeah well, I don't want to give life.

COATLICUE: ¡QUE! What about my *nietos*? I deserve to have grandchildren!

COYOLXAUHQUI: UGH! but I'm only 4.53 billion years old and I have my whole life ahead of me

**(COATLICUE suddenly feels VERY sick. The HUEHUETEOTL sounds.)**

COYOLXAUHQUI: What's wrong Mom?

COATLICUE: I don't know I-

**(COATLICUE begins to throw up. The HUEHUETEOTL sounds.)**

COYOLXAUHQUI: Mom, are you ok?

COATLICUE: Yes *mija*, it must have been the *tamal* and the *atole* I had this morning. Didn't settle well with my stomach, I guess.

**(COATLICUE slowly begins to grow a big belly. The HUEHUETEOTL sounds.)**

COYOLXAUHQUI: MOM! Your stomach! What's happening to you

OMETECUHTLI: COATLICUE continued to drastically transform in front of her daughter, and in a state of shock had a sudden epiphany of her morning conversation with HUITZIL.

**(HUITZIL off stage)**

HUITZIL: And whatever you do, DO NOT PUT THEM IN YOUR CUEITL!

COATLICUE: **(In suspense)** *Ay, no puede ser.* IT CAN'T BE! I CAN'T BE-

COYOLXAUHQUI: You can't be what Mom...

**(COATLICUE removes her hands from her womb and exposes herself as if ready to give birth)**

COYOLXAUHQUI: MOTHER! **(In astonishment)** OHHHHHHH, are you pregnant? How did this happen? **(Beat)** Oh, I'm gonna tell!

**(COYOLXAUHQUI runs off to tell her 400 brothers)**

COATLICUE: Wait *mija!* **(to COYOLXAUHQUI)**

OMECIHUATL: COATLICUE looked down at her womb and realized that she was about to give birth. HUITZILOPOCHTLI began to speak to her from within.

**(HUITZILOPOCHTLI off stage)**

HUITZILOPOCHTLI: *No temas madre, yo sé lo que tengo que hacer.*

COATLICUE: I do not fear what is to come, *mijo*, I just hope you will do what is right.

**(The MEXICA *Danza* of CHICHIMECA sounds)**

**SCENE 2: OME**

**(COYOLXAUHQUI returns with the ENSEMBLE OF 400 STARS behind her as if in a stand-off against COATLICUE)**

COYOLXAUHQUI: Brothers! SEE, I told you. Our mother has been unfaithful to Father Sky and now she must be punished!

ENSEMBLE OF 400 STARS: Who has done this to her?  
*¿Quién le ha hecho esto?*  
*¡No puede ser!*  
It can't be true!  
Why did you do it mother?  
*¿Mamá, por qué lo hiciste?*  
It can't be!  
*¡No puede ser!*  
Let's punish her!  
*¡Vamos!*

**(COYOLXAUHQUI and the ENSEMBLE OF 400 STARS charge towards COATLICUE and HUITZILOPOCHTLI comes between them ready to fight and protect his mother)**

HUITZILOPOCHTLI: *¡NO!*

- COYOLXAUHQUI: Who are you?
- HUITZILOPOCHTLI: **(In an exaggerated presumptuous tone)** Yo soy HUITZILOPOCHTLI, la energía del sol y el MEJOR guerrero en cualquier batalla.
- COYOLXAUHQUI: HA! You say you are the energy of the sun and the best warrior in any battle? **(Laughs)** WELL YOU DON'T STAND A CHANCE! I am the Warrior COYOLXAUHQUI, the Energy of the Moon and these are my 400 brothers, the Stars, and what our mother has done is wrong, and therefore must be PUNISHED!
- OMETECUHTLI: HUITZILOPOCHTLI and COYOLXAUHQUI, began to chase each other around COATLICUE. When suddenly, COATLICUE got upset that she created an earthquake so strong that both HUITZILOPOCHTLI and COYOLXAUHQUI couldn't keep their balance and fell to the ground
- COATLICUE: ¡BASTA YA! Stop it, both of you! **(Takes a deep breath)** You will have to resolve this like the creators of life.
- COYOLXAUHQUI: How?
- HUITZILOPOCHTLI: ¿Comó?
- COATLICUE: Well, with a good and honest game of TLACHCO.
- COYOLXAUHQUI: WHAT! With a game of soccer!?! Are you kidding me?
- HUITZILOPOCHTLI: ¿Con un juego de fútbol? ¡No manches!
- COATLICUE: ¡Si! HUITZILOPOCHTLI, if you win the game, you will be able to rule the sky whenever you want. COYOLXAUHQUI, if you win the game, you and your *hermanos* may punish me and rule the sky whenever you want. HOWEVER, if either of you cheat, I will decide who will rule the sky. ¿De acuerdo?
- (HUITZILOPOCHTLI and COYOLXAUHQUI look at each other for a few seconds and then look at COATLICUE.)**
- COYOLXAUHQUI: OK, I'm down with that.
- HUITZILOPOCHTLI: De acuerdo.

