

**Houston Area  
Model United Nations  
Crisis Committee**

**Siege of the Inca Empire**

**Inca Empire**



**Crisis Director: Rohan Palavali  
Houston Area Model United Nations 51  
February 6 & 7, 2026**

# Note to Delegates

## Delegates,

Thank you for taking the time to attend the 51st annual HAMUN conference! None of this would be possible without y'all, and I am honored to welcome you into the exciting world of the Inca Empire.

My name is Rohan Palavali and I am a senior at Rice University from Dallas. I'm studying Cell Biology with a minor in Global Health Technologies as part of the pre-med track. Outside of MUN, I love to draw. I could spend hours transferring my imagination onto paper using art. I love the outdoors, and my dream is to visit every national park in the US (Fun fact: I'm also an Eagle Scout). When I have some free time, you can find me either napping or hanging out with my friends.

My advice to you is just to have fun! There's no best yapper award - you don't get points just for talking. The best way to do well is to form relationships, come up with wacky ideas, and having a great time.

The Siege of the Inca Empire is a fascinating topic, filled with intrigue and a variety of natural and societal factors. Every decision made on both sides will have consequences - the fate of your nation is in your hands.

**Rohan Palavali**  
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# Siege of the Inca Empire

Crisis Directors | Rohan Palavali

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## Background

We begin our story in the year **1527**.

The Inca Empire stretches through vast regions of South America.

Sophisticated networks of roads and bridges connect the entire empire.

Terraced farming takes advantage of the mountainous terrain to grow food for a growing population - over ten million people. Trade flourished, bridging the gap between the deserts and mountains of the Andean region.

This empire was ruled with an iron fist by the Sapa Inca, a centralized government figure. The road networks allowed him to control a vast region using military force. However, there is trouble brewing. The current Sapa Inca, Emperor Huayna Capac, is gravely ill. Though this news is to be kept secret from the population as a whole, rumors only grow. Discussions are being held about the successor to the throne. Huáscar, Capac's oldest son, is thought to be the rightful heir. Royal advisors are preparing to crown

him the new emperor of the Inca Empire, but a challenger emerges from the shadows. Atahualpa, Huáscar's half brother, is also laying claim to the throne. As the emperor of the mighty northern state of Quito, he has power over the mighty northern armies of the Inca Empire.

Loyalties are starting to split between the two brothers. Huáscar's supporters are seeking to avoid war, maintain the status quo, and unite the empire. Atahualpa's followers are itching to reshape the empire and usher in a new era. The fate of a vast empire stands in the balance.

Further complicating the situation are the loyalties of the conquered peoples within the Inca Empire. The Cañaris, Huancas, Chankas, and Chachapoyas are all deeply dissatisfied with what they view as the harsh rule of the Inca Emperors. They also desire peace, but are fiercely independent. News of the emperor's illness has awakened a new desire for

independence.

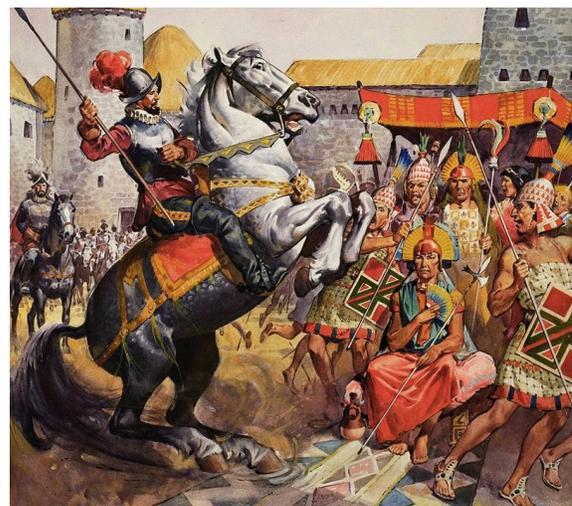
In the meantime, trouble is brewing from across the Atlantic Ocean. The year prior, Spanish conquistador Francisco Pizarro had sailed to South America, marking the first Spanish contact with the Inca. He brought back to Spain news of a vast empire with untold riches, especially of silver. He had brought with him to South America a powerful ally of the Spanish: smallpox. The disease is ravaging the empire, and experts are struggling to fight its rapid spread. The Inca have never encountered a disease like this before, and their bodies are unprepared for its onslaught.

Meanwhile, in Spain, King Carlos I is facing mounting pressure. Having Austrian ancestry, he is perpetually viewed as a foreigner in Spain. The Ottoman Empire and France are growing in power, ready to pounce at a moment's notice. He is facing increasing pressure to bring Spain out of an economic crisis, and is desperate for a way out.

When Pizarro brings back news of a vast empire in South America, he is ecstatic. Six years before, Hernando Cortes had conquered the Aztec Empire in Central America. Spain could use a similar success to enrich their coffers in this dire time.

Both Spain and the Inca Empire are at a crossroads. The decisions made by their respective committees will determine the fate of their people. Will the Spanish Empire take decisive action to conquer the Inca Empire? Will the Inca Empire unite to defeat foreign invaders? Is diplomacy on the table?

Keep in mind that some of the listed characters are not real people - if you cannot find information on them (or even if you can), please feel free to be creative! Use the descriptions to determine what the characters can and cannot do. Use these powers to your advantage.





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## Timeline

**1493:** Huayna Capac becomes Sapa Inca. He shifts control of the empire from the historic capital of Cusco to the North in Quito.

**1516:** King Charles I becomes King of Spain, after his reign as King Charles V of the Holy Roman Empire. As an Austrian with Habsburg lineage, he knew little of the Spanish language or customs.

