

A LAZY MAN AND THE JUG OF GOLD

A Náhuatl Legend

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This Náhuatl legend was dictated to Investigator Earl Brockway by Indian Informant Eleodoro Márquez de Tlaxpanaloya of the Municipio of Naupan, Puebla, in January of 1961.

The Text

1. ¿momati in cuento de tlaçixqui? 2. bueno, a²mo nikmati koš deveras. 3. ¿o kenšmati? ki²taki okatkayaya inon deveras creencias.

4. okatkayaya se tlaçatl ke este mo¹Whi tlaçixki ye a²mo kineki tekitis. 5. bueno, por fin se tonçli bastante okiwiteXki okikoWmakaki bastante 6. wan entonces oa²sito se lugar maç oya, maç este oka²sito se inon kilWia²ke masakwatl. 7. oka²sito inon masakwatl pedazos

Literal Translation

1. you-know the story of a lazy man? 2. well, not I-know if true. 3. or how-know? They-say-they were those true beliefs.

4. there-was a man this very lazy; he not it-want will-work. 5. good, at last one day too much him-beat-they, him-clubbed-they too much. 6. and then he-arrived a place, he-went; this he-encountered one that say-of-it boa. 7. Found-there that boa pieces

Free Translation

Do you know the story about the lazy man? Well, I don't know if it is true. Or how can one know? They say those beliefs are true.

There was a man who was very lazy; he didn't want to work. Well, at last one day they beat him hard; they clubbed him good. And so he arrived at

noyoXke wān mač kilWia tipobrecito nikañ otitlapanok keñ neʔwa noyoXke onitlapanok. 8. onečwiteXki bastante wān ašan teʔ tipobre noyoXki nikañ otitlapanok omiçmiktiʔke, kilWia in siwakwatl; in masakwatl. 9. pedazos okimiktiʔ taXki; kañ mač kilWia tipobrecito omiçmiktiʔke.

10. bueno entonces okitilañ wān opeW kisaʔsaloa tonses opeW kwalçin kipeʔpegarowa in kañi okiteXki. 11. tonses kita opeW molinia, bueno arreglado inon kwento kiʔtaʔke. 12. entonces noyotlaʔtok inon kwatl: bueno, keski kitlasoʔkamati ke yokiyoliti. 13. bueno ašan tlen tanto favor tlen otinečçiwilik; pues ašan tikselis motlaštlawil. 14. tikselis motlaštlawil pero ašan tlen nimiçilWiya san šinečpantoka.

15. šinečpantoka, tiowe tikaʔsi notata wān nonana

also and to-him-says: you-poor-little things; here you-have suffered as I also I-have suffered. 8. me-beat-they too-much and now you you-poor-thing also here you--have suffered, you-killed-they, to-it says the female-snake; the boa. 9. pieces it-passing-by-killed-they; then to-it says you-poor-little-thing you-killed-they.

10. good then, it-pulled and began it-put-together, then began nicely it-glued/stuck the where it-cut-they. 11. then it-saw began move, good according to that story it-said-they. 12. then also-spoke that snake; good how-much him-thank that again-it-revived. 13. good now what great favor what you-me-did; so now you-will-receive your-pay. 14. you-will receive your-pay but now what I-you-tell just me-follow.

15. me-follow, we-are-going you-encounter my father and

the place where he went, and he came upon one of those, what they call boas. He found that boa in pieces also, and he said: "Poor little thing; here you are suffering just as I am suffering also. They beat me so hard and now here you are suffering also; they have killed you"; he said to the snake, the boa. "They cut you in pieces and killed you"; he said; "they have killed you, poor little thing."

Then he pulled it out and began putting it together; he began to stick it

wan entonces ompa miɣwalmakaskemotlaštlawil. 16. wan tonces okipantokak, okipantokak in kwatl wan tonces okina?sito. 17. mač kilWia?ke bueno pues keski tiklaso?kamati?ke tokoneW pos otikpa?tik ken ompa okatkayaya miXki. 18. pos keme mač kihta, porke ne? onitlokoš porke ne? nolomismo onečwiteXki asta kan kwali wan lastima ye? noyoXke oXkon yokisufriro. 19. bueno entonces mač kilWia?ke poro ašan tikwikas motlaštlawil pero tlen kipia a?mo tikšikos. 20. a?mo tikšikos, mejor ašan tikwičas se guajito de oro. 21. mač okwalmakaki se kwalči?ton guajito de oro. 22. pos ašan san inin šikwika wan san ompa tiklalis este i?teč mokahita 23. wan ompa tiklalis se čowa?kali wan tikitas kada mostla tlatwis tenties de tomjn.

