

# THE MAN WHO ABANDONED HIS WIFE

## A PAME STORY

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The present tale was narrated to the linguist in 1946 by the Pame Basilio Montero, 90 years old, of Santa María Acapulco, San Luis Potosí, near the border of Querétaro. The brief resumé which precedes the text is by F. H.

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A man quarreled with his wife and ran away from home. He met an Old Man (God) along the way, who advised him to return to his wife. But as he did not want to do this, the Old Man told him to visit a certain lady who lived near a well.

The man arrived at her house and was well received by both the woman and her husband. That night the man lay awake in the home of the couple who had been so hospitable to him. He saw angels coming down from heaven playing musical instruments — a regular fiesta. He also saw the couple transported to heaven, though they returned at dawn when the cock crowed.

The man who had abandoned his wife departed in the morning. But soon he met the Old Man again. "Go back!" said the Old Man, "Go back and wait for the couple who received you!"

The man returned to the house near the well. Late in the afternoon the husband came home. He asked the woman to prepare food for the visitor. The woman refused, they quarreled and the man hit his wife.

After dark many pigs and wild animals came to the house. They burned the man and his wife and dragged their bodies through the streets.

The man was terribly frightened and, following the advice of the Old Man, he returned home to live with his wife.

ndá madó'i

1. quí'o' ndá lee nikkèje't, majào mméjo, ásta ndá cónjo' cottóe'e ntjóí, ván'ia'a napò lee, y mèp ndo'uào. 2. manéi combàign' ntjóí. 3. Entonces manéi conjáàs kúaṅ, comá cosé'ogṅ 4. y ndottòeji ndá gyó'i va'àjabmp peòp mmà y ndoséèp mmà canó'o que'e. 5. cjámba gyós vá vannó'o que jeóc' yà laváà quixè'gṅ 6. no quimmyát quikyet (caquet) con n'ia'a. 7. Gyós lájjuatc'

#### AN OLD-THING

1. You-hear/know a person married well he-was-living until one day she-spoke woman his-wife that person and not he-answered 2. immediately she-cried woman 3. then immediately he-rose-up man he-went he-ran-away-from-home 4. and he-met(him) an old-man he-asks-him where he-was-going and he-told-him he-was-going to-go-on-brief-trip he-returns 5. (in-terr.) God still he-sees/knows that you now you're-going you're-running-away-from-home 6. No you-go-away return with your-wife 7. God will-forgive-you acabo-que (after all) not you-hit-

[Free Translation]

#### AN OLD TALE

1. You know, a man married; he was living well, until one day a woman spoke—that person's wife—and he didn't answer. 2. Right away the woman cried. 3. Then immediately the man got up and ran away from home. 4. And he met an Old Man who asked him where he was going, and he told him that he was going to go on a brief trip and return. 5. "Does God still know that you are now running away from home? 6. No, don't do that; go back to your wife. 7. God will forgive you; after all you didn't hit her." 8. "No, I am going to

cao mèt nivýá'jai' 8. no cáoc manovà cas tsoquet  
 combàign' ntjóí. 9. Mingyí, o. 10. quimmiát 11. conep  
 ngoljá'o quigyàjodn' nijjyà si mmèjo ma'òòs 12. si  
 tijyán copò tatsòjo ásta que lajuá'a ma'òòs quigyàjodn'  
 nijjyà 13. cojuà'al napò capà y m'òòs manèi ndo'uà-  
 jabmp péoc nan'ia cóttejign 14. y ndosèèp ne napò  
 lee ladóa lambàn' 15. y ndosèèp tangào't 16. y m'òòs  
 manéi ndotsjàò rích'ejegn lo'uèi natsáo' con vómmeo'  
 17. napò cojuá'a manéi ndo'uédogn quích'ejegn cosóejegn  
 gçjà'k m'òòs 18. nammàign' comá nigyájui cómo si  
 wómmeo' 19. ndateo' cojuá'a m'òòs ndonguàò' con  
 quingye na'uàp 20. y manéi ván'ia'a napò lee se ma'òòs

