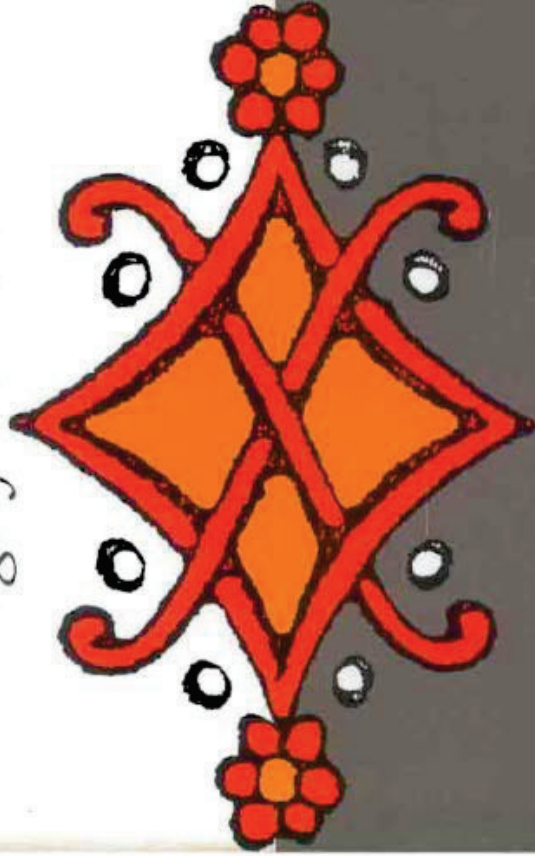


CANTARES MEXICANOS

Songs of the Aztecs



Translated from the Nahuatl,
with an Introduction and Commentary,
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folia 1

Cuicapeuhcayotl.

1 Ninoylonotza, campa nicuiz yecdl auicaxochitl? ac nictlhtlaniz? ma-
 2 noço yehuatl nictlan in quetzalhuiztitzin, in chalchihuitzitzicatzin,
 manocō ye nictlan in çaquapapalotl, ça yehuatin imnachiz, ommatl
 campa cuçponi: in yecdl ahuac xochitl, tla nictlahuilittequi, in nican ac-
 xoyatzintecanquahitla, manocō nictlahuilittequi in tlaququechxochi-
 quahitla oncan buhuitolhui, ahuahtonameyotoc in oncan mochechemel-
 quixia, aço oncan niqumittaz, intla onechititlique nocueanco nictmaz
 ic niquntlapaloz in tepilhuan, ic niqumellequixiz in teteuctin.

13 Tlaçço nican nemi: ye nicaqui in tlochicuicatzin iuhquē tepetl quin-
 nabanquilia, tlaçço itlan in meya quetzalotl, xiuhcotoamcyalli oncan
 mocuicamomotla, mocuicananquilia: in centzonlatoltocō quinnan-
 quilia in coyoltotol, ayacachicahuacatimani in nepapan tlaçocucanito-
 tome oncan quiyetenehua in tlatlcpaque hual tetozcatemique.

20 Nic ithoaya nictlaocoltetzia; ma namechelleitl yllaçohuane, niman cacti-
 motlilique niman huallotl in quetzalhuiztitzin, aquin tictemohua cui-
 canitine? nimā niqumnanquilia niqumilhuia? campa catqui in yecdl ahuac
 xochitl ic niqumellequixiz in amohuampohetzitzinhuā? niman onechica-
 huatzetque. ça nican tla timiztitziti ticutani aço nelli ic tiquimellequixiz
 in toquidhpohuan in teteuctin.

28 Tepetie tonacatlalpa, xochitlalpa nechcalaquiqueo oncā onahuachtotona-
 meyotimani, oncan niquttac aya in

folia 1v

1 nepapan tlaçohuac xochitl tlaçhuic xochitl ahahuachuquencoc,
 ayauhcoçamalotonameyotimani oncan nechilhuia xixochitetequi, in catle-
 huatl toconnequiz ma mel quiza in ticutani, tiquimnacatzic in to-
 nihuan in teteuctin in quelequixitzque in tlatlcpaque.

7 Auh nicnocuecuxantia in nepapan ahuac xochitl, in hual reyol quima in
 hual tectlamachi, nic ythoaya manocō aca tohuan tihualcalaguini, ma cenca
 miec in ticamani auh ça tel ye onimatico nictlanonortahciz imixpan in
 tocnihua nican moehipa tiquatetequize in tlaçoncpapan ahuac xochitl
 yhuān ticutiquihui in nepapan yecdl yan cuicatl ic tiquimellequixitzque in
 tocnihuan in tlatlcpac tla in tepilhuan quauhtliya ocelotl.

