The folktale given here is another version of the one published in Zapotec of Mitla, Oaxaca, by Paul Radin (Tlalocan I, 134-46, 1943) under the title “Un Casado,” and further discussed by Raúl Guerrero (Tlalocan I, 253-58, 1944), who gives two other versions of the same from the state of Puebla under the title “El Hombre y la Mujer,” with a comparative chart of the three versions. This Zoque version from Chiapas presents many similarities with, and some differences from, the above mentioned forms of the story.

This text was dictated by Rodulfo Manuel, a bilingual Indian of Copainalá, Chiapas, in the Zoque language as spoken in that town. It is here given with a literal translation, followed by a free translation.

The symbols here used in transcribing Zoque are the same as those used by William L. Wonderly in his “Textos en Zoque Sobre el Concepto del Nagual” (Tlalocan II, 97-105, 1946). They correspond approximately to the Spanish except that ę represents ts; č represents ch; š represents English sh; ęż is a velar nasal; ę is glottal stop; ą is an unround vowel varying from mid-back to high-back position.
1. Mason. 2. tramp, he-put himself king-under. 3. he-work-entered king-under mason-with. 4. three days it-makes-when he-measured himself material. 5. and then he-took account that more he-knows tramp, 6. that more is-teacher. 7. then he-said the teacher, 8. you more know. now measure-again and arrange stone and bricks. 9. later came king, came-he to-see work. 10. more good tramp's. 11. then he-had-already confidence. 12. then he-gave-him room where he-sleeps. 13. later there-was confidence that he-converse king's his-daughter-with. 14. he-made-love-to-her. 15. and she-said the king's his-daughter that she-marry all delight-with. 16. and there he-said mason that he-makes

### THE MASON

Once there was a tramp. He went and placed himself under the authority of a king and began to work for him with a mason. He measured materials for three days and then the mason noticed that the tramp knew more than the teacher. Then he said, “You know more than I do. Now you measure and build.” Later the king came to see the work. He too noticed that the tramp’s was the better, so he had confidence in him and gave him lodgings. Later the tramp was bold enough to talk to the king’s daughter and to make love to her. Then she said she would gladly marry him. So he said he would make an
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26 despwede tuka?y poyajpit minu kya?u te? myaya te? albañi?lisñe?. 27 pijče?ka wyeju re?yis te?p albañil namay čajku tak. 28 pijče?ka namu ke wa?y čakta?nu ŋe? konbenio 29 porke te?p-sej te?p swerte. 30 ŋamanyaju agreement 17. that if she-dies first the his-sweetheart 18. ready that him-bury-they-also her-with. 19. just-like-that she-said-also the woman 20. that if he-dies the man her-bury-they-also-just him-with. 21. and then he-made-for-them manuscript it-says-where 22. that when him-bury-they the man 23. his-all-with, his-trowel, square and plummet. 24. it-remained; in-a-hurry he-wrote the king. 25. he-approved-it and signed the man and the woman.

26. after-that three months-by came to-die the-his-sweetheart the mason's. 27 then he-called king the mason is-where making house. 28. then he-said that that he-fulfill his-own agreement 29. because like-that the his-luck. 30. him-they-take graveyard-into the dead-one and agreement that if she died first they would bury him alive with her. The girl said the same, that if he died first they would bury her with him. Then the king wrote an agreement which said that when they buried him he should be allowed to take his tools, his trowel, square and plummet, into the grave. [He finished it quickly.] So the man and girl approved and signed it.

