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The Mayan Days . . . and Their Meaning

Author(s): Charles E. Dibble

Abstract: A series of brief comments in which the author presents archaeological findings, architectural notes, and myths and legends that deal indirectly with the Book of Mormon. Dibble discusses the wheel, ancient irrigation methods, metals, Mexican and Mayan codices, Quetzalcoatl, ancient buildings, and numerous other related items. The eleventh part covers the Mayan calendar.

THE MAYAN DAYS...

and their meaning

By CHARLES E. DIBBLE

*Roosevelt Fellow, Institute of
International Education*

PROFESSOR ANTONIO MEDIZ BOLIO, a Mexican diplomat and man of letters, was born and reared among the Maya of Yucatan. Early in life he mastered the Mayan language, and his writings present to us the refinement of Mayan life and literature. His early and constant contact with the Mayan language and people has enabled him to capture much of the idiomatic beauty of the language—a part so often overlooked or unrecorded by hurried linguistic investigation.

The Maya had a twenty-day month. Professor Mediz Bolio in his book, *The Chilam Balam of Chumayel*—a Mayan record of religion and tradition—gives his interpretation of the twenty days. The following literal translation is given by permission of the author.

20 DAYS—20 FINGERS AND TOES—MAN

Name of Day	Root	Exact Meaning	Essence of the Concept
1. Imix	Im	Womb, breast, mould, feminine origin of life	In the maternal womb
2. Ik	Ik	Spirit	Receives the spirit
3. Akbal	Aaktal	To be fresh, green, recent, tender	The child is born
4. Kan	Kan; Kantal	To be in maturity	Reaches the fulness of physical life
5. Chicchan	Chchicchaan	To see, to take that which is seen	Gathers experience from that seen
6. Cimi	Cimil	Die	Suffers corporal death
7. Manik	Man; Manzah-Ik	Pass, pass over—spirit	His spirit passes beyond, survives, breaks the bonds of death
8. Lamat	Lamtal	Submerge in something soft but thick, to become engulfed	Submerge in heavy atmosphere. Fight to become free. To free oneself from the material
9. Muluc	Mul-Mulcha-hal—Mul Mulcin, Mulucbal	To accumulate, to press together, to compress, gather — accumulate, make a heap or a hill of something	To withdraw to oneself, concentrate, i.e., make one's heap. Gather one's harvest
10. Oc	Oc, ocol	Enter, penetrate	Enter
11. Chuen	Chuh	Burn without flame, burn without conflagration	Burn without flame—suffer
12. Eb	Eb	Stairway	Begin to ascend
13. Been	Beentah	Proceed little by little with difficulty, with economy	Continue little by little, with difficulty
14. Hix	Hix	Rub with something rough, to polish	To purify oneself
15. Men	Men	Work, construct, build masterfully	To become perfect
16. Cib	Cib	Candle, torch, incense	To light one's light
17. C'haban	Haban	Destroy the fire, separate the ashes, consume that which has burned	To separate from one's ashes
18. Edznab	Edzah	To sit down, to establish oneself over his foundation	To establish oneself in his perfection
19. Cauac	Ca uac	To withdraw for the second time something which is inside of another object and joined to it	The essence of divinity emanates again
20. Ahau	Ahau	God	To become one with the divinity