**1521:** Tenochtitlan falls to Hernan Cortes, signaling the fall of the Aztec Empire.

**1522-1524:** Hernan Cortes and his forces introduce smallpox to Central America, and it spreads rapidly through the continent

**1524:** Aleixo Garcia, a Portuguese explorer, initiates the first European contact with the Inca Empire in a Guaraní expedition

**1525:** Sapa Inca Huayna Capac contracts smallpox. Discussions of succession are being had as his illness worsens.

**1526:** Francisco Pizarro discovers the Inca Empire on his second expedition. He returns to Spain, telling tales of a vast empire filled with wealth.

**1525-1527:** Huáscar asserts his claim to the throne due to his mother's lineage. Atahualpa challenges this claim due to his forces in the North, near Quito.





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## Committee Brief

The inner turmoil in the Inca Empire threatens to tear it apart from the inside. Firstly, the fight over the throne is reaching a boiling point. Between the factions of Huáscar in the capitol of Cusco and the armies of Atahualpa in the North, the tensions could soon explode into a civil war. The conquered peoples of the empire are discontent with their lot, waiting for an opportunity to fight for their independence against their Inca oppressors.

However, these divisions will only make it easier for external forces to take advantage of the Inca Empire. They have already encountered Europeans twice - Aleixo Garcia and then Francisco Pizarro. Inca officials are cautious of these developments, and rightfully frightened.

It is important to maintain unity against outside forces if the Inca Empire wants to succeed and prosper.

However, this is easier said than done. Warring factions, different ethnic groups, and the strains of a vast empire are all slowly cracking the foundation of the Inca Empire.

It is important not only to remember history, but to learn from its lessons. The Spanish Empire is a powerful force that has already conquered the Aztec Empire to the north. Their diseases are already sweeping through the Inca Empire, ravaging a strained public health system.

Will the Inca Empire strive to unite its peoples despite their differences, or will they all seek their own personal gain? Will you change history, or will you be forced to repeat it?

I wish the Inca Empire luck in its endeavor. *Hina kachun!*

# Your Goals

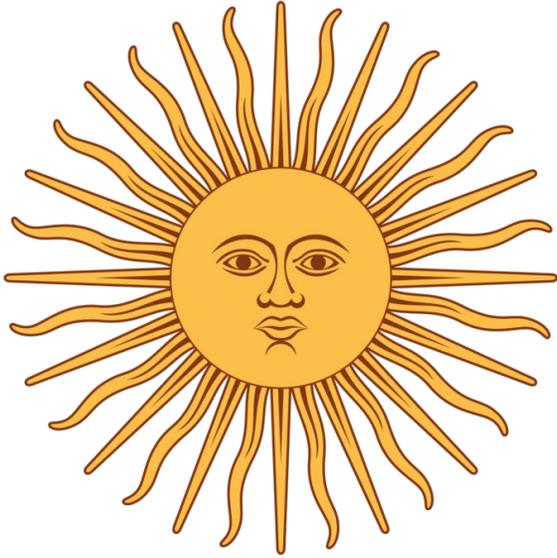
The primary goal of the Inca Empire is to **survive** the many challenges it faces - internal division, its conquered territories, and the threat of the Spanish Empire, among others. As a committee, you must find common ground and compromise to ensure the survival of the Inca.

A secondary goal that is directly related to the first is to achieve **stability** in the empire. Each of the conquered territories has its own demands and desire for self-determination. The different factions of Atahualpa and Huáscar threaten to tear apart the people of the empire. Smallpox has stricken down thousands of people, creating panic throughout the land. In order to progress and prosper, stability must be achieved.

A third goal is to stave off the **threat** of external invasion. The Spanish Empire knows about the vast wealth of the Inca, and Inca leaders are not ignorant. They know that these forces are likely hostile. The committee must find a way to predict and evade this threat through any means.



