The origin of huitlacoche

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Base don an oral tradition tale of Amealco, Queretaro. As told by Evaristo Bernabé Chávez from San Ildefonso Tultepec and by José Pedro Pedro Lázaro from Santiago Mexquititlán

The cornfield feed us. It gives us the corn that God (Jwä) sowed to make the dough from which we were made thousands of years ago, when he decided that we would populate the world. He created many colours for us; he made the color of the cobs for us. Red corn, White, black, yellow, pinto. We are the color of corn, the children of corn.

All of our foodstuffs grow in the plots where we grow corn, pumpkin and beans, as our ancestors have done since they sowed the first seeds in the fertile womb of our Mother Earth. Along with corn, in the rainy season, wild quelite and other medicinal plants grow that feed and cure us, such as mallow, shito, purslane, tithonia, Mexican aster, Mexican tarragon, and the cingo yagas flower. The whole cornfield looks like a tablecloth embroidered with colourful flowers.

In the cornfield a corn fungus also grows, we call this huitlacoche. The older generations say that this fungus is born because children make dirt balls from the soil to play with. That is why when w ego to weed or fertilize our corn, we should not make or play with dirt balls from the cornfield soil because the grains of corn will rot and turn into huitlacoche and we will not have any corn to eat.

I believe that many children still play with the soil from the cornfield, because every year we get huitlacoche, and that is a good thing because I really like the corn fungus with ripe grains of corn, chili, onion and epazote leaves.