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Traditions Of Guatemala 3



Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala
Centro de Estudios Folklóricos Magazine



UNIVERSIDAD DE SAN CARLOS DE GUATEMALA
CENTRO DE ESTUDIOS FOLKLÓRICOS

TRADITIONS OF GUATEMALA

3

Editorial Universitaria
Guatemala, Central America
1 9 7 5

TESTIMONIES

HISTORY OF THE CONVERSION OF SAN PABLO*

Discovery and Paleography by
Héctor Abraham Pinto V.
April 1970

Script and Proceedings on the Prohibition of the Performance in the
Valle de las Vacas. Year 1796.
Archivo General de Centroamérica. File 149, Dossier 2900.

INDIFFERENT GOVERNMENT, YEAR 1796 / SEVERAL RESIDENTS
OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF LA HERMITA REQUESTING
PERMISSION TO ORGANIZE A MOORS DANCE DURING THE
CELEBRATION OF THEIR FESTIVAL / Office of War

HISTORIA... (Roto) / CION De... (Roto) / Dazan y vailan (Roto) /...

CHRISTIANS	(R o t o)
Anasias	Saulo
Natanael	Azor
Joathan	Rafadain
Ysmael	Cusai
Abiud	Nicephoro
Hormiga Gracioso	Zompopo Gracioso

No

So that Ananias (illegible) will come here to serve as King of the
Christian people; and Saulo, due to the commission he had from the

Princes and High Priests of Jerusalem to capture and take Christians as hostages, we can (so that the story matches the form of the Moors') grant him the title of King. Of course, I say: after the initial entrances, they will line up in two rows, in two rows (sic), and represent Saulo/

SAINT: O Inhabitants of León
 furthermore, you know
 ... (Roto) ... my echoes
 (Roto) ... from ...
 (Roto) ... from you
 (Roto) ... understand
 (Roto) ... in what it is
 (Roto) Jerusalem ...
 (Roto) ... its rites
 (Roto) are read (Roto)
 (Roto) ... the ... leader
 (Roto) ... is
 from the steep Sinai
 he brought them to the people of Israel
 which were written
 not on the fragile paper
 but on two polished stones
 (Roto) ... understand
 (Roto) ...
 not the extor ... (Roto) ... chisel
 but the sovereign finger
 of the high supreme judge
 who, in graceful characters
 in it, she established the law
 You are not unaware that our fathers
 Without the slightest scruple
 They observed it as something
 as sacred as if
 it came from God himself
 so that he could make
 his people come
 subject without the benefit (sic)
 of the vices, which is the end
 because the law is established

this, then is the sovereign law
 that Moisés proclaimed
 he has caused the
 infamous and vile rabble to dispute
 Of a Christian army
 that has raised power
 of some poor scoundrels
 with cunning more than treacherous
 for across the wide world
 all imply
 (or despite my fierce rage!)
 That there is no more rigorous law
 Than that of that Nazarene
 to whom this royal plebe
 crucified with the lord
 for wanting to establish it
 this has consumed many
 with such treachery that
 nor does the punishment scare them
 nor can affection make them
 that they may depart from this sect
 and that they may follow Moisés
 the fixed and true law
 how much it is based on reason
 as, then, children of one hundred
 nobles of Jerusalem
 can the stern qualities
 to sustain in their hearts
 Such infamy, such disorder
 How harmful is it?
 Do you not see that this tares
 If it spreads and grows
 It will take you from your temples
 the green honorable laurel
 with which it adorns other coats of arms
 that they also adorn the homeland
 do you not see that if the path is not cut off
 for this unfaithful rabble
 it will reach us to weaken
 the mighty Roman Empire
 which is so powerful
 and through more war

destroy Jerusalem
 taking our lands
 and our kingdoms as well
 until they make us captives
 where at once
 our wealth, our honor
 our fame, and our very being
 will fall
 let us, then, go after the Christians
 for there is still time
 before they multiply
 and force us to understand
 in Damascus alone, there are already so many
 (As the King writes to me)
 that they can now face
 the most illustrious army
 and so, let us go there
 to tame their unfaithful pride
 either they die or surrender
 to the rule of our law
 for from all the Princes
 and priests as well
 I have received powerful orders
 to execute it
 giving me the honorable title
 of Viceroy
 with whose power I intend
 to either kill them or capture them

AZOR: Ynvicto determined Saulo
 honor of Jerusalem
 forgive that Asor opposes
 your opinion
 tell me, my lord, tell me,
 your capacity does not see
 that if we depart for Damascus
 In pursuit of that unfaithful rabble
 our intention will be thwarted.

SAULO: You misunderstand Saul
 tell me, Asor, the reason for this speech
 (then to the young man) the why?