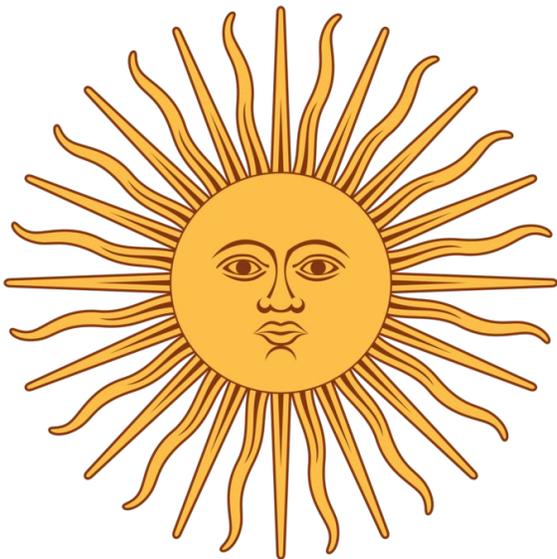
# Characters



## Atahualpa

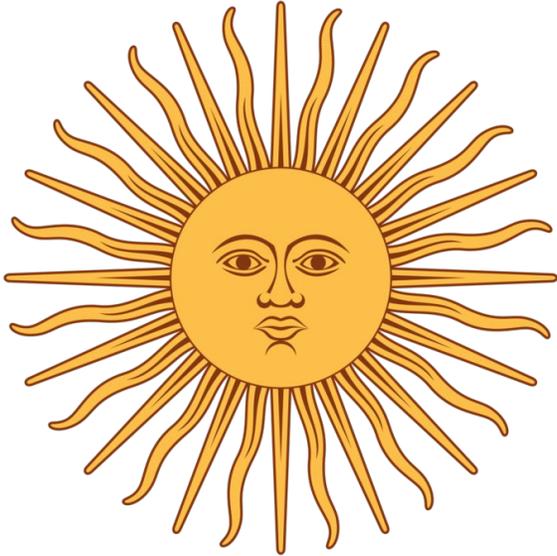
Atahualpa is the governor of Quito, in the northern reaches of the Inca Empire. The son of Huayna Capac, who is expected to pass soon, he believes he has a right to the throne of the Inca Empire. Despite this, he tentatively accepts his half-brother Huáscar's ascendancy. In the meanwhile, he builds up his forces until they become the most fearsome army in the Inca Empire. Hungry for power and convinced he has a right to be the Sapa Inca, Atahualpa has incredible influence on the northern part of the Inca Empire. He is content with the status quo, but awaits an opportunity to strike...

## Huáscar



Huáscar, viewed as the rightful heir to the throne, is set to rule the Inca Empire after the death of Sapa Inca Huayna Capac. His factions in Cusco are preparing to make him the Emperor. Although he is almost set to ascend to the throne, he is aware of the factions plotting against him. Huáscar is deeply religious, and one of his primary motivations for being insistent for the throne is that he has the religious right to it. He commands the official Inca forces, but his influence is waning in the North, where Atahualpa has his stronghold. Will he be able to hold onto his power, or will he be forced to

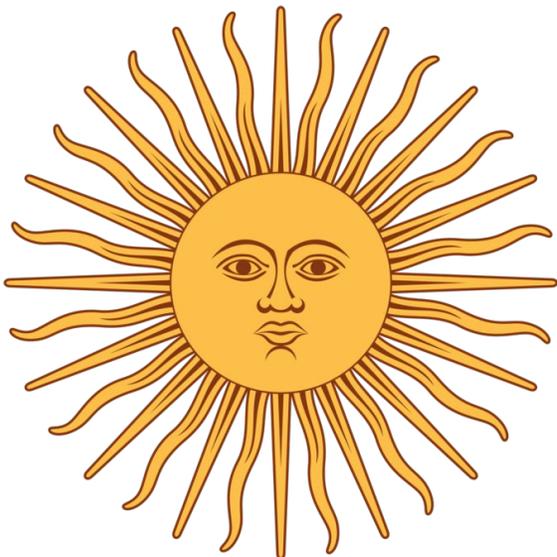
# Characters



## Atoc

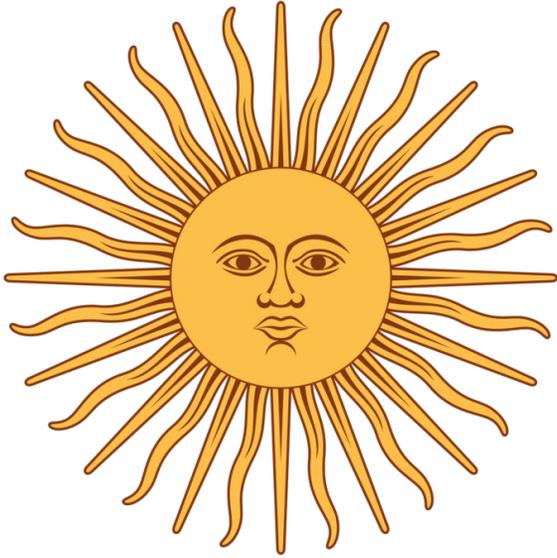
Atoc, Huáscar's brother, is fiercely loyal to him. As the general of the Inca Empire's armies, he commands a large influence over the Inca forces based in Cusco. Rising to power through familial connections, he has nonetheless proved himself in battle several times over. His name is Quechua for "fox" because of how sly he is - he is an adept spy. His espionage abilities have gained Huáscar's loyalists much information about Atahualpa's whereabouts and activities in the North.

## Paccha Duchicela



Paccha Duchicela is the wife of the current Sapa Inca, Huayna Capac. She is the mother of Atahualpa. In the Sapa Inca's dying days, she exerts enormous influence over the Empire. She is also the daughter of the former governor of Quito (and the mother of the current governor, Atahualpa), so she has many supporters in the North of the empire. As the Emperor's wife, she has a say in many matters of the state. She has loyalties both to the capital in Cusco and the regions of the North. Will she be the bridge that the Inca Empire needs to be united again?

