

The Miraculous Aspects of the Tilma of St. Juan Diego

A 21st Century Look at the
significance and the miraculous
nature of the Tilma of Juan Diego

By
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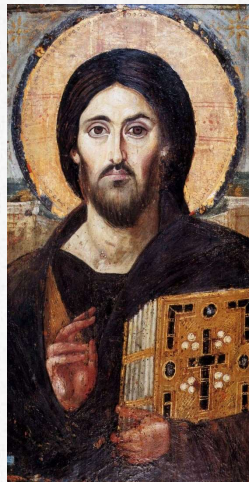


1

Jesus and Miracles

“I have shown you many good
works from the Father...”

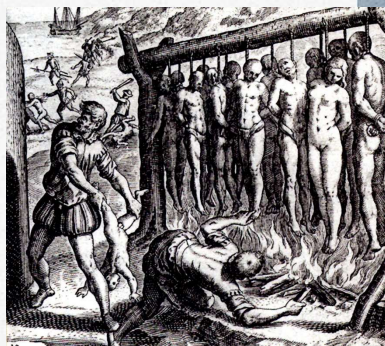
“Even though you do not
believe me, believe the works,
that you may know and
understand that the Father is
in me and I am in the Father.”
Jn 10:32,38



2

As a Reminder, some facts about the conditions at the time of Our Lady's Visitation in Mexico in 1531

1. In 1519 Cortez arrived on the shores of Mexico. In just three years he defeated the Aztecs. Naturally, the Aztecs, a conquered people, had no love for the Spanish
2. The Spanish soldiers, on the other hand, believed the Aztecs were Children of the Devil and treated the Aztecs as such
3. The Franciscan Friars, however, believed otherwise and sought to convert the Native Americans to Catholicism



3

As a Reminder, some facts about the event:


4. The **Virgin Mary** steps in and asks Juan Diego, an Aztec Native American convert, to ask Fr. Zumarraga (later Bishop Zumarraga in 1533) build a Chapel at Tepeyac Hill
5. Fr. **Zumarraga** requested a sign as proof before he would build a chapel
6. Mary responds by placing a miraculous image of herself on the Agave cactus fiber **Tilma (cloak) of Juan Diego**.
7. The result was a mass conversion of **9 Million** Native Mesoamericans to Catholicism and a merging of the Spanish and the Native American peoples





4

The Aztec Religious Beliefs in 1521



- o Polytheism ruled
 - o The feathered serpent Quetzalcoatl was the creator of man—Contrast the role of the Serpent in Christianity
 - o The Sun god (the Eagle Huitzilopochtli) and the Night god (the Jaguar Tezcatlipoca) fought daily
- o The Sun god needed the lifeblood of man to continue man's existence. Hence 200,000 human sacrifices occurred per year. Over 20,000 human sacrifices needed to dedicate a new temple. Most often the heart was ripped out of a live, drugged subject.
 - o Hence the need for scheduled "Flower" wars to provide victims.
- o Eating the human sacrifice's flesh enabled one to unite with God



Quetzalcoatl eating a man



Ceremonial dagger to remove the heart






Eagle and Jaguar Cuauhxicalli to hold the heart

5

Nice Image, but is this enough to convert 9 million Native Americans in 5 to 6 years?

- o Far different then Aztec Art



6

Nice Image, but is
this enough to
convert anyone
Today?



- o On March 30, 2009. Secretary of State **Hillary Clinton** while on official business to Mexico made a visit to see the Tilma of St Juan Diego.
- o She asked, "Who painted it?"
- o The Priest, **Msgr. Diego Monroy** said, "God"
- o On her way out, Hillary said, " You have a marvelous Virgin."
 - o She did not convert, but lit some candles and left some flowers.

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Many today are
skeptical of the
Account of Our Lady
of Guadalupe



- o They question whether the Franciscans created the image to convert the Native Americans.
- o They even question if St Juan Diego even existed
- o They question whether the image is just a painting with European Origins
- o They do not believe there is anything miraculous about the image

So let's address these issues

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Could this be Spanish Art?