24. bueno entonces san inon kičiwa pues bastante riko omočiW inon tlačiXki. 25. bueno entonces este

my-mother and then ther you-will give-they your-pay. 16. and then him-it-followed, it-followed the snake and then them-found. 17. to-him-say that good how-much we-for him-thank our-child you-him-healed how there was dead. 18. well yes says, because I I-felt sorry because I also-the-same me-beat-they until where able and alas he also thus has-suffered. 19. good then to-him-say-they, but now you-will take your-pay, but what it-have not you-will carry, 20. not you-it-carry, better now you-will take a jug of gold. 21. it-gave-they a beautiful jug of gold. 22. well now just this it-take and just there you-it-will put this into your-box. 23. and there you-it-will put a container and-you-will see each morning dawn full-being of money.

24. good then just that it-does, so too-much rich-man became that lazy man. 25. good then that lazy man until at last then of

together carefully, where they cut it. Then he saw it begin to move, all fixed up, as they tell the story. Then the snake also spoke and thanked him very much for reviving him. "Well now, what can I do for you? Now you will receive your pay. You will receive your pay, but now you are to follow me just as I tell you. You follow me and we will go find my father and my mother, and there they will give you your pay.

And so he followed him; he followed the snake, and then they found

inon tlaḡiXki asta por fin entonces de tan gran riko. 26. entonces kiʔtaʔke mač omosiwaWtik asta España; omosiwaWti asta España inon tlaḡatł. 27. bueno entonces mač kiʔta itata inana inon icpoočtli; bueno inin tlaḡatł pos ka mač kikwi in tomjñ? 28. wañ ke mač tan riko wañ aʔmo tekiti? 29. wañ keñ tanto kipia in tomjñ! 30. bueno poro tla kipia se iguajito de oro bastante kwalḡiʔton wañ san inon petławtos wañ tlatwi tontos in tomjñ 31. bueno tons mač kiʔtaʔk. in itata inana mač kilWiaʔke tla šikwaličtekili wañ titečwałpanoltis 32. bueno entonces in siwałtł okičiW oXkon; okianili inon guajito wañ entonces okimakak itata wañ inana. 33. bueno entonces inon tlaḡatł omokaW pobre, yaḡmo onka; tlen kičisʔwañ tonces motłokoltia. 34. aʔmo kimati tlen kičiwās; ašan asta kampa nikwiš akin onečičtekili wañ ašan tlen nikčiwas.

so great rich-man. 26. then it-said-they married until Spain; married until Spain that man. 27. good then said her-father her-mother that girl: good, this man well where it-get the money? 28. and what, such rich-man and not work? 29. and what amount it-have the money! 30. good, but if it-have a his-jug of gold too-much beautiful and just that will-uncover and by-dawn will-fill the money. 31. good then, it-said-they the her-father her-mother it-said-they if you-steal-for us and you-us- will pass-it. 32. good then the woman it-did thus; it-took that jug and then it-gave her-father and her-mother. 33. good then that man became poor, no-longer was; what will-do? and then he sorrow. 34. not it-know what it-will do; now until where I-will find who from-me-stole-it and now what I-it-will do?

them. They said to him: "Thank you very much for healing our child who was over there dead." "Yes", he said: "I felt sorry for him because they also beat me as hard as they could and they hurt him also so that he has suffered." Then they said: "Well, now you will take your pay, but you will have more than you can carry. You can't carry it all; you had better take a jug of gold." They gave him a fine jug of gold. "Now you take just this and there you will put it in your box. And you must put a jar there, and you will see; every morning, at dawn it will be full of money."

