

## TWO CHOL TEXTS

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The following texts were collected among the Chols of Chiapas, under the auspices of the Summer Institute of Linguistics. The Chol language is of the Mayan family. The informant was Mateo Guzmán Sánchez, an eighteen-year-old monolingual.

As nearly as possible the symbols used are phonemic. The mark (·) following a voiceless stop indicates glottalization. The symbol ʌ is used for an unrounded vowel, nearly approaching the high back open unrounded vowel i.

1. Cha'an mach yomix i chan k'el winikob jini dios 2. mux abi i tsansañoob. 3. Cha'an mi' cha' k'extiyel. 4. yamba tsijib ba winik mi' yał. 5. Jini abi cha'an tsi' meaj jini ik'ajel. 6. Mu' abi i pam lok'el bajlum 7. ti pejtél lum. 8. Mach abi anik mi' chan cha'len wayel. 9. kome puro ak'alel.

10. Mu' abi i laj tsansañoob 11. jini winikob che' jini. 12. Che' ba ik'ajel mi' yał 13. tsi' wen muku jini otot juntikil winik. 14. Wen pim tsi' mele 15. i bojte'lel jini otot. 16. Tik'al an che'

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### [WORD-FOR-WORD TRANSLATION]

#### I.

#### HOW MONKEYS CAME INTO BEING

1. Because not wants his repeatedly see men the god. 2. will says his kill-them. 3. So-that would again change 4. another new which man it says. 5. The says because he made the darkness. 6. Would says its all-over go-out tiger 7. in all land. 8. Not says not would repeatedly do sleep 9. because entirely night.

10. Would says his completely kill-them 11. the men thus this. 12. Thus which darkness it says 13. he well closed the house one man. 14. very thick he made 15. its wall-boards the house. 16. Perhaps

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### [FREE TRANSLATION]

Because he did not want to see men any more, the god, it is said, was going to kill them. This was in order that they would be exchanged for new men, it says. Therefore, he made darkness. There would, it says, go out tigers over all the land. They would no longer sleep because it was continually night. It is said that in this way they would kill all men. When night came, it says, one man well closed his house. He made the wall boards of the house

ñumi jini ik'ajel 17. ya tsa' ñumi ti' jol otot 18. jini winik mi' yal.

19. Baki ora che' ba tsa' tili jini dios 20. i k'el majki jini tsa' ba chamiyob 21. tsa' juli i taj 22. wa' to an jini kuxul ba winik. 23. Tik'al che' mi' k'otel 24. i taj jini kuxul to ba winik 25. tik'al mi' ts'okben lok'el i bik'.

26. Che' mi ts'okben i bik' 27. ya' mi' yotsaben i jol 28. ya' ti' yit mi' yal. 29. Che' jini tik'al mi' majlel 30. ti sakñak max jini winik. 31. Che' mi' yal. 32 Jiñach jini mono. 33. Tik'al jini kaxlañob 34. jini mi' majlel jini bats'. 35. Tsa'ix.

1. An abi mi yalob ja'el cha'an baki ora abi 2. tsa' ujt i mel panimil jini dios. 3. An abi mi yal che' wa' to an ti panimil 4. tsa' kaji i laj tempa jini ch'ak, uch'ja', ch'ikil. 5. An abi

was thus passed the darkness 17. there he passed to-its head house 18. the man it says.

19. What time thus which he came the god 20. his see who the he which died-they 21 he arrived his find 22. here still is this alive which man. 23. Perhaps thus would arrive 24. his find the alive still which man 25. perhaps would tear off his neck.

26. Thus would tear his neck 27. there would put-on his head 28. there on-his spine's-end it says. 29. Thus the perhaps would go 30. to white-stomach monkey the man. 31. Thus is says. 32. This the monkey. 33. Perhaps the foreign-men 34. the would go the chimpanzee. 35. Finished.

## II.

### HOW SNAKES CAME INTO BEING

1. Is they say also about what time says 2. he finished his make world the god. 3. Is says it says thus here still is in world 4. he started his completely collect the flea, mosquito, gnat. 5. Is says

very thick. Perhaps when night came this man went up into the top part of the house. When the god came to see who had died he arrived to find the man still alive. Perhaps when he arrived and found the man who was still alive, he broke off his neck. When he broke off his neck he put his head on at the end of his spine. it says. Thus the man was changed into a white stomach monkey. Thus it says. This is the monkey. Perhaps the foreign men were changed into chimpanzees. And that is the end.

They also tell about the time when the god finished making the world. It is said that when he was still here in the world he started to collect all

junkojt ts'i'. 6. Tsa' abi subenti jini ts'i' 7. wale mi kaj majlel a chok ti kolem ja' 8. che' yilol jini ts'i'. 9. Mi kaj i chok ti kolem ja' jini ch'ak, uch'ja', ch'ikil, 10. che' abi mi yal.

