



STORY: THE LITTLE BLUE FROG, THE AZTEC LEGEND OF CHOCOLATE

An Aztec Folktale Retold by Dianne de Las Casas

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The Sun God, Nanahuazin, smiled as he looked at his precious treasure on the banks of the Great Pond. It was the cacao tree, from which the cacao pods grew. Hidden inside the pod was the secret food of the Gods, the cacao bean.

Every day, Nanahuazin enjoyed his cacao. Rich and dark, Sun God savored the flavor of his cacao. “This is delicious,” he said as he ate.

Nearby, Quetzacoatl, the God of Delight, watched as Sun God devoured the cacao. “So that is where he keeps his cacao,” Quetzacoatl said.

Quetzacoatl approached Sun God. “You should share your cacao treasure with the people of the earth.”

Nanahuazin laughed, “Ha! Never! This is food meant for the Gods only. I will never share.”

Quetzacoatl said, “Earth’s people deserve to taste the divine.”

Sun God became angry. “Go, Quetzacoatl! The cacao is not meant for humans!”

Quetzacoatl left and transformed himself into a little blue frog. He hid near the banks of Great Pond and watched as Sun God scraped the cacao from inside the pod. The little blue frog said, “If Nanahuazin will not share his treasure, I will tell Earth’s people about it.”

The little blue frog sat by the edge of the pond near some children and sang,

“Rrrrrreeeeep. Rrrrrreeeeep.
Sun God hides his treasure deep.
By the pond, inside large pods
He hides the secret food of Gods.”

The children heard the song of the little blue frog. They ran to their village.

The children returned with their mothers and pointed to the little blue frog. He sang again,

“Rrrrrreeeeep. Rrrrrreeeeep.
Sun God hides his treasure deep.
By the pond, inside large pods
He hides the secret food of Gods.”

The children and their mothers heard the song of the little blue frog. They ran to their village.

The children returned with their mothers and fathers and pointed to the little blue frog. He sang again,

“Rrrrrreeeeep. Rrrrrreeeeep.
Sun God hides his treasure deep.
By the pond, inside large pods
He hides the secret food of Gods.”

Listening to the song of the little blue frog, Earth’s people began searching for the treasure. They found a large tree next to the Great Pond. Near the trunk of the tree lay several large pods. Upon opening the pods, they discovered the delicious, secret food of the Gods, the cacao bean.

Nanahuazin, the Sun God, was furious but there was nothing he could do. His secret was now known to all of Earth’s people.

The Aztec people delighted in the rich, delicious taste of the cacao bean. They cultivated the seeds and grew more trees. They learned to make a delicious hot drink using the cacao bean, which we now call hot cocoa.

The Aztec people named the tasty dark substance from the cacao bean Xocoatl. Today, we know this divine food as Chocolate.