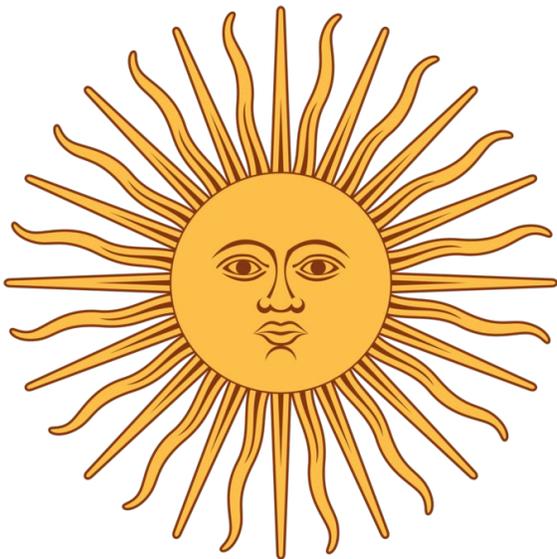
# Characters



## Challcuchima

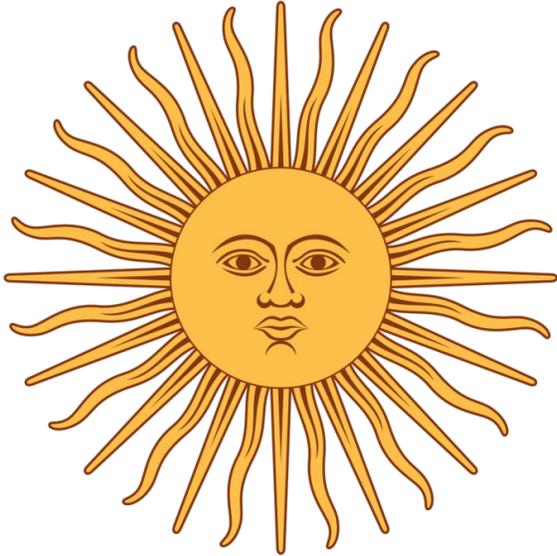
Challcuchima is a leading general in the North of the Inca Empire. His loyalties are to Atahualpa. He believes that this will bring him the best chance to be close to the throne - Atahualpa's armies are larger than those of the Emperor's. Challcuchima simply wants what is best for him and his family. He is an incredibly charismatic leader and is very relatable to the rest of his troops. They are undyingly loyal to him and would do anything he says. His charisma allowed him to rise to the position of Atahualpa's chief diplomat - he is the first person in line to negotiate with foreign powers.

## Quisquis



Quisquis leads his armies in the North of the Empire with an iron fist. He is an excellent general and has won many battles in his time. Coming from a poor family, he was eager to prove himself. He quickly rose in the ranks in the armies of Quito, gaining the favor of Atahualpa. As one of the two top generals in his armies, he holds an enormous amount of power.

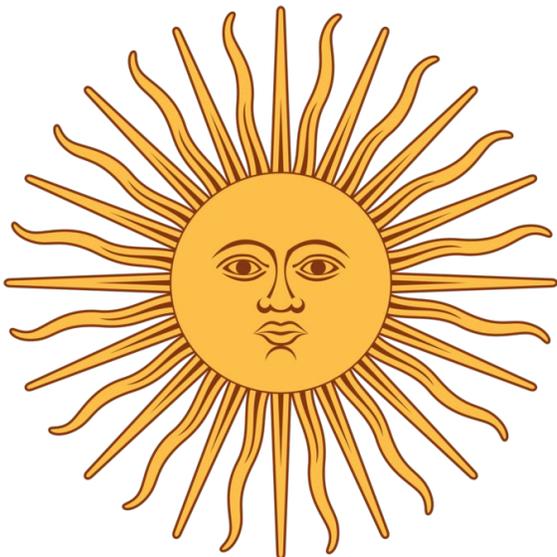
# Characters



## Rumiñahui

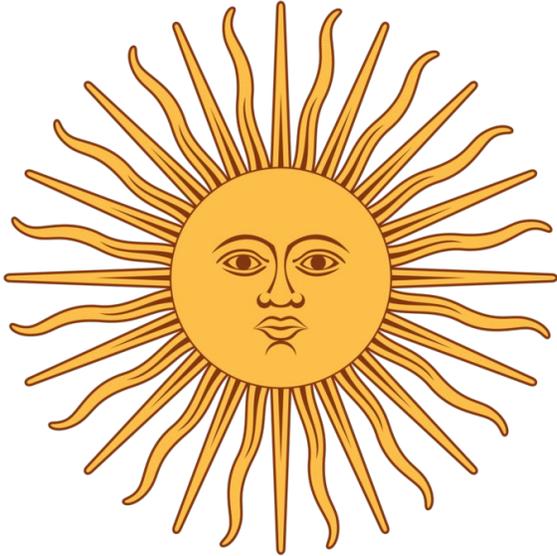
Rumiñahui is a general in Atahualpa's armies, but takes a keen interest in the treasures of the Inca Empire. Always the planner, he is a step ahead of his enemies. He has seen the strange white men that stepped foot on the shores of the Inca Empire and remains suspicious. He is loyal not only to Atahualpa but to the Inca Empire as a whole. He seeks unity and compromise, as he acknowledges the threat from abroad - Spanish *conquistadors*.

## Aleixo Garcia



Aleixo Garcia is a Portuguese explorer that was on the failed expedition of Juan Diaz de Solis. When many of his fellow explorers were killed by Guarani, he joined the tribe. While with them, he raided an Inca outpost and was captured. Fascinated with Inca culture, he decided to help the Inca Empire in exchange for his freedom. He is the main source of information about Europe and the outside world in the Inca Empire.

