

THE MAN WHO ABANDONED HIS CHILDREN

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The following folk tale was transcribed from a tape made in 1962 in Pómaro, Michoacán, one of four villages on the Pacific Coast where this particular dialect is presently spoken. Gabriel Flores, native of Pómaro, related the tale. The tragedy of the story is mollified by a bit of Aztec humor consisting of an onomatopoetic representation of weeping injected just before the end of the tale.

TEXT

1. Nimitzlaquetzilía je cuento de se ahuelito ca ifamilia. 2. Cataya je ahuelito 3 quipiaya miac ixolomes. 4. Cuaquín quinmilic, 5. "Huajtzinco tiasi pan néculi nepa pin loma verde." 6. Huan quinanquiliji ome ixolomes, 7. se cataya ixuiyito, 9. quilic, "Sí, sí, Tata, tiyahuilo pan néculi mosta." 11. Cuaquín quil 12. "tel mocni ma quichía buena hora bastimento. 13. huan tel tictzayana cuahuil 14. para ticuicalo ca yoje bastimento pin cuajilan 15. capic tiyalo

INTERLINEAR TRANSLATION

1. I tell you a story of an old man with his-family. 2. Was an old man 3. had many his-children. 4. Then he-said-to-them 5. "Morning we-will-go for honey there on-the hill green." 6. And they-answered-him two his-children, 7. one was his- little-grandson, 9. he-said-to-him, 10. "Yes, yes, Daddy, we-go for honey tomorrow." 11. So quotative particle 12. "You your-brother let him-make-it good hour lunch, 13. and you you-split-it wood 14. in-order-that we-take-it with that lunch to-the woods

pan néculi. 16. Huan en la de huelta cuando tiajtihualalo, 17. ya annejtzajtzilía 18. nepa anlejcúa je cuahuil punta pin ramas umpa. 19. Mientras umpa amhuante anmahuiltitica, 20. ya nel ya annimitzcaqui 21. capa ninejnemi. 22. Huan mientras nehual niquixtitataya je néculi, 23. cuaquinon ya niquíc 24. ya tzajtzije 25. "Tatá, Tatá, xihuala, 26. nican ticate."

27. In ahuelito modeteneruc siempre yíal buen ratito, 28. amo quincacuíá, 29. quijtuc últimamente, 30. ma niquincajcahua noxolomes, 31. ma nía pa muchan nel, 32. nepa nicpía 33. len nicchihuas, 34. yehuanten umpa mocajcahuacan, 35. ma quincua in oso neculero."

36. Huan ya hualac in ahuelito pa mochi ojli, 37. mola-lujtihualac pin cuajlan, 38. quisac 39. quinami Dios quijnamiquiltic, 40. hualac pin tixcalera, 41. ca ompec moquixtitihualac pin seriatilan, 42. mohuilantihualac cajcapa, 43. moquestihualaya cajcapa, 44. mohuilantihua-

15. to-where we-go for honey. 16. And in the of return when we come-going, 17. already you-shout-at-me 18. there you-climb a tree above in-the branches there. 19. While there you you-are-playing, 20. already I already I-hear-you 21. where I-walk. 22. And while I I-was-talking-out a honey, 23. then already I-said-it 24. already they-yelled 25. "Daddy, Daddy, come, 26. here we-are."

27. The old-man waited always he good while, 28. not he-listened-to-them, 29. he-said finally, 30. let I-abandon-them my-children, 31. let I-go to my-house me, 32. there I-have-it 33. something I-will-do-it, 34. they there they-stay, 35. let he-eat-them the bear honey-hunter."

36. And already came the old-man on all road, 37. he-came-running in-the forest 38. came-out 39. as God He-reminded-him, 40. came in-the stony-place, 41. to there he-came-bringing-himself-out in-the forest, 42. he-came-dragging-himself in-places, 43. he-came-standing-up in-parts, 44. he-came-dragging-himself

laya quinami siempre pues, 45. amo huil yíal, 46. siemprerecio nejnemiaya, 47. quinami ya catá viejito.

