



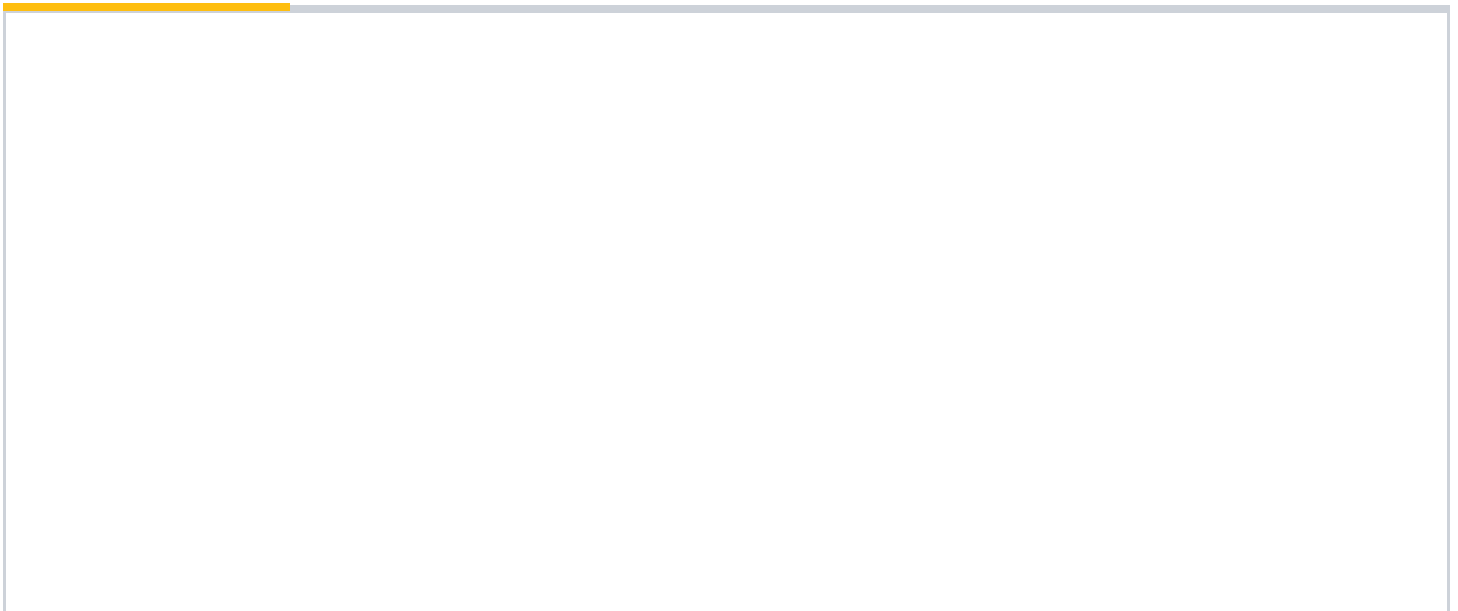
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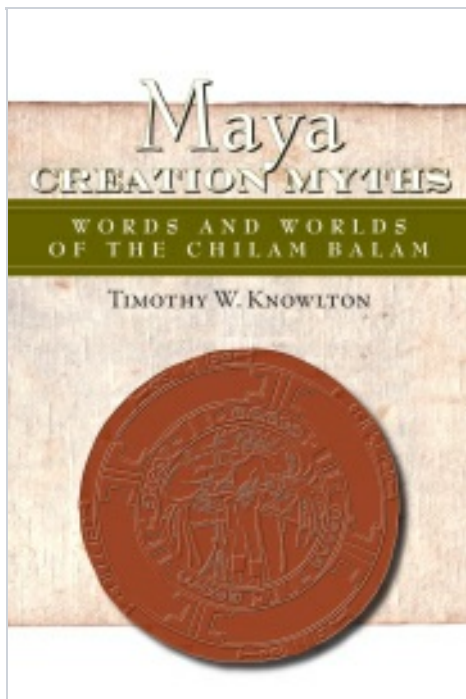


# Maya Creation Myths : Words and Worlds of the Chilam Balam



In this Book





## Maya Creation Myths : Words and Worlds of the Chilam Balam

*By Timothy Knowlton*

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**SUMMARY**

"The Chilam Balam books of Yucatán rank with the Popol Vuh as major works of Maya literature, and the most important book about them is this one. Timothy Knowlton's interpretation is the most insightful, sophisticated, and nuanced that has ever been written."—Dennis Tedlock, State University of New York at Buffalo

There is no Classical Yucatecan Maya word for "myth." But around the close of the seventeenth century, an anonymous Maya scribe penned what he called *uk'ahlay kab tu kinil*, "the world history of the era," before Christianity came to the Peten. He collected numerous accounts of the cyclical destruction and reestablishment of the cosmos; the origins of gods, human beings, and the rituals and activities upon which their relationship depends; and finally the dawn of the sun and the sacred calendar Maya diviners still use today to make sense of humanity's place in the otherwise inscrutable



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