AZOR: Because as soon as they hear your name
they must take refuge on the mountain,
and we, my lord, will not succeed in the endeavor

SAULO: You misunderstand
for I am an eagle in flight
and a fierce bear in its cruelty
and they will not be able to escape
from my furious thirst
even if they climb the sphere
and hide under the sun's cloak
for I will draw them out from there.

RAFAD: Well, my lord, the best way
to calm the uproar
of anger, and to make everything
be done with great maturity
without any distortions
or any wrongdoing
is that you send a messenger
to Prince Natanael
or to Priest Ananias
for among them, the Pope is
telling them not to
follow the Mosaic law
and abandon the law of Christ.
In which they all believe
you will proceed to execute
the orders you hold
from the priests and princes
of all Jerusalem
and if, despite this prudent
and courteous warning
It is rejected by them
then there is nothing more to do
but to charge after them
until they are struck down.

SAULO: Rafadain, I am not displeased
by your wise opinion.

RAFAD: It is the best.

CUZAI: I approve of it
for it shows with this action
that you do not wish to offend them
but rather you desire for them
all equity, all good
preserving their lives
which are at your will
If, abandoning their delusions
and the pernicious law
they follow, they then surrender
to embrace the law of Moses.
and in view of this action
you will be praised, my lord
as noble and courteous
and it will be known that you only wish
for beloved peace to live
throughout all Jerusalem.

SAUL. You advise me well, Cuzai
and so I shall carry it out.

NICEP. I am pleased by the vote of all
and I am of the opinion

SAUL. Niceforo, since I see now
that you advise me so well
though anger provokes me
I shall heed your counsel.

NICEF. On it rests the peace.

SAUL. And the well-being of Jerusalem.

ZOMP. Here enters my spoon
In case it is necessary
to make a cut there
even if it's not in my interests
I, like a fierce Zompopo
who never gives in to the trap
and to jabs, I begin

to challenge even Methuselah.
 I say for now, gentlemen
 I truly thank you. – [Points to Saul]
 what I've eaten is true
 for my stomach carries my feet
 and this eating continuously
 and drinking to excess
 makes men stronger
 than a mortar seat
 I, being a Zompopo
 was born into this world to eat
 and although the laws may strike me
 no law touches me more
 than to fatten like a pig
 and snore like a wild boar
 making everyone work
 but not letting anyone tell me what to do
 for I have a sting
 as thin as a needle
 and whoever wrongs me will pay for it
 forever and ever, amen.

SAUL. Well, with your opinions
 I am satisfied. Afterward
 they will put it into action.

LOS 4. Do not delay in carrying it out
 for if this leprosy spreads
 it will be impossible to stop it.

They dance alone, and then the Christians dance
 And perform.

ANAN. Christian peoples, who barely
 enjoy the first dawn
 when already emulation
 clad in zeal
 wants to extinguish your lights
 with a fury more than blind
 I do not know how to describe to you
 the pain that is in my chest
 what a dilemma burns him

for he laughs at the fire
 that devours the ancient valor
 In the promotion of that monster of horror
 that most fierce ape
 who, closing his ears
 to the Echo of the Gospel
 against all Christians
 now pours out his wrath
 what do I say? From when, to this day
 with the impetuous crash of stones
 the ungrateful Hebrew people
 gave him death
 since then, the fury of Saul, as I contemplate
 spreads its cruel venom
 against all of us
 like a bloody viper
 that with a rude impulse
 damages anyone
 driven by an unguarded zeal
 this then is the furious youth
 this then is the bloody wolf
 viper, Asp, Lion, or tiger
 whom the universe fears
 of Priests and Princes
 and of the Supreme Senate
 has given an exotic license
 so that he may capture us
 and kill us as well
 if we wish to defend ourselves
 for this purpose, he has gathered
 a very large army
 (As I learned from some letters
 that my relatives wrote to me)
 to annihilate us all
 if God does not apply the remedy
 and since we are not so few
 that we are fewer than six hundred
 those of us in Damascus
 It is (oh Christian people)
 that in defense of the law
 of the innocent lamb
 who gave his life for all

on an afflictive wooden cross
 we risk our own lives today
 exposing ourselves to danger
 trusting in His holy name
 for we will have victory
 if with the sword in hand
 and our hearts set on God
 we only wish to exalt
 his divine and excellent name
 enlarge your hearts
 and shake off all fear
 for if God is the Sabbath
 our God, and this architect
 declares that without a doubt
 he is the supreme God of armies
 who will be powerful enough
 (To the Christian people) to defeat us
 a world in Saul's hands is nothing
 if God, with His mighty arm
 protects us. Let us prepare
 For such a severe battle
 With prayers, fasting, and
 Acts of faith, very perfect
 So that, together with these
 We may triumph over the cruel arms
 Of Saul and his allies
 Even if their number is greater
 God of sacred Abraham
 God of Isaac, the supreme Monarch!
 God of Jacob, the Eminent one
 Defend Your people today
 For if You do not defend us
 Who will there be on earth and in heaven
 To mercifully protect us
 From such painful desolation? [He cries]