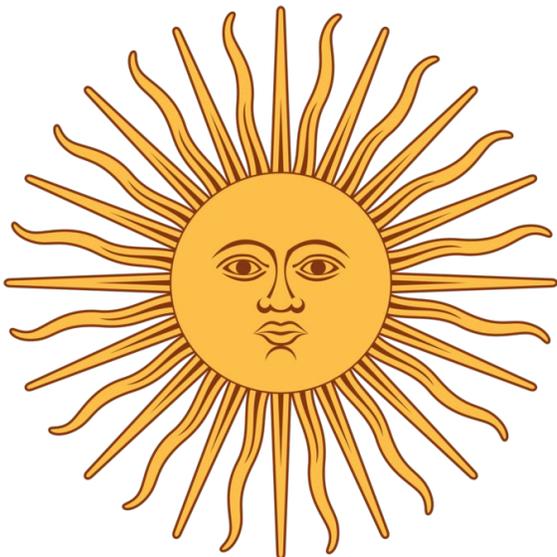
# Characters



## Lautaro

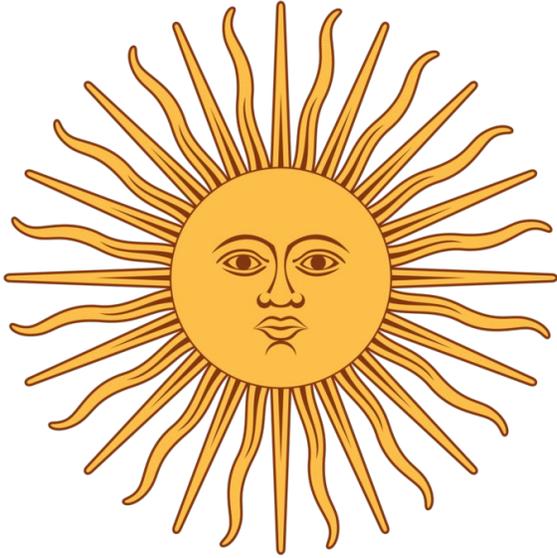
Lautaro is the leader of the Mapuche people, a tribe conquered by the Inca. He is deeply loyal to his people and is resistant to any efforts to quell his culture. Although he accepted strategic defeat and absorption into the Inca Empire to avoid destruction of his people, his main loyalties do not lie with the larger Empire. An incredibly able general, he is very popular with the Mapuche people and constantly advocates for their wellbeing in Inca council meetings.

## Huanca Auqui



Huanca Auqui is a war leader of the Huanca tribe. Not typically a warring tribe, the Huanca people mainly herd llamas and farm potatoes and maize. However, the conquest of the Incas forced them to hastily bring up arms. The Huanca region is a major source of food for the Inca Empire. Before he was a war leader, Auqui was a statesman, settling disputes in the tribe and ensuring that everything ran smoothly. His people deeply respect him.

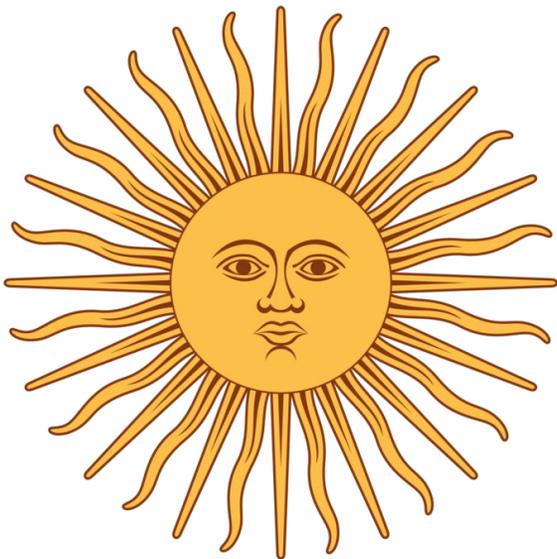
# Characters



## Hastu Huaraca

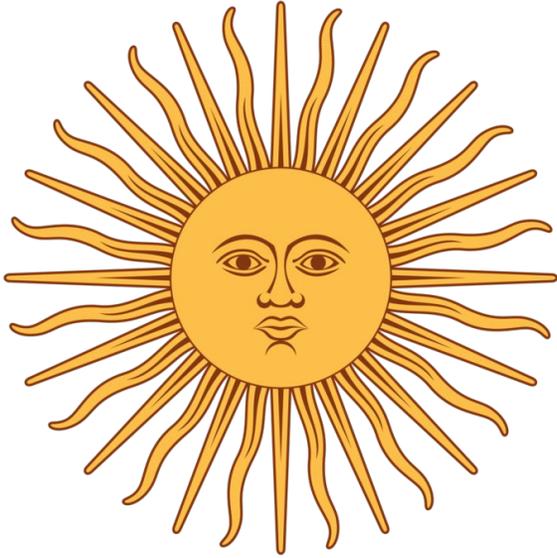
Hastu Huaraca is a war leader of the Chanka Tribe. The tribe submitted peacefully to the Inca Empire some years ago at its behest. In exchange, they have received preferential treatment from Cusco. Although they are a small tribe, they are very loyal to the Sapa Inca. This, however, has led to resentment from other small tribes that have been conquered by the Inca. Huaraca has to balance the needs of his people, the Empire, and the desires of other tribes. Will he be able to do it?

## Carchipulla



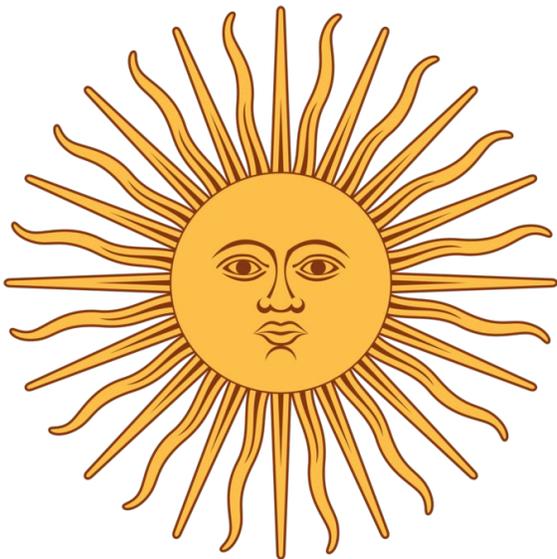
Carchipulla is the leader of the Cañaris tribe. Unlike other tribes, this tribe is spread out at the behest of the Inca Empire. The diaspora sent them across several regions of the North Inca Empire. Thus, they are deeply resentful of the Sapa Inca. Carchipulla is loyal to his people. The Carchipulla were more advanced than other smaller tribes, and had sophisticated networks of cities and transportation. They have significant armies in the North.