Our Lady of Mercy by Bonant Zaortiga 1403-1446
The panel comes from the shrine of the Virgen de la Carrasca de Blancas (Teruel)

9

Could this be Spanish Art?



Our Lady of Mercy by Bonant Zaortiga 1403-1446
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10

Could this be Spanish Art?



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The panel comes from the shrine of the Virgen de la Carrasca de Blancas (Teruel)

11

Could this be Spanish Art?

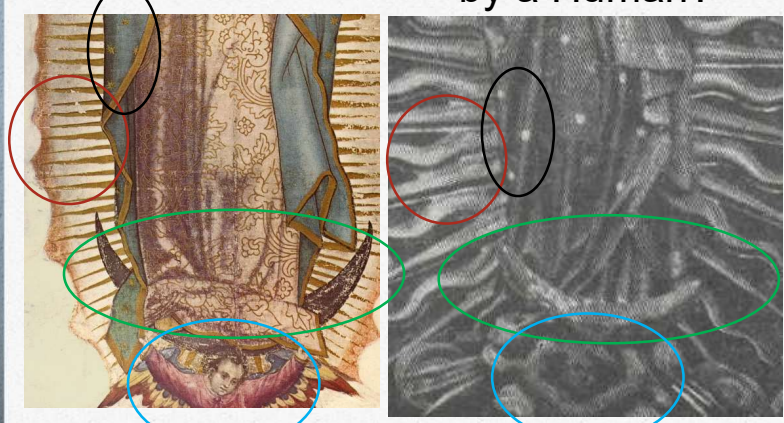


Sculpture of Our Lady, placed in the front of the choir of the monastery of Guadalupe of Caceres, Extramadura

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Could this be Spanish Art?

Could this be just a Wonderful Painting by a Human?



Sculpture of Our Lady, placed in the front of the choir of the monastery of Guadalupe of Caceres, Extramadura

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Are Things Looking Bad for the Home Team?

If the Image on the Tilma is man-made, then what reason do we have to believe that the Apparition really occurred?



Is there evidence the Apparition happened?

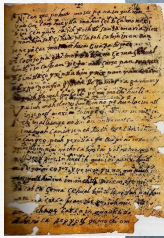
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Did It Happen?

- In 1974 at the 500th anniversary of Juan Diego's birth, a push was made to canonize Juan Diego
- This set off a storm as to whether Juan Diego even existed.
- Part of the Issue was that there was no supposed written account until 1649 over 100 years after the event
- In 1995, two documents were found in the New York City Public library
 - Codex Escalada - Death Certificate of Juan Diego (Cuauhtlatotzin) (1548)
 - An Account, titled Nican Mopohua, written by an Indian scholar and colonial official Antonio Valeriano (1522-1606)

JUAN DIEGO'S MIRACLE - A miracle cure attributed to the intercession of Juan Diego of a man in his 20's who in 1990 while attempting suicide fell 33' headfirst onto concrete. As her son was falling, the boy's mother entrusted him to God and the Virgin of Guadalupe, saying, "Give me a proof ... save this son of mine! And you, my Mother, listen to Juan Diego." He hit the ground headfirst and was taken to the intensive care unit of Durango Hospital in Mexico City. Three days later, he was suddenly and completely cured, with no neurological or psychic damage remaining. Medical specialists called the cure "unheard of, amazing and inconceivable."


Documents obtained in 1847 during Mexican American war's occupation of Mexico City





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Did It Happen?



Note: The Image of OLG shows an Aureole (but not as rays), stars, an angel, and the moon crescent
There is no Crown.

This document from 1548 gives credence to the authenticity of the Codex Escalada

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Did It Happen?



Note: This Image of OLG has it all.

This image is from the Codex Seville, the "Oldest Book in America". It is an Aztec calendar in picture writing, which was updated each year. This image, in which OLG is about 1" high, is located at 1531 on the timeline.

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But What About the Tilma Itself?

SCIENCE.to the
Rescue

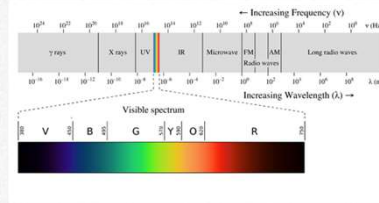
Let's start by
examining the image
through Infrared
Photography.



