

THE CONQUISTADOR'S WIFE

CHORUS 1: RETURN OF QUETZALCOATL

Feathered Serpent...Lord of the Morning Star... And Keeper of the Wind. These were the many names by which Quetzalcoatl—god of forgiveness and love—was known by the Mexica. He had been worshipped by their Toltec ancestors 1,000 years before Spanish Conquistadors arrived in the New World. And the Mexica now feared him because their gods, they believed, had tricked Quetzalcoatl into harming his own family and caused him to flee—in shame—east to the Cloud Lands, home of the rising sun.

But, he vowed to return in The Year of One Reed, to right the wrong that had been done by the Mexica gods, and to make a new beginning for his people. So it was that Lord Moctezuma II—in the 17th year of his rule—trembled at the news of white-skinned Strangers arriving on their eastern shores. A dark omen indeed. Was the prophecy coming true at last?!

The year was 1519 in the Christian calendar when 13 Spanish galleons dropped anchor off the coast—El Caudillo, Hernan Cortés, in command. The native people had never seen horses, armor or guns, let alone such pale faces or blue eyes. These “god-men” had come from the East, as it was foretold, in ships powered by the wind. And as the Mexica Calendar Stone made plain, this was the very year to be most dread by their Empire: The Year of One Reed.