

Nahuatl Prayer in Luis Alfaro's *Mojada*

1. Alfaro, L. 2021. *The Greek Trilogy of Luis Alfaro*. Ed. by R. Andújar. Bloomsbury. Prologue, *Mojada*

“She stands in the center of the yard and conjures as she holds the banana leaves in each hand, gripping them as if they were talons or wings. She holds them up to the sky and she whispers a prayer in Nahuatl.”

Tita

In ic nauhcan (from the four directions)

Niquintatzilia (I call you)

Ic axcan yez (to my grip)

Tla xihualauh (come forth)

Tlatecuin (cross my path)

2. Alarcón, F. X. 1992. *Snake Poems: An Aztec Invocation*. Chronicle Books.

Traveler's Prayer

Ruiz de Alarcón (II:1)

<i>nomatca nehuatl</i>	I myself
<i>niQuetzalcoatl</i>	I, <i>Quetzalcoatl</i>
<i>niMatl</i>	I, the Hand
<i>ca nehuatl niYaotl</i>	indeed I, the Warrior
<i>niMoquequeloatzin</i>	I, the Mocker
<i>atle ipan nitlamati . . .</i>	I respect nothing . . .
<i>tla xihualhuian</i>	come forth
<i>tlamacazque</i>	spirits
<i>tonatiuh iquizayan</i>	from the sunset
<i>tonatiuh icalaquiyan</i>	from the sunrise
<i>in ixquichca nemi</i>	anywhere you dwell
<i>in yolli</i>	as animals
<i>in patlantinemi</i>	as birds
<i>in ic nauhcan</i>	from the four directions
<i>niquintatzilia</i>	I call you
<i>ic axcan yez . . .</i>	to my grip . . .
<i>tla xihualauh</i>	come forth
<i>Ce-Tecpatl</i>	knife
<i>tezzohuaz</i>	to be stained
<i>titlapallohuaz</i>	with blood
<i>tla xihualauh</i>	come forth
<i>Tlatecuin</i>	cross my path

3. Euripides. *Medea*. 2002. Edited by D. J. Mastrorarde. Cambridge University Press.

36/37 στυγεῖ δὲ παῖδας οὐδ' ὀρᾶσ' εὐφραίνεται. / δέδοικα δ' αὐτὴν μή τι βουλευέσῃ νέον,
[βαρεῖα γὰρ φρήν, οὐδ' ἀνέξεται κακῶς / πάσχουσ' • ἐγῶϊδα τήνδε, δειμαίνω τέ νιν
40/41 μὴ θηκτὸν ὄσῃ φάσγανον δι' ἥπατος / σιγῇ δόμους εἰσβᾶσ' ἴν' ἔστρωται λέχος,
ἦ καὶ τύραννον τὸν τε γήμαντα κτάνη] / κᾶπειτα μείζω συμφορὰν λάβῃ τινά.
44 /45 δεινὴ γάρ• οὔτοι ῥαδίως γε συμβαλὼν / ἔχθραν τις αὐτῇ καλλίνικον ἄισεται.

She hates her children and does not rejoice seeing them. I am afraid that she will plan something terrible, [for her mind is severe, and she will not endure ill treatment: I know her, and I fear she will thrust a sharpened sword through the liver having slipped into the house in silence where the bed is spread or that she will kill the king and the one who married her] and then find some greater misfortune. For she is terrible. Indeed, someone engaging in enmity with her will not easily sing a victory song.

4. Coe, M. D. and Whittaker, G. 1982. *Aztec Sorcerers in Seventeenth Century Mexico: The Treatise on Superstitions by Hernando Ruiz de Alarcón*. State University of New York at Albany.

(First lines of Juan Vernal's Spell from Hernando Ruiz de Alarcón's *Treatise*, Tract II Chapter 1)

nòmacta nèhuatl	I myself,
niquetzalcoatl	I am the Plumed Serpent,
nimatl	I am the Hand.
ca nèhuatl niyaotl	For I am indeed the Adversary
nimoqueueloatzin	I am the Mocker—
àtle ipan nitlamati	I feel nothing.

5. Alfaro, L. 2021. *The Greek Trilogy of Luis Alfaro*. _____ Scene Eight, *Mojada*

Medea gets the banana leaves from the yard. **Tita** sits on her milk crate watching her. **Medea** turns and holds the leaves up.

Medea The Four Directions, to the ancestors.

Tita Uh huh ...

Medea I am *el guaco*, the mighty falcon gripping a burden in my claws. I must make an offering. I flap my wings and they reward me with the gift of sound.

6. Alfaro, L. 2021. *The Greek Trilogy of Luis Alfaro*. _____ Scene Fourteen, *Mojada*

Tita The dress begins to slither ...

The movement confuses her. The threads are alive and quickly encircle her. They begin to squeeze. She panics and jerks, but their constriction holds her with a vengeance.

<a few lines omitted>

Armida tries to pull the dress off her, but the seams strike her hands with their sharp fangs.

Other Works Cited

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