After three months the mason's [formerly tramp's] sweetheart died. Then the king called him from where he was building a house and said that he would have to fulfill his agreement. Too bad, but that's his luck. Then they took him and the corpse to the graveyard and put them
the mason. 31 entered-they-two-together one cave-into. 32. then he-asked for the trowel that that take-it-for-him-they. he-took-it-in. 33. three day there-was cave-in the his-sweetheart-with 34. when it-came to-walk-out worm 35. box's his-corner-in his-head-in. 36. he-is mouth-bringing flower purple-one. 37. then he-took the flower the mason. 38. then he-caused-to-kiss-it the his-sweetheart, 39. the dead-one, three times. 40 then she-inhaled, and sat-up. 41. she-talked-to-him where there-was. 42. he-said the fiancé, cave-in. 43. then he-said-to-her, now go-we go-out. 44. then he-dug-began the dirt; 45. went-out-they and went-they another town-into. 46. traveled-they-when-already four day came to-find-they amate-tree, and there sat-remained-they. 47. then

both into one grave. Then he asked for his trowel, and they put that in too. He was in the grave with the corpse of his sweetheart three days. Then he saw a small worm coming in at the top corner of the box. It was bringing in its mouth a purple flower. The mason took the flower and put it in the dead girl's nose and she started to breathe and sat up. She asked where she was and he said, "We're in the graveyard but we're going out now." Then he began to dig and soon they were out. They started to go to another town and after four days
The Mason: A Zoque Text


she-said-to-him the her-sweetheart, going-I-you to-lice-hunt. 48 he-put his-head the his-sweetheart’s her-lap-on the man. 49. then he-fell-asleep.

50. he-fell-asleep-when-like-in passed king’s his-son. 51. he-asked the woman, where are you-going? 52. is going-she another town-into her-boy-with. 53. then he-said-to-her king’s his-son, 54. doesn’t become-you that-you walk this man-with because you pretty-one woman you. 55. if love-you-me, go-you me-with and marry-I-you. 56. leave this your boy. 57. if say-you good, take-passing-I-you a-little-later. 58. then she-said the woman, 59. if he-didn’t-awake-when-just this boy going-I you-with. 60. then returned the king’s his-son [and] he-took-her-passing. 61. he-took-her his-house-into.

came to a fig tree and there they sat down. She said to him, “I’m going to see if you have lice.” So he put his head on her lap and soon went to sleep.

While he slept a prince came along and asked the girl where they were going. They were going to another town. Then the prince said, “It doesn’t become you to go with this man because you are a pretty girl. If you love me, leave your boy here and come with me and I’ll marry you. If you say so, I’ll return for you.” Then she said, “If he doesn’t wake up by the time you come back, I’ll go with you.” Then the prince returned and got her and took her to his home.
When the mason awoke, the girl had gone. He thought, “If she wants to do me wrong it doesn’t matter; I’m still going on.” So he arrived at a town and hunted for lodgings. He found a woman who was an orphan and she took him in. Then she asked him where he was going. He said, “I came to seek employment in this town, and if you want to help me, perhaps you could find work for me.” Then the woman went to ask the king about it. She said, “If you want a worker there is one at my house.” The king told her to go and he would give the boy work. So the boy came to the king’s palace. The king said,
as first soldier 77. because do-not-you fear. 78. am-I-you knowing. 79. then he-gave-him rifle. 80. after armed-when-already he-passed palace yard-in. 81. he-is asking his-marriage king’s his-daughter-with second day. 82. for third day he-is-already passing-again many soldiers-with and himself went-in-front. 83. and there-already she-stood the her-husband-with where-there-was window. 84. she saw the her-fiancé former and he-saw-also the her. 85. then the woman said to her husband, “I don’t like that front soldier. Have him killed.” 86. answered the king’s his-son, he-said that good that he-going to-have-him-killed. 87. then came he to-tell, 88. did-you-hear? you-she-is thinking that king’s woman that-you kill-they tomorrow. 90. then he-