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A Short Explanation of Infrared Light

- Our eyes only see a small portion of the spectrum of light.
- Different frequencies penetrate material differently
- Bees see differently than us



Human Vision Bee Vision
Red, Green, Blue Green, Blue, UV

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Typical Use of Infrared Studies in Art




Infrared photography can show initial drawings under the paint pigments

Vincent Van Gogh's "A Patch of Grass"

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Use of Infrared Studies in Art




Infrared photography can show initial drawings under the paint pigments

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Infrared Studies Suggest Add-ons

Dr. Philip Callahan's Study (1979) conclusions


- o No evidence of a crown as part of the original image
- o Evidence of the Aureole and trim as being added (Sunbeam under trim)
- o Possibly the tassel, moon, and angel were added prior to the Aureole
- o Dr. Callahan image on the Rt is based on his conclusions



These add-ons all show evidence of flaking

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Historical Evidence of Add-ons



*Our Lady of Guadalupe – standard of the Christian fleet at the Battle of Lepanto in **1571***

Painting of Virgin of Guadalupe circa 1700s featuring a novelty crown on the Virgin's head, later removed on 23


BTW, Note the position of the stars for future reference

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Historical Evidence of Add-ons

More from Phillip Callahan:

1. The Hands are the most altered part of the painting... The left hand fingers of the initial painting must have been ½ inch longer.
2. Both the upper left and lower right hands have been outlined in black to emphasize their foreshortened newer shape
3. However, the original hands show no undersketching whatsoever and the shadowing between the original fingers is an integral part of the hand pigment.



Our Lady of Guadalupe – Fingers are shortened

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Concerns About Dr. Phillip Callahan Conclusions

- o It was a study done in 3 hours Time
- o Others research has countered Dr. Callahan's assertions
 - o Dr. Charles Wahlig, O.D. 1975 (4 years prior to Dr. Callahan) attested
 - o The Gold rays existed originally as white rays and were touched up with gold as were the white stars painted over with gold
 - o Likewise the Moon was much smaller, but overlaid by a bigger moon painted Silver, but now turned to Black.
- o The Add-ins of a crown, shortened fingers, highlighting of Gold trim all agree were man-added.
- o The Angel may have been added in or painted over.
 - o The artistry of the angel's face is far below that of Mary's face.

For more complete evaluation, all wish that other additional tests would be done (in a non-destructive way)

But is there other evidence that the Image must be Divine?

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FAKE? Well, NO! Because the Image is truly MIRACULOUS

The Miraculous Aspects

- o A Tilma, made from **Agave Americana** or **Maguey** only lasts 10 to 20 years.
 - o The Tilma is now almost 500 years old
 - o Paintings in 1789 on the same material set side by side next to Juan Diego's tilma, deteriorated completely in 7 years in the Mexican climate
 - o The colors of the image remain vibrant, not faded as one would expect even though unprotected and exposed to burning candles and human touch
 - o Some now say it must be made of Hemp, but over the years everyone concluded it was Agave and , it was verified as Agave in 1949. Its unexplainable resiliency confirmed in 2009

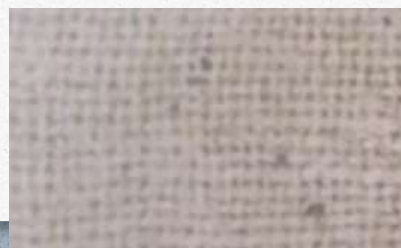


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Fake? Well, NO! Because the Image is truly MIRACULOUS

The Miraculous Aspects of the **Fabric**

- o The Tilma is really a poor material for painting
 - o Large rough 1 mm fibers, not densely woven
 - o Weave is uneven
- o It consists of two pieces of coarse cloth fibers of about 1.70 by 1.05 meters (69.99 by 41.3 inches) held together in the center by looped threads made of the same material and should have torn long ago



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Well, NO! Because the Image is truly MIRACULOUS