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her 8. no I I-am-going-to go acaso (in case) again she-cried  
 woman 9. don't-you-know 10. go (imper.) 11. well street  
 you-should-ask for word/permission if he-lives/ is man-of house  
 12. if he's not there you-should-sit-down until that he-will-arrive  
 man-of-the-house you-should-ask-for permission/word 13. he-  
 arrived-over-there that visitor and one-housed-there immediately  
 she-asked- him where coming-from he-stopped-in-as-he-passed  
 14. and he-told-her the that person I-am-going I-a-visiting-  
 around 15. and she-told-him rest-yourself 16. and one-housed-  
 there immediately she-made foods the-way-she-did she-felt with  
 her-father 17. that-one he-arrived immediately she-gave-him food  
 he-ate like man-of-house 18. he-finished he-went she-talked-with-  
 him like if her-father 19. late-afternoon he-arrived man-of-house  
 he-greeted-him with inside his-heart 20. and immediately his-wife

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go on in case the woman cries again." 9. "Don't you know better?" 10. Go!  
 11. In the street where the well is ask for permission if the man of the house  
 is there. 12. If he isn't there, sit down until the man of the house arrives,  
 then ask him for permission." 13. That visitor arrived there and the woman  
 of the house asked him immediately where he had come from last. 14. And he  
 said to that person, "I am going around visiting." 15. And the woman of the  
 house said to him, "Rest yourself." 16. Right away she prepared food, she  
 felt as if she were with her father. 17. When he arrived, immediately she fed  
 him and he ate as if he were right at home. 18. When he finished, they  
 began to talk together as if he were her father. 19. Late in the afternoon the  
 man of the house arrived, and he greeted him with all his heart. 20. And

comá condájo ndotsjào rích'ejegŋ tsocuet, para manadogŋ van'uáŋ 21. ndo'uèts' xich'éjigŋ rích'ejegŋ y kuán ndová'at napò capà para massóejegŋ 22. Entonces ndosèèp napò capà cáoc yà taséjegŋ. 23. Entonces se m'òds ndosèèp qui'eet sóeji con cáoc 24. comá ndonnó napò xich'éjigŋ para massóejigŋ cadá 25. cuando nammàigŋ' cosóejegŋ comá nigyájui como ŋcjà'k njèò cjuàt la'éi linyòin' 26. y ndateo' livyàik lotsjàoi ŋgobe para maladdà'a capà 27. y como Gyós yà ndosèèp napò capà que no la'èjily' para que lanò péòc lo'uèi 'èjily' majào lee 28. como yà ni'òjinŋ las ocho ŋgosáonŋ y cojòp ndo'òd' cotào cónjo' vodàa mbbé'i y vodàa

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that person which man-of-house she-went (began) she-ground she-made foods again in-order-that she-was-going-to-give-him her-husband 21. she-put-down-on (little things) table food and man he-called-him that visitor in-order-that they-were-going-to-eat 22. then he-told-him that visitor I already I-ate 23. then the-one-who man-of house he-said-to-him come (imper.) eat (du. with incl.) me 24. he-went he-got-near that table in-order-that he-was-going-to-eat once 25. when he-finished he-ate he-went/began he-talked (they 2 together) like brother it-seems it-is-that-way they-2-know each-other 26. and late-afternoon they-2-help-each-other they(2)-make bed in-order-that he-was-going-to-lie-down visitor 27. and as God already he-told-him that visitor that not he-should-sleep in-order-that that he-would-see/know how the-way-he-does he-sleeps good person 28. as already it-passed the eight night (o'clock) and then he-heard