NATAN. What is this? Are you crying, Lord?
 Not so, supreme Ananias,
 do you water with pearls
 the snow of your beard? What is this?
 When you must inspire courage
 in our Christian hearts,

you weep so inconsolably,
 with such a mournful lament.
 You are the leader
 in this Damascene land,
 under whose protection,
 guidance, and good example
 we, the soldiers of Christ,
 fight. And seeing the care
 with which you weep and grieve,
 we cannot, Lord, help
 but be discouraged. And so,
 let your indiscreet weeping cease;
 and as Gideon once said
 when he found himself in another
 similar battle, so should we say
 now that we face this one:
 If God is with us,
 who can be the wicked one
 who, against God's command,
 would dare, Lord, to offend us?

ANAN. Nathanael, I do not weep
 for what may happen to us,
 but because, disheartened
 by seeing Saul's power,
 many who are new
 to Christianity may falter.

JOATAN No, Lord, do not doubt
 that they will remain steadfast,
 for though they are new to the faith,
 their devotion is great,
 and they long to fight
 for the law of Jesus Christ,
 true God and true man.
 All are prepared,
 like another attentive Lazarus,
 to give their lives for God,
 even through blood and fire.
 For they love the law
 that Simon Peter gave us,
 shepherd of this flock,

our protector and teacher.
Thus, I doubt that any
would falter in such a cause

ANAN Joatan, you comfort me greatly.

JOATAN Ananias, it is most certain,
for the Divine Paraclete
inspires courage in all.

YSMAEL There is no need, Lord, to grieve,
nor to let fear take hold of our hearts.
What we must do is pray
and seek aid from heaven.
And as they did in Nineveh
to appease the Supreme Lord,
let us clothe ourselves in sackcloth
and fast with utmost devotion.
Then, after these holy
and reverent preludes,
let us all prepare our arms
to go forth and face
that arrogant giant,
that fierce and untamed lion,
who, cloaked in wrath
and with hypocritical zeal,
seeks to dishonor
the followers of the Lord.

ANAN Ismael, you have spoken very well;
your counsel suits me.

YSMAEL It seems to me correct.

ANAN Indeed, Ismael, truly so.

ABIUD If in the name of the Lord,
filled with ardent zeal,
the son of Jesse, wise and discreet,
gave a shameful death
to the monstrous, faithful Philistine,
with nothing but a stone,

he rid all of Israel
 of the troublesome oppression,
 which, defying even the mountains
 with its proud strength,
 also defied Israel
 with its arrogant mockery.
 And this bold Philistine,
 for his giant strength,
 was worth ten thousand men,
 for he could do as much as they.
 But in the name of God,
 can we not do the same?
 Not against a fierce giant,
 but against a small pygmy.
 For Saint Paul was small,
 only three cubits high,
 yet he was carried by passion
 and blinded by fury.
 No, Lord, we must not be distressed,
 for we have a great God,
 whose mighty arm rules
 from one end of the earth to the other,
 giving punishment to the wicked
 and reward to the good.

ANAN Abiud, you infuse much courage
 into the region of my heart.

ABIUD God is God, and the rest
 is nothing more than a little bit of hay.

HORMIGA What are they doing with Saul? And Saul,
 why should we be afraid of him,
 if with a single strike from me,
 the whole matter will be settled?
 No, I am a hornet,
 and with me, there are no flames,
 for with just one jab,
 I make the ballista and the shields
 and even the coastal march
 dance in no time.

Romans and Hebrews,
 more than the sands in the sea
 and the lizards in the marsh,
 may come, but I swear, gentlemen,
 by the bones of my grandfather,
 that with stabs (and this is no joke!),
 I will make them still
 like the slaves of Balis,
 until they drop dead.
 Ah, my Ananias,
 even though I am so old,
 they still don't know who the hornet is,
 nor the skill I possess.
 I am a spear against the mullet,
 and one should be very careful,
 for without anyone noticing,
 I can put anyone in extreme danger,
 whether to make them run
 or to make them lose their skin.
 For when I say, "Here I go,"
 even the wind shivers,
 for I am persistent in stinging,
 and I do not fear even death.

ANAN Let us all prepare
 for such a confrontation,
 and cry out with fervor
 to the Lord of earth and heaven,
 saying amidst our cries,
 with sobs and lamentations

TODOS "Lord, have mercy
 on this Christian people."

