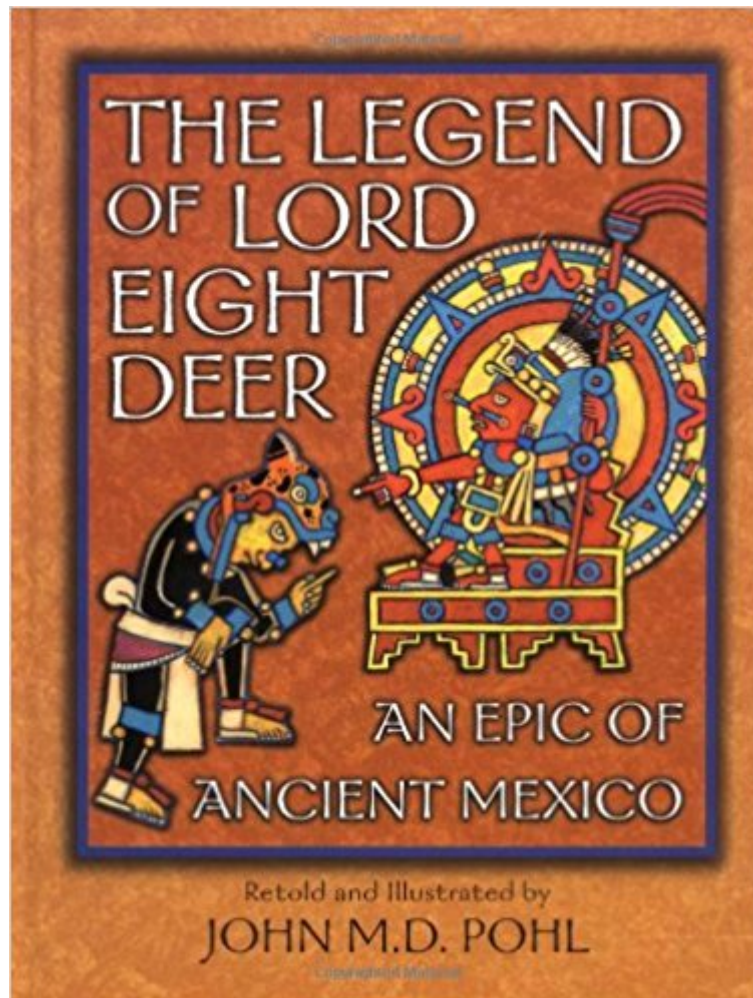




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# The Legend Of Lord Eight Deer: An Epic Of Ancient Mexico



## Synopsis

The Legend of Lord Eight Deer is a retelling of the great epic saga of the Mixtec people of Mexico recorded in pictographs painted on deer-hide codices more than 500 years ago. The legend begins with the mysterious murder of three princes and unfolds as Lord Eight Deer embarks on a quest to rule his kingdom that takes him to the gates of the Sun God himself. It is a story of breathtaking beauty—a story of gods and kings, heroes and princesses, thieves and holy men, and the betrayal of love. John Pohl's vivid retelling and dazzling illustrations brings to life the last great flowering of Mesoamerican civilization. "The Story Behind the Story," an illustrated section immediately following the retelling, offers a dynamic look at the history, religion, warfare, and daily life of the Mixtec people, the ancient codices, and the legacy of the tale today.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Grade 8 Up—With a basis in historical fact, the story cycle of Lord Eight Deer, Iya Nacuaa in his own language, is retold from the Mixtec codices. A complex tale, replete with murder, adultery, and dynastic ambitions, the retelling is epic in structure. The language has the cadence of oral telling, but—despite a detailed chronology, a pictorial directory of main characters, and a family tree—events and relationships remain a bit too murky to be understood by recreational readers. Pohl's illustrations are excellent, rendered in the Mesoamerican style seen in the Codex Zouche-Nuttall, upon which much of this story is based. The darkly outlined, iconic figures are reproduced in vibrant colors and strong lines. Informational pages, inserted every 8 to 10 pages and illustrated with color

photos and reproductions, give background on Mixtec culture as it has been reconstructed from archaeological evidence. A final chapter, "The Story Behind the Story," recounts Pohl's experience in using information from the Mixtec codices to locate archaeological remains and verify the factual nature of some of the events recounted in the Eight Deer story cycle. Those who appreciated John Bierhorst's *Mythology of Mexico and Central America* (Morrow, 1990) will find this beautifully made book a similarly intriguing and scholarly read. Ann Welton, Grant Elementary School, Tacoma, WA  
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Gr. 6-12. Pohl retells the legendary tale of Eight Deer, arguably the greatest leader of the Mixtecs. Interpreting the story from colorful codices that illustrated the history of the Mesoamerican people, he offers a lyrical, labyrinthine tale about the royal line of two families who clash murderously and reroute the fate of their people. Reproductions of the vivid codices add markedly to the tone and grandeur of the story, which Pohl wisely introduces with a list of the main characters, all of whose names begin with a number. Following the story, Pohl provides an equally fascinating "Story behind the Story," in which he explains how archaeological digs and cave etchings came together to complete the dramatic tale of high-powered corruption and honor that typifies the proud culture of one people in southern Mexico. Roger Leslie  
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I was intrigued by this book when I first turned its pages 20 years ago. The illustrations and storytelling are a unique collaboration. I searched for a very long time to own a copy, and the last place I thought I could find one would be here on . It is truly a blessing to have this in my Library. It is a rare glimpse into the storytelling and beliefs of an almost Extinct Culture and should be celebrated. The average reader can enjoy a glimpse into a complex society and take something away from these stories. Tremendous Value. Thank You.

great, helpful. give my parents , best product. I'm very pleased with this product. It was affordable, and it cuts great. I was replacing an extremely dull chef's product that I couldn't seem to get sharp. This product has been a welcome change.

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