The Miraculous Aspects of the **Fabric**

- o For centuries the Tilma was exposed to the rigors of all natural elements without any kind of protection against infrared and ultraviolet
- o The material has suffered
 - o No UV and IR damage
 - o No insect, dust, or moist air damage
 - o No damage due smoke from tens of thousands of candles
 - o No damage from being touched innumerable times

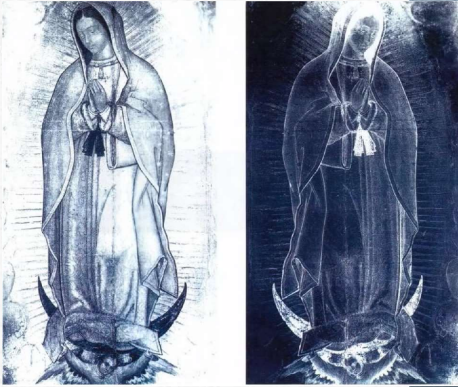


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Well, NO! Because the Image is truly MIRACULOUS

The Miraculous Aspects from Phillip Callahan

- o There is no sizing on the tilma! (except at add-ons)
- o There is no preliminary drawing!
- o There are no brush strokes!
 - o Except at add-ons
- o In fact, THERE IS NO PAINT!
 - o No animal, mineral, or vegetable pigment as determined by Richard Kuhn, Nobel Prize winning chemist
- o The Image has not faded with time




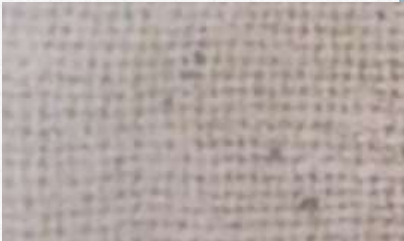
Infrared Photography images

29

Well, NO! Because the Image is truly MIRACULOUS

The Miraculous Aspects from Phillip Callahan

- o The Tilma is uneven yet the image on the tilma is such that the unevenness of the weave perfectly adds depth to the image
- o According to Kodak
 - o The image is soft, like silk, but outside the image the tilma is coarse
 - o The image is more like a polaroid/photograph
- o The Backside is coarse
- o No varnish has been used to protect the image




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Well, NO! Because the Image is truly MIRACULOUS

The Miraculous Aspects from Phillip Callahan

- o The Image shows iridescence (goniochromism)
 - o The color changes depending on the angle of viewing
 - o Up Close the color of the face is lighter, more European
 - o Beyond 6 feet the color of the face is more olive, similar to the Aztecs
- o Cannot be handpainted



In spite of his assertions that substantial parts of the image were add-ons, Dr. Callahan believed that the basic image was/is indeed miraculous

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Well, NO! Because the Image is truly MIRACULOUS

The Miraculous Aspects of the **Image**

The Eyes have it!!!!

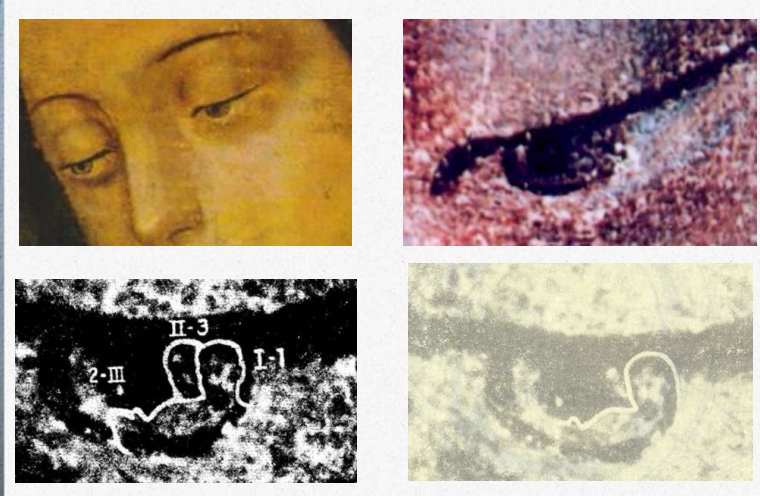
- o The Eyes (5/8" in size) have the reflections of up to 20 people on the pupil when viewed under magnification



As reported by Cornell graduate José Aste Tonsmann of the Mexican Center of Guadalupean Studies during a conference at the Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum.