— **Both factions dance together.** —

SAULO Azor, it is time for you
 to begin the task,
 and that you depart soon
 for Damascus with caution,
 to tell Ananias and the Christian school
 on my behalf,

to strengthen their doctrine.
 For I alone am that magnate,
 whom fame venerates,
 from the tribe of Benjamin,
 a leader and strong athlete,
 Nimrod-like and valiant,
 who in Jerusalem excels
 in honor, nobility,
 sound doctrine, and knowledge.
 And that I have broad and express orders
 from the authorities
 to arrest the Christians
 who, under the banner of Christ,
 bravely fight, abandoning ours.
 I swear to the heavens
 that I will, with good will,
 bring them back to the Mosaic law.
 May their offense be forgiven,
 and I remit their punishment.
 But I swear to you, by those clear lights
 that shine, spin, and sparkle
 in the crystalline sky,
 that I will personally go,
 vomiting fierce anger,
 to bring them here, to this city,
 bound in chains,
 so that in a sad gallows,
 as the offense demands,
 they will groan, weep, and sigh
 without ever seeing mercy,
 and after many torments,
 they will painfully die.

AZOR I will go, Lord, to obey you.

SAULO Go, Azor, and fear not.

AZOR Come with me, Zompopo.

ZOMP The task is very beautiful,
 go alone, for I
 in such a matter,

do not want to receive Asor by tablet,
in the good way.

ASOR Who is to give you?

ZOMP I am Zompopo,
and by my nature,
they are more inclined to kill me
than to give me a meal.
And as soon as I place my foot
in the middle of my hole,
the fierce Zompopo will twist
and the celebration will end.

ASOR Come on, stop the jokes,
and don't bother me with nonsense.

ZOMP I think that the Christians
will turn me into a beating post.
If we are to roll, Lord,
give the signal and straight to arms!

(They leave dancing toward the Christians
and stop next to Hormiga.
As soon as Hormiga sees Zompopo,
he speaks and embraces him.)

HORMIGA Brother Zompopo, we were bound
to meet face to face at last!
What gust of wind brought you here
with those cornet-like feet?

ZOMP The world is truly upside down,
my dear Hormiga, for if you notice,
we who are meant to sting,
now, shamelessly,
are the ones being stung!
Why do they track us so much?

ASOR Has this world turned upside down?

ZOMP There goes that earwig!

Don't you see my brother Hormiga?
 And as he is my brother,
 is it not right that we greet each other today,
 at least out of politeness?
 What a shameless one Asor is! (aside)

ZOMP There goes that earwig!
 Don't you see my brother Hormiga?
 And since he is my brother,
 isn't it only right
 that we greet each other today,
 at least with some politeness?
 Asor is truly thick-skinned! (aside)

HORM. That weathervane stings out of sheer |
 foolishness. (aside)

ASOR Is the priest Ananias at home? (to Hormiga)

HORM As it was,
 as it is, all is well,
 and it will be as long as he doesn't die.

ASOR Tell him I need to speak with him,
 that I'm just passing by, and he should not
 fear.

HORM Your grace will be served,
 but let it not be
 that you intend to skin us
 or to kill us, lest that be your aim.

(HE GOES TO ANANIAS)

Lord, a giant Asor,
 as big as a barrel,
 is standing like a great pillar
 at the door,
 waiting for your answer
 to come in and tell us a tale.

ANAN. My God, mercy!
 Is Asor from Jerusalem here?

HORM. With such a face?

ANAN. Tell him to enter, oh beloved God!
This is on Your account.

(HORMIGA RETURNS TO ASOR.)

AZOR Great Priest Ananias,
empire of honor and knowledge,
may the God of Israel prosper you,
granting you perfect health.

ANAN Asor, you are most welcome
to this congregation of the Church,
where like a beautiful vine,
the Christian law flourishes.
Tell me, what brings you
to this peaceful grove?

ASOR By order of the great Saul,
this journey has been commanded for
me,
to tell you and the others with you,
who follow the Christian law,
rejecting the true one
that Moses proclaimed on earth,
that if you do not turn back
and renounce your error,
abandoning the law you follow,
which in the end is a pernicious sect,
then the kindness with which I now warn
you
will turn into severity,
bringing you a fierce death,
not only to you
but to all who belong to this district,
if they are found guilty of it.
Do not think that you can hide
or that anyone will dare protect you,
for I will come to these dwellings
like a raging tiger,

full of wrath and ferocity,
 to carry out upon you and all others
 a dreadful tragedy,
 taking you, well bound in chains,
 to great Jerusalem,
 where without doubt you will perish
 on infamous gallows,
 as your offense truly deserves.

ANAN. Heavens! What is to be done in this
 moment? (aside)

Is it possible that I should witness
 so many blossoms wither,
 that the budding Christianity, already
 growing,
 should perish?

