

# the otomies

The Otomi people are an indigenous people of Mexico living in various regions of the central part of the country. Throughout history, their territory has been an important region inhabited by indigenous highlanders, however, they have received little attention in the historical accounts of pre-Hispanic Mesoamerica. The name "otomi" comes from the nahuatl and means "who walks with arrows", although some writers interpret it as "bird-eyed".

Today, the Otomí people are found throughout Mexico, in the states of Hidalgo, Querétaro, Guanajuato, Michoacán, Tlaxcala, Puebla and Veracruz. These states form the core of the Republic of Mexico and host the majority of the country's population. The otomí people is located in four main areas: the Mezquital Valley, the Sierra Madre Oriental, the Querétaro Peninsula and northern Mexico.

The Otomí people manufactures various handicrafts among which we can highlight the production of wool mats, molcajetes and metates of black stone, palm hats, tule chairs, fiber ayates of maguey, textiles made in waist loom. The reed is used to make pots, baskets, dove-shaped rattles and cantaros for the pulque.

"The tenangos" are an artisan creation that has colorful embroideries with designs inspired by the worldview of the indigenous people of the Otomí Tepehua Mountains, who settle in Hidalgo. For this reason we have selected them as a way to highlight their culture and elaborate a creative artistic creation to represent a history of this people.

tenangos



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# Los Uémas

In our research we found numerous stories, this was our favorite for its connection to ceremonial centers and nature. We recommend watching this video which is the source of our story: <https://youtu.be/xsComFwMha8?si=SvUwN3OcQl3aJnKW>

The Otomi say that the "uémas" inhabited the Valley of Mexico many years ago. They were ancestral giants as big as the *mezchites* and if they fell they broke into pieces; they built great bases and beautiful buildings and also inherited the art of pottery to the town of José María Pino Suárez in Puebla.

One day came a flood that devastated the planet and the uémas disappeared, but the vestiges of its greatness and creativity still persist, so sometimes you find vessels with beautiful engravings in those lands.

In the areas surrounding the remains of the uémas, there is talk of small mischievous beings: the "uémas" or "uemalitos", they prowl through Chapatongo and Tlahuinilolpan, and unlike the giants it is said that these dwarfs are negative forces that appear before those who break the cultural rules of your community

Some say they are still among the humans and try to punish those who misbehave.

Sometimes their antics are so great that they put men's lives at risk. But these leprechauns aren't all bad, they're annoying but the potters say they're also protective guardians who care for nature, the sacred places and what their giant namesake left behind, those huge archaeological sites that continue to surprise us.



# Synopsis



The "uémas" inhabited the Valley of Mexico many years ago. They were ancestral giants who built great bases and beautiful buildings and also inherited the art of pottery to the Otomi people.

One day a flood came and devastated the planet, and the uémas disappeared, but the vestiges of their greatness and creativity still persist. In the neighboring areas there is talk of small mischievous beings: the uemalitos, which, unlike the giants, are negative forces that appear before those who break the rules and try to punish those who misbehave. They are naughty but they are also guardians of nature, the sacred places and the legacy of the uémas, those enormous archaeological sites that continue to surprise us.

We invite you to watch an animation of this story in the following video:  
<https://youtu.be/xsComFwMha8?si=svUWN3OcQI3aJnKW>