32

Well, NO! Because the Image is truly MIRACULOUS

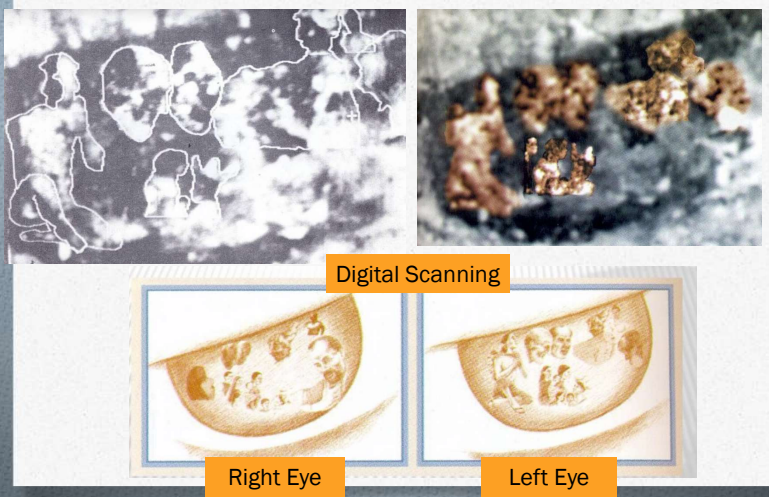


Ophthalmoscope Magnifying glass

This slide features a central white banner with the text "Well, NO! Because the Image is truly MIRACULOUS". Below the banner are four images arranged in a 2x2 grid. The top-left image is a close-up of the face of Our Lady of Guadalupe, showing her eyes. The top-right image is a microscopic view of an eye, showing a dark, curved structure. The bottom-left image is a black and white ophthalmoscopic view of the eye, with labels "II-3" and "I-1" and "2-III" pointing to specific features. The bottom-right image is a magnified view of the eye, showing a curved, shell-like structure.