Let me die, and let us all die,
 so long as the true law lives on and
 triumphs,
 despite the vile consciences
 that seek to destroy it,
 blinded as they are in their entirety.

ASOR What is your answer to us?

ANAN. Asor, for such a grave matter,
 it is necessary to take some time
 to consider the response.
 Tell Saul that the error he believes in
 is most misguided,
 but do not say it in such a way,
 for that would only add fuel to the fire.
 Tell him that I have heard his message,
 and that I will give my answer
 after I have conferred with God
 on so serious a matter.
 Natanael will go there
 for such a mission,
 and he will tell him face to face
 what has been decided here.

ASOR. Praise be to God, great Ananias.

ANAN. May He return you safely, Asor.

ASOR. The resolution is awaited.

ANAN. I will send the answer there.

(ASOR COMES FOR ZOMPOPO)

ASOR Let's go, Zompopo.

ZOMP. Ant, do you send something for Menga?

HORM. Give the young fig in my name
and tell her with modesty
that I am already Christianized
from my feet to my head,
and if she needs anything
That she should look for it over there,
because the Christianized ones
fast like beasts.

ZOMP. To God, brother of my soul.

HORM. To God, beloved trumpets.

(THEY GO DANCING TO SAULO).

ASOR. Most Illustrious Lord,
I have already done 10 that you
ordered me,
and after hearing the message,
Ananias,
with modesty and great humility, Lord,
spoke to me in this way:
That since such a matter
involved difficult issues,
it was necessary to take some time
to think about the response,
and that here she would send it to you
with Nathanael, for with him

everything related to the matter
would be defined.

SAULO. I greatly thank you, Asor,
for the important task.

ASOR. The affection received,
for he desires to serve you

(VAN LOS DOS CAMPOS)

ANAN. Arrived the day when the anxieties
overcome amidst a thousand sorrows,
now Christian people, now
Saul, monster of fierceness.
A messenger has been sent to me,
dressed in a cloak,
telling me and all of you
who inhabit this land
with the name of Christians,
that if with great haste
we do not return to the law
of Moses, which with chains
binds all to be tied
and led with fierceness
to great Jerusalem,
to be burdened with sorrows,
even taking our lives,
because our law fades,
and until not consulting this
with you, the response
has been delayed. Tell me,
what can prudence do
in such a rigorous matter
where life is at risk?

NATAN. To defend the law of God
until yielding the head,
and by force of arms, Lord,
when there is no more resistance,
to the enemy,
so that everything is not lost.

And when this cannot be done
 because we lack strength,
 to hide in the caves
 or in the dark caverns
 of the mountains where we will find
 shelter even among the wild beasts,
 since in men, Lord,
 no comfort is found.

JOATAN. Should we hide, or not hide?
 That will be a great affront
 and anger the most immense Deity,
 for what do we imply
 in such a rude action?
 That we do not have a God
 so great that He will defend us
 from the enemy's army.
 And it is to give to that wild mob
 the chance to laugh, and in a few words
 to make it clear without modesty
 that the law, which is so true,
 is hypocritical and null,
 if they notice that its followers
 flee for not defending it.
 There is no need to flee, face
 the danger that presents itself,
 and thus win or die—
 that is the best course of action.

YSMAEL. Where has the Christian faith gone,
 that now hearts are disturbed
 without looking, with indescribable
 imprudence,
 that God is on our side,
 He who is the Lord of Clemency,
 and that He will protect us
 in the most difficult endeavors?
 Let us all show our faces
 and proclaim with our tongues
 that there is no other God in Israel
 than the One who died amidst insults,
 to elevate His glory

for His beloved sheep.

ABIUD. For He is the Lord,
as David confessed,
because He will not fail to avenge
and punish the offenses
that those who now attempt to destroy it
commit against His law.
Let us place ourselves in His hands
and cast out fear.
Let us speak clearly to Saul,
to the magistrate, and to Caesar,
and with one voice let us all say,
that the true path to salvation
is the law of Christ, the exalted prophet.

HORM. That may seem harsh,
each one should remain in their own,
shout, jump, quarrel, throw sticks
and stones, but with me winning
my ground
and going to hide in a cave,
here there is peace and then glory.
Let them all die, or not die,
for the ant will not pay
for the nísperos that others bite.

ANAN. Natanael, will you be encouraged?
Now you will bring the answer
to Saul.

NATAN. I do not say to Saul,
I will go to take it to Caesar.

