



Contents

List of Shipibo Myths/ ix
List of Figures/ xi
List of Tables/ xii
Preface/ xiii

I. Of Mind Games and Models / 1

Theory and Method in the Analysis of Myth / 5
Environmental Setting / 20
Ethnographic Scope / 25

II. Myth, Cosmos, and Ceremony among the Shipibo / 32

Ethnographic Sketch /32
The Myths / 44
The Sociologic Schema / 71
Ceremony as Condensed symbol:
The Ani Shreati or the Besteti Shreati / 93
Shipibo Cosmology Reconstructed / 113

III. The Model / 127

The Cosmic layer Cake / 127
The World Tree / 136
Role Reversal and Animal Seducers in the Wet World / 163

vii Contents

Man's Nature and Libidinous Animals in the Dry World / 202

The Birds and other Denizens of the Airy World / 239

IV. The Zygote Quickens:

An Overview of the Model's Mechanisms / 264

Principles of The Model / 264

Cosmic Sex: A Circuit through the Model / 271

Antiquity of the Model / 273

Conclusions / 305

Notes / 311

References Cited / 343

Index / 367



List of Shipibo Myths

The Myths

1. The Inca's Daughters / 49
2. Anciently, There Was a Woman Who Was Always Being Molested by a Dolphin / 51
3. The Boa and the Hunter / 52
4. The Woman, the Earthworm, and the Jaguar 52
5. The Woman and the Anaconda / 56
6. The Widow and the Tapir / 57
7. An Ancient One and the Children / 61
8. The Cayman's Mandible (*Variant of An Ancient one and the children*) / 63
9. The *Yanapuma* (Ja Huiso Inon) / 66
10. Yoashico, the Miserable One, Shano Inca / 68
11. The Giant Eagle / 70

Other Myths

Anciently, a Man and His Wife Were Playing Like Otters / 120

The Mother of All Water Creatures / 120

Niweru, the Cumancaya Myth (Paraphrased) / 139

Why the Jaguar and the Anteater Are Enemies / 190

Anciently, Our Ancestors Did Not Know How to Paddle a Canoe / 255



List of Figures

1. Map of the Tribal Groups and Culture Areas / 23
2. Map of the Peruvian Montana Showing the Location of the Principal Groups / 73
3. Schematic Rendering of the Model / 28
4. permutations of the World Tree as Key symbol / 142
5. Birds and the Bathing in the Blood of the Anaconda / 144
6. Metaphorical Chain: Honey= Bees= Wound= Vagina / 149
7. Izapa Cayman Tree, Stela 25/ 151
8. The Anaconda as an Anomalous category / 170
9. Change from a Static Oppositionary System to a Dynamic Complementary one / 171
10. Overlapping Categories and Systemic Dynamism, the Major Characters / 198
11. Chavin Dragon, the Tell Obelisk / 199
12. Olmec Rain Serpents, Chalcatzingo, (a) Profile, Relief I, (b) Full Face, Relief IX / 216
13. Triad of Sexualities / 242
14. Web of signification surrounding the sexes in the Model / 270
15. Chavin Staff Goddess, Karwa/ 278
16. Chavin Staff God, Karwa / 279
17. Chavin God Carrying the San Pedro Cactus / 282
18. Olmec Dragon, Oxtotitlan Painting I- C / 286

xii List of Figures

19. Olmec Standing Man and Jaguar, Oxtotitlan Painting I-D / 287
20. Olmec Jaguar Licking a Cactus, Oxtotitlan Relief III / 289
21. Olmec Jaguars Dominating Humans, Chalcatzingo Relief IV / 290
22. Olmec Birdman and Monster, Oxtotitlan Mural I / 291
23. Izapa Dragon Tree with Fruit, Stela 2 / 293
24. Izapa Crocodilian Water Pourer, Stela 1 / 294
25. Mochica Were-jaguar / 297
26. Sun Jaguar Manifestation of the Mochica God *Ai-Apec* / 299
27. Mochica Black Jaguar Moon God *Si* / 302
28. *The Devil's Gateway* / 304

List of Tables

1. Alphabetical Listing of Cultural-Linguistic Groups from Figure 1 Used to construct the Model / 27-28
2. List of Groups Used to Construct the Models by Culture-Geographic Area / 29-30
3. Ranking of Culture-Geographic Areas by Number of Contributions to the Model / 31