

THE YUMAN HERITAGE

metipá: kiliwa myth

Metipá, the creator, came out of the earth at a pass. He came out of the earth from the back of a little red mountain, Wey Coján.

Metipá first made his four sons: Meñuíkuñamá', Jiálkuá'ipái, Joá'kuñamá' and Upá'kuñamá'. Then Metipá made the moon. He put it in the east. Meñuíkuñamá' thought it was hung rather badly, so he took it across the sky and hung it in the west. Therefore the moon always sets in the west.

Then Metipá wanted to make the sun. He had it in his stomach. He took it out through his mouth and put it in the sky. Then he began to make plants, hills and animals. After everything was made, Metipá named everything: antelope, mountain sheep, rabbit, and all. Then he made the four seas. Everything was small; when Metipá came out of the earth there was only a little patch of earth for him to sit upon, and everything had to grow, just as a person grows. Then he made everything grow a little larger.

After dying and being burnt, he made a moth, the kind the Mexicans call cigarra. This was the last animal he made. He had forgotten to make it before, and made it then, when he remembered it.

When Metipá died he went back into the earth, and his white bones became veins of rocks in the mountains, where they can be seen today. Metipá had taught his four sons how to make things: bows, arrows, arrow stones, fire, nets, ollas, houses, blankets and so forth. They were the first to make them. Metipá ordered his sons to make these things for people, and to marry women and have children.