ANAN. Well, tell Saul that he may consult
whatever he desires,
but know that all of us,
the Christians of this School,
confess one Triune God,
in persons and in Essence,
one true God of supreme magnificence,
that sacred Messiah

who was born of a Virgin,
 without any harm to
 her virginal purity,
 that Lord so merciful,
 who, to save His sheep,
 gave His life on a cross
 amidst the bitterest pains.
 Here, we revere none
 but the eternal Deity,
 to whom all souls and lives
 sacrifice themselves,
 not the flesh of bulls
 (which is shameful to mention),
 nor the blood of lambs,
 as they observe over there,
 but we give praises and hymns
 to the sacred Lamb
 who is venerated on the altars,
 with laudable praises and melodies
 worthy of such majesty,
 who reigns in heaven and earth.
 This you must tell him
 with a very certain resolution,
 adding that we,
 although we give up our heads,
 do not forsake the holy and true law of
 Jesus,
 and that we would die there,
 a thousand times if we could,
 and that here no one fears
 either his rage or fierceness,
 nor his vengeful fury,
 nor his foolish clemency,
 for we are prepared
 to confess the greatness
 of Christ crucified,
 King of heaven and earth.

NATAN. Well, I depart to obey you.

ANAN. Do not fear death.

- NATAN. Dios me guíe.
- ANAN. He will guide you,
He will return to our eyes.
- NATAN. Let's go, ant.
- HORM. Where?
- NATAN. To Jerusalem.
- HORM. For her.
Natanael, if you are not crazy,
let my mother-in-law kick me,
if you are seeing that Saul
is over there, trying to catch a hair from
the wolf,
and trap us between doors.
What the devil are you going to do,
to Jerusalem? Isn't it the strength
of your bad nature
that, upon hearing it, you do not fear,
and go to corner yourself
because Barabbas tempts you?
- NATAN. Stop with the foolishness,
and let's go.
- HORM. Oh, such a topic?
Don't you see that those are fools
and those over here are sheep,
and that they will tear us apart
as soon as they see us?
Go to sleep, Natanael,
and do not let your recklessness
try to stir the ant nest,
or it will go badly for you.
- NATAN. Stop, stop,
making me waste more time.
- HORM. With what shall we go?

NATAN. It's necessary.

HORM. May the great Zancarrón allow it,
for I put you like Gestas,
for he who goes to the sacrifice
on his own foot, it's certain he will die.

(THEY BLOW THE TRUMPET, AND WALK
TOWARD WHERE ZOMPOPO IS.)

ZOMP. Ant, very welcome,
do you come to share the good news?

HORM. It seems so, brother,
but what should I do if by force
my master wants me to be a martyr
and they flay my skin?

ZOMP. The comfort I give you
is that you will come out of these
pains,
for if you endure half an hour,
cut off my ears.

HORM. The comfort is like yours.

ZOMP. What did you want me to say,
if for so long Saul has spoken
against you with such a harsh
tongue?

NATAN. Go and inform Saul
that here Natanael awaits
his permission to enter
and give him the truth.

ZOMP. That there are men who, by their own
fault,
come to the mousetrap,
they truly deserve to be roasted,
those who enter torn,

not seeing the danger ahead,
that a great labor awaits them.

(THEY GO DANCING TOWARD SAUL.)

Lord, at the door stands
one who begs you with his life,
if you wish to have a good day,
grant him permission to enter.

SAULO. Who is it then that seeks me?

ZOMP. Natanael, for whom do you long,
and for whom in your days,
that you speak with such a sharp
tongue?

(THEY RETURN DANCING TOWARD NATANAEL)

Natanael, from here
begin your funeral rites,
for it is no straw bull
that awaits you in the arena.
Retim Camtimpache, amen,
enter now in his reverence,
to take what they know,
may God repay it to you well.

NATAN. Ant, wait for me here.

HORM. Now, on your way out, think,
if I were to see you again,
I'll be left speechless.

(THEY BLOW THE TRUMPET, AND GO TOWARD SAUL)

NATAN. Lord, may the merciful heaven
guard you.

SAULO. So that he may return,
for the honor taken from him
by those who shamefully rebel
against his high decrees

and his evil influences.
Now, say what you came for.

NATAN. I came to bring you the response
to the message that you sent
to Ananias.

SAULO. Say it quickly,
for I desire to know
what this old man intends.

NATAN. He says that the Christians,
all agreeing, confess
one all-powerful God
King of heaven and earth,
who is trinity in persons
and one God in essence,
that sacred Messiah
who was born of a Virgin
without any harm to
her virginal purity,
that Lord so merciful,
who, to save His sheep,
gave His life on a cross
so that they could have it.
There, we revere none
but the eternal Deity,
to whom we sacrifice
our souls and lives,
not the flesh of bulls,
which is shameful to mention,
nor the blood of goats,
as observed over here.

SAULO. Silence the blasphemous speech —
SPEECH— (Strike with the sword)
Do not let me tear your tongue out
here,
while you recount all of this in my
presence,
without any fear.

NATAN. I do not say it before you,
I will say it before Caesar.

SAULO. Then bind this madman.