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immediately the wife of the man of the house began to grind and prepare food again to give to her husband. 21. She put the food on the table, and the man called the visitor that they might eat together. 22. Then the visitor said to him, "I have already eaten." 23. Then the man of the house said to him: "Come and eat with me." 24. He went to the table to eat once again. 25. When he had finished eating they began to talk together like brothers, as though they knew each other well. 26. And that evening they helped each other make a bed for the visitor to lie down. 27. And as God had already told that visitor not to go to sleep so he would see how a good person sleeps. 28. As it was now after eight o'clock at night, then he heard musical instruments

lipyó't ásta que coppó't cone col'òs con mbbé'i y nanjé'k  
 quingyè'p col'òs 29. y ndotuìgɲ ndá cadily' ndómje'ep  
 capà y nanòì ndómje'epma'òdx 30. Vá tsájont nljòdnt  
 ly'é't y naljéèt quibiá 31. comá ndotsjáàs mbbé'i  
 ndotsjáo como ngobájo ásta condáo talógɲ 32. nanjé'k  
 nljòdnt quingye' col'òs ndobeji nimiai cotào cónjo'  
 33. limyó'ogɲ candily' 34. (ly'é't nljòdnt ndobeje)  
 35. ma'òdx comái y capà nijyàigɲ pero ndatsjá'ot mba  
 mméji ma'òdx 36. y kuánɲ ndoséèp ván'ia'a chó'  
 manammà njí lee 37. quivyòò mje cuando laquèje

its-face (facing) sun (heaven-sky) it's-coming musical instruments  
 and it's coming they-are-descending until that they-descended its-  
 mouth house (place) with musical-instruments and they-entered  
 inside house (place) 29. and they-lit one candle they-stood-it-up  
 for-him visitor and the-two they stood-it-up for-them (du.)  
 natives-of (du) 30. still they-are-flying saints (angels) little and  
 they-went-out outside 31. they-went/began they-played musical-  
 instrument they-did/made like fiesta until it-sang-crowd chicken  
 (rooster) 32. they-entered saints inside house (place) they-  
 carried-away they went its-face (facing) sun 33. all-around-  
 in-circle candles little saints (angels) they-carried-away natives-  
 of (du.) they(2) went and visitor he-stayed-behind but it-dawned  
 perhaps they(du)-were-home natives (du)-of 36. and man he-  
 said-to-her his-wife now he-is-going-to-go this person 37. give-  
 him tortillas when he-will-find his-hunger he-will-eat-(them)

coming from heaven, and they were descending and they descended to the  
 door of the house with musical instruments and they entered the house. 29. And  
 they lit a candle and stood it up for the visitor, and they stood up two candles  
 for the two who lived there. 30. Little angels were flying and they went outside.  
 31. They began to play musical instruments, they made something like a fiesta  
 until the rooster crowed. 32. The angels went into the house; they carried  
 them away to heaven. 33. Candles were standing around in a circle. 34. (Little  
 angels carried them away.) 35. The two who lived there were carried away  
 and the visitor stayed behind, but at dawn the two who lived there were home.  
 36. And the man said to the woman: "Now this man is going to go away.  
 37. Give him some tortillas, so that when he gets hungry he can eat them."  
 38. When the visitor had gone, before he had gone far, again he met the

nikjóí lanàon 38. cuando comá ne capà vá nèp cobá'o mba mmà yàa tsocuet ndottòeji gyó'i y ndo'uàjabmp canen ne ndonò 39. y ndosèèp kuán y ntjóí ndobeji nimlai cotào cónjo' 40. y cojòp ne capà ndosèèp ne Gyós mi'yá ngosáon náol' candily' 41. y Gyós ndosèèp quimiát quiket 42. copò to'uèi qui'èjily cao Dios lájjuatc' mèp nivyáji' n'íaía 43. y napò lee ndomán me manajó'o cue'ε yà nannèjigη para lebm 44. entonces ndosèèp Gyós quimiát conep ngoljá'o quigyàjodn' niñjyà y si me manábboc' niñjyà copò tatsòjo 45. y cojuà'al copò col'òs ndo'uàjodn' niñjyà 46. nèp ndo'uào m'òòs pero copò cóttsojo ásta ndateo' cojuá'a m'òòs

