

The Zelda series have been inspired by various cultural elements. Plenty of civilizations in the game are based on real-life countries. For example, the Sheikah are based off the Japanese, and the Gerudo are based off the Persian. In the Legend of Zelda: Tears of the Kingdom, there is a mysterious tribe called “the Zonai” . They belong to an ancient tribe who came from the heavens and are said to be descended from the gods. This article will explore the cultural references of the Zonai.

《塞尔达传说》系列受到了各种文化元素的启发。游戏中的许多文明都基于现实世界的国家。例如，希卡族基于日本人，而格鲁德族则基于伊朗人。在《塞尔达传说：王国之泪》中，有一个神秘的部落叫做“左纳乌”。他们属于一个古老的部

落，据说来自天堂，并且是神的后裔。本文将探讨左纳乌一族的文化渊源。

It is possible that the design of the Zonai draws inspiration from the Aztecs and Mayans. The Aztecs were Nahuatl-speaking people who lived in central Mexico in the 14th to 16th centuries. Their tribute empire spread throughout Mesoamerica. The Maya people lived in southern Mexico and northern Central America — a wide territory that includes the entire Yucatán Peninsula — from as early as 2600 BC. The civilization's height was between 250 and 900 AD.

左纳乌文明的设计可能受到了阿兹特克和玛雅人的启发。阿兹特克人是14至16世纪生活在墨西哥中部的说纳瓦特尔语的人民。他们的帝国遍布整个中美洲。玛雅人生活在墨西哥南部和中美洲北部，包括整个尤卡坦半岛，始于公元前2600年。该文明的鼎盛时期是公元250至900年间。

Aztec ruins and Zonai ruins bear lots of resemblance. When observing the Aztec ruins, you could find carvings that appear to be a reptilian creature named “Quetzalcoatl”, the Aztec God of Creation. The Zonai ruins found at the Spring of Courage clearly resemble Quetzalcoatl. Besides the Spring of Courage, the various Zonai labyrinths constructed across Hyrule bear even more resemblance to the engravings found in Aztec and also Mayan cultures.

阿兹特克遗址和左纳乌遗址有很多相似之处。在观察阿兹特克遗址时，你会发现一种名为“羽蛇神”的爬行动物的雕像，它是阿兹特克人的创造之神。在游戏里勇气之泉发现的左纳乌遗址也有羽蛇神的影子。除了勇气之泉，在海拉鲁建造的各种左纳乌迷宫与阿兹特克和玛雅文化中的雕像还有更多相似之处。



The Zonai ruins found at the Spring of Courage clearly resemble Quetzalcoatl

Additionally, the Palmorae Ruins monument could be reminiscent of an Aztec Calendar Stone. The Aztec

Calendar Stone, also known as the Sun Stone or Stone of the Five Eras, is one of the most famous artifacts from the Aztec civilization. It is intricately carved with a variety of symbolic elements and intricate details. At the center of the stone is the face of the sun god, Tonatiuh, with his tongue protruding and fangs representing his role as a devourer of sacrificial victims. Surrounding the central figure are concentric rings depicting different aspects of Aztec cosmology and mythology. In Tears of the Kingdom, many shrines are adorned with constellations. It is possible that the Zonai observed stars for their calendar systems just like Aztec and Mayan ancestors.

此外，雅西诺纪念碑可能使人联想到阿兹特克日历石。阿兹特克日历石，又称太阳石或五纪石，是阿兹特克文明中最著名的文物之一。它雕刻精美，包含了各种象

征性元素和精美的细节。石头的中央是太阳神托纳蒂乌的面孔，他伸长舌头，露出象征献祭受害者的尖牙。中央图案周围是同心圆环，描绘了阿兹特克宇宙观和神话的各个方面。在《塞尔达传说：王国之泪》中，许多神殿都装饰有星座的图案。左纳乌很可能像阿兹特克和玛雅的祖先一样，通过观察星星来进行他们日历系统的研究。





the Palmorae Ruins monument could be reminiscent of an Aztec Calendar Stone



Many shrines are adorned with constellations

Tears of the Kingdom also draws inspiration from ancient Chinese bronze culture. For example, the Zonaite Armor Set closely replicates the animal mask style seen on Chinese bronze artifacts. The three patterns on Link's waist can all be found as prototypes in the animal mask patterns, particularly the pattern in the middle, which is pretty similar to a tiger motif.

王国之泪还参考了中国古代的青铜文化。比如，左纳尼乌姆套装几乎复刻了中国青铜器上的兽面纹风格。林克腰间的三个图案，都能在青铜兽面纹里找到原型，尤其中间的图案几乎可以肯定是老虎的纹样。



The Zonaité Armor Set closely replicates the animal mask style seen on Chinese bronze artifacts

The sage icons and skill icons are mostly derived from the seal script of Chinese characters. For example, the seal script for the “Sky” character corresponds to the skill “Ascend.” The characters for “Wind,” “Flame,” “Water,” “Thunder,” “Soul,” and “Time” are also variations of seal script characters.

贤者图标和技能图标几乎都源于汉字的小篆。比如通天术对应的小篆的字是

“天”。风、炎、水、雷、魂、时，同样都是小篆的变形字。



The sage icons and skill icons are mostly derived from the seal script of Chinese characters

The cultural references of the Zelda series are educational and inspirational. Nowadays, many other video games also refer to cultural elements in their game art and design. The Zelda franchise's enduring popularity and influence will continue to inspire new generations of gamers and creators alike.

《塞尔达传说》系列的文化渊源具有重大的教育意义。如今，许多游戏在它们的游戏艺术和设计中都参考了文化元素。塞尔达系列游戏持久的热度和影响力也将继续激发新一代玩家和创作者的灵感。

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