11. Wale max to anik majki ma' suben 12. mi jiflach jini ch'ikil, ch'ak 13. wolix a majlel a chok ti ja', 14. che'en abi. 15. Che' jach mi an majch ma' taj ti bij 16. che' jach ma' fusan, 17. che'en abi. 18. Che' jini tsa' abi i ch'ama majlel. 19. Tsa' abi k'oti i taj xbuk'bal 20. mi yal.

21. Jiflach abi jini xiba. 22. Jini tsa' abi i k'ajtiben 23. baki samiyet 24. che' abi yilol jini ts'i'. 25. Jini tsa' abi kaji i k'ajtiben 26. chuki wola' ch'am majlel che'en. 27. Tsi' yala jini ts'i' ma'anik. 28. Che' jach abi tsi' lon sube.

29. Che' jach abi tsi' fusa 30. pero che' baki ora tsa' k'oti ti

one dog. 6. He says was-told the dog 7. now it will go you throw in big water 8. thus is-told the dog. 9. Is going his throw in big water the flea, mosquito, gnat, 10. thus says it says.

11. Now not still not who you tell 12. if this the gnat, flea, 13. is you going you throw in water 14. he-says says. 15. Thus only if is who you meet on trail 16. thus only you pass, 17. he-says says. 18. Thus the he says his took going. 19. He says arrived his find feeder 20. it says.

21. This says the devil. 22. The he says his asked 23. where go-you 24. thus says is-told the dog. 25. The he says started his asked 26. what are-you take going he-says. 27. He said the dog nothing. 28. Thus only says he uselessly told-him.

29. Thus only says he passed 30. but thus what time he arrived

of the fleas, mosquitoes, and gnats. There was, it is said, a dog. The dog, it is said, was told, "Now you go and throw this in the river." Thus the dog was told. "You are going to throw in the river the fleas, mosquitoes, and gnats." Thus, it says, he was told. "Now you are not to tell anyone yet that these are gnats and fleas that you are going to throw into the river", he said, it is said. "If you meet anyone on the trail you are to pass them by", he said it is said. Thus he, it is said, took it away. He, it is said, came and found a grazer. This was the devil. He, it is said, asked, "Where are you going?". Thus was told the dog. He, it is said, started to ask him, "What are you taking with you ", he said. The dog said, "Nothing." Thus he uselessly told him. Thus he only passed him by. But when he arrived at the river, because

ja' 31. kome ma'anik tsa' subenti 32. mi áñach jini ch'ak uch'ja' ch'ikil. 33. Che' jach abi tsa' subenti 34. i ch'am majlel 35. cha'an mi' majlel i chok ti kolem ja'. 36. Tsa' abi kaji i ña'tan ti' pusik'al 37. pero chuki iliyi. 38. Che' abi tsa' kaji i ña'tan.

39. Tsa' abi i le'ch'ipi jini 40. ba' pixil jini us chuki tak jach. 41. Che' jini che' ba tsi' ch'ipi 42. tsa' laj lok'i jini uch'ja', ch'ikil, ch'ak. 43. Che' jini tsa' kaji ti p'ojlel jini jontol tak ba us. 44. Tsa' abi k'oti i sub 45. wale tsa' laj puts'i pejtél jini 46. tsa' ba a subeyon k chok 47. che'en abi.

48. Tsa' tili winik. 49. Tsa' kaji i jam. 50. Ya' tsa' laj puts'i. 51. Che'en tsi' sube jini dios mi yal. 52. Jini abi jini tsa' abi ts'okbenti i bik' jini ts'i'. 53. Tsa' abi i yotsabe i jol ya' ti' yit. 54. Che' jini lukum tsa' majli. 55. Jini jach.

at water 31. because not was told 32. if this the flea, mosquito, gnat. 33. Thus only says was told 34. his take going 35 so-that would go his throw in big water. 36. He says started his thinking in-his heart 37. but what this. 38. Thus says was started his thinking.

39. He says his loosen the 40. where wrapped the bug what things only. 41. Thus the thus which he loosened 42. was completely went-out the mosquito, gnat, flea. 43. Thus the it started in multiplying the wicked things which bugs. 44. Was says arrived his tell 45. now was completely escaped all the 46 was which you told-me my throw 47. he-says says.

48. He came man. 49. He started his open. 50. There is completely fled. 51. He-says he told the god it says. 52. The says the it says was-torn-off his neck the dog. 53. He says his put his head there on-his back-end. 54. Thus the snake he went. 55. The only.

he had not been told that this was fleas, mosquitoes, and gnats. He was only told to take it away so that he would throw it into the water. He, it is said, started to think in his heart, "But what is this?". Thus he started to think. He, it is said, loosened where the bugs were wrapped up. Thus as he loosened it they all fled, the mosquitoes, gnats, and fleas. Thus the wicked bugs started to multiply. He, it is said, came and told the god, "Now that which you gave me to throw away has completely fled.", he says. "A man came. He started to open it. There they all fled." Thus he told the god, it says. The dog, it is said, had his neck broken off. He, it is said, put his head on his back end. Thus the snake came into being. That is all.