

The Popol Vuh, which is a retelling of the creation myth of the Maya, is a narrative based on the manuscripts of Dominican Priest Francisco Ximenez. It is important to remember that to the Maya, the Popol Vuh, is a recount of their history, not just a myth.



THE POPOL VUH

At first there was nothing—no trees, no land, no sun, no animal, no man, only dark water and void. In the primordial waters, Xpiyacóc, Xmucané, Tepew, Quetzalcoatl, the Framer, and the Shaper worked with Hurakán (also known as the Heart of the Sky) to create the earth.

The deities spoke of creation, and through just their words they created the earth and the sky, then mountains and rivers, and then created animals of the ground and sky. The gods wanted to be praised by their creations, but the animals were not able to speak and only cackled and cawed.

The deities then decide to make the first humans out of clay from the earth. The clay humans were able to speak, but lacked movement, intelligence, and quickly returned to the earth unable to multiply. These creations were broken and destroyed.

The deities then tried to create the next humans out of wood. The wooden humans spoke but lived like animals and could not worship either. These wooden puppets were destroyed in a great flood. The decedents that survived are known to us as monkeys.

In their third attempt, the deities mixed milled white and yellow corn with water and made the first four humans. However, they were too knowledgeable and like the gods that made them, the deities put a cloud of fog over the humans' eyes. The gods made the humans companions and they became the first men and women.