

LEGEND AND FOLKLORE SYMBOLS: YANAULUHA

The great medicine man of the Zuni Indian tribe, Yanauluha, was the keeper of the staff of life and the father of civilisation.

The Zuni tribe believed that the first humans emerged from the Earth Mother onto the surface of the world in a helpless and confused state. Having always lived underground, they had black, scaly skin, webbed feet, huge ears, eyes as large as an owl's and short tails. The light of the Sun made them aware of their bizarre appearance for the first time and they had no idea how to survive on the surface of the Earth.

Founder of Zuni civilisation


In their despair, the first humans turned to Yanauluha, a wise medicine man. Yanauluha brought them the gifts of water, carried in a vessel from the primeval ocean, and the seeds of plants. With his staff of life he changed the first humans and their subterranean characteristics into their modern form and taught the Zuni tribe all the secrets of civilisation. Social order, agriculture, animal husbandry, medicine and learning are all attributed to Yanauluha.

Yanauluha taught humans how to seed and grow crops.




THE SYMBOLISM OF YANAULUHA

Yanauluha was famous for his wisdom. He may be called on using charms and symbols associated with his role as the founder of the Zuni tribe.


 A simple vessel filled with water and a packet of seeds is at the

To call on the agricultural powers of Yanauluha set up your altar with offerings of food.

core of Yanauluha's power. From these humble gifts of the Earth he helped the first humans to build their civilisation. The water represented life and the seeds represented new beginnings and potentials from which all things grow.

 Most medicine men carry a sacred staff, decorated with natural paraphernalia such as feathers and stones,

and Yanauluha was no exception. Use a staff to symbolise him in his role as healer and advisor.

 Yanauluha is credited with bringing humans knowledge of agriculture and animal husbandry. So, agricultural products or images of animals you feel an affinity towards may be used respectively as charms to ask for his help or to use as offerings.