# Characters



## Huaman

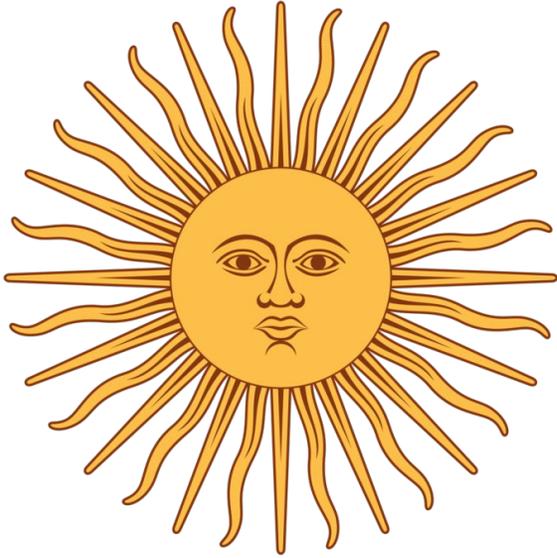
Huaman is the leader of the Chachapoya Tribe, known as the Warriors of the Clouds. They live high in the mountains of the Andes. They know the mountainous terrain like the back of their hands and are fierce warriors. They technically reside in Inca territory, but are fiercely territorial and do not recognize the authority of the Inca Empire. They are adept at living and fighting in the jungle. Although they do not produce agriculture, they can find sustenance in the dense forests of the Andes. Huaman is a popular leader, but the Chachapoya Tribe is highly decentralized - they do not all follow his orders as they are each incredibly independent.



## Manco Inca

Manco Inca is the Governor of Antisuyu, a state of the Inca Empire in the northeast. Antisuyu contains dense forests and is a highly agricultural region, accounting for much of the food eaten by residents of the Inca Empire. Manco Inca is a popular governor. Being in the north of the Empire, he is inclined to be loyal to Atahualpa. However, much of the income of this region comes from the centralized government in Cusco, led by Huáscar. Will Manco Inca be able to reconcile his loyalties, or will he let his state be torn apart by internal divisions?

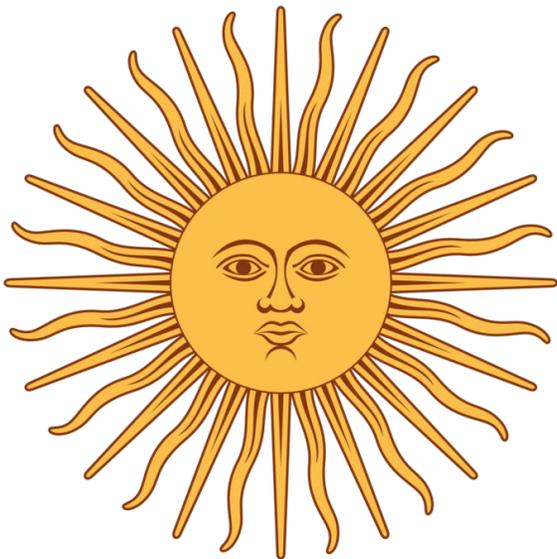
# Characters



## Amaru

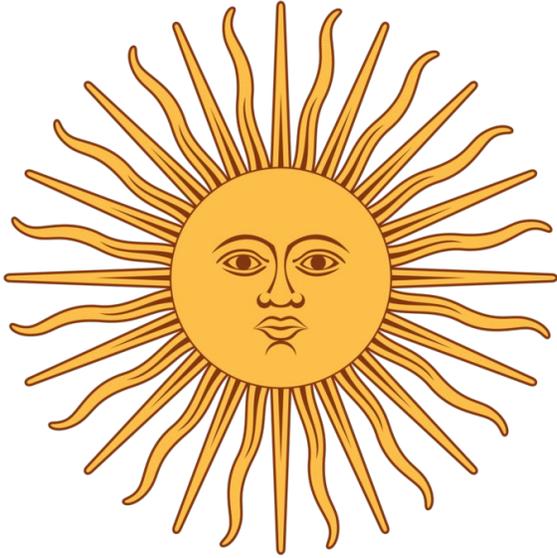
Amaru is the Governor of Chinchaysuyu, a state in the north of the Inca Empire. This is the first state to be entirely ruled by Atahualpa. Amaru, although very loyal to Atahualpa, feels resentful that he overran his state so quickly. Amaru commands an elite guard of spies that are renowned throughout the Inca Empire. Chinchaysuyu is a trading state, and most of the goods that come to the Inca Empire from other places come through this state. Thus, it has built an enormous amount of wealth through taxation.

## Paqari



Paqari is the Governor of Qullasuyu, the southernmost state of the Inca Empire. This area is strongly loyal to Huáscar and the current Sapa Inca. It contains many vast cities and is the industrial and technological center of the Inca Empire. Many of the top educational institutions are in Qullasuyu. Paqari does not command the largest military force, but his state contains the most advanced military machines: catapults, ballistas, and more. His advisors exert great influence on the office of the Sapa Inca.