“I’m going to make you a first-class soldier because I know that you’re brave.” So he gave him a rifle and he went through the palace courtyard. On the second day he asked marriage with the king’s daughter. The third day, when he was passing there again at the head of a group of soldiers, there at a window he saw her (his former sweetheart) standing with her husband, and she also saw him. Then the woman said to her husband, “I don’t like that front soldier. Have him killed.” So the prince said that he would. Then someone came and said to the soldier, “Did you hear that the prince’s wife wants you killed tomorrow?” The soldier said, “I’m willing if that’s’ my luck. I only

said the soldier, if my-is luck that-like conform-will-I. 91 nothing more want-I that-you-me shoot. 92. and fell-when-already-I, take-out-you my my-pocket-in wrapped paper, 93. and there inside there-is flower purple. 94. don't-you it-forget, 95. and there-is my medal gold-one 96. take-out also-just, yours that-one as souvenir keep-it-you. 97 you-me going to-bury. 98 [at] midnight come-you-me dig-out. 99. took-out when-already-you-me outside-into cause-to-kiss-you-me the flower the my my-pocket-in took-out-one-you. 100. and don't-you fear because going-I to-revive. 101. and don't-you-me leave. 102. where-I go there you go-you. 103. and more later going-I-you to-recompense the favor the you-me going to-do-for.

104. after went-out-they the-grave-from, go-they another town-into

ask that you shoot me, and when I have fallen take a purple flower wrapped in paper out of my pocket. Now don't forget. And my gold medal I'm giving to you as a souvenir. Bury me, and at midnight come and dig me out and cause me to kiss the flower you take from my pocket. Don't leave me, because I'm going to come back to life, and you'll go with me wherever I go and I'll repay you the favor.”

That night they left the graveyard and traveled for six days to
there also was where king. 105. traveled-they six day arrived-they king's his-palace-into. 106. and him-asked-they boy-on 107. why-it-was, many there-were man the room-in and why they were crying-they. 108. then he-said that died-one the princess today early. 109. then said the mason tramp that if he-wants king to-give permission 110. he-going to-cause-to-revive the his-daughter. 111. answered the king that good. 112 then he-said-to the gentlemen that go-out-all-they outside-in. 113. and then-went-out-they, 114. and went-they-when themselves, mason the tramp and the helper remained-they the dead-one-with. 115 then he-said-to the helper, 116. here you-be door-in that-not who comes to-open-it. 117. good, said the helper. 118. half hour-by-means-of he-revived the dead-one. 119.
Then he opened the door and asked the king to come and see his revived daughter. The king was amazed and had all doctors, sages and kings in all the nation called, because his daughter was going to marry a foreigner who came and revived her. After that the king was going to give the order that he be crowned king. Four days later the kings with their families came and when they were gathered in the palace, the couple was married. Then he was crowned and became king.

Then he ordered soldiers to put a big copper kettle on the fire and

144 pijče?ka wyeju soldado. ŋukyayaju te? yomo re?yis-ŋe?. 145 kyuuŋayaju taŋgučiko?mo, na tyoksu aseite-

designed fire. 132. is-when already boiling the oil, he went to tell king new one that oil is already boiling. 133. then he said to them the king, 134. now going I to put this woman is boiling oil in, 135. because this one lacked to me respect, after they buried me her with. 136 because my this was sweetheart, her caused to revive I. 137. after came we to move another town into (138. and now this king married one with) she ran left me road in. 139. slept when I she left. 140. to see now what think you all kings. 141 then said they five kings, of that which he directs. 142 give punishment this woman because she did for you bad. 143. approve we.

144. then he called soldier. her grabbed they the woman king's. 145. her threw they copper kettle into, is boiling oil into. 146. there

fill it with five barrels of oil. When the oil was boiling they went and told this new king, who said, "Now I'm going to put this woman into the boiling oil because she didn't respect me, even though I had been her sweetheart and revived her after they had buried me with her. Then she left me in the road while I slept. Now what do you all think?" Then those other five kings said, "Whatever you say we approve; punish her as you like because she didn't respect you."

Then he called the soldiers and they took the woman and threw
kaʔma. 146 tey terminaʔajku. 147 i kyumpliʔajku justisia porke maʔu mal korespondida.

it-ended. 147. and he-completed justice because she-went bad returner-of-favors.

her into the boiling oil in the copper kettle. That is the end of her story. Justice was done because she returned bad for good.