48. Huan cuaquinon quijtui ixolomes, 49. "Ya ma tián tiquitacan notajtzin pa ichan 50. porque a poco techcuas in oso neculero."

51. Huan cuaquion ya hualaji, 52. ajsiji tiolac, 53. qui-
liji itajtzin, 54. ¿Leca tata pues titechcajcahuac nepa?
55. Pos tehuanten timijchixtataloaya pin loma verde,
56. tilejcuji in cuál 57. capa titechilic. 58. A gritos ti-
mitznotzaloaya 59. '¡Tata, Tata! ¿Capa tiunca? 60. ¡Xi-
huala, 61. nican ticate tehuanten!' 62. De repente pues
mocaquic in gritos, 63. pero no amo tiquitaji nindeno pa
ojli, puro tetzmojmes, arduillas, cuacuasitas, ranitas,
cuixitos, 64. huan umpa tisequiruji tihualaji, 65. tihualaji,
66. tipanuji pa atenco, 67. tipanuji pin atenco ca níc in
lado. 68. Ticnequiloaya timaltilo, 69. siempre no, amo
ticchihuaji valor 70. de timaltisi, 71. tihualaji, tihualaji,
72. tiajsijqui tiolac pan cali. 73. Niclajlanic nonantzin,

as always then, 45. not he-was-able-to he, 46. always violently he-
walked, 47. as already he-was a-little-old-man.

48. And then they-said his-children, 49. "Already let we-go
we-see my-father to his-house 50. because to little he-will-eat-us
the bear honey-hunter."

51. And then already they-came, 52. they-arrived late-after-
noon, 53. they-said-to-him their-father, 54. "Why daddy then
you-abandoned-us there? 55. Why we we-were-awaiting-you on-
the hill green, 56. we-climbed the tree 57. where you-said-to-us.
58. By yells we-called-you 59. Daddy, daddy, where are-you?
60. Come 61. here we-are we! 62. Suddenly then were-heard the
yells, 63. but no, not we-saw nothing on road, just packrats, little-
squirrels, field-mice, frogs, lizards, 64. and then we-continued
we-came, 65. we-came 66. we-passed by river, 67. we-passed in-
the river to here this side. 68. we-wanted we-bathe, 69. always no,
not we-did boldness 70. of we-will-bathe, 71. we-came, we-came.
72. we-arrived late-afternoon at house. 73. I asked my-mother,

74. "¿Capunca notajtzin, Nana?" 75. Nechíc nonantzin, 76. "Ya nican cate, ya nican unca." 77. ¿De horas ajsic?" 78. Pos ajsic tiolitita ca ibulito de altzinde, ca ihachita, ca imachetito, 79. dangochita motajtzin unca ca isombrero, 80. dangochita pues, 81. nechilic. 82. Pues tehuanten nepa ticataloaya en espera de yihual. 83. Téchilic pues pampa umpec 84. pa timoitaloaya pin loma verde."

85. Huan umpa quinanquilic inantzin, 86. "Ahhh, motajtzin de veras está maldito, 87. amo mitznequi 88. y seguramente yes 89. quijtuc 90. 'umpa mocajcahuán noxolomes.' 91. Nehual que tanto nechcocuhua noyolo por amhuanten, 92. huan yíal umpa quinequic anmitzajcéc. 93. Pos da ya umpa anmiquisquiaya, 94. quiman niasquiaya anmitzita amhuanten 95. capa amhuanten ancataya. 96. ¿Quinami nicmatisquiaya? 97. Niquitasquiaya tzopilomes, 98. pues ni modo mitzcualosquiaya in animales 99. hual palanilo pa in viento. 100. Pos

74. "Where-is my-father, Mamma?" 75. She-said-to-me my-mother, 76. Already here they-are, already here he-is." 77. Of time he-arrived?" 78. Why, he-arrived early-afternoon with his-gourd of water, with his- hatchet, with his-machete, 79. torn-up your-father with his-sombrero, all-torn-up now," 81. she-said-to-me. 82. "Why, we there we-were in waiting of him. 83. He-said-to-us 84. that to-there in-order-to we-would-see-ourselves on-the hill green."