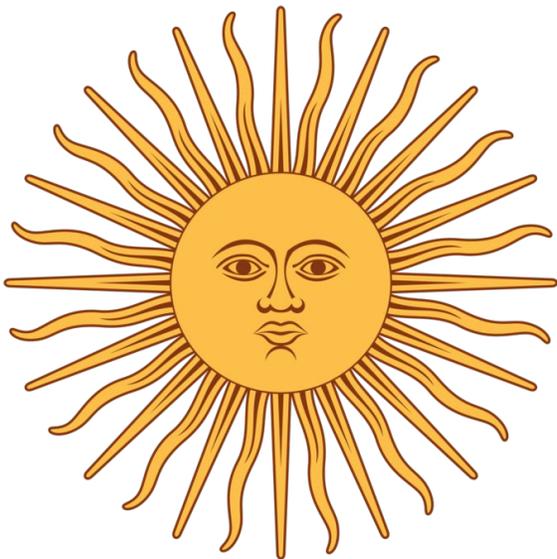
# Characters



## Sisa

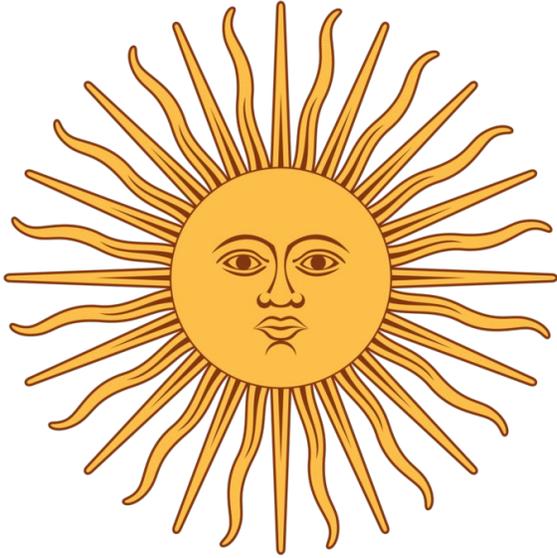
Sisa is the Governor of Cuntisuyu, a desert state in the south of the Inca Empire. The smallest state in the Empire, Sisa is nonetheless an important part of the empire. It provides most of the fish and seafood for the vast Inca Empire. It is also the closest state to the capital of the Empire, Cusco. It exerts an outsized influence on the capital. Sisa is a close friend of the current Sapa Inca, and they are close allies. The people are loyal to the Sapa Inca and Huáscar.

## Guaman



Guaman is the Director of Infrastructure for the Inca Empire. He is responsible for maintaining the vast network of roads that connect the different areas of the Inca Empire. He is an important member of the council of the Sapa Inca. He is loyal to the current Sapa Inca, and by extension the rightful heir Huáscar, but his main loyalty is to the people of the Inca Empire. His main desire is to help them through connection.

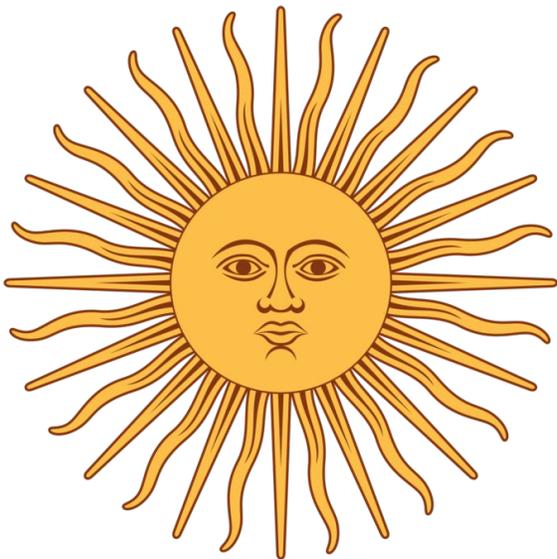
# Characters



## Willaq Umu

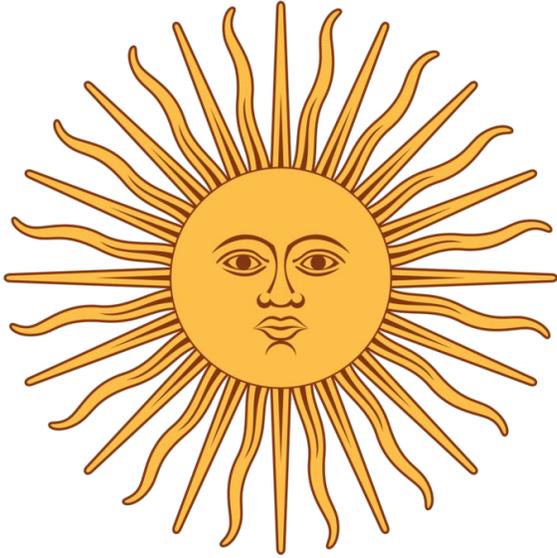
Willaq Umu is the High Priest of the Sun of the Inca Empire - the highest position in the religious hierarchy. He oversees all of the shrines and priests in the Inca Empire. As the head of the Inca religion, he commands influence over the entire Inca territory. He is diametrically opposed to any external religious influence in the Empire. He is the direct supervisor of several thousand priests scattered throughout the entire Inca Empire. His primary loyalty is to the pantheon of Inca Gods.

## La Malinche



La Malinche is an emissary from the Aztec Empire to the North. Since he was appointed in this role, Hernán Cortés destroyed the empire and his home. He harbors a deep hatred for the Spanish people and the *conquistadors*. He has made a home and a life for himself inside the Inca capital of Cusco. Since his home and his people are subjugated, his primary motivation is to free them and thwart the Spanish anywhere he can.