### SCENE 3: YEI

(In a TEOTLACHCO - Soccer Stadium. OMECIHUATL and OMETECUHTLI are now the announcers of the game)

OMETECUHTLI: Welcome ladies and gentlemen to this evening's COATLICUE Cup! Where the winner of this game of TLACHCO will get to RULE THE SKY! Yes, you heard correctly ladies and gentlemen, RULE THE SKY. HOWEVER, if there is any form of foul play from either of the teams, they will be DISQUALIFIED and have no choice as to when to rule the sky. I am your announcer for this evening, and without further adieu, LET THE COATLICUE CUP BEGIN!

ENSEMBLE OF 400 STARS: YAAAY!!!

HUITZIL: BOOO!!! BOOO!!! HEY! Do you like my feathers? **(Goes around the audience offering his feathers)**

COATLICUE: Ok you two, what's it gonna be, águila o sol? **(Throws coin in the air)**

COYOLXAUHQUI: EAGLE!

HUITZILOPOCHTLI: ¡SOL!

**(HUITZILOPOCHTLI distracts both COYOLXAUHQUI and COATLICUE by gesturing up to the sky switching the coin's position when it lands. HUITZILOPOCHTLI now has the ball. He cheers.)**

ENSEMBLE OF 400 STARS: BOOO!!!

OMECIHUATL: The ball is on the field Ladies and Gentlemen and HUITZILOPOCHTLI has it. WAIT! COYOLXAUHQUI takes it from him. This is getting exciting Ladies and Gentlemen. She is showing her moves. She goes left, she goes right, WAIT, HUITZILOPOCHTLI gets close and takes it back from her.

ENSEMBLE OF 400 STARS: BOOO!!!

HUITZIL: YAAAY!!!

OMETECUHTLI: HUITZILOPOCHTLI has the ball. He's getting closer to the gol, **wait**, COYOLXAUHQUI is catching up to him and, **wait**, HUITZILOPOCHTLI is going for the kick, **wait**,

COYOLXAUHQUI is running in front of him and **WAIT** HUITZILOPOCHTLI has just kicked COYOLXAUHQUI's head instead of the ball and it's, it's, it's **OUTTA HERE!!!!**

ENSEMBLE OF 400 STARS: BOO!!!

HUITZIL: YAAAY!!!

OMETECUHTLI AND  
OMECIHUATL: ¡¡¡GOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOLLLLLLLLLL!!!

Ladies and gentlemen, HUITZILOPOCHTLI has won the COATLICUE Cup!

ENSEMBLE OF 400 STARS: NOOOOOOOO!!!!

HUITZIL: I'm outta here!!!! (Goes to hide)

**(HUITZILOPOCHTLI walks up to COATLICUE raising his hand as if expecting a high-five and she refuses)**

COATLICUE: What have you done? You have tricked and humiliated your *hermana*. That was not a fair game.

HUITZILOPOCHTLI: *Ay Mamá, pero te dije que yo iba a saber lo que tenía que hacer. (In a cocky tone)*

COATLICUE: I know you told me what you thought you needed to do, but I was hoping that you were going to make the **RIGHT** decision, and you **DIDN'T**.

HUITZILOPOCHTLI: *Pero te iban a lastimar-*

COATLICUE: No! They were not going to hurt me. Understand that you cannot be a true **WARRIOR** without your sister the Moon and your Brothers the Stars. You need one another to create balance.

HUITZILOPOCHTLI: Pero-

COATLICUE: **PERO NOTHING! (scolding HUITZILOPOCHTLI)** Now, you will only be able to rule the sky for only half of the day. Now go apologize to your *hermana-*

HUITZILOPOCHTLI: Pero-

COATLICUE: -AND because of what you did to your sister, she will now have to stay up there and rule the night's sky.

HUITZILOPOCHTLI: *Pero-*

COATLICUE: -AND as punishment, everyday COYOLXAUHQUI and your brothers will chase you and try to catch you!

HUITZILOPOCHTLI: *¡QUE!*

COATLICUE: Now go! *¡ÁNDALE!*

HUITZILOPOCHTLI: *Si Mamá.*

COATLICUE: AND AS FOR YOU, HUITZIL, because of your sneakiness, I summon you to eternal life where your wings will not rest until you learn how to be a TRUE WARRIOR and be a better example for your son.

**(HUITZIL flies away)**

OMECIHUATL: And so it is said, in the spirit of OMETEOTL, that the Moon and the Stars rule the sky in the night, and the Sun in the day. At night COYOLXAUHQUI and her 400 Brothers chase HUITZILOPOCHTLI across the sky, and when daylight surges, HUITZILOPOCHTLI rests and shines bright

**(COATLICUE again creates another earthquake. The HUEHUETEOTL sounds)**

OMETECUHTLI: AND when COYOLXAUHQUI and her 400 brothers get too close, COATLICUE creates an earthquake to distract the two siblings from fighting and restores balance.

**(ALL CHARACTERS create a circle and begin to dance the MEXICA Danza of OLLIN in unison)**

**FIN/The End/OMETEOTL**