85. And then she-answered-him his-mother, 86. "Ahhh, your-father really is wicked, 87. not he-loves 88. and surely it-must-be 89. he-said 90. 'there let-them-stay my-children.' 91. I how much it-hurts-me my-heart for you, 92. and he there he-wanted he-left-you. 93. why if already there you-had-died, 94. when would-I-have-been-going I-see-you you 95. where you you-were? 96. How would-I-know? 97. I-would-have-seen-them vultures, 98. why no hope they-might-have-eaten-you the animals 99. which they-fly in the air." 100. So I.said, 101. "Why who-knows, then?, 102. I

niquilic, 101. Nana, pos sabe pues, 102. nehual también amo nicmatiaya pues, 103. quinami tiyahuiloya timomachilito pues. 104. Huan axan, Nana, nechilic huajtzinco notajtzin de oc se huelta, 105. 'Mosta tiajsi pan néculi,' 106. pero ya oc sequin nocnían quinmilic 107. huan ticnanquiliji, 108. 'Tehuanten, Tata, amo tiyahuiloy,' 109 yíal technanquilic pampa no, 111. amhuanten amo anyahui, 112. ya anuyac."

113. Cuaquinon icni canac granitos de ixutzinde, 114. quixintíac 115. capic yajtíac, 116. huan in se canac tinexli, 117. quixintiaji, 118. yaji, yaji, 119. ajsiji pa oc se loma más verde 120. Quipíac umpa pin loma 121. quil 122. bonitas in cuevetas, cuevotas grandotas, coyuncotes. 123. Laticumac cajcapa fiero, 124. quil, 125. ya quinequiloá momajtilo 126. huan de umpa mocuepaji tajtziji de nuevo, 127. "Capa tiunca notajtzin," 128. quil, 129. "ya niamictica Tata, 130. cualica in buli ca al, 131. ma nicujcuni."

also not I-would-know then, 103. how we-would-go we-would-inform-ourselves then? 104. And now, Mamma, he-told-me this-morning my-father of yet one time, 105. 'Tomorrow we-will-arrive for honey,' 106. but already-now yet some my-brothers he-said-to-them 107. and we-answered-him, 108. 'We, Daddy, not we-go,' 109. he he-answered-us that no, 111. you not you-go, 112. already you-went.

113. Then his-brother got grains of little-beans, 114. he-went-scattering-them to-where he-went-going, 116. and this one got ashes, 117. they-went-scattering, 118. they-went they-went 119. they-arrived on yet one hill more green 120. They-had there on-the hill 121. it-is-said 122. pretty the caves, big-caves very-big, big-holes. 123. It-was-dark everywhere-in-places fearfully, 124. it-is-said 125. now they-liked they-were-afraid 126. and of then they-returned they-shouted of anew, 127. "Where are-you my-father," 128. it-is-said 129. "Already we-are-thirsty Daddy, 130. bring the gourd with water, 131. let me-drink-long."

132. Pos ya in tata ya mocuepac 133. porque ya mochíac tiolac. 134. Hualac pa ojli, 135. quil, 136. amo quitac nindeno de néculi, 137. mas de se cuxpa moitilic. 138. Huan yoje seguiruc ajsic pan cali ca imalos cuentos, 139. ya quilic, 140 "Viejita, ya nihuác pues. 141. Huan ¿amo hualaluc toxolomes? 142. Pos amo niquinmitac."

143. "Pos no, amo hualalo, viejito, 144. pos ¿capa mocahuaji?"

145. "Pos sabe Dios, 146. pos nel umpa nicataya, 147. niquinchíac 148. capa timocahuaji 149. de timoitalosquiaya. 150. Axan pues quinami tialo ticchihualo? 151. ¿Aqui ya techmáca cuento? 152. Pos ¿aqui pues?"

153. "Huan ¿amo tiquitac ni se animal pa ojli?"

