



# The Myth of Quetzalcoatl: Religion, Rulership, and History in the Nahua World

*Alfredo López Austin, Guilhem Olivier*

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*The Myth of Quetzalcoatl* is a translation of Alfredo López Austin's 1973 book *Hombre-Dios: Religión y política en el mundo náhuatl*. Despite its pervasive and lasting influence on the study of Mesoamerican history, religion in general, and the Quetzalcoatl myth in particular, this work has not been available in English until now.

The importance of *Hombre-Dios* and its status as a classic arise from its interdisciplinary approach, creative use of a wide range of source material, and unsurpassed treatment of its subject—the nature and content of religious beliefs and rituals among the native populations of Mesoamerica and the manner in which they fused with and helped sanctify political authority and rulership in both the pre- and post-conquest periods. Working from a wide variety of previously neglected documentary sources, incorporating myth, archaeology, and the ethnography of contemporary Native Americans including non-Nahua peoples, López Austin traces the figure of Quetzalcoatl as a “Man-God” from pre-conquest times, while Russ Davidson's translator's note, David Carrasco's foreword, and López Austin's introduction place the work within the context of modern scholarship.

López Austin's original work on Quetzalcoatl is a pivotal work in the field of anthropology, and this long-overdue English translation will be of significance to historians, anthropologists, linguists, and serious readers interested in Mesoamerica.

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