

The Graniceros

Graniceros of the Chalco-Amecameca region in the State of Mexico,
They manage the forces of water: lightning, hailstorms, thunderstorms,
drought,

hurricanes, and the rainbow.

And they make petitions for rain to grow beans, corn, and squash.

And they make petitions for rain - for life.

They have been hidden for the last five hundred years.

They are still persecuted by the Church.

Hidden - maintaining the sacred cycle of the relationship of water and life.

Still hidden - they continue as guardians of the water cycle.

Hidden in the corners of the mountain where water springs up and where life
is generated.

Tlaloc, half jaguar, half snake

Walks among the marigolds

And guides the rains.

In the mountain, at the edge of the forest, where mist is a place

Tamoachan is there, the flower garden - the place of origin.

Tlalocan - paradise is there.

The cosmic tree is there.

A celebration of the cycle of water, vegetation - life.

The settlers

They continue to remove the water from here to bring it over there.

They continue to take the bodies from here.

They continue to take the lands from here.

They continue to unmake the culture from here.

But on May 3rd the people still

Petition the rain,

So that there is no lack of crops.

With white flowers - for the clouds and blue - for the sky

They cover the altars and temples of the mountain.
And are sprinkled with blessed water.
And to Tláloc they offer more flowers, fruits, and even more.

The rains that Tláloc brings make the mushrooms sprout.
In the Father of the Forest a spirit is born – it is the Niñito mushroom.
Ingested, a dialogue is created in the sacred mirror of the tezcatl.
Between those of here and the spirits.
And so the sacred is built.
And so the divine of the mountain is built.

It is the moment to remind ourselves of the — precipice
That we are in.

*Genaro Amaro Altamirano
and Maria Thereza Alves, May 2020
Translated from Spanish*