35. bueno entonces oya se lugar wan mač ompa nemi in kwiši. 36. ye^o ca^otinemi noyoXki. 37. wan mač kilWia: tlen tiča^oci te^owatl? te^owatl tiknektinemi tikwas nakatl. 38. wan ne^o nis nitlōkoštika onikpolo noguajito wan ašan tlen ik nimotekipanos? 39. wan mač ki^ota in kwiši: pero a^omo šitlōkoya; nepa ompaka tlen ik titlōkoya. 40. pero kani? 41. ompaka mač kilWia. 42a. kani ompaka, wan ken tikmatis. 42b. o, keme mač kilWia; 43a. pero, entonces mač kilWia: pero tla tinečmaktis, ni mičtlaštlawis keski tiknekis tla nele tikmaWtika kani ompaka. 43b. keme, mač kilWia; nimičmaktis pero tla tinečmakas noyoXke tlen ne^o niknekis. 44. mač, keski tiki^otos nimičmakas. 45. tikmatis ompaka este—

35. good then went a place and there lives the hawk. 36. he cries-continually also. 37. and to-him-says: what you-cry you? you you-want-continually you-will eat meat. 38. and I here I-am-sorrowing I-lost my-jug and now what with I-will make a living? 39. and it-said the hawk: but not you-sorrow; there over-there what for you-sorrow. 40. but where? 41. over there; to-him-says. 42. where there-is, and what you-it-will know? 42b. Oh, yes; to-him-says. 43. but; then to-him-says: but if you-me-will tell, I-you-will pay how much you-it-will want if true you-it-are knowing where there-is. 43b. yes, to-him-says; I-you-will tell but if you-me-will give also what I I-it-will want. 44. how much you-it-will say I-you-will give. 45. you-it-will know over-

Well then, that's all he did, and that lazy man became very rich. So at last this lazy man was very rich. They say then that he got married in Spain; in Spain that man got married. Then the girl's parents said: "Where does this man get the money? How is it that he is so very rich? And he doesn't work. Why does he have so much money?" "Well, he has a beautiful jug of gold, and he just uncovers it, and in the morning it is full of money." Then her parents said; they said to her: "See if you can steal it, and pass it along to us." So the woman did so; she took that jug and then gave it to her parents. And then that man was left poor; it was no longer there. What could he do? And he was very sad. He didn't know what to do; "Now where can I find out who robbed me, and what will I do now?"

So he went to a place where there lived a hawk. He is always crying also. And he said to him: "What are you crying for? You always want meat to eat.

ompa kipia momonta; pos ompa omiçiçekili mosiwa W.
 46. san okipanoltili itata inana; ašan yeʔwan ompa ki-
 piaʔke. 47. bueno entonces mač kiʔta: bueno, pero intla
 tikneki nimiçwalikilis, pero entonces intla tineçtlaştlawis
 in keski niknekis neʔ nimiçkum plirwis. 48. bueno, pero
 tlenon tiknekis? 49. pues neʔwatl san trato es ke tineç
 —oras de ke titlatekas, tineçkawilis tlaʔkopa in pollos
 wan tlaʔkopa para teʔwatl. 50. bueno, keme; nimiçmakas.
 51. bueno entonces tlen nimiçilWiaya primeramente
 šiknoʔnoça in kimiçi; 52. primeramente šiknoʔnoça in
 kimiçi wan entonces iwan inon nitekitis. 53. bueno en-
 tonces okinoç in kimiçi: tlen kwali tikçis inin tekitl?
 54. teʔwatl primeramente ompaktok iʔteç se kwali bauli.

there-is this-there it-has your-father-in-law; so there you-stole
 from your-wife. 46. just it-passed along her-father her-mother;
 now they over-there it-have-they. 47. good then, it-said; good,
 but if you-it-want I-you-will bring, but then if you-me will pay
 the how-much I-it-will want, I I-you-will finish it. 48. good, but
 what-that you-it will want? 49. well, I just deal is what you-me—
 time that you-put-hen-to-set, you-me-will leave half the chicks
 and half for you. 50. good, yes; I-you-will give. 51. good then
 what I-you-told first; you-it-call the mouse. 52. first you-it-call
 the mouse and then with that I-will work. 53. good then it-
 called the mouse: what are-able you-it-do will this work? 54. you
 at-first there will-be inside a fine trunk. 55. and you you-it-will

