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The Mason: A Zoque Text

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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 ¢ represents ts; è represents ch; è represents English sh; n is a velar nasal; is glottal stop; A is an unround vowel varying from mid-back to high-back position.

1 Albañil.

² jowiwitpawa, kyojtu wyin reykya?ma. ³ yostajkayu reykya?ma albañilji?ŋ. ⁴ tuka?y jama čakpa?k myujku ñe?ka?s material. ⁵ i dyay koykenu kwenta ke mas myuspa jowiwitpawa?s. ⁶ ke mas maestrote?. ⁷ pijče?ka namu te? maestro, ⁸ mis mas muspa. yatij mukwa¢aka i koloka¢aka ¢a? i lagriyos. ⁹ despwede minu rey, minu kyenjayu yoskuy. ¹⁰ mas oye jowiwitpawa?sñe?. ¹¹ pijče?ka ña?itjawya?a konfiansa. ¹² pijče?ka či?u kwarto juta aŋba. ¹³ despwes ijtu konfiansa wa?y čam¢amnayu re²yis ²yuneji?ŋ. ¹⁴ ²yenamora¢ajku. ¹⁵ i namu te² re²yis ²yune ke ko²tajkajpa mumu gustoji?ŋ. ¹⁶ i tey namu

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

albañil ke čakpa konbenio. ¹⁷ ke juka ka²pa wina te² myaya ¹⁸ dispwesto ke ñipyajke²tpa ñe²kaji²ŋ. ¹⁹ te²-sejtij namge²tu te² yomo ²⁰ ke juka ka²pa te² pan ñipyajke²tpatij ñe²kaji²ŋ. ²¹ i pijče²ka čakjayu totojaye nambamay ²² ke kwando ñipyajpa te² pan ²³ myumuji²ŋ kyučara, eskwadra i plomo. ²⁴ ¢a²yu, listo jayu te² rey. ²⁵ ²yaproba¢ajku i firma¢ajku te² pa²nis i te² yomo²s.

²⁶ despwede tuka⁹y poyajpit minu kya⁹u te⁹ myaya te⁹ albañi⁹lisñe⁹. ²⁷ pijče⁹ka wyeju re⁹yis te⁹ albañil namay čajku tak. ²⁸ pijče⁹ka namu ke wa⁹y čakta⁹nu ñe⁹ konbenio ²⁹ porke te⁹sej te⁹ swerte. ³⁰ ñamaŋyaju

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

196 Tlalocan

panteo'nojmo te' ka'uwa i te' albañil. 31 tajkayaju myejeji'n tumapa éa'tajkojmo. 32 pijče'ka wya'ku te' kučara ke wa'y ñamanjayaju. ñatajkayu. 33 tuka'y jama ijtu éa'tajkojmo te' myayaji'n 34 kwando minu wyitpujtu namaéan 35 kajo'nis 'yangi'noyj kyopajkojmo. 36 na kyeénaminu jaya moradowa. 37 pijče'ka yajaka'u te' jaya te' albañi'lis. 38 pijče'ka yajsu'ku te' myaya, 39 te' ka'uwa, tuka'y ñaka. 40 pijče'ka je'epajkayu, i pokski'mu. 41 'yyoto'nayu jutamay ijtu. 42 namu te' maya, éa'tajkojmo. 43 pijče'ka ñajayu, yatij mataj mbujtu. 44 pijče'ka tyajka'yu te' nas, 45 pjutyaju i manyaju eyapa kumgu'yojmo. 46 tu'najyaju'ka maksku'y jama minu pya'tyaju jiéikuy, i tey poksča'yaju. 47 pijče'ka ñajayu te' myaya's, man-

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 flancé, 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

ba²smij ngome²¢u. 48 kyojtu kyopak te² myaya²s tyapa jkasi te² pa²nis. 49 pijče²ka anbajku.

50 Ληβαjku²kse²ŋοyu katajku re²yis ²yune. 51 kya²-aŋwa²ku te² yomo, juta na myaŋu. 52 na myaŋu eyapa kumgu²yojmo myučačoji²ŋ. 53 pijče²ka ñajayu re²yis ²yune²s, 54 ja²n kyonbena¢aki wa²mij wyijtu ya² pan-ji²ŋ porke mij suñipa yomo mij. 55 juka sunbamisaj, myaŋbamij aji²ŋ i nako²tajkajpa²asmij. 56 ¢aka ya² mis mučačo. 57 juka ñambamij oye, mbaknikatakpa²-asmij yati²ka. 58 pijče²ka namu te² yomo, 59 juka jasa²-a²ktij ya² mučačo maŋba²aj miji²ŋ. 60 pijče²ka witu²u te² re²yis ²yune pyaknikatajku. 61 ñamaŋu tyajkojmo.

