

# THE RABBIT AND MOUNTAIN LION A LACANDON MYTH

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This Lacandon version of an animal story based on motifs well-known throughout Mesoamerica was related by Chanq'uin Garcia in February, 1950. Chanq'uin is the eldest living man of the Lacandon settlement at Naja, Chiapas. The story was recorded on electromagnetic tape.

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1. *Ajt'ur*. 2. *Ajt'ur tu waysu baj ba'ic pec'*. 3. *paytan barum tu ch'aj yarac' pec', rati', yarac', ajt'ur*. 4. *ej, bin tu ximbar*. 5. *urijej, tu c'ataj ti' u rac', tin warac' pec', tub yan*. 6. *tu nuncaj u rac', mana', puts'ij, pitij*. 7. *erej, nets'ic tu q'ueyaj u rac', tu quinsaj u rac', ch'acbir*. 8. *tu ch'acaj u rac', barum*. 9. *taquir baje' u chi'ic u bajob*,

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## INTERLINEAR TRANSLATION

1. the-rabbit. 2. the-rabbit she changed her self like dog. 3. first mountain-lion he took his-pet dog, that his-pet, the-rabbit. 4. so, went he walking. 5. returned-he, he asked of his wife, my pet dog, where she-is. 6. she answered his wife, none, ran-away-she, got-loose-she. 7. so then, very-mad he scolded his wife, he killed his wife, cut-up. 8. he cut-up his wife, mountain-lion. 9. until now he eats his relatives,

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## FREE TRANSLATION

The story of a rabbit. One time a rabbit changed herself into a dog. Then a mountain lion took this rabbit as his pet dog. Returning from walking one day, he asked where his pet dog was. When his wife said that she got loose and ran away, he became very angry and cut his wife all up and killed her. To this day the mountain lion eats his own relatives.

He went, then, to look for his pet dog and met someone who was splitting

barum. 10.  $\Delta$ jt'ur tu ya'araj, xen, mava' a caxtej. 11. maxbar tu yiraj, re, tu ch'acaj. 12. man, tun, bin tu caxtej yaras' pec'. 13. tu yiraj winic. 14. ej, netsoy. 15. tu yiraj winic, tun. 16. tan u bujic che', che'ir u c'ac'. 17. u bujic u che'ir, u che'ir u pac'ach. 18. tu ya'araj tu bujaj, tu ya'araj ti' u jat'ic che' yet u cab. 19. oquen a jat'pater yete a c'ab, nechich a muc'. 20. oquij ma' tu jat'aj, chen u c'ab nat'ij. 21. yan ca'pej q'uin yoco che'. 22. nat'ij u c'ab. 23. mana' u c'ab raj wat'ij yeter che'. 24. tarij jumbuc'ab u bajob yet barumir. 25. tu jitaj u c'ab. 26. erej, tu ya'aja ti' u bajob, xen ta caxtej  $\Delta$ jt'ur chuc a chi'ej. 27. bay, binij u caxtic, ya'ab q'uin tu caxtaj. 28. tu yiraj  $\Delta$ jt'ur. 29. ba'inquirir ca man a wiric, quij. 30. cu nunquic, barum, in man in wiric in catic mac u

mountain-lion. 10. the-rabbit she said, go, not you look-for. 11. nothing he saw, so, he cut-up. 12. went, then, went he looked-for his-pet dog. 13. he saw someone. 14. so, very-good. 15. he saw someone then. 16. is she splitting wood, its wood her fire. 17. she splits her wood, its wood she pats-out. 18. she said she split. she said for-him he wedge wood with his hand. 19. come-in you wedge with your hand, very-hard your strength. 20. came-he not he wedged, only his hand stuck. 21. are two days in wood. 24. came-they one-hand his people together mountain-lions. 25. they took-out his hand. 26. so, they said to-him, his relatives, go you look- for the-rabbit catch you eat. 27. fine. went-he he looked-for. many days he looked-for. 28. he saw the-rabbit. 29. what-for you go you see, says-she. 30. he answers, mountain-lion I go I look I look-for

firewood for preparing her tortillas. She split it and said for him to make a wedge in the wood by putting in his hand. The only thing that happened was that his hand stuck in the wood. It broke his hand because it was stuck in the wood.