15 Ca moch nieutoya in nicanicani ic niqumicpacxochiti in tepilhuan inic
 niquimalpan in çan imnac niquntin nimā niquchua ya yecdl ya cuicatl ic
 nictmalolo in tepilhua ixpan in toque in nahuaque, auh in ahley ymahce-
 huallo: çan quicuz? çan quitzaz in huic xochitl auh cuix nohuan açiz aya
 in xochitlalpan in tonacatlalpan yn ahley ymahcehuallo in nontlamati,
 in tlaytlacohua in tēçç ça çan quitmahcehualtia in toque in nahuaque in

I Beginning of the songs

1 I wonder where I can get some good sweet flowers. Who will I ask? Let me
 2 ask the quetzal hummingbird, the jade hummingbird. Let me ask the
 troopial butterfly. They're the ones who know: they know where the
 good sweet flowers bloom. Let me wander through this needle grove
 where the trogons are, let me wander through this flower grove of
 roseate swans. That's where they're bending with sunstruck dew. That's
 where they blossom in beauty. Perhaps I'll find them there. If they
 showed them to me, I'd gather a cloakful, and with these I'd greet the
 princes, with these I'd entertain the lords.

13 Ah, here's where they live! I hear their flower songs. It's as though moun-
 tains were echoing them. Ah, the plume water, the coinga spring, is
 flowing in their midst. And there the mockingbird is throbbing with
 song, reverberating with song. The bellbird echoes these precious ones,
 these sundry songbirds; they're rattle-shrilling: they're eulogizing World
 Owner there. They're the very ones who fill our throats.

20 I call out mournfully. I say, "O you, His precious ones, don't let me disturb
 you." And then they fell silent. And then the quetzal hummingbird said,
 "Singer, who are you looking for?" Then I answer him, saying, "Where
 are good sweet flowers for me to entertain your fellows?" Then they
 shrilled to me, "They're here. Let's go show them to you, singer. Per-
 haps with these you'll entertain our lordly fellow braves."

28 They took me into a valley, a land of plenty, a land of flowers. And there
 they were, laden with sunstruck dew. There I saw those sundry sweet
 and precious flowers, delicious precious flowers, clothed in dew, laden
 with sunstruck mistbow. And there they said to me, "Cut whatever flow-
 ers you want. Entertain yourself, singer! And when you arrive you'll
 give them to our lordly comrades who'll entertain World Owner."

7 So I fill my cloak with these sundry sweet flowers, these heart pleasers,
 these delight makers. I say, "I wish one of our comrades could come
 here with me. I wish we could carry off a great many. But I've gotten
 the information. And when I arrive I'll spread the word among our
 friends. We'll always come here to cut these sundry sweet and precious
 flowers, to get these sundry good ones, these songs. With these we'll
 entertain our friends on earth, the eagle-jaguar princes."

15 I, the singer, went to get all of them, and I flower-crowned the princes,
 adorned them, filled their hands. And then I lift these good songs in
 praise of all the princes before the Ever Present, the Ever Near. But
 where would he whose worth is nothing get delicious flowers? Where
 would he find them? Could he whose worth is nothing, who is
 wretched and who sins on earth, accompany me to flower land, the land

tīſc ye nican ic chocan noyollo noconihamiſquia in ompa onitlachiato y xochitlalpan a nicanani.

- 25 Auh nic yltōaya tlacāſo amo qalcan in tlaticpac ye nican, tlacāſo oc cecni in huiloſhayan, in oncan ca in netlamachilli, de çānen in tīſc tlacāſo oc cecni yollizimoſayan ma ompa niah ma ompa inhuan nonicuiati in nepapan tlacōtotome ma ompa nicnotlamachiti yectli ya xochitl ahuiaxochitl in teyol quima in çan tepacca teahuiaſayhuintia in çan tepaccauiaſayhuintia.

folio 2

Xopancuicatl Otoncuicatl tlamelauhcayotl.

