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The Andes: Paracas to Incas

Hanan and Hurin was the idea of the reciprocal universe, in which two complementary forces come together to make the cosmos balance.

Abstract forms. In the Andes, there were no picture writing and stone carving, so it doesn't fit as well with Christian ideology. (The only exception is the Moche culture)

Religion focuses on Huacas, often irregular stones. Pilgrimage was very important in South America. People would travel all over to visit huacas.

Metamorphosis in religion and worldview.

Paracas (600-100 BC): Very capable in textiles and the discontinuous warp and weft technique. Textiles became the highest form of art. They had no monumental architecture. Focused on grave goods and burial ceremonies.

Moche (1-700): Very skilled in ceramics. They created very realistic portrait sculpture. Many burials have been found, such as the warrior-priest Lord of Sipán. There are a lot more images of warfare, rulers, and sacrifice. They performed sacrifice through bloodletting on a large scale. They had terraced pyramids fronting open squares. Decapitation in particular was an important theme.

Tiahuanaco (400-1000): Beginning of the fascination with stone culture and worship. Their style of stone carving was very influential on the colonial era. First major empire in the Andes. It was located on the nexus of the highlands and the lowlands. Their religion was based on a staff-deity and a flood myth. Captive heads in sunken court probably represent captives or vassal states. Monumental statues holding pairs of cups of chicha beer symbolize Hanan and Hurin. These cups appear in the colonial period.

Inca (1200-1533): Huge empire due to very sophisticated network of roads. Largest empire in pre-Hispanic world. The two capitals were Cuzco and Quito. There were 12 to 13 rulers between 1200-1533. Each Inca from mid-14th century onwards built his own palace, which he would later inhabit as a mummy along with his descendants and their families and servants. The most important Inca temple was Coricancha, the Temple of the Sun. Cuzco was shaped like a Puma, with highways leading in the four cardinal directions. The language was Quechua. Very skilled in engineering and terracing.

Block Coloured Embroidered Mantle

Example of discontinuous warp and weft technique. Each section is separate from the other.

Half aquatic-half cat deity which is very popular. This signifies the transformative element to Andean religion.

Came from a mummy bundle in a tomb. Corpses were wrapped in many layers of textiles, but the mantle was the most important.

The head held by the deity is probably a sign of human sacrifice.

Stirrup-Spout Vessel: Portrait of a Ruler

Designed so that water doesn't evaporate very quickly, which is important in such an arid climate.

Extremely realistic in scars, wrinkles and body paint.

Molded in two pieces and then stuck together.

Frontal, snake deity on headdress, superior gaze, sense of nobility, etc. shows that he is a ruler and not an everyday person.

We know a lot about how people dressed and painted themselves by looking at these vessels.

Entrance to Kalasasaya

There is a large raised courtyard with a sunken courtyard in front.

Surrounded like fortress-like series of rocks. Some were fitted by people, and some retained their natural shape.

The Inca would do pilgrimages to this site and worship.

Heads of captives are carved and hung on the wall. They are individualized, and might represent vassal states. They were probably inserted at different times.

Kalasasaya was a fortress and religious center.

Masonry is not as sophisticated as in Cuzco.

Four sides of the courtyard face the four cardinal directions.

Inca Masonry:

Central stone is much more valuable due to irregular shape and sizes.

Stones themselves were sacred.

Very, very little figural imagery. Small snake motif represents thunder and lightning motif.

No mortar is used; the stones fit together like a puzzle.

Machu Picchu

Seasonal residence for the royal family.

Best preserved Inca site, because the Spanish had no idea it was there.

Different types of rock are used in areas of varying holiness.

Built on a huaca, and surrounded by huaca.

Lots of terracing.

Full of huacas. Most of them are chosen because they have lots of sides and look like surrounding mountains.