

THE VIRGIN OF GUADALUPE AMONG THE AZTECS

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The birth in Mexico of indigenous devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe marked the inception of that country's most powerful religious national figure. The Catholic account tells of Guadalupe's miraculous apparition before the Aztec villager, Juan Diego. This event is popularly viewed as the main impetus for indigenous Catholic conversion during colonial times and is believed to have encouraged Indians to give up their gods and concepts of the divine. However, scholarly research suggests that through devotion to the Virgin Mary indigenous people were able to maintain some continuity of their ancient religious traditions. As such, it is argued herein that worship of Our Lady of Guadalupe served as an indigenous tool of resistance and helped to maintain aspects of Aztec sacrality during New Spain's colonial period.