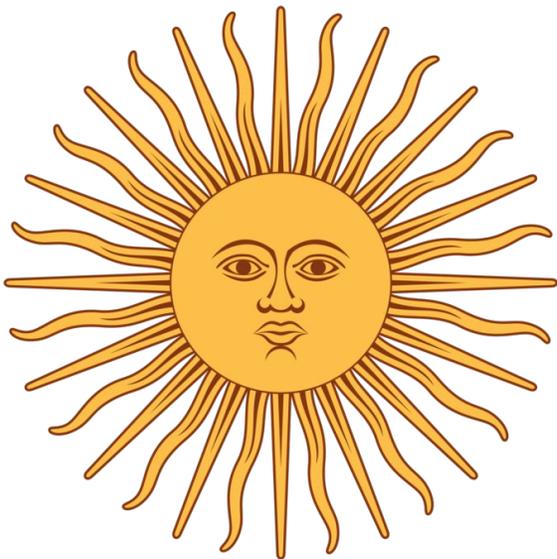
# Characters



## Wayra

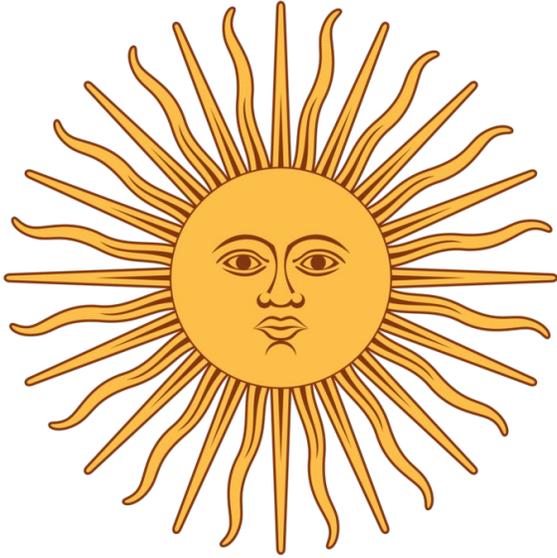
Wayra is the head of the famed Chasqui system, which is responsible for relaying messages and items across the Inca Empire. He leads the organization with a firm hand, ensuring that messages get where they need to be on time. His importance has earned him favor from the Royal Court - he is very loyal to Huáscar, whom he views as the rightful heir to the throne.

## Hampi Camayoc



Hampi Camayoc is a biological researcher in Cusco, the center of the Inca Empire. His work mainly focuses on disease and how it proliferates. The new smallpox epidemic concerns him greatly, and he has been working nonstop to find a cure. He is supported by some of the most advanced disease-controlling mechanisms of the era - public health measures as well as technologies. Will he be able to stop the epidemic before it is too late?

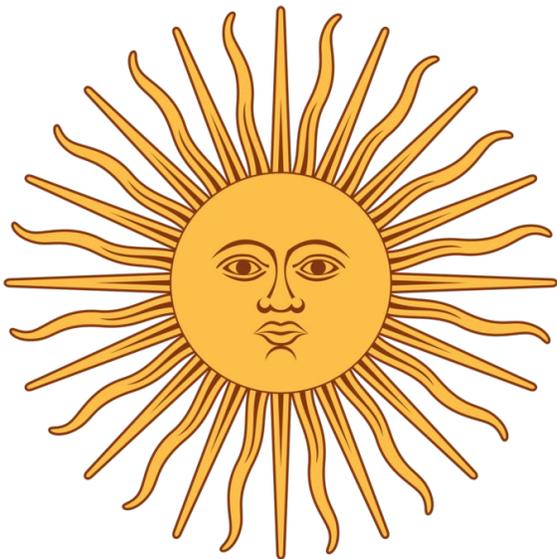
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## Amauta

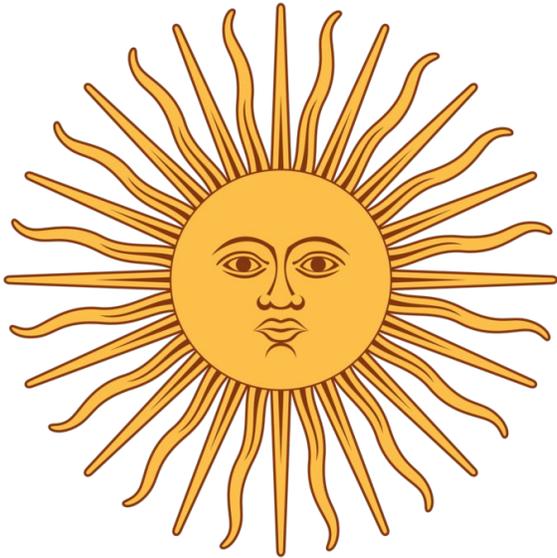
Amauta is the Guardian of the laws of the Inca Empire. He is the main enforcer, and he works out of Cusco to ensure that the rule of law is being followed in the Empire. He has enormous power throughout the Empire and its armies. Although his responsibilities are vast, he chooses to rule the Empire compassionately - this is his home, and he is incredibly loyal to the people in it.

## Quispe



Quispe is the owner of the largest alpaca herd in the Inca Empire. These animals are used for meat, fur, transportation, and more throughout the Empire. His farm has made him a rich man. His loyalties are to his family, his alpacas, and his riches. He cares deeply for his alpacas, and considers them to be like his children. He is known as the “alpaca whisperer”, and is said to be able to communicate with them.

# Characters



## Titu

Titu is the Head Engineer of the Inca Empire. He oversaw innovations such as earthquake-resistant masonry, more effective suspension bridges, and more. He is very loyal to Huáscar and his armies, and is not afraid to use his talents to defend the Inca Empire. He is a professor in the main learning institution in the Empire, teaching hundreds of students a year. He is incredibly talented at building intricate structures.

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