And here I am feeling sad because I lost my little jug, and now how will I
 make my living?" And the hawk said: "But don't be sad; over there is what
 you are grieving for." "But where?" "Over there", he said. "Where is it; and
 how do you know?" "Oh yes," the hawk said. So he said to the hawk: "If
 you will tell me, I will pay you whatever you want; if you really know where
 it is." "Well sure," the hawk said to him, "I will tell you, if you will also give
 me what I want." "As much as you say, I will give you." "You will find that
 your father-in-law has it, for your wife stole it from you. She just passed it
 on to her parents; they have it there now. So," he said, "if you want me to
 bring it to you, you will have to pay me as much as I want." "Alright, but what
 do you want?" "Well, I just want to make a deal with you; that whenever you
 have a hatching of chicks, you will leave half of them for me, and half of them
 will be yours." "Alright, I will give them to you." "Fine then; as I told you

55. waṅ teʷa tiktetekis in bauli waṅ tonses asta kampa tikixtis. 56. waṅ tiktlalitiW ikwatitla in kali waṅ tons neʷ nias nikonanas. 57. entons inon kimiči mač kiʷta bueno poro tla tingečmakas noyoXke tlen neʷ nečtokaroa. 58. keṅ aʷmo; tlen tiknekis? 59. pues neʷ san šinečmagti se troja sentil nikwaʷties; konvenidos bueno. 60. entonces keṅ aʷmo; nimičmakas.

61. bueno entonces mač omokaXke konvenidos. 62. entonces nele in kimiči yeʷ primero opeW tekiti; opeW mostli kitetektika, kitetektika. 63. kiʷta in iteko; tlenon tlawel tlateteki in kimiči? pos kaṅik inon? 64. bueno hasta por fin otlā kikoyonia, waṅ tons okikišti inon guajito waṅ oki tlatlito in ikwa titla in kali. 65. waṅ

gnaw the trunk and then until where you-it-will take out. 56. and you-it-will put on-top-of the house and then I I-will go I-it-will bring. 57. then that mouse it-says; good but if you-me-will give also what I me-pertains. 58. how not? what you-it will want? 59. well, I just you-me-tell where a storage bin corn I-it-will-be-eating; agreed well. 60. then: how not? I-you-will give.

61. good then left-themselves agreed. 62. then truly the mouse he first began to work; began day-after-day it-was gnawing. it-was-gnawing. 63. it-says the his-owner: what-that so-much gnawing the mouse? well where is that? 64. good until at last done it-drilled through, and the it-took out that jug and it-put-there the its-roof the house. 65. and the hawk just was-watching

before, call the mouse. First call the mouse and I will work with him." So the man called the mouse. "Do you think you can do this job? It is over there in a nice trunk. You will gnaw a hole in the trunk big enough to take the jug out by. Put it on top of the house and then I will go and bring it." So the mouse said: "Alright, but only if you will give me my share also." "Whatever you want, certainly." "Well, you just tell me where there is a bin full of corn that I can eat; that will suit me fine." "Oh sure, I'll give it to you."

So everything was settled. Then, sure enough, the mouse first began to work, daily gnawing away. The owner of the house said: "What is that mouse gnawing so hard at; where is it?" Well, at last he finished the hole and took out the jug and put it on the roof of the house. And the hawk was just watching

in kwiši san kikwidaro? tika keman in kimiči ye? ompa papašialo? tinemi ikwa titla in kali yiompa okitlālito inon guajito 66. wān tonces i?kwāk inon inin kwiši asta we-weka WtiW okwālante wān okimakato in iteko. 67. entonces okse viaje gran riko omociW.

when the mouse he there just-passing-along its-roof the house already-there it-put-there that jug. 66. and then while that thin hawk until a-long-way-going it-brought and it-gave-there in its-owner. 67. then another time great rich-man became.

when the mouse came walking out on the roof where he had already put that jug. And so the hawk took off with it and gave it to its owner. Then he became very rich again.