33

Well, NO! Because the Image is truly MIRACULOUS

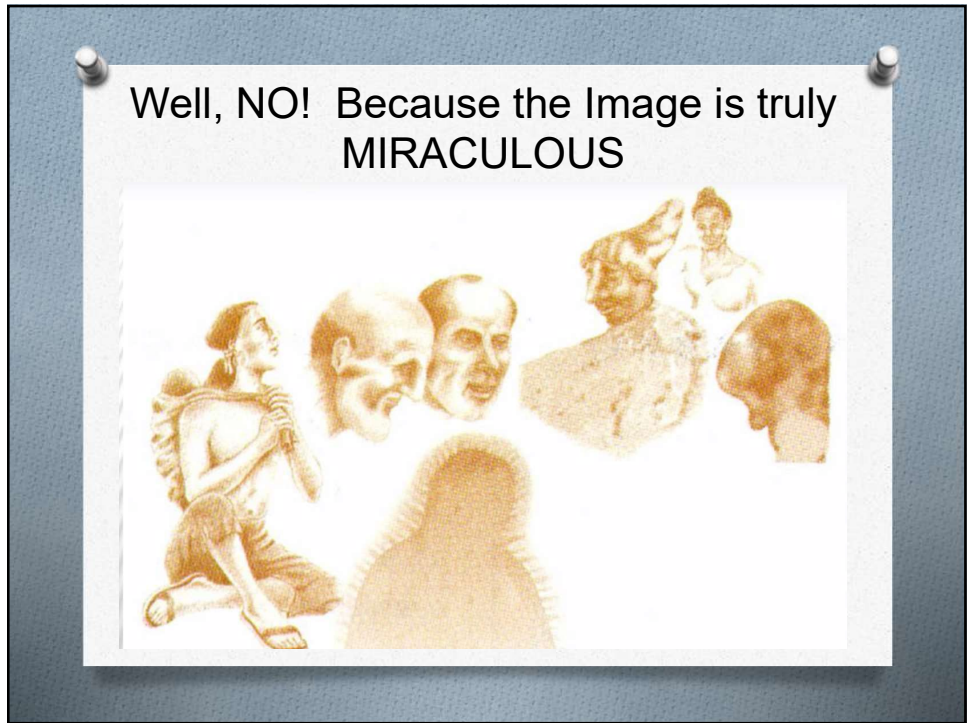


Digital Scanning

Right Eye Left Eye

This slide features a central white banner with the text "Well, NO! Because the Image is truly MIRACULOUS". Below the banner are four images arranged in a 2x2 grid. The top-left image is a digital scan of the eye, showing a white, shell-like structure. The top-right image is a digital scan of the eye, showing a dark, curved structure. The bottom-left image is a cross-section of the right eye, showing a curved, shell-like structure. The bottom-right image is a cross-section of the left eye, showing a curved, shell-like structure.

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There is MORE

INDESTRUCTIBILITY

- o No Natural Destruction
- o A 50% Nitric Acid solution accidentally spilled on the Tilma in 1775
 - o Left only a Water mark on the non-image part
 - o No marks on the image part
- o Bomb exploded before it in 1921
 - o Windows 150 m away shattered in nearby buildings
 - o Crucifix bent over
 - o Tilma and ordinary plate glass in front of the tilma were completely undamaged

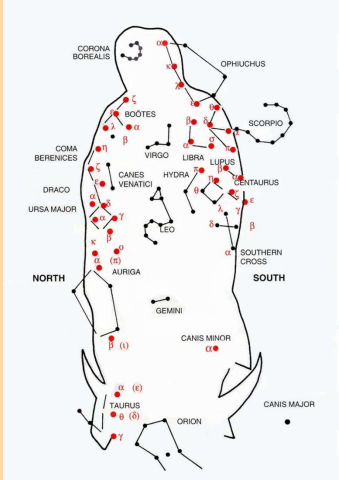


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There is MORE

The 46 Stars on the Tilma match the Heavens on December 12, 1521 at 6:45 AM

- o Match only when viewing the Tilma from beyond the constellations toward Earth, not from the view of one standing on earth (geocentric)
- o Red dots on cape, black dots rest of constellations
- o Note the Corona Borealis or "The Northern Crown" on the head of OLG--perfect timing within 5 minutes




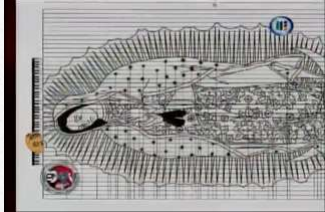
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Of Interest

- o The Image is said to reside 0.3 of a millimeter above the cloth. (like a thin film)
- o The image disappears if you are closer than 4"
- o If you turn the Tilma horizontal and place a musical note on each star and flower, one produces a musical composition. Repeating the analysis for man-painted copies of the Tilma produces discordant sounds.

Anecdotal Events

- o Eduardo Alvarez, MD Ophthalmologist - "Her Eyes are alive"
- o Carlos Fernandez del Castillo, MD gynecologist, reported hearing a Fetal Heartbeat of 115 beats per minute
- o Reportedly, as attributed to Phillip Callahan, the Tilma's temperature remains at 98.6 F
 - o The temperature of a normal Human



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So is the Miraculous Nature of the Tilma why 9 million Native Americans Converted to Catholicism? NO!!!

- o The Aztecs obviously could not have known the miraculous aspects just discussed.
- o Aside from the Miraculous story of the Image's creation, which many would have doubted, there must be other reasons
 - o Reason are found in
 - o The Coded Messages
 - o Jesus Salvific Act
 - o The Eucharist!

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The Coded Messages For the Spaniards

- o The Tilma is consistent with other images of Mary
 - o The Head angle
 - o The Cross on the Brooch
 - o The Hands
 - o The Ermine sleeve
 - o The Stars
 - o The Aureole
 - o The Moon
 - o The Angel
- o Plus, when standing close to the Tilma, Mary has light skin and looks European
- o The Christian Mother of God appeared to an Aztec!!!!