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

she-said-to-him the her-sweetheart, going-I-you to-lice-hunt. 48 he-put

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.

62 kwando minu ša'u te' albañil, maŋwa'a te' yomo.
63 pijče'ka namu, juka mal ¢akjayu'aj, ja'n tiya
čaki, 64 pero as segičakpa as nduŋ. 65 nu'ku'aj te'
kumgu'yojmo i me'¢u'as te' kojejkuy. 66 mba'tu'as
yaŋbak yomo, nwa'ku'as jejkuy i yajtajkayu'aj.
67 pijče'ka najayu'aj i ka'aŋwa'ku'aj juta na maŋu.
68 minu'as me'¢u yoskuy ya' kumgu'yojmo. 69 pijče'ka
najayu'as te' yaŋbak yomo, 70 juka ¢akjapya bieŋ
wa'yaj me'¢jayu yoskuy. 71 pijče'ka maŋu te' yomo
me'¢jayu te' reykyasi. 72 ñajayu rey, 73 juka sunba
yospawa, nu'ku ndakaŋa pan sunbapa's gyana¢ajku.
74 aŋ¢oŋu rey ke wa'y myaŋu, či'pa yoskuy. 75 nu'ku
te' mučačo re'yaŋa. 76 namu rey, maŋba'asmij ngi'u

62. when he came to-awake the mason, gone-already the woman. 63. then he-said, if bad she-did-for-me, not-thing-it-does 64. but I-follow my my-road. 65. arrived-I the town-into and hunted-I the lodging-house. 66. found-I orphan woman. I-asked lodging and she-caused-to-enter-me. 67. then she-said-to-me and asked-me where am-I going. 68. came-I to-seek work this town-in. 69. then say-to-her-I the orphan woman, 70. if you-will do-me favor that-me you-hunt-for work. 71. then went the woman to-hunt-for-him the king-at. 72. she-said-to-king, 73. if you-want worker, arrived my-house-at man who-wants to-earn. 74. answered king that that she-go, he-gives work. 75 he-arrived the boy king-at. 76. he-said king, going-I-you to-give soldiering,

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,

soldado²ajkuy, komo winba soldado ⁷⁷ porke ja²nmij ña²¢e. ⁷⁸ na²smij ngonose¢ajku. ⁷⁹ pijče²ka či²u fusil. ⁸⁰ despwede armado²ka katajku palasio ango²oyj. ⁸¹ na wya²ku kyo²tajkajkuy re²yis ²yuneji²n myej¢o²mopa jama. ⁸² para tyuko²mopa jama na²a kyatajke²tu wawa soldadoji²n i ñe²ka wi²naju. ⁸³ i teya²a tenayu te² jya-yaji²n ijtumay bentana. ⁸⁴ kyenu te² myaya inak i kyenge²tu te² ñe²ka. ⁸⁵ pijče²ka ñajayu te² jyayaj te² yomo²s, ⁸⁶ ja²as suni ya² soldado na wyi²najuwa. mejor yajka²a. ⁸⁷ ančonu te² re²yis ²yune, namu ke oye ke manba yajka²u. ⁸⁸ pijče²ka minu ñajayu, ⁸⁹ matonuja, namij ngyakipsayu a² re²yis yomo²s wa²mij nyajka²-yaju jomij. ⁹⁰ pijče²ka namu te² soldado, juka aste²

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 fiance former and he saw also the her. 85. then she said to the her husband the woman, 86 do not I want this soldier is going in front one. better kill him. 87. answered the king's his son, he said that good that he going to have him killed. 88. then came he to tell, 89. 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 court-yard. 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

swerte te²sej konforma¢akpa²aj 91 nada mas sunba²as wa²misaj nduju, 92 i kunu²ka²maj naputpamis as n¢u-ño²mo monuma toto 93 i teyma jojmo ijtu jaya moradowa. 94 umis njamba²u. 95 i ijtu as medaya orowa. 96 naputke²tpatij, mis te²wa komo rekwerdo na¢a²pyamis. 97 misaj maŋba nijpu. 98 paŋguk¢u² minbamisaj ndajpujtu. 99 naputu²kamisaj fwera²ojmo yajsu²kpamisaj te² jaya te² as n¢uño²mo napujtuwamis 100 i umij ña²¢u porke maŋba²aj nwinsa²u. 101 i umisaj n¢ajku. 102 juta²aj maŋba teyma mij myaŋbamij 103 i mas despwes maŋba²asmij agrada¢akjayu te² bieŋ te² misaj maŋba n¢akjayuwa.

