

## A Publication of the Winnetka Ave. Church of Christ

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# A HUNGRY COYOTE

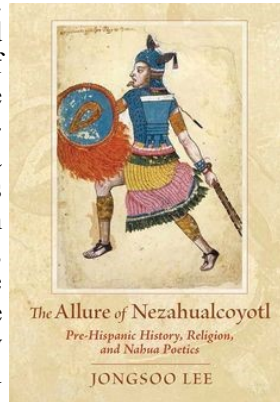
One would hardly think a ruler in Mexico who died forty-seven years before the arrival of Hernando Cortes, would have what some might say as a “spiritual hunger”. Netzahualcoyotl, was the ruler and his name carries the meaning, of “Hungry Coyote”. In many of the poems which he wrote, he demonstrated an interest in matters of a spiritual nature, Some of his thoughts are quite profound as seen in the following. “Truly the gods, which I worship, are idols of stone that do not speak or feel.” He would go on to note, “Some very powerful, hidden and unknown god is the creator of the entire universe.

He is the only one that can console me in my affliction and help me in such anguish as my heart feels; I want him to be my helper and protection.” (quote used in a sermon by John Gaston, 6-22-2016; Sermon Central website)

The thoughts expressed above bring to mind what Paul said when was in the midst of the Areopagus as recorded in Acts 17:22-31. Paul began his discourse by stating, “Men of Athens, I observe that you are very religious in all respects. For while I was passing through and examining the objects of your worship, I also found an inscription, ‘TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.’ What therefore you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you.” (vs22-23) Over the next several verses it can be seen that Paul laid out the case for the God of Heaven.

Now directing the focus back to Netzahualcoyotl, it should be noted that he had a pyramid built to the “God who paints things with beauty”. Some also assert that he banned human sacrifices from his city (but that is a matter of some disagreement among scholars). Like those in Athens some two thousand years ago Netzahualcoyotl struggled with idols and wanted to appease every “god”. But while mankind may take pride in all the advancements made

over the millennia, the vast majority of which still finds themselves with a like mind. Something seriously amiss spiritually.



David in the 42 Psalm expressed in verse two, “My soul thirsts for God, for the living God...” To put that in further context look back at verse one, “As the deer pants for the water brooks, so my soul pants for Thee, O God.” Doesn’t it seem that the majority of mankind has a desire for God (though on their terms), as the “deer pants for the water”? Such in evidence by Netzahualcoyotl and those in Athens.

How many today are just like Netzahualcoyotl, aka the “Hungry Coyote”, who feel an emptiness. They know full and well the idols of fame, wealth, position, power and questionable relationships cannot spiritually fill the void in life. Nor can embracing teaching that is not grounded in truth. Peter noted in his first epistle, “like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation.” (2:2) In Jeremiah 15:16, the following is found. “Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O Lord, God of hosts.”

As Jesus began the Sermon on the Mount, He did so by presenting the “Beatitudes”, one of which is, “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.” (Matthew 5:6) Daily we are surrounded by those who have an emptiness in their soul; and they try to fill it with things that quite simply do not satisfy. The Ethiopian eunuch, was overjoyed when Philip preached to him from Isaiah 53 about Jesus Christ and Him crucified; which lead to the eunuch asking to be baptized. In verse thirty-eight of Acts 8, the Scriptures points out that after coming up out of the water, he “went on his way rejoicing”. The emptiness was filled. (wbe)

THE BULWARK