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The Coded Messages

- o But for the Aztecs who had no alphabet:
- o The Tilma is a pictograph and the message is much more subtle

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The Aztec Coded Messages

- o The Woman is blocking the Sun
 - o She is greater than the Sun God
- o The Woman is standing on the moon
 - o She is greater than the Moon God
 - o The Aztec word for Mexico, "Metz-xic-co," means "in the center of the moon."
- o The Woman is looking down
 - o Someone is greater than she
 - o Gods looked straight forward



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The Aztec Coded Messages

- o The Brooch worn under the neck typically depicted a god in Aztec culture.
 - o In this case, it is a cross, the sign of the Spanish God
- o The Woman's cloak is Turquoise
 - o The Aztec color of Royalty
- o The Woman's sleeves has an ermine lining
 - o An Aztec sign of Royalty



44

The Aztec Coded Messages

- o The Woman's cloak has stars and she is surrounded by clouds
 - o She is from the heavens
- o The Woman's dress has flowers
 - o This tunic represents the Earth
- o Her knee is bent as in prayerful dance



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The Aztec Coded Messages

- o The angel is holding the cloak and the tunic
 - o She unites heaven and earth
 - o Note: the hands the Sculpture at Guadalupe monastery are holding up the moon
- o Her features are part Native American and part European
 - o She unites the Spanish and the Native Americans



46

The Aztec Coded Messages

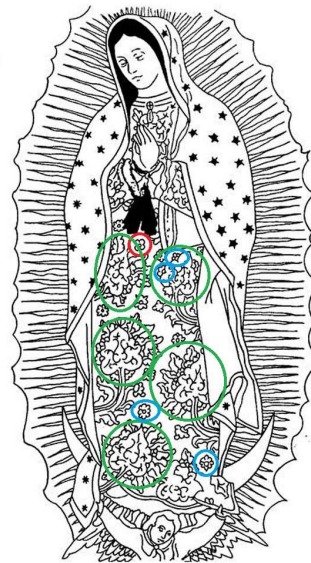
- o The Woman's hair is straight and flowing downward
 - o She is a virgin. Married women wore their hair braided
- o She has a black ribbon around her waist
 - o A sign that she is pregnant (as does her physical attributes)
- o There is an angel with eagle's wings which appears below Mary's feet.
 - o According to Aztec belief, an eagle delivered the hearts and the blood of sacrificial victims to the gods.
 - o The angel holds up the pregnant Virgin, signifying that the child in her womb is the offering that pleases God.



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The Aztec Coded Messages

- o The Flowers tell a story
 - o 3 types
 - o Flower Hills (9) - Express the Heart
 - o Venus flowers - represent love
 - o Four Petalled Flower
 - o *nahui ollin*, the flower of the sun
- o Upside down the Flower Hills resembles a heart
- o All Flower Hills are surrounded by greenery except one

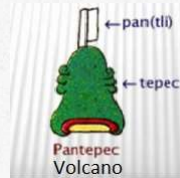
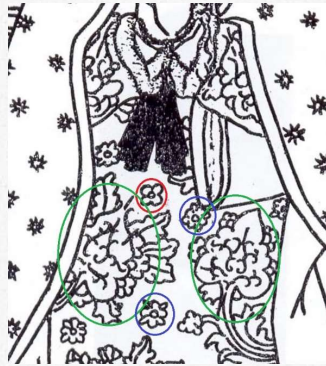


48

The Aztec Coded Messages

- o The Flowers tell a story

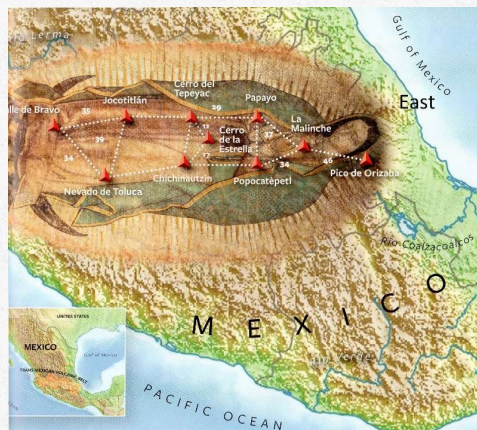
All Flower Hills are shaped like Volcanoes (not active) and are surrounded by greenery except one. That Volcano has flowers descending on it. It is Tepeyac!



