

THE PRAYER OF A TEPEHUAN WITCH DOCTOR

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In Xoconoxtle, Durango, Mr. John Hobgood of Southern Illinois University transcribed a number of texts in Spanish dictated by members of the Tepehuán tribe. This was a project undertaken in 1961.

The informant was Chano Aguilar, a Tepehuán curandero, who began the session by saying, "This is how one should pray. Ask with all your heart," he urged. "This is a prayer so that nothing evil happen to you at this moment, in this hour, at this time." This shaman started waving his wand and puffing furiously at his pipe, blowing smoke over the arrows which he had stuck into the maguey leaves.

Tlalocan now publishes a fragment of the material gathered by Mr. Hobgood — the invocation of the witch doctor — and hopes that all the Tepehuán texts may be available in the near future. The English translation is by F. Horcasitas.

SPANISH TEXT

1. Así debemos rezar. Pide de todo corazón. Oración de que no le pase nada malo ahorita, en este rato. Como lo ves, en esta hora, en este rato. Ahora ves,

ENGLISH TRANSLATION

1) This is how one should pray. Ask with all your heart. This is a prayer so that nothing evil happen to you at this moment, at this time. Just as you see it, at this hour, during this while. Now you see,

en este momento, por este Amo Nuestro, Señor Jesucristo, que vamos a ver a todos los santos de la Semana Santa: el Padre San José, la Madre Guadalupana, María Santísima.

2. Como lo ves, Nuestro Amo San José nos entendió con su vida.

3. A mí me encuentras con la misma sangre de Nuestro Señor Jesucristo, el Todopoderoso, que nos defendió, protegiendo a todos sus hijos, a todos sus hermanos. Porque todos somos hijos de Nuestro Señor, de Nuestro Padre Eterno, que tan lindo fue. Es el Poderoso que nos dice todo.

4. Vino cuando conquistó todo en este mundo, en este lugar; cuando lo arregló aquí en este mundo, en este reino. Nos dejó todo; nos trajo muchas cosas de distintos colores. Y nos dejó aquí para que cuide-mos y todos nos veamos como hermanos. Hay que respetar cuanto El dejó aquí, en este lugar donde anduvo; luego se fue para el cielo — para los cinco

that at this moment, through Our Master, through Our Lord, Jesus Christ, we are going to see all the saints of Holy Week: The Father Saint Joseph, the Mother Guadalupe, Mary Most Holy.

2) As you can see, Our Lord Saint Joseph instructed us with his life.

3) You will find that I have the same blood as Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Almighty, who defended us, who protected His children, all his brethren. Because we are all children of Our Lord, of our Eternal Father, who was so precious. He is the Almighty who teaches us everything.

4) He came here when conquered all this world, in this place; when he ordered things as they are in this world, in this kingdom. He bequeathed us all things; He brought many colored things. And He left us here to take care of them, so that we behave like brothers. One must respect everything that He left here, here where he dwelt;

vientos, para los cinco cielos. El nos está mirando todos los días y no nos olvida con esta oración. No nos puede olvidar nunca porque estamos aquí para vivir y nos da fuerza para la vida.

5. Mando yo un telegrama, que tiene que llegar en un momento; adonde está nuestro hermano para que nos ayude a decir que pecamos y que hicimos muchas cosas malas. Para que nos salve de todas nuestras culpas, para que podamos vivir siempre aquí donde nos dejó, en este lugar. Y nos ha de perdonar todo y a todas horas no nos olvidará: tiene que darnos el pan de cada día.

6. Hablo yo con todo el corazón, aquí en esta hora, en este rato. ¡Que nos oiga, que nos dé misericordia!

7. Todos somos sus hijos: todos nos vemos como hermanos; nos saludamos con "Buenos días de Dios." ¡Que nos ayude con algo, que nos traiga la suerte, que nos perdone todas nuestras malas palabras; que

then He went to Heaven —to the five winds, to the five heavens. He watches over us every day and through this prayer he does not forget us. He can never forget us because we are here to live and He gives us the strength to live.

5) I am sending a telegram which will arrive in a moment; it goes to where our Brother is, so that He help us to admit that we sinned and committed many evil deeds. May he save us from all our faults; may we live here forever, here, in this place, where he left us. He must pardon us all things and He will never forget us. He will give us our daily bread.

6) I am speaking with all my heart, here, at this hour, in this moment. May he hear us, may he spare us!

7) We are all His children; we all consider ourselves brothers; we greet each other with "May God give us a good day!" May he help us. May he bring us good fortune. May he forgive us our evil words,

nos perdone nuestros pecados! Porque queremos ver todo como estaba cuando El reinó en este lugar.

8. ¡Fue tan lindo, fue tan poderoso! Porque El sufrió con nosotros tantos años y ayunó con nosotros.

9. Por eso tenemos costumbre de comer pan, para acordarnos de El, el Señor. Que nos libre en todas horas, que nos eche la bendición de mi padre Dios, la bendición de Nuestro Señor Jesucristo. Que nos oiga a todas horas, ya sea a media noche o a medio día o en el camino.

10. Así que para cuando nos venga a ver seremos dignos de El y nos encontraremos con El en su lugar. ¡Que no nos olvide!

11. Eso sí es para siempre. ¡Ya!

may He pardon us our sins. Because we want to see everything as it was when He ruled over this place.

8) He was so precious, he was so powerful! He suffered with us for many years and He fasted for us.

9) That is why it is a custom among us to eat bread in order to remember Him, the Lord. May he spare us always, may he grant us the blessing of God, my father, the blessing of Our Lord Jesus Christ. May He listen to us at all hours, be it at midnight or at midday, or on the road.

10) Thus, when comes to see us, we will be worthy of Him and we will find ourselves with Him in His place. May He not forget us!

11) This is to be till the end of the world! Amen!