"And a great sign appeared in heaven: A woman clothed with the sun, and the moon at her feet." (Apoc. 12:1)

This is an enhanced but accurate version of the image on the 'tilma' (the traditional cloak worn by the Aztec people of Mexico and made of cactus fibres). The tilma belonged to an Aztec who took the name Juan Diego when he was baptised a Catholic. The image appeared on the tilma when Our Lady appeared to Juan Diego from the 9th to the 12th December 1531.

Juan Diego used the name Cuatlaxupeh in describing the personage who appeared to him (which means 'She who crushes the serpent' in the Aztec language) but this sounded like Guadalupe to Spanish ears and so she was named Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Numerous scientists, including some employed by NASA, have concluded that the image on the tilma has some inexplicable properties and characteristics. In addition, it contains some apparently coded and intriguing messages in the artistic details.
The tilma is exposed for veneration in the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City.

The figure depicted is dressed as an Aztec princess of the period and wears a sign of pregnancy that such a personage would have worn - the black bow around the body, the ends of which are visible under the hands.

Interestingly, on the date that the Mexican government approved abortion April 24 2007 a light appeared on the image in the shape of a fetus over the womb of the image. An unmistakable sign of Her disapproval to the Mexican people.

Let's take a look at some of the properties and characteristics of the tilma (many of these facts have been discovered because of the work of Professor Victor Campa Mendoza, who works at the Technological Institute of Durango, Mexico and has been investigating the tilma for more than 30 years):

1. The fibres, with which the tilma is made, normally disintegrate in an absolute maximum period of 30 years (and usually within 15 years). **This tilma is 479 years old.**
2. There are no signs of paint actually on the tilma. When viewed from a distance of 10 cm, the color disappears!
3. The materials that compose the colors do not belong to any known chemical element. This fact was attested to by Richard Kuhn, winner of the Nobel Prize for Chemistry.
4. By laser ray projection, it was established that the colors HOVER above the tilma and do so at a distance of three tenths of a millimetre above the cloth but do not touch it at any point.
5. A number of opthamologists have studied the eyes of the image. The first such study was undertaken by five opthamologists in 1956, two of them non-believers. The astounding result confirmed by all of them was that, when looking through an opthalmoscope, it was exactly the same as looking at an ordinary human eye of a living person. The same results have occurred every time that the eyes have been examined by experts since that time. It was also noted that the eyelids show normal microscopic veins.
6. According to Dr Jose Aste Tonsmann, an expert in digital imaging, minute human figures can be detected in the pupils of the eyes on the image.
7. Ophthalmic studies have also detected that, when the eye on the tilma is exposed to light, the retina contracts, When the light it removed the retina dilates again. This is the reaction of a normal eye.
8. When a stethoscope is placed below the black, maternity band at the waist, a rhythmic beat at 115 pulses per minute is heard. This is that usually measured for a baby in the womb.
9. When the temperature of the tilma is measured, it has always been at a constant temperature of 98.6 degrees the normal human temperature.
10. No dust, insects or other impurities that would normally be found on such an item can be detected on the tilma.
11. The stars visible on the cloak (47 in total) reflect the exact configuration and position of the stars at the winter solstice, which is when the image on the tilma was produced and further, exactly as configured on December 12 1531. But, oddly, the constellations are shown approximately from an east/west axis rather than north/south as is usual, as though Our Lady was moving from the Old World to the New.

12. The apparently random pattern on the dress or tunic is an accurate map of the topography of central Mexico. The 'map' shows all the principal rivers, mountains and lakes.

**About the Image**

The blue-green of the mantle was a colour reserved for royalty in Aztec culture (in the same way that the colour purple was reserved for those of high rank in many western and middle eastern societies). This was a clear signal of royal status to the Aztecs.

The figure is in an attitude of prayer, clearly indicating that there is someone greater than she.
'The Wonder of Guadalupe' by Francis W Johnson "...contains a profusion of detail about the tilma and surrounding events. A great book on a fascinating subject"

The figure stands in front of the sun (129 of its rays are depicted) and upon the moon, both of which were worshipped in Aztec culture. This indicates that the woman whose image is shown is greater than both.

As stated, the figure is clothed as an Aztec princess and wears the black cincture indicating that she is pregnant.

(Interestingly the moon on the image is a crescent moon which is the symbol on top of every mosque in the world - so this also says something about a different part of the world and a different time and her victory in that situation too. If you are interested in the subject of biblical prophecy and Islam, take a look at the book shown below, 'God's War on Terror - Islam, Prophecy and the Bible', it contains astounding information.)

The figure is standing on a serpent, the head just visible under the left foot (right from our perspective), another of the natives' objects of worship and, to Christians, a symbol of Satan. Showing that she is greater than both the serpent 'god' and also satan. (NOTE - In 1487, 32 years prior to the arrival of the Spanish, a great temple to the Aztec serpent 'god' had been completed. In honour of this 'god' 80,000 men were sacrificed during 4 days of ceremonies. Similar but less numerous sacrifices had been undertaken annually for perhaps hundreds of years to this same 'god').

The four petalled flower (on the dress, in the centre of the figure and over the womb) is known as the Solar Flower, an Aztec symbol for divinity, the earth's centre, heaven, time and space.

The fact that the figure has unplaited hair clearly indicated to the Aztecs that the woman in the figure is a virgin.

The figure closely resembles the woman described in Revelations (The Apocalypse).

Hilary Clinton visited Mexico in 2009 and, included a visit to see the tilma. She observed it for a while and then asked her guide, Monsignor Diego Monroy, "Who painted it?", Mgr. Monroy replied, "God"!

**The Story of the Aztec Princess Papantzin**

An interesting story about the coming of the Spaniards to Mexico concerns Princess Papantzin a much-loved sister of King Moctezuma who was Aztec ruler at the time of the Spanish conquest. Papantzin was one of the first converts to Catholicism in the Kingdom as she was forewarned of the coming of the Spaniards and of the falseness of the Aztec religion. This is her story
In 1509, Princess Papantzin was a young widow. She fell into a coma and was thought to be dead. Her brother arranged for a sumptuous funeral and she was buried in a cave near to her palace. Within a short time of her burial she came to and was rescued from the cave when her cries were heard.

Papantzin reported to the King that, whilst she was apparently dead, a being came to her who was winged and shone like light. She heard cries and groans and saw piles of bones and skulls. The being, who had a cross on his forehead, told her that the cries were those of her ancestors who were paying for their wrong-doing.

The being took her to a seashore and she saw ships coming towards her that bore the same cross on their sails that the being had on his forehead. She was told that her brother's reign would soon end and that a new religion, which was the true one, would come with the ships.

The King accepted that his sister's belief in these events was probably true and became very troubled although members of his court tried to persuade him that she had been made insane by the ordeal of being buried alive.

The Spanish arrived in 1519 and their conquest was completed in 1521. When the priests followed the conquistadors, the princess was one of the first Aztec converts to Catholicism in 1524.