



University of New Mexico | Latin American & Iberian Institute

K'ICHE' MAYA ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

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A Man Wanted to Divorce His Wife and Marry Another Woman

A young man decided that he wanted to leave his wife and look for another woman to marry. The priest summoned him and told him that he would allow him to find another woman and marry her. The priest told the man to come to church and select the woman he wanted to marry. When the man arrived there were a number of women, and all of them had their heads covered with shawls. The priest told the man to choose the woman he wanted. He chose one out of all those present. When he went outside and she uncovered her head he discovered that he had chosen his original wife. In this way the priest taught him a lesson that marriage is a permanent bond, and that only death can end it.

Un hombre que quiso divorciarse de su esposa y casarse con otra

Un joven quería dejar a su esposa y buscar a otra. El sacerdote lo llamó y le dijo al hombre que permitiría que buscara a otra, y que casara con ella. Entonces el sacerdote le dijo al hombre que llegara a la iglesia a escoger entre las mujeres la con que quisiera casarse. Cuando el hombre llegó había varias mujeres en la iglesia, y todas tenían sus cabezas cubiertas con rebozos. El cura le dijo al hombre que escogiera a la mujer que quería. El escogió entre las mujeres la que quería. Y cuando salieron de la iglesia y la mujer quitó su rebozo, el hombre descubrió que había escogido a su esposa original. En esa manera el sacerdote le enseñó que el matrimonio es una unión permanente, y sólo se termina con la muerte.

Project Background

The stories and rituals included in this collection were collected between 1968 and 1973. All of them are narrated in the K'iche' Maya language of Guatemala with almost all of the narrators speaking the Nahualá-Santa Catarina Ixtahuacán dialect of that language.

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Alternative formats

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Additional information about this project is available online

<http://laii.unm.edu/kiche>

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