(ZOMPOPO ARRIVES TO BIND HIM, AND ASOR TAKES THE
SWORD AWAY)

And take him to a cave,
meanwhile, I will go in person
to bring his companions
to take their lives
for their great disobedience.

ZOMP. Take this one and return with another,
Natanael, suffer the wick,
for he who seeks evil for himself
will never be heard complaining

NATAN. Bind him well and take him
to remove this head,
for I wish I had more
to give for God.

ZOMP. What recklessness!

SAULO. Put him in a dungeon.

TODOS. He truly deserves such disgrace,
he who, abandoning his sacred law,
embraces an infamous sect.

NATAN. Serving God is Reigning.

SAULO. Go to the prison and reign,
for today I have to lower you
from the men of the cave.

NATAN. The man disposes, Saul,
and God is the one who orders it.

ZOMP. Let's go, Uncle Natanael

(TAKE HIM TO WHERE THE ANT IS)
to sing a trisqueña.

NATAN. Glory to God in the heavens
and peace to man on earth,
let your will be done,
Sacred and Eternal Majesty,
for you dispose of everything
with your Sovereign Knowledge.

HORM. If you took my advice,
you wouldn't find yourself in these
situations.

NATAN. You have very little faith in God,
for the sorrows sadden you.

SAULO Brave captains,
what is it that the rage awaits,
that does not stop after the
Christians,
causing all to die?

TODOS. Let us go after them, Lord,
and may the law live and prevail,
for the impious apostates
who abandon it for another law.

(THEY ALL DANCE TOGETHER, EXCEPT NATANAEL; AND
THEN THEY STOP AND TAKE THEIR PLACES,
REPRESENTING SAUL.)

SAULO. Put that horse here for me,
the lightning of the sphere.

(THEY BRING THE HORSE AND HE MOUNTS — FOR THIS
PURPOSE, A VERY GENTLE ONE MUST BE FOUND — AND
HE CONTINUES SPEAKING UNTIL A CERTAIN POINT. AND
UPON MOUNTING, ASOR WILL HOLD THE STIRRUP, AND
ZOMPOPO — WHO IS THE ONE TO BRING THE HORSE —
WILL TAKE THE REINS.)

With him, I must scale
 those steep sorrows,
 where the infamous dwell,
 who rebel against God.
 Follow me, all follow me,
 for today you will see the fierce rage
 and the unbridled heart
 with which I punish the offense,
 with which these madmen profane
 the exalted Mosaic law.

TODOS. Walk on, for we now follow
 your sovereign footsteps.

(THE INSTRUMENTS PLAY — except the music — and the trumpet, and SAULO LEADS ON THE HORSE, with his allies dancing on either side, turning behind the Christian squadron, and then circling to reconnoiter the field. Once they are in position, the music plays, and SAULO STANDS STILL, LOOKING UP TO THE SKY, THEN FADES INTO FAINTING UNTIL HE FALLS INTO THE ARMS OF HIS MEN — ZOMPOPO WILL BE HOLDING THE HORSE IN THIS INTERIM SO IT DOES NOT GET FRIGHTENED, AND ONCE SAULO FALLS, THEY WILL LAY HIM APART — THEY WILL PLACE HIM ON THE GROUND, FACE UP, WITH THEM STANDING BY HIS SIDES.)

JESUS. Saulo, Saulo, tell me why
 does your fierce wrath pursue me?

SAULO. ¡Oh! Who are you, Lord,
 who has brought me to the ground?

JESUS: I am Jesus of Nazareth,
 whom your furious rage
 persecutes with cruel malice,
 for you attempt to destroy my law.
 Beware, for it is a very hard thing
 to kick against the goads,
 for you harm yourself
 when you attempt to harm me."

(ALL OF SAULO TREMBLES.)

- SAULO. Lord, I acknowledge my error,
and that I walked the wrong path,
attempting with my fury
to destroy Your true law.
And now that I have realized it,
tell me, O immense Majesty,
what is it that You wish me to do
so that I may serve You?
- JESUS: Rise at once,
and enter the city,
for there you will be told
all that is fitting for you.
- ASOR. What a great astonishment this is,
beyond the reach of my
understanding!
- RAFAD. With whom might he be speaking,
that though echoes are heard,
the eyes are not permitted
to see what the ears perceive?
- CUZAI. Saul, trembling and in shock,
fears, groans, and is dismayed.
- NICEP. He does not take his eyes off the sky,
and to the heavens, he directs his
speech.
Without a doubt, it is from the
heavens
that his fierceness is being punished.
- ZOMP. Take me away if there are no witches
here,
sorcerers and enchantresses,
for they have turned the fiercest lion
into the meekest sheep.

