

The Origin of Quetzalcoatl

Quetzalcoatl was said, like Horus in Egyptian mythology and Apollo and Adonis in Greco-Roman mythology, to be born of a virgin.

Nātus Amatlānī, dīvīnae stirpis alumnus

35 Coelestī iussū faustā dē virginis alvō.

Hīc excultus avō, Mūsīs exercitus ultrā,

Crēvit adōlescēns. Nōn illō iustior ullus

Vir fuit aut Superum quisquam nec amantior aequī.

Et bonus et sapiens et iam mātūrior annīs

40 In Tūlam mīgrāsse ferunt, caput orbis avōrum

Toltēcā ditiōne potens. Hīc pinguis olīvā

Praetendēns rāmum veniam pācemque rogābat:

“Parcite mancipiō bellōque arcēre cruentō

Hostilēs turbās. Et caede et sanguine foedā

45 Sācrificō; mītēs, prohibēte piācula rītū.

In frātrēs cohibēte minās, hostisque catervās

Post aciēs concors foedus trādūcat ad artēs.

Nūminis effictum placitīs, animantibus orbis

Sanctius omnigenīs et coelō dēbita prōlēs,

50 Hūmānum genus ēmeritōs sibi poscit honōrēs.”

VOCABULARY

arc•eo –ere –ui to prevent

coelest•is (caelestis) –e *adj* heavenly *m pl* gods

cohib•eo –ere –ui –itum to withhold

diti•o –onis *f* authority

foed•us –a –um *adj* foul

foed•us –eris *n* treaty