The Adventures of a Pottery Merchant from Totonicapán (see no. 97)

A traveling pot seller from Totonicapán heard a rumor that during his absence his wife would behave strangely in his absence. One day he told his wife that he was going to the coast to sell his pots, but he did not go. He hid himself in the rafters of their house to see what his wife was doing in his absence. While he was sleeping there a group of transformers arrived. They came in the form of different animals – dogs, cats, and buzzards. When they turned back into people the man saw that his wife was one of the transformers. He watched as they all went and gathered food for a party. But when they arrived his wife did not have anything to contribute to the party, and so her companion transformers told her they were going to eat her. She convinced them not to eat her because she would give them her husband to eat in her stead. She told them to arrive at her house in two nights and she would trick her husband into going outside where they could grab him and eat him. However, the woman’s husband heard her plan. On the night she was to give her husband to her companion transformers, the man fooled his wife and pushed her out of the house into the arms of the waiting transformers. They grabbed her and ate her, leaving not a single trace of her behind.

Las aventuras de un vendedor de ollas de Totonicapán (véase no. 97)

Un vendedor ambulante de ollas de Totonicapán oyó un rumor que su mujer se portaba en una forma rara durante sus ausencias. Un día le dijo a su esposa que él iba a la costa a vender sus ollas pero no se fue. En vez de ir, se escondió en el tapanco de su casa. Mientras que él dormía allí, un grupo de transformadores llegó. Ellos vinieron en las formas de varios animales – perros, gatos, y zopilotes. La más joven de ellos vino como una yegua. Cuando se convirtieron en gente el hombre vio que su mujer era una de ellos. El hombre les observó mientras se fueron a juntar comida para una fiesta. Todos trajeron algo para la fiesta menos la esposa del hombre. Cuando los demás vieron que no trajo nada, le dijeron que la iban a comer a ella. Ella les convenció que no la comiera porque les iba a regalar su marido para que lo comiera a él en lugar de ella. Les dijo que llegarán a su casa en dos días a media noche, y le iba a engañar a su marido para que saliera de la casa. Allí lo podrían agarrar, y comer. Sin embargo el marido oyó el plan de su esposa. En la noche cuando la mujer lo iba a entregar a sus compañeros, el hombre la engañó, y la empujó para fuera de la casa en los brazos de los transformadores. Ellos la agarraron y se la comieron sin dejar ningún rastro.
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 Ixthahuacán dialect of that language.

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Funding and support provided by
The UNM Latin American and Iberian Institute and the US Department of Education Title VI National Resource Center grant.

Title page image provided courtesy of
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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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