104 despwede ¢u²kumyaju panteo²nojmo²k, manyajpa

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

eyapa kumgu²yojmo itke²tumay rey. 105 tu²ŋajyaju tujta²y jama nu²kyaju re²yis pyalasio²ojmo. 106 i kya²aŋwa²kyaju mučačokasi 107 tiyakotoyate² jene ijtyaju pan te² kwarto²ojmo i tiyakotoya na jyayaju. 108 pijče²ka namu ke ka²uwa te² prinsesa ma²ak namgu²k. 109 pijče²ka namu te² albañil jowiwitpawa ke juka sunba re²yis či²u permiso, 110 maŋba yajwinsa²u te² ²yune. 111 aŋgoŋu te² rey ke oye. 112 pijče²ka ñajayu te² kasnambanda²m wa²y pyutpa²yaju fwera²ojmo. 113 i dyay pujtyaju. 114 i maŋyaju²ka ñe²ka, albañil te² jowiwitpawa i te² ayudante ga²yaju te² ka²uwaji²ŋ. 115 pijče²ka ñajayu te² ayudante, 116 yama itpa pwerta²oyj uy iwa²s minba ya²aŋwaju. 117 bweno, namu te² ayudante. 118 media orapit yajwinsa²u te²

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 are 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.

another town where there was also a king. They asked a boy at the palace why there were so many people and why they were crying. The boy said that the princess had died early that day. Then the tramp-mason said that if the king would give him permission he would revive his daughter. The king said that that would be fine. Then the mason asked all the men to go out and he and the helper remained there by themselves with the corpse. Then he told the helper to stand in the doorway and not to let anyone open the door. Half an hour later

ka²uma. ¹¹⁹ pijče²ka ya²aŋwaju te² pwerta ¹²⁰ i ²yoto²-ŋayu te² rey wa²y minu kyenu te² ²yune, winsa²wa²a. ¹²¹ pijče²ka maya²u te² rey. ¹²² pijče²ka wyeju mumu doctores, sabios i reyes, mumu nasioŋ. ¹²³ porke maŋba kyo²tajkaju ²yune. ¹²⁴ minu witipan ya²apya i yajwinsa²u ²yune, te²kotoya maŋba yajko²tajkaju ¹²⁵ i maŋba či²u orden wa²y ča²yu komo rey. ¹²⁶ maksku²y jama²o-jmo miñaju reyes fyamiliaji²ŋ. ¹²⁷ pijče²ka tuma¢a-kyaju palasio²ojmo i ko²tajkaju. ¹²⁸ despwede ko²taj-kaju pyakačoŋu korona, ¢a²yu komo rey.

¹²⁹ pijče²ka ²yordena¢ajku soldado wa²y kyojtyaju ta²ŋgučika jorno²ojmo, ¹³⁰ i kyojtyaju mosa²y barril aseite comer. ¹³¹ i dyay kyenakne²mayu. ¹³² na²ka tyo-

then he-opened the door 120. and he-talked-to the king that he-come see the his-daughter, revived-already. 121. then he-marveled the king. 122. then he-called all doctors, sages and kings, all nation, 123. because going to-marry his-daughter. 124. he-came foreigner from-far and revived his-daughter, therefore he's-going-to-cause-her-to-marry. 125. and he's-going to-give order that he-remain as king. 126 four day-in came-they kings their-family-with. 127. then united-they palace-in and she-married. 128. after he-married he-received crown, he-remained as king.

129. then he-ordered soldier that place-they copper-kettle fireplace-in.
130. and placed-they five barrels oil to-eat [i.e. edible oil] 131. and

he had the corpse revived. 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

ksu te² aseite, manu čamjayu rey jomepa ke aseite na²a tyoksu. 133 pijče²ka ñajayaju te² re²yis, 134 yatij manba²as ngojtu ya² yomo na tyoksu aseiteka²ma, 135 porke ya²wa²s falta¢akjayu²aj respeto despwede nipyaju²aj ñe²kaji²n. 136 porke as ya² inak maya, yajwinsa²u²as. 137 despwede minutaj ngambia¢ajku eyapa kumgu²yojmo, (138 i yatij ya² rey ko²tajkajupaji²n) počajku²aj tu²nojmo. 139 anu²aj ¢ajku. 140 a ver yatij tiya ngokipstamba reyes. 141 pijče²ka namyaju mosa²pya rey de lo ke ñe²ka dispone¢akpawa²s. 142 ¢i²a kastigo ya² yomo porke ñčakjayumij mal. 143 aproba¢akpatas.

144 pijče⁹ka wyeju soldado. ñukyaju te⁹ yomo re⁹yisñe⁹. 145 kyu⁹ŋʌyaju tʌ⁹ŋgučiko⁹mo, nʌ tyoksu aseite-

there they made 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

ka²ma. ¹⁴⁶ tey termina¢ajku. ¹⁴⁷ i kyumpli¢ajku justisia porke manu 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.