

CE Script: The birth of a Lake

00:00:00:00 *MX IN*

Aerial shot of a beautiful time-lapse footage of the lake showing its deep and immense waters, the landscapes of the mountains and islands of the lake. A scene from sunrise to sunset.

VO: Lots of stories are told among the inhabitants of the Peruvian Andes...but the most famous one is the birth of the Titicaca Lake. It is said to be the origin of the Incas themselves.

00:00:16:18 *End of time- lapse with a sunset on the lake. Fades out.*

00:00:18:21 *Beginning of the myth. The scene starts with a sunrise in a valley; full of green and nature, located between the mountains of the Andes. The sun rises between the mountains and illuminates a paradisiacal landscape.*

VO: The myth tells of a story from thousands of years ago, in the region of the lake where there was a great, beautiful and fertile valley. A man and a woman lived in peace and harmony, blessed by the gifts that the “Pachamama”, Mother Earth, granted them.

00:00:32:16 *Scene shows humans working the land, and collecting food. The landscape is full of trees, streams and animals living free in the wild.*

VO: There was no room for ambition or greed as they lacked nothing and everything needed was obtained from earth and sky, light and rain. It is even said that death was not a cause of suffering, there were no sorrows and neither arrogance nor hatred was known.

00:00:55:20 *Close up to the beautiful snow-covered mountains. Focus on their majesty and landscape: closeness of their peaks with the blue sky and their slopes with the green valley.*

VO: Those who watched over the welfare of humans were the gods of the mountains, known as Apus. These spirits did not forbid anything, except for one rule they had to follow:

00:01:09:23 *Scene goes deep into the mountains to discover the “sacred-fire”. The scene turns dark while entering the mountain and explaining the “rule”. Scene ends with a fade out focus on the fire.*

VO: Never dare to reach the top of the mountain where a bonfire with the sacred fire was kept safe.

00:01:17:24 *Humans are seen worshipping the mountains and taking care of the earth. They show no desire for disobedience. The scene shows houses made of straw, people collecting water and fruits from the trees.*

VO: As time passed by, our ancestors of the valley were obedient and complied with the Apus’s request. They did not wish to disobey their protectors.

00:01:28:26 *Darker scene: we can only see a shadow walking through a dark blue space with no one around. A sense of cold and loneliness. The shadow starts to approach us until there is only blackness.*

VO: However, there was an evil spirit, which had been condemned to live in the regions of the shadows, the darkest and most desolated place on earth. This being could not tolerate the happiness and peace that humans enjoyed and he devised a plan to slip defiance and discord among them.

00:01:52:00 *Shot of the humans living in the valley when suddenly, the evil spirit camouflages among the men and starts a malicious whisper which resonates among them. As it becomes louder, the shadow starts to grow until it covers the whole valley. Fade out.*

VO: Thus, he enticed the humans and urged them to test their courage by reaching the top of the mountain, an act that will certainly challenge the gods.

00:02:04:17 *Morning scene: The men start to dress for battle and begin their journey. One by one approaches the mountain and begin to climb. At the beginning, it is a sunny day, but as they start their trip the clouds begin to cover the sun until there is only dark.*

VO: Hence, one day at dawn, the men full of curiosity decided to climb the mountain showing what they thought was bravery.

00:02:13:19 *Hidden among the rocks of the mountain appear the Apus: Luminous and majestic beings. When they see the men, they disappear in a flash of light,*

similar to an explosion, causing a tremor on the mountain. For the first time, men were not able to see the gods since their eyes hurt because of that light.

VO: Little did they know, that the disappointed Apus was waiting for them halfway into their journey. They understood that humans' souls had been corrupted and needed to be punished.

00:02:22:20 *After the earthquake, a call of war is heard. Hundreds of cougars begin to descend from above to pounce the men. For the first time, they have to fight for their lives. Fear seizes the men, as they start praying to every god they know. Consumed by panic, they beg evil beings to give them strength to defeat the punishment of the gods.*

VO: The gods attracted hundreds of thousands of pumas to devour the rebellious men, who begged to the evil spirit for mercy and help, but instead, they were ignored, as he remained insensitive and satisfied with their misery.

00:02:38:23 *Scene from the top of the sky, where when the clouds dissipate a ray of sun focuses on the battle. There is no wailing or shouting, only a slow-moving battle is seen.*

VO: Witnessing all this terrible spectacle was the god of the sun, Inti, who when feeling helpless and sad about seeing such a destruction, started to cry.

00:02:45:08 *The camera moves away from the battle to see a drop fall from the sky. Initiating how the floods begins. Lightning, rain and wind take over the scene. When the storm is over, we can only see a boat floating in the middle of the water.*

VO: His tears were so abundant that in forty days and forty nights the valley was completely flooded, and only a man and a woman could be saved on a reed boat.

00:02:52:26 *From the boat appears a couple: disoriented and amazed by what they see around them. The man stands up and tries to see the shore of the lake, while the woman touches the crystal-clear water.*

VO: When the sun shone again and the rain ceased, they could not believe their eyes: under the pure blue sky, they were in the middle of an immense lake that was lost in the distance. What were once peaks had been transformed into

islands and in the middle of the water floated the pumas that had been turned into stone statues.

00:03:01:23 Different shots of the lake showing the islands, rocks and peacefulness of the new landscape. The scene continuous with the couple admiring the new sunset together. While starting a fade out, we can see how the couple beings to walk away from the lake while a beam of sunlight illuminates their path.

VO: Both, man and woman, understood they were granted a second chance to create an empire worthy of the gods, and so it was.

Time later, this same lake gave birth to the first Incas, and from that moment on was known as “Titicaca”, which in the native language means “the lake of the stone cougars”, to remind them never to defy the gods.

00:03:15:01 MX OUT