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The Aztec Coded Messages

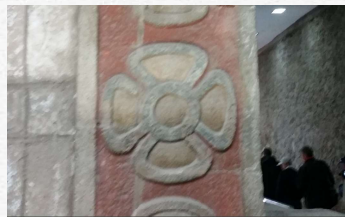
- o The Flowers correspond to the Volcanoes in Mexico
- o They are spaced out on the Dress in the same proportion and locations as the major Volcanoes of Mexico
- o Mary points to Nazareth



50

The Aztec Coded Messages

- o The Aztecs believed there are 4 elements
 - o Earth, Wind, Fire, and Water
 - o These elements originated from the gods. God is in the center. The source of all.
 - o This is represented in their temples by the four-petaled flower
- o Only one four-petaled flower(Quincunx) is found on the Tilma
 - o It is seen directly over the womb of the Woman
 - o The Woman is carrying god - the source of all



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The Aztec Coded Messages Meet Christianity

- o The fact that Mary chose a native American to deliver this message told both the Spanish and the Native Americans that they are both to worship this God born of Mary's womb
 - o The Spanish could no longer claim the Native Americans were not human
 - o The very image of Mary can be seen as both European and Native American
- o The religion of the Native Americans required that a human be sacrificed to maintain life
 - o The Aztecs did sacrifice infants, but often the sacrifice was voluntary. A "noble" thing to do

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The Aztec Coded Messages Meet Christianity

- o The Native Americans were taught by the Franciscans that God has sent His only Son, who is both truly human and truly divine, to sacrifice His life, once and for all, so that all can have life eternal.
 - o No longer is there a need for human sacrifice to appease God
 - o The sacrifice has been done once and for all
- o As part of the Aztec human sacrifice, the worshippers would eat of the flesh of the one who had been sacrificed in order that they might come into union with their gods through the consumption of the flesh of the sacrificed man.
 - o In Christianity, they found that, one consumes in the Eucharist, the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ and come into union....

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The Aztec Coded Messages Meet Christianity

- o The Native Americans began converting in droves. One day 16000 Native Americans were baptized, 9 million between 1532 and 1538.
- o Native Americans were baptized and catechized at later over time (e.g. Juan Diego was headed to class Dec 9, 1531)
- o Bishop Zumarraga confirmed over 400,000 converts before his death in 1548.
- o The Native Americans gave up bigamy (some days 500 couples were given in Catholic marriage), went to frequent confession, and were said to be more pious than even the earliest Christians.
- o Spanish and Native Americans intermarried at a rapid pace

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Effects of the Apparition of Our Lady of Guadalupe

- o Spanish and Native Americans intermarried at a rapid pace
 - o No Separate Indian reservations
 - o No racism between Native American and Spaniards
- o Led to the spread of Catholicism throughout Central and South America, plus Southwest United States
 - o Loss of 5 million Catholics in Europe balanced by 9 million gain in MesoAmerica
- o Led to Development of International Law (recognition of the rights of native peoples)
- o Led to a deep love of Latinos with the Blessed Mother
- o OLG became the Patroness of Unborn Children and of the Americas

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A Message from Our Lady of Guadalupe to Us

- o Validation due to longevity, the non-painted image, image, the explosion, the stars, the volcanoes, the eyes
- o Mary's words said to Juan Diego, but intended for all:
"Am I not here, I, who am your Mother? Are you not under my shadow and protection? Am I not the source of your joy? Are you not in the hollow of my mantle, in the crossing of my arms? Do you need anything more? Let nothing else worry you, disturb you."

56

A Message from Our Lady of Guadalupe to Us

o *"Know, know for sure, my dearest, littlest, and youngest son, that I am the perfect and ever Virgin Holy Mary, Mother of the God of truth through Whom everything lives, the Lord of all things near us, the Lord of heaven and earth. I want very much to have a little house built here for me, in which I will show Him, I will exalt Him and make Him manifest"*

Each of us are to be a temple of God—the house she wants to have built, by which She will show Him, exalt Him and make Him manifest!

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Pray for Us