

# The Legend of Azul

by Ernest D. Hernandez

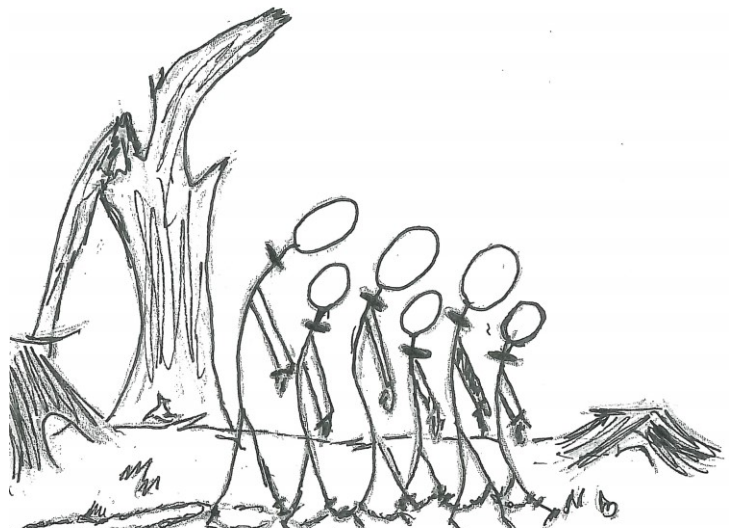
Illustrated by J. Marie Norman



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Seven ages before the current era, there was an ancient province which lived in peace until the Fire Warlords descended upon them. They destroyed the villagers and took all the men as slaves; all the craftsman, the artisans, hunters, farmers, and even.... the storytellers. The people were devastated and did not know what to do.



Afterward, when the elders of the women met, they reasoned amongst themselves that they should send someone to learn wisdom from The Four Spheres of the World. They were able to quickly decide who should go because they all agreed they should send someone pure of heart. And, they were all familiar with one girl who had not been tainted by the world. They chose to send Azul.



When Azul arrived in the Southern Sphere, she met a tiger and she pleaded with him, "Tiger, please tell me your wisdom so I can protect my people." But the tiger laughed, "Oh Ho Ho Ho dear girl, I cannot tell you my wisdom. But, follow me and I will show you." And she did. From the ways of the tiger Azul learned to defend her territory, how to hunt for her own prosperity, and how to be courageous in the dark and lively jungle. Then, she headed west.



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