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38. when he-went the visitor still not far perhaps he-was-going now again he-met-him (coming toward him) old-man and he-asked-him what the he-saw 39. and he--said-to-him there man and woman they-carried-him he-went facing sun 40. and then the visitor he-said-to-him the God all night it-was-burning candle 41. and God he-said-to-him go return 42. that-way the-way-you-do you-sleep (acabo que) after-all God he-will-forgive-you not you hit your-wife 43. and that person he-told not he-was-going-to-be-able-to return already he-has-gone-out for always 44. then he-told-him God go well street you-should-ask-for word/permission and if not they-are-going-to-give-it-to-you word/permission there you-should-sit-down 45. and he-arrived-over-there there house (place) he-asked-for word/permission 46. not she-answered native-of but there he-sat-down until late-afternoon

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Old Man, and he asked him what he had seen. 39. And he told God: "There they carried the man and the woman to heaven." [No indication whether direct or indirect quotation.] 40. And then the visitor told him (God) that all night candles were burning. 41. And God said to him: "Go back. 42. That's the way you sleep, after all God will forgive you since you didn't beat your wife." 43. That man said that he would not be able to return, he had already left home for good. 44. Then God said to him: "Go to the street where the well is, ask for permission, and if they don't give you permission, sit down there." 45. And he arrived at that house and asked for permission. 46. The woman of the house didn't answer, but he sat down there until the

47. ndo'uàjabmp ninjyà para copò malajáigŋ ŋgosáon  
 48. y m'òds ndosèèp ván'ia'a que latsjàò rich'ejegŋ para  
 manal'èogŋ capà y maígŋ' m'òds 49. manéi contsuegŋ  
 ntjòì mèp vikkye para manadèogŋ quích'ejegŋ. 50. y  
 manéi contsuegŋ kuán m'òds 51. comá ni'loi ásta  
 ndovàji' ván'ia'a 52. nímba sséjegŋ móòt 53. níggya'i  
 nikjòì ni'òjiŋ las ocho ŋgosáon y napò capà ndo'òò'  
 cots'ín' mà ŋgoljá'o van'uàdnt' cadéet ŋcjá'k mpèi'k  
 vandàjont ásta conjua'at col'òs nanjé'k quingye'p  
 54. ndonts'á'o niŋgye y ndottjets' kuán y ntjòì  
 55. ŋgotóè' niŋgye náol' 56. ndoljòts' quingye-mejep

he-arrived man-of-house 47. he-asked-him-for word/permission  
 in-order-that there he-was-going-to-stay night 48. and man-of-  
 the-house he-told-her his-wife that she-should-make foods in-  
 order-that they-were-going-to-give-to-him visitor and also man-  
 of-house 49. immediately she-got-angry woman not his-servant  
 in-order-that she-was-going to-give-him food 50. and immediat-  
 ely he-got-angry man native-of 51. it-went/began they-(du)-  
 quarreled until he-hit-her his-wife 52. not they-ate no 53. they  
 (du)-lay-down they(du)-were-hungry it-passed the eight  
 (o'clock) night and that visitor he-heard up-there direction street  
 they-were-coming wild-animals like pigs they-were-groaning until  
 they-arrived house (place) they-entered inside 54. they-kindled  
 fire and they-lifted-him(du)-up man and woman 55. big fire  
 it-was-burning 56. they-put-them-(du)-down(hard things) mid-

man of the house arrived late in the afternoon. 47. He asked him for per-  
 mission to stay there overnight. 48. And the man of the house told his wife  
 to prepare food to give to the visitor and also the man of the house. 49. Im-  
 mediately the woman got angry; she wasn't his servant that she was going to  
 feed him. 50. And immediately the man of the house got angry. 51. They  
 began to quarrel until he hit his wife. 52. They didn't eat at all; they went  
 to bed hungry. 53. And when it was past eight o'clock at night that visitor  
 heard coming from up the street wild animals like pigs, groaning all the way  
 until they arrived at the house and entered. 54. They kindled a fire and lifted  
 up the man and woman. 55. A big fire was burning. 56. They put them into  
 the middle of the burning fire, both of them, and they were left very black.

ningye náol' paígn' nôi y nijyái nambóo nambói  
 57. náoi paígn' nôi ásta que condáo talogn 58. nanjék  
 quingye' colòs ndoc'uéji' 59. ndocjuá'i quingye' ningye  
 ndol'áily' quibià y cadát manéi ndol'ajaich' ndocjuígn'  
 nimia por ngoljá'o 60. y xínyi'o comá ne capà  
 61. manéi nikéji gyó'i y ndo'uàjabmp canen ndonò  
 62. y ndosèèp tan chích'o 63. ásta cojòp coccue nimia  
 químmijo porque tan maljòs ndo'uéi ndonò.