154. Pos no, amo niquitac nindeno, 155. mas de se cuyul niquitac."

156. "Huan ¿len mitzilic in cuyul?"

132. But now the daddy already went-back 133. because already it-became evening. 134. He-came on road 135. it-is-said 136. not he-saw- it nothing of honey, 137. more than one iguana was-seen-for-itself. 138. And thus he-followed he-arrived at house with his-bad tales, 139. then he-said-to-her, 140. "Old-lady, now I've-come now. 141. And not came our-children? 142. Why I-didn't-see-them."

143. Why no, not they-come old-man, 144. so where did-they-stay-behind?

145. Why, knows God, 146. because I there I-was, 147. I-awaited-them 148. where we-settled-on 149. of we-would-see-each-other. 150. Now then how are-we-going- we-do-it- 151. Who now gives-us an-account? 152. So who then?

153. "And not you-saw-it not one animal on road?"

154. Well no, not I-saw-it nothing. 155. more than a coyote I-saw-it."

156. "And what he-said-to-you the coyote?"

157. "Amo nechíc nindeno, 158. jan puro choca san."

159. Joo cuaquinon, axan pues ¿capa tialo timoentenderulo 160. pa tiquinmatisi toxolomes?"

161. Pos ya umpa mocahuac in viejito pa arrepentido chocatica.

162. Huan ¿quinami chocaya quil in viejito? 163. Pos chocaya: ¡Jii, jii, jii! 164. También inantzin: ¡Jii, jii, jii, jii! chocatata. 165. Cuaquín ya umpa laquisa in cuento, 166. porque ya quimpulují ixolomes.

157. "Not he-said-to-me nothing, 158. just only howled-he only."

159. Ohhh then, now then where do-we-go we-find-out 160. in-order-to we-find-them our-children?"

161. So now then remained the old-man on repentant, crying.

162. And how did-he-cry it-is-said the old-man? 163. Well, he-cried: Heee! Heee! Heee! 164. Also their mother: He! He! He! He! she-was-crying. 165. Then already there finishes the tale, 166. because now they-lost-them their-children.

SYNOPSIS OF THE TALE

A man who had many children took them with him to the mountains to look for honey. After preparing lunch and firewood they took their way to the Green Hill. The father told them to wait for him in the limbs of a tree and call for him. While they were to be playing, he would be looking for honey and would hear them where he was walking.

The children called him and the man dawdled a long time, finally deciding to abandon his children. "I'll leave them, he said, "I'll go home. There I have something to do. Let them stay there, let the honey bear eat them up."

The man went home then all the way, stumbling, dragging himself in parts, finally coming out of the woods, walking fast for an old man.

Meanwhile the children decided to go home to the father for fear the honey bear might eat them up.

Then they came, arriving by late afternoon, asked the father why he had left them there. They had waited for him there, having climbed the tree as he had told them and shouted for him to come. The cries were heard but they saw nothing on the road other than little animals. Then they kept on coming,

passing the river on this side. They wanted to bathe but were afraid to. They came, arriving late afternoon at the house.

One apparently asks his mother whether the father had returned and she described how he came earlier that afternoon, rather disheveled. The child tells how they had been waiting for him where he had told them to wait on the green hill.

Then the mother answers that the father is wicked and does not love them and decided to abandon them. And she remarks on how sad it would have made her, seeing the vultures which might have been eating them.

The boy then mentions how the father planned to go again the next day to look for honey, but with others of his children because the first ones had already gone once.

So one brother takes beans to mark the trail, another takes ashes. They go to a greener mountain where are many caves and dark places. They were afraid and shouted for their father again to bring the water gourd.

But the father returned because it was already late afternoon. He didn't find any honey, saw only one iguana. He reached home with his sad tale. He asked the wife if the children had returned and was told that they hadn't. He said he had waited for them in the spot they had settled on. Then the mother wonders how they should find out about the children. She asked if he had seen any animal on the road, he replies that he saw a coyote who only howled. Then the mother again wonders how they are ever going to get news of what happened to the children. The old man finally repents and cries along with his wife over the loss of their children.