The Origin of Lightning over the Sea

Two brothers always used to go together to the mountains. When they arrived, the older brother would tell his younger sibling to remain behind and he would go ahead. Each time that his brother would go ahead, the younger brother noticed that it would rain. He began to think that perhaps his brother was sending the rain. One day the youngster followed his brother. He saw that the brother joined his companions, and how they put on white capes and turned into angels. They flew into the sky and brought the rain. The younger brother wanted to join them. He found a black cape and put it on, but the black cape caused a torrential rain to fall. When the others saw what had happened, they sent a strong wind to blow away the rain. But the wind also blew the younger brother out over the ocean. That is where he remained. Today, when the sheet lightning flashes over the ocean, it is that young man who is causing it to shine.

El origen del relámpago sobre el mar

Dos hermanos siempre iban juntos a la montaña. Cuando llegaban, el hermano mayor le decía a su hermano que se quedara mientras él iba más adelante. Pero el hermano menor observó que cada vez que su hermano se iba solo, la lluvia caía. El hermano menor se puso a pensar que tal vez fue su hermano que traía la lluvia. Un día lo siguió y descubrió que su hermano se juntaba con sus compañeros. Ellos se pusieron capas blancas y se convirtieron en ángeles. Ellos subían al cielo a traer la lluvia. El hermano menor, al ver eso, también quería acompañar a los otros. Él encontró una capa negra, y se lo puso. Pero la capa negra que se había puesto causó una tormenta tremenda. Cuando los otros vieron que pasó, ellos enviaron un viento fuerte para quitar el aguacero. Pero el viento llevó al hermano menor y lo dejó en el mar. Allá de una vez se quedó, hoy día, cuando se mira el relámpago sobre el mar, es ese muchacho que lo está causando relucir.
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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http://laii.unm.edu/kiche

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