Discussion about Legends of the Inca

Who was Viracocha for the Inca people?

Where did Viracocha come from?

Where did he go?

What were other deities besides Viracocha?

What other beings they worshiped?

How did the Incas recorded history?

What was the danger of having Spanish chronicles recording Inca history?

What is one of the versions of the Creation of the World by Viracocha? How this story is similar to Mayan and Aztec stories of creation? Think about creation and destruction, but also how are they different? Keep in mind that the Mayan and Aztec stories were written by Indigenous scribes, while the one of the Incas, were dictated by Indigenous people to Spanish scribes, why is this aspect important?

Where did people come from?

We also saw that the Nahuas came from caves inside the earth, just like the Incas did; what do you think is the symbolic value of the cave in the cosmovision of the Aztecs and the Incas stories?

How did Viracocha found Cuzco?

Why there are variations of myths? What is one of the variations?

Explain what are “huacas”?

Just like the Aztecs, the Incas allow the groups they conquered to keep their deities, beliefs and government. How this inclusiveness influenced in the variations of the myths? And how Inca and Aztec’s inclusiveness differ from European’s ideas of conquest?

Discussion about the Winnebago Origins Myths

Who created the earth?

How the Earthmaker created it? How He decided he needed to create more things? Summarize how things were created.

Why do you think He wanted to make the earth “quiet” and what things He created to achieve this?

How story of the Earthmaker is similar or different to the Mayan, Aztec, Inca and Christian creation stories especially when He creates human kind?

How the Hills and Valleys were Formed

There are three versions of the creation of the Earth.

Discuss the First Version

Discuss the Second Version

Discuss the Third Version

How do they differ and/or compare?

Ho-Chunk Oral Tradition (Read only the Origin Story before “The Origin of the Wolf Clan”)

In the first part of the creation of the Earth, the Winnebago story and this story are the same. What happens after the Earthmaker gives life to the first human beings? How many human beings He creates? Would the number 3 and 4 have a symbolism? Think about Aztec, Mayan, Inca and Christian numbers

What plant did the Earthmaker gave the human beings to cultivate?

What kind of tools the Earth maker gave to humans?

How Clans were created and how many?

How Clans reproduced?

What happened when the oldest Clan brother, Thunder died?

The Creation of Man (Read only the first 5 versions)

How the first version of this story is similar to the Mayan one we read?

What happened in the second version in the creation of humans? How language plays a part?

What happens in the third version?

The fourth version is very interesting; do you think we can refer to this story as a “Discord” story? Can you see some similarities to the Popol Vuh and to Christian elements?

So, now that you read these stories, can you tell what elements are important to cultures in processing creation? How these elements are also important to us in our own view of the world and in how we make sense of our space?