- 1 Onihualcalac nicanani nepapan xochitlalpan huel tcellequixtican tcelamachitan, oncan ahuachtouameyoſayhuintiani, oncan cuicuica in nepapan tlacōtotome, oncuicatlacā in coyoltototl cahuantimani in intozquitzin in quillelequixtia in tloque in nahuaſq yehuan Dios oſhuaya oſhuaya 8 Oncan nicaqui in cuicanelhuayotl in nicanani, tlacāſo aſmo qat tīſc in peuh yectli yan cuicatl tlaç'co ompa in ilhuicatlſc hualcaquitzin in conehua in tlaçoyoltotl in quimchulia in nepapan teoquecholme çantototl onçā tlacāſo quiyetenehua in tloque in nahuaque oſhuaya oſhuaya.
- 13 Niyolpoxahua in nicaquia nicanani, ahcoquica in notlanamiſquillo, quinpetlatiquica in ilhuicame, nelcicuiliſc ehecayotl in iniqui nalquixtia in ompa ondatenehua in çaquanhuitziti in ilhuicatlſc oſhuaya, oſhuaya 17 Auh nohuampa niclachiſtia in noyollo auh tlacāſo nedli in amo ixquich quehua in tlaçototl, tlacāſo ye oc tlapanahua in ilhuicatlſc yſollo in tloque in nahuaque mochiuſtica ca in tlaçamo teuhyoſtuh in notlanamiſquitz aſo huel quinalquixtſcaytaz o in tlamahuicalli in ilhuicac ic papiqui in illi' tlaçototome ixpan in tloque nahuaque, oſhuaya et.
- 23 Quenim ahnichocaz in tīſc, ye nican tlacāſo onca nemoſayā ninoztlacahua nic yltōa aſo çan ye ixquich in nican in tīſc. ontlamian toyollia macuele ehuat in tloque in nahuaque ma ompa inhuan nimitznocuiatili in illi' mochanecahuan ca noyollo chua ompa nontlachia in monahuac in motloc tipalmohuani oſhuaya oſhuaya.
- 29 Ma xitacquin nocuic in tinocniuh xochihuehuelt ſ nictzotzonaya yluicacuicatl in nic chuaſya, ic niſquimelelequixtia in tetructi xochicueponi in noyollo izquixochitl nic-

folio 2v

tzetzeloſhuaya ic malſtuh in nocuicatzin ixpan in tloque in naſhauque oſhuaya et.

Songs 1-2, Folios 1v-2v

of plenty? It's the Ever Present, the Ever Near, who causes people to deserve them here on earth. And so my heart is weeping. I, the singer, recall how I went to look around in flower land:

- 25 And I say, "Ah, this earth is not a good place. Ah, it's elsewhere that one goes, where there's happiness. What good is earth? Ah, the place of life where all are shorn is elsewhere. Let me go there. Let me go make music with the sundry precious birds. Let me enjoy the good flowers, the sweet flowers, the heart plasers, that intoxicate with joy and sweetness, intoxicate with sweet joy.

II A song of green places, an Otomi song, a plain one

- 1 I, the singer, have entered the land of sundry flowers, the very place of entertainment, the place of enjoyment. And there it's raining sunstruck dew. There the sundry precious birds are chirping: the bellbird strikes up the song. Jangling are the throats of those who entertain the Ever Present, the Ever Near, who is God.
- 2 There I hear the root song. I, the singer. Ah, it's not on earth that these good songs have begun. What the precious bellbird sings, what the spirit swans and the troupial bird sing, sounds forth from heaven, where ah! they eulogize the Ever Present, the Ever Near.
- 3 Hearing them, my singer's heart is softened. My thoughts rise upward and pierce the heavens. My sighs go filled with wind, so that they penetrate to where the troupial hummingbird is eulogizing within the sky.
- 4 Now I bid my heart look all around. And ah! truly what the dear bird sings is not sufficient. Ah, He far exceeds it, He, the Heart of Heaven, the Ever Present, the Ever Near, Self Maker. Let my thoughts proceed unsmirched! Perhaps they'll be able to penetrate and see the wonders of the sky: in these the precious sky birds are rejoicing, before the Ever Present, the Ever Near.
- 5 How can I not weep here on earth? Ah, beyond is the place where we live! I deceive myself in saying, "Perhaps things come to an end here on earth, and the soul dies." O Ever Present, O Ever Near, please let this be: let me sing for you in company with your sky dwellers. My heart rises. There beyond, near you and in your presence, I see! O Life Giver! Friend, hear my song! I beat the flower drum. I lift the sky songs, entertaining lords. My heart flower-blossoms. I scatter popcorn flowers: my songs go whirling before the Ever Present, the Ever Near.