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Xbalanque's marriage : a commentary on the Q'eqchi' myth of sun and moon

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Citation

Braakhuis, H. E. M. (2010, October 20). *Xbalanque's marriage : a commentary on the Q'eqchi' myth of sun and moon*. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/16064>

Version: Not Applicable (or Unknown)

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"Xbalanque's Marriage" examines a core myth of the Q'eqchi' Mayas living in the Alta Verapaz department of Guatemala and in Belize. Central to all of its episodes is the hunt. The myth's pivotal figure, Xbalanque, is also one of the Twin heroes of the Popol Vuh. The Q'eqchi' tale about how the deer hunter Xbalanque found his wife offers an intriguing contrast to the Popol Vuh, in which Xbalanque acts together with his comrade as an unmarried war hero. A central concern of the Q'eqchi' myth and its many versions elsewhere in Guatemala and Belize is the ritual alliance to the earth and the acquisition of its products, personified by the daughter of a mountain deity. This book contributes to a better understanding of how traditional Mesoamerican peoples interact with their landscape.

H.E.M. Braakhuis studied cultural anthropology at the Universities of Amsterdam and Utrecht. He publishes on the religion, mythology, and iconography of contemporary and ancient Mayas.

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A Commentary on the Q'eqchi' Myth
of Sun and Moon

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