

THE LEGEND OF NIKTÉ - HA



According to legend, in the land of the Mayab, there was once a king who had a handsome son, Prince ChacDzibDzib, whose destiny was to marry a girl of the same rank, because one day, he would be a king. However, the young and handsome prince was deeply in love with a beautiful young girl, Nikté-Ha ("Water Flower"). She was the daughter of the guardian of the Sacred Cenote.

The Prince ChacDzibDzib and his love, Nikté-Ha met in secret every night by the Cenote, being careful that no one saw them.

Despite the relationship's youthful charm, it was not seen well through the eyes of the great king, as Nikté Ha, no matter how beautiful she was, she was not a princess!

ChacDzieDzib always visited her dressed in a red robe and Nikté-Ha waited for him dressed in her White huipil (*a tunic-like garment made by stitching together anywhere from one to five pieces of cloth*). The prince wrote every day beautiful poems and songs for his beloved Nikté -Ha. But the Great Priest of the tribe discovered them, and his eyes looked with envy and concern as that love flourished.

"Never a commoner will become queen of NanChan!", he murmured. "Nikté-Ha had to disappear forever!", and that is when the priest started planning a tragic end to the love story. Meanwhile, the prince had decided to marry Nikté-Ha in secret. However, one night prior to the ceremony, the prince had a bad feeling that his beloved was in danger. He grabbed his red coat and went out to look for Nikté-Ha.



Unfortunately, the evil Priest was already waiting in the dark. When the prince arrived at the Cenote, he saw her sitting as she did every night, and ran to hug her. But out of the shadows, an arrow struck his beloved, Nikté-Ha, in the heart and she fell into the Sacred Cenote, disappearing from the sight of her beloved. Horrified, the prince searched unsuccessfully in the dark waters of the Cenote to find his beautiful Nikté-Ha. After a while, only her white huipil floated in the water.



The prince begged the gods to allow her to be with him forever. Showing their compassion, the gods transformed Nikté-Ha into a beautiful white flower, and the prince's heart into a red bird with a beautiful song: the cardinal. Since then every morning you can see the cardinal bird go down to the Cenote and perch near the lilies. It is said that under that aspect he continues to sing and recite poems of love to the beautiful flower that floats in the water, the beautiful Nikté-Ha a water-lily flower, and his princess.



Cenote Nikté-Ha



The Legend of Nikté-Ha

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