

Friday December 3, 2010

Time: 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

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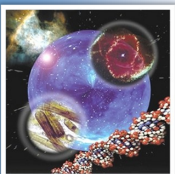
## Rulers of the Andes, Children of the Sun

As children of the sun god, Inti, the Inca ruled their empire. Their claim to this position was reinforced through mythology, and ceremonies involving a system of solar markers around the horizon of Cuzco. The remains of such solar markers have now been found, giving flesh to early Spanish accounts but many questions remain. This system required the support of other observations. Who made them and how? More importantly, how was this skywatching activity used to support the Inca imperial system?

By 1572 the last legitimate heir to the Inca crown had been executed, and many of the important shrines had been desecrated, or destroyed. A great deal of information on Inca social structure, ceremonial activity, and belief is lost. Still, through ethnohistoric accounts, and archaeological fieldwork, it is possible to piece together the sky watching practices of the Inca, and understand some of its use in organizing their empire.

Guaman Poma's drawing of an astrologer who lived in Lucanas. Guaman Poma described the activities of this sky watcher saying:

... in the sowing of the crops, they follow the month, the day, the hour, and the point where the Sun moves; they watch the high hills in the morning, the brightness, and the rays that the Sun aims at the window; by this clock they sow and harvest each year in this domain. (Guaman Poma de Ayala, 1980:210,830 [1615:235(237)])



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