

TOCHIHUITZIN COYOLCHIUHQUI

MEXICO (1397–1450?)

LANGUAGE: NAHUATL

ZAN TONTEMIQUICO

Zan tocochitlehuaco,
zan tontemiquico,
ah nelli, ah nelli
tinemico in tlalticpac.
Xoxopan xihuitl ipan
tochihuaca,
hual cecilia,
hual itzmolini in toyollo
xochitl in tonacayo.
Cequi cueponi,
on cuetlahuia.



Tochihuitzin Coyolchiuhqui was an Aztec lord from Teotlatzinco and a Nahuatl poet. Poetry was an important part of the Aztec culture. Tochihuitzin was one of the many sons of the Aztec emperor Itzcóatl. We know when Tochihuitzin lived only because he is mentioned in the *Crónica Mexicayotl*, a history of central Mexico written in Nahuatl around 1598. The manuscript recounts the siege of the city of Texcoco in 1419. The invaders murdered the city's ruler, Ixtlilxochitl, and attempted to assassinate the twenty-five-year-old prince, Nezahualcoyotl. Along with his brothers, Tochihuitzin helped the young prince flee and find refuge in Tenochtitlan, modern-day Mexico City. Besides this account and the poetry he left behind, little is known of Tochihuitzin.

TRANSLATOR'S GLOSSARY		
WORD	DEFINITION	POSSIBLE SYNONYMS
ah (adv.)	implies negative	not, it is not, that's not
cecilia (v.)	an alternative spelling of the verb <i>cehceliya</i> —to grow and put forth roots	sprout, grow, germinate, develop, spring up, burgeon
cequi (art.)	a portion of the whole	some, a few
cueponi (v.)	unfold and spread out (like flowers)	blossom, open, burst open, unfold, bloom, flower, emerge, are brought to life
cuetlahuia (v.)	become dry and shriveled	wither, shrivel up, dry up, perish
hual (adv.)	refers to direction or location of something or some action	here, hither, this way, in this place, thus
in (prep.)	indicating a connection between people or things, usually in terms of one's location in respect to another	on, upon, in, with regards to, with respect to
ipan (v.)	to be similar to	is like, is similar to, such is, so is
itzmolini (v.)	to come into being and progress to maturity	sprout, put out shoots, turn green, ripen, develop, mature, burst forth
nelli (adj.)	in accordance with fact or reality	true, correct, accurate, right, undeniable
on (adv.)	after that; next; afterward	then, after that, next, subsequently, later
tinemico (v.)	from the verb <i>nemi</i> —to exist or reside	we come to live, we come to dwell, we come to be
tlalticpac (n.)	the planet on which we live and the third planet from the sun in the solar system	earth, world, planet, globe
tochihuaca (n.)	the spiritual or immaterial part of a human being or animal regarded as immortal	our soul, our spirit, our being, our nature, our anima, our psyche
tochitlehuaco (v.)	from the verb <i>cochi</i> —to enter the condition of the body and mind during which we lie down, close our eyes, and rest	we come to sleep, we approach sleep, we come to slumber

WORD	DEFINITION	POSSIBLE SYNONYMS
tonacayo (n.)	from the word <i>nacayotl</i> —the physical structure of a person or an animal	our body, our flesh, our incarnation, our progeny
tontemiquico (v.)	from the verb <i>temiqui</i> —to have a series of thoughts, images, and sensations occurring in one's mind during sleep	we come to dream, we approach dreams, we come to envision
toyollo (n.)	from the word <i>yollotl</i> —part of the body regarded as the center of a person's thoughts and emotions, especially love or compassion	our heart, our emotions, our feelings, our passion
xihuitl (n.)	plants with narrow green leaves that grow in fields and gardens	grass
xochitl (n.)	the seed-bearing parts of a plant that are typically surrounded by brightly colored petals	flowers, blossoms, florets, roses
xoxopan (n.)	the season in which vegetation begins to appear	(in) spring, springtime
zan (adv.)	nothing more; for only one purpose	only, just, merely, but, exclusively

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

PHRASE BY PHRASE

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REFLECTING AND FINDING MEANING

Group Member Names:

Date: _____

Pick a scribe for the group, and work together to answer the questions.

What are the best parts of this translation, and why do you think they are good?

What elements of the original poem did you lose in the translation? What did you manage to keep?

Did you achieve something new with your translation, and if so, does it make sense in the poem or not?
