Crystals: Modern Maya

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Maya. At San Juan Chamula, a cluster of hamlets scattered across a rugged, forested plateau in the mountains of Chiapas, the forty thousand Maya inhabitants consider themselves to be at the center of the universe. Their church encloses what they think of as the "navel of the earth." The high altitude of their village places them in a superior relationship with the sun which no other community is lucky enough to share. And the farther one withdraws from the "navel" of Chamula, the more alien and dangerous one's surroundings become.

Furthermore, time itself shrinks back on itself into the past as one travels away from Chamula. So the outer fringes of the island earth are populated by ancient demons, fierce animals, and, as the Harvard anthropologist Gary Gossen found to his surprise, by North Americans:

Chamulas were fond of asking my wife or me the question, "Do people bite and eat one another in your country?" Surprised we would usually answer, "Of course not. Do people bite and eat each other here?" They would roar with laughter at our stupid question and then usually answer, "Well, no, but the first people did." Only