[End of Original Text]

[Expansion—Added by someone else]

64. nikéji napò gyó'i xínyi'o y péoc jeóc' ní'èi niqyò  
 65. copò no'uéi nonò tan chích'o 66. ndateo' níggya'a

dle-of fire it-was-burning also two and they(2)-remained black  
 (du) black(du) 57. they(2)-were-burning also two until that  
 it-sang (crowed) chicken (rooster) 58. they-entered inside house  
 (place) they-took-them-(du)-out 59. they-grabbed-them-(du)  
 inside (out of) fire they-threw-them-(du) outside and certain-  
 ones immediately they-took-them-(du) they-dragged-them-(du)  
 they-went-to-be-there through street 60. and next-morning he-  
 went the visitor 61. immediately they(2)-encountered-each-other  
 old-man and he-asked-him what he-saw 62. and he-told-him  
 much/so bad 63. until then he-returned he-went-to-be-there his-  
 home because so frightening the-way-he-did he-saw.

[End of Original Text]

[Expansion—Added by someone else]

64. they-met-each-other that old-man next-morning and how  
 you the-way-you-did you-saw 65. that-way the-way-I-did I-saw

57. They were both burning until the rooster crowed. 58. They entered the  
 house and took them out. 59. They grabbed them out of the fire, threw them  
 outside, and some of them (wild animals) immediately took them and dragged  
 them through the street. 60. And the next morning the visitor left. 61. Im-  
 mediately he and the Old Man met each other, and he asked him what he had  
 seen. 62. And he told him that he saw a horrible thing. 63. It was then he  
 returned home because it was so frightening what he had seen.

[End of Original Text]

Expansion: Added by Someone Else.

64. He and the Old Man met each other the next morning, and "How  
 was it what you saw?" 65. "I saw such a horrible thing. 66. In the evening



y ndoppóik cáoc copò nonò 67. y ta'ejily' tsocuse cáoc  
 y cojop ndatsjá'otc nonò mba líggya'a 68. chi gyó'i  
 ndoséèp copó ní'èi nannò 69. copò vòcja 70. copò vát'ei  
 naljgòj cadét xích'ot 71. copò jeóc' ní'èi nannò  
 72. quimmiát quikkènk conjuà'al tivỳìjik' con n'ía'a  
 73. yà no màs quíkkajo quiny'òà 74. yà ninyò pèdc  
 lo'uéi mméjo se co'uàà tan chích'o.

so bad 66. late-afternoon I-lay-down and it-scared-me me there  
 I-saw 67. and I-slept again I and then it-dawned-me I-saw  
 perhaps they-(du)-were-lying-down 68. little old-man he-told-  
 him that-way the-way-you-did you-to-see 69. there that-way  
 70. that-way the-way-they-do they-take-care-of wild-things bad  
 (ani. pl.) 71. that way you the-way-you-did you-to-see 72. go  
 you-homing you-will-arrive-there you(2)-should live-together  
 with you-wife 73. now no more you-back-&-forth You'll-walk  
 now you-saw how the-way he-does he-lives the-one-who who  
 so bad.

I went to bed and it scared me what I saw there. 67. And I went to sleep  
 again and then when dawn came I saw that they (two) were lying down.  
 68. The little Old Man said to him: "That's the way you saw it." 69. That's  
 the way it is. 70. That's they way bad wild things take care of one. 71. That's  
 the way you saw it. 72. Go home; when you arrive live together with your  
 wife. 73. Now don't go running around here and there any more. 74. Now  
 you have seen how one lives who is very bad."