Five of his companions came along and pulled out his hand. They told him to go find the rabbit and eat her.

He looked for the rabbit a long time and when he finally found her, the rabbit said, "What are you looking for?" The mountain lion told her that he was looking for the one who made his relative stick his hand in the split wood. "Maybe it was you?" the mountain lion accused her.

The rabbit said, "Not I, I've been busy looking for firewood with my mother and father."

winquirir tu nat' u c'ab in bajob. 31. wa, tun, tech, quij, barum. 32. ajt'ur tu ya'araj, ten, ma', in man in caxtic che' ti' in pac'ach in wo'och, yet in na', yet in tet. 33. ej, ya'araj, tu c'ataj, barum, tub yan a na', tub yan a tet. 34. ti'an te' in na' tin watoch. 35. maxbar cu ye'esic u na'. 36. yutsaj ti' tu cu man. 37. u yiric, metsoyech, quij, barum. 38. tu ya'araj, je' wa c'ubic a baj in ch'ayiquech. 39. ajt'ur, tu ya'araj, ma', mesaquenti' a me'ex, tu raj t'ac u me'ex. 40. t'ac a me'exene', tin raj t'ac in me'ex. 41. netsoy. 42. ajt'ur, ma' toji', yan toj a coje', jitej a coj. 43. bay, quij, barum. 44. tu machaj u coj, tu raj t'acaj. 45. re, netsoyen, tun, mana' in coj. 46. ajt'ur tu ya'araj, nesaquenti' a wich, nenunc a wich. 47. jar a

who is person he stuck his hand my relatives. 31. if, then, you, says-he, mountain-lion. 32. the-rabbit she said, I, no, I go I look-for wood for I pat-out my food, with my mother, with my father. 33. so, he-said, he asked, mountain-lion, where is your mother, where is your father. 34. she-is there my mother in-my house. 35. None she shows her mother. 36. she deceived him where she went. 37. he sees, very-nice-you, says-he, mountain-lion. 38. he said. will I surrender your self I marry-you. 39. the-rabbit, she said, no, very-afraid-of-it your beard, he all pulled-out his beard. 40. pull-out your beard-for-me, I all pulled-out my beard. 41. very-good 42. the-rabbit, not yet, is still your teeth, take-out your teeth. 43. good, says-he, mountain-lion. 44. he took-hold his teeth, he all took-out. 45. so, very-good-I, then, none my teeth. 46. the-rabbit, she said, very-afraid-of-them your eyes, very-big your eyes. 47. take-out

The mountain lion then asked where her father and mother were. The rabbit told him that they were in the house, but she wouldn't show him. So she was just deceiving him about where she really went.

"You're so nice," said the mountain lion, "how about marrying me?"

The rabbit objected saying, "No, I'm so afraid of your beard."

The mountain lion took his beard off and said, "I took off all my beard, isn't that good now?"

"Not yet," said the rabbit, "you still have your teeth, take out your teeth."

"O.K." said the mountain lion and taking ahold of his teeth, he took them all out.

"I'm really nice now, I don't have any teeth."

wich. 48. barum, ma', quij, neyaj. 49. Ajt'ur, jarej a wich. 50. ma', quij, in quimin, quij, barum. 51. Ajt'ur, jarej, ma' ja quimin, jarej a wich, jin c'ubic in baj tech. 52. ma' quij, barum. 53. Ajt'ur, ma' a jaric a wich, ma' in c'ubic in baj. 54. erej, tune', Ajt'ur tu ya'araj ti', jar in wich. 55. c'uchij Ajt'ur, tune', raj jar u wich. 56. ej, tune' c'ub a baj, mana' in wich, c'ub a baj ten, tun. 57. Ajt'ur puts'ij, tun. 58. tu man barum, maxbar cu yiric, maxbar u wich. 59. Ajt'ur netsoyor, tan u che'ej. 60. ej, saman ma'ti' a ts'a'ic ten, binet q'uin ten. 61. a ya'araj, t'ur, ten ti' a rac', raj ten rac', ten tin raj rucsaj a baje'ex, ten tin nat'aj c'ab yoco che'. 62. barum tan u quimin. 63. tan ya'ic Ajt'ur, tin raj rucsiquech a bajob.

