

The legend of the Tlahuelpuchi

Adriana Nuñez Sánchez

2030005@upv.edu.mx

Since Pre-Hispanic times. When night falls in the rural areas of Tlaxcala, women, half-vampire, and half-witch, emerge from their hiding places, they are known as Tlahuelpuchis and are thirsty for human blood. Their favorite one is the newborns' blood because of the sweetness of its taste. To get it, they turn into a bat, then infiltrate into homes at midnight while the parents are asleep, enter the children's room, and suck their blood until leaving them bloodless, and then the Tlahuelpuchi sleeps them in its arms as a mother would do with her baby. When the parents wake up, they find only their children's bodies with bruises or the worst scenery, bodies completely without life. The cries of pain for the loss of some parents become unbearable. Nowadays, this legend remains in the past, and no one in Tlaxcala believes it anymore. I had never believed in those horror legends. Until it happened to me last year when I made a family trip to Tlaxcala. Along the way, we were telling stories, until my dad told us the most famous story of Tlaxcala las Tlahuelpuchis. For me, the story became absurd. When we arrived, we stayed in a village, where we were received by the owner, her name was Maria, who held her son in her arms and told us that he was just a few weeks old. She showed us the rooms where we were going to stay in. During the rest of the day, we were visiting places in Tlaxcala. It was 8 pm and I wanted to go back to the village because I was very tired from the trip. But my parents wanted to go out for dinner. I told her that I was very tired but my parents did not want to go back to the village. At that moment we met Maria, she said she was going to the village and could take me while my parents went to have dinner; my parents

accepted, and I went with Maria. When we arrived at the village I went straight to the room and fell asleep, when suddenly I started hearing noises in the village. And I thought it was my parents who had already returned from dinner. When suddenly, I heard something fall to the ground and I went out to see. And then I realized that they hadn't returned from dinner yet. So, I decided to go and see what it was. I went straight to the kitchen when I bumped into Maria and saw that she had cut herself and had a serious injury, but she didn't want to go to the doctor because then with whom she would leave her son, so I offered to take care of the baby so that she could go to the doctor. When Maria left, I went to the baby's room, the door was open and I could see a woman's silhouette but it seemed strange because Maria was in the village. Then, I started to get closer, when I appreciated that the woman had claws in what would be her hands, and I saw how she was staring at the baby with her red eyes and she was getting closer and closer to the baby then, I saw how she started pulling out her fangs and shouted. The woman just looked at me and ran out of the room through the window. I ran to the window to see what I had seen when out of nowhere, I saw how the woman turned into a bat and left. I couldn't believe what I was seeing so I took the baby and left my room and I called my parents to tell them what I had seen. Then my parents arrived and together with Maria, I told them everything in detail and Maria told us that what she had seen was a Tlahuelpuchi who loves to drink the blood of babies. The next day I couldn't be there anymore because I was so afraid of what I had seen. So, we finished the trip and I went back home. Since then I have not returned to Tlaxcala.