



University of New Mexico | Latin American & Iberian Institute

# K'ICHE' MAYA ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

No. 022 | 00:13:36 minutes

## The Thief's Magic Stone

A man who was a chile seller had his horse stolen by a thief. He tracked down the thief and killed him. Before he died the thief told the man that he was leaving him a magic object that was in the saddle bag on the horse. When the man looked for the object the thief had left him, he found only a rock. He threw the rock away, thinking it was useless. Suddenly he realized the rock had returned to him. Several times he tried to get rid of the rock, but it kept coming back. Finally the rock spoke to him and turned into a horse. He told the man to mount him. The horse took him to different places where he was able to rob the people without getting caught. The magic rock was able to convert the chile seller into a thief.

## *La piedra mágica de un ladrón*

*Un ladrón robó el caballo de un vendedor de chile. El dueño del caballo siguió la pista del ladrón, y lo mató. Antes de morir, el ladrón le dijo al hombre que le quería regalar un objeto mágico que estaba guardado en una bolsa amarrada en la silla de montar del caballo. Cuando el ladrón murió el hombre fue a buscar el objeto mágico que el ladrón le había dejado. Cuando abrió la bolsa solo encontró una piedra. Él tiró la piedra a un barranco. Después vio que la piedra regresó con él. Otra vez la tiró en un río, pero la piedra de nuevo regresó. De repente la piedra empezó a hablar. La piedra se convirtió en caballo. El hombre lo montó y el caballo lo llevó a diferentes lugares donde el hombre robaba cosas. Debido a los poderes mágicos de la piedra, el hombre/ladrón no se pudo detener por las autoridades. Y él llegó a ser un gran ladrón.*

***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.

***Collected and recorded by***

Dr. James Mondloch

***Transcribed by***

Miguel Guarchaj Ch'o'x and Diego Guarchaj

***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://lail.unm.edu/kiche>

***Correspondence should be directed to***

The University of New Mexico  
Latin American & Iberian Institute  
801 Yale Boulevard NE / MSC02 1690  
1 University of New Mexico  
Albuquerque, New Mexico  
87131-0001

Phone: (505) 277-2961

Fax: (505) 277-5989

E-mail: [lail@unm.edu](mailto:lail@unm.edu)

Web: <http://lail.unm.edu>