your eyes. 48. mountain-lion, no, says-he, very hurts. 49. the-rabbit, take-out your eyes. 50. no, says-he, I die, says-he, mountain-lion. 51. the-rabbit, take-out, not you die, take-out your eyes, will-I surrender my self to-you. 52. no, says-he, mountain-lion. 53. the-rabbit, not you take-out your eyes, not I surrender my self. 54. so, then, the-rabbit he said to her, take-out my eyes. 55. approached-she the-rabbit, then completely took-out his eyes. 56. so then surrender your self, none my eyes, surrender your self to-me, then. 57. the-rabbit ran-away-she, then, 58. he went mountain-lion, nothing he sees, none his eyes. 59. the-rabbit very-happy, is she laughing. 60. so, tomorrow, not for you get me, going-ever time I. 61. has said, rabbit, I for your wife, all for-me wives, myself I all completely took-away your relatives, myself I stuck your hand in tree. 62. mountain-lion is he dying. 63. is says rabbit, I

"But," said the rabbit, "you have such big eyes, I'm so afraid of them, take them out."

The mountain lion objected saying that it would hurt, that he would die and even though the rabbit told him he wouldn't die, he didn't want to take out his eyes.

"O.K., then if you don't take out your eyes, I won't have relations with you," said the rabbit.

The mountain lion then asked the rabbit to take them out and she obliged. But when the mountain lion asked her to have relations with him, the rabbit ran away laughing, she was happy. She had done away with his wives, had made his hand stick in the wood, had taken away his relatives, and the rabbit felt she would live forever now.

64. barum ya'ic, ten ma' binet q'uin, ten bin, tun.  
 65. barum nactar chunche', quimij. 66. u bajob c'uchij  
 u c'atic, ba'inquirir ta metaj tech chunche'. 67. tu nuncaj  
 barum, Ajt'ur tu raj jitaj in coj, in wich, in me'ex.  
 68. nepaytan tu raj jit in me'ex pachir in coj, in wich,  
 pachir tu raj jaraj, u man. 69. barum, tu ya'araj, tene'  
 ma' queten yeter. 70. Ajt'ur tu ya'araj, xen, a caxtej  
 rucsej in wajwar. 71. binij, chacbarum. 72. bin u caxtej.  
 73. tu yiraj u c'ochic actun. 74. tu yaram actun u c'ochic.  
 75. u ya'ic, Ajt'ur, bin u ca' jenen actun. 76. yet jenen  
 ca'an. 77. tech ta raj quinsaj in bajob, rati' tu ya'araj  
 paytan. 78. ma', quij, Ajt'ur u nunquic, actun quin c'ochic  
 ten, ma' u jenen ca'an. 79. wa u jenen max tech, max

completely took-away-you your relatives. 64. mountain-lion says, I not going time, I go, then. 65. mountain-lion climbed-up trunk-tree, died-he. 66. his relatives arrived-they they ask, what-for you do to-yourself trunk-tree. 67. he answered mountain-lion, the-rabbit she completely took-out my teeth. my eyes my beard. 68. very-first she completely took-out my beard, afterward my teeth, my eyes after she completely took-out, she went. 69. mountain-lion, he said, I myself not equal with. 70. the-rabbit she said, go, you look-for take-away my special feathers. 71. went-he, red-mountain-lion. 72. went he look-for. 73. he saw she holds up rock. 74. she underneath rock she holds up. 75. she says, the-rabbit, going it is falling rock. 76. with falling sky. 77. yourself you completely killed my relatives, that he said first. 78. no, says-she, the-rabbit she answers, rock I hold-up I, not it falls sky. 79. if it falls

The mountain lion didn't feel as if he would live forever, he was dying. He climbed up in the tree and died.

