

chichihuacuauhco ^[1]

Type of Speech:

noun ^[2]

Definition:

The Aztecs believed that children who died in childbirth or before their naming ceremony went to an afterlife in which they were fed milk from the "wet-nurse tree" or chichihuacuauhco, a variation of the "tree of life" itself. Further, mothers who died in child-birth were thought to be very powerful spirits who could leave the afterlife they shared with fallen warriors and menace the world of the living unless placated through gifts. (Aztec women were given weapons when they went into labor to symbolically "fight their battle.") These old nahua legends are reflected in the Days of the Dead and in the scary stories of La Llorona.

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