His relatives came along and asked him what he was doing up in the tree stump. He related his sad tale of all the terrible things the rabbit had done to him.

Then the rabbit asked the lion to look for her special feathers and he obliged.

He came upon the rabbit holding up a huge rock. She told the mountain lion that it was going to fall and when it did, the whole sky would fall, the whole world would be destroyed and there wouldn't be any mountain lion or rabbit left.

When the mountain lion began to accuse her of killing his relatives, the

ten, *mana'* ca bin a *chi'iquen*. 80. bin u ca' jenen actun, bin, qui, tuworor c'ax. 81. *Δjt'ur* tu ya'araj, ne'ucajen, oquen a c'och. 82. cu jutsic u *ba*j, *Δjt'urej*, tan u ch'ayen u jenen actun. 83. *Δjt'ur* ya'ic, jaj, ca wiric tan u jenen. 84. barum ya'ic, ejaj, tan u jenen. 85. oquij barum u c'ochir. 86. qui' p'isic u *ba*j *ra*j ts'or u pach tu c'ochaj actun, barum. 87. tu yu'yaj newij tu siptaj. 88. ruq'uij, bin ch'ictaj nach, *maxbar* jenij actun, xuri'. 89. taqui *ba*je' actun xuri'. 90. bin u *ca*tej u yiric, ti' u chuquic u *chi'ic*. 91. tu yiraj tu yuc'ur ja', *petja'* cu yuq'uic. 92. ya'ab cu yuq'uic, *Δjt'ur*, ti'ar u sap'ar, tan yuq'uic. 93. c'uchij barum, tech ta ts'aj in c'ochic actun. 94. *Δjt'ur* tu ya'araj, ten, *ma'* uc'ur ja' in ca'. 95. *wa* *mana'*nen in wuq'uic,

none you, none I, nothing you going you eat-me. 80. going it is falling rock, going says-she, all world. 81. the-rabbit she said, very-thirsty-I, come-to-me you hold-up. 82. she shifts her self, the-rabbit, is she letting it fall rock. 83. the-rabbit says, true, you see, is it falling. 84. mountain-lion says, true, is it falling. 85. came-in mountain-lion he held-up. 86. really strove himself completely skinned his back where he held-up rock, mountain-lion. 87. he felt very-hungry he let-go. 88. went-away-he, went far-became far, not-any fell rock, still there. 89. until now rock still-there. 90. went he look-for he sees, for he catch he eat. 91. he saw she drinks water, lake she drinks. 92. much she drinks, the-rabbit, in-order-that it dry up, is she drinking. 93. arrived mountain-lion, you you made I hold-up rock. 94. the-rabbit she said, I, no, drinking water I am. 95. if not-any-I I drink, up-to high-heavens. 96. come-here so-that

rabbit said, "No, I've been holding up this rock so that the sky won't fall. If it falls you won't be able to eat me. Come hold it, I'm thirsty."

She shifted herself a little to make the mountain lion believe that it was really going to fall saying, "See, it is true that the rock is falling."

The mountain lion agreed, took the rock and held it up for the rabbit, working so hard at it that the skin peeled off his back. But he became so hungry that he let it go and ran away as far as he could and nothing happened. The rock just stayed there, and is still there!

The mountain lion was looking for something to catch and eat when he came upon the rabbit drinking water. She was drinking out of a lake so that it would dry up.

He said, "You made me hold up the rock."

tac nac' ca'an. 96. co'oten ca' cuq'uej. 97. u munquic, ten ma', quij, barum. 98. tech ma'atsoyech, ta raj quin-saji' tuworor in bajob. 99. ajt'ur cu ya'ic, ir in siptic bic u turankar ja'. 100. bay, tu xure, tune', tan u nacar tun ja' tu'an barum. 101. ajt'ur ta ya'araj, jaj, ca wiric, wa ca chi'iquen tac nac' ca'an. 102. tu ya'araj, ejaj, ejaj. 103. tu yuc'aj t'ur seb u sap'ar. 104. rati' tu yiraj, tu ya'araj, co'oten ca' cuq'uej ja' raj sap'ar. 105. bay, quij, barum. 106. c'uchij, tu yuc'aj barum. 107. nena'achajij barum. 108. netac u bujur u jampnen, tun, barum. 109. ma' u bujur uq'uej. 110. bay, tu yuc'aj mas ya'abir, ej, bujij, tun. 111. buj. 112. tix, quij. 113. u chocher puc'lan ru'um. 114. naca,lan tun. 115. tan u yawat, ay,

drink. 97. the-rabbit she said, I, no drinking water I am. 98. you not-good-you, you completely killed-them all my relatives. 99. the-rabbit she says, see I let-go how it fills-up water. 100. good, she stopped, then, is it rising then water where-is mountain-lion. 101. the-rabbit she said, true, you see, if you eat-me up-to high-heavens. 102. he said, true, true. 103. she drank rabbit, fast she drank. 104. that he saw, she said, come-to-me so that "drink water completely dries up. 105. good, says-he, mountain-lion. 106. approached he drank mountain-lion. 107. very-full-he mountain-lion. 108. very-almost he bursts his stomach, then, mountain-lion. 109. not it burst, drink. 110. good, he drank more much, ah, burst, then. 111. burst. 112. swish, 113. his insides ran-out ground. 114. climbed-up then. 115. is he yelling, oh, burst-I, oh, burst-I,

The rabbit answered, "Not I, I'm drinking water."

He accused her of killing his relatives again, but the rabbit gave a clever answer. "See, if I stop drinking, then the lake will fill up," she says.

She stops drinking a minute and the water rises up to where the mountain lion is standing. The rabbit then tells him that if he were to eat her, the lake would rise up as high as the heavens. She thus convinces him to help her drink so that the lake would completely dry up. He agrees and begins to drink, becoming so full that he feels his stomach will burst.

The rabbit encouraged him by saying that his stomach would not burst.

He kept drinking more and then he finally had it! He burst! All his insides ran out on the ground and he climbed up on stump and yelled, "I burst! I burst!"

bujen, ay bujen, u ya'ic ti' t'ur. 116. ej, rajen tu yu'yaj yawat, bini, tun t'ur nachij, tun. 117. ten ta c'ochaj actun, ten tuworor bajex, tene', tin rucsay a bajex, a me'ex, a coj, a wich, tin raj quinsaj. 118. tene', peq'uen cachic. 119. rati' nepaytan oquij ba'ic pec'. 120. barum tu yu'yaj, binij barume'. 121. bapajij u chocher yoco chunche'. 122. tu ts'ac u chocher, quimij, seb ts'acchajij u chocher ti' quimij seb. 123. aca'najij, ma, c'uchij u chi'ic.

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he says to-her rabbit. 116. so, because she heard yell, went, then rabbit far-she, then. 117. for-me you held-up rock, for-me all relatives-you, I-myself, I took-away your relatives, your beard, your teeth, your eyes, I all killed. 118. for-me, hated-me first. 119. that very-first came-in like dog. 120. mountain-lion he heard, went mountain-lion. 121. spilled-out his insides on stump. 122. she fixed his insides, died, quickly fixed-she his insides for-him died quickly. 123. ran away, not reach-her he eat.

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The rabbit heard him and went far away yelling back, "you held up the rock for me, I did away with all your relatives, your beard, your teeth, your eyes. I killed them all. You hated me first."

He heard all this and all his insides were on the stump. The rabbit fixed it so that he would die quickly, then she ran away where the mountain lion could no longer reach her and make a meal of her.