(SAULO RISES, SUPPORTED BY THE OTHERS)

- SAULO. Give me your hand, for already
my lights have been eclipsed
but who can resist blinding
at such a beautiful light
with which my fury is subdued
by the most tremendous majesty?
- ASOR. Tell us, Lord, what have you seen?
- RAFAD. Tell us your tragedy.
- CUSAI. Tell us about your worries.
- NICEP. Give us a share of your sorrows.
- ZOMP. To get out of this fright, play us a
note.
- SAULO. O Just Judgments of God,
or Eternal Mercy,
and how you call all,
so that none may perish.
I walked, inflamed
with wrath and fierce anger,
to pursue the Christians
who settle in Damascus.
When suddenly I saw
the eternal windows open,
and from them came down
a light that surrounded me.
At its sight and awe,
I immediately fell to the ground,
for though my eyes were open,
I could not see.
Your voice struck my heart,
coming down from the high heavens,
like an arrow, sharp at first,
but through the veils, it was a dart.
It spoke, not in pride, but in sorrow,
and tenderness:
Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me
with such fury?

I responded:

Lord, who are you, that such power
could stop my fury,
even as it travels on earth?

He answered:

I am Jesus of Nazareth,
whom you, in your stubbornness,
furiously pursue,
for you seek to destroy my law.
Know that it is very hard
to go against the spur,
for you hurt yourself,
thinking you are hurting me._

I asked:

What do you want me to do, Lord,
so that I may serve you?

His Majesty answered me in this way:

Rise up immediately,
and enter the city.

There you will be told
everything that you must do.

This is the story, friends,
and now all that remains
is for us to enter the city
to see what God ordains.

But before we depart,
bring me before me
the prince Natanael,
whom my fury has imprisoned
in a mournful prison
without any fault of his.

ZOMP. Thank heaven that there is
 someone who knows innocence,
 for innocence and truth
 are not known by just anyone.

(HE LEAVES HIS PLACE DANCING AND COMES TO NATANAEL)

Natanael, Saul calls you.

HORM. This smells like trouble.

ZOMP. To me, it smells like something else.

NATAN. My final end is near,
to God, ant, for already
a terrible death awaits me,
in your hands, Lord,
I commend my spirit.

HORM. You must make a heart of guts,
and fear not even death.
And take into account that they will
take you
by force to marry,
because if you truly prepare,
it is a violent death
that one encounters with the dragon,
who was expecting a queen.

(ZOMPOPO TAKES THE ROPE FROM NATANAEL AND WALKS
DANCING ALONE. DANCING TOWARDS SAULO.)

ZOMP. Lord, you have Natanael before you.

NATAN. God, mercy!

SAULO. Then remove the ropes from him.

ZOMP. Once removed (He goes back to his
place).

SAULO. Now come, servant of God, into my
arms (he hugs him).

NATAN. Since when such kindness?

(HINCASE SAULO DELANTE DE NATANAEL)

SAULO. Forgive me, Natanael,
for how blind I have been,
that I laid my hands on you,
carried away by my fury... (he rises)

Now I have come to understand
 that your law is true,
 the only one, and certain,
 for it leads to eternal life.
 I want you to instruct me,
 (Natanael) very well in it,
 so that upon reaching Damascus,
 I may receive Baptism,
 and leaving my error behind,
 serve God with firmness.

NATAN. Blessed be forever
 the sovereign mercy
 of God; blessed are His works
 which are full of compassion.
 Repeated thanks to you,
 I give, Saulo, for the good
 news you now bring me
 of your perfect conversion.
 And since the grace of God awaits
 you
 in Damascus,
 let us go there, Lord,
 since we are so close.

SAULO. Raise me then from your hands,
 for my sight is fading.

NATAN. God has already given you the one of
 the soul,
 and He will give you the one that
 remains.

SAULO. Long live Jesus of Nazareth!

TODOS: May His true law triumph!

(They all dance — assuming that Natanael has been given back the sword — except the two jesters who have to take Saulo from his hands. They will make a full turn around the field and then return to their places, leaving Natanael next to Saulo, and then the music plays.)

- ANAN. Natanael takes too long,
O Divine Omnipotence,
until without any lesson,
he returns to our company.
- JESUS: Ananias, my servant?
- ANAN. Here I am, my God.
- JESUS: Get up and go quickly (flourish the
music)
to that flourishing Citio,
whom everyone calls righteous
for his existence so kind.
Look for the house of Judas,
and in it you will find the great Saul of
Tarsus,
who now prays in sorrow.
- ANAN. Lord, do you not know
that Saul is a fierce bear
who wants to devour us
because we follow Your law?
You have seen how much evil
your people have received
from the hand of one who has
authority at his free will,
from priests and princes
and from the invincible magistrates,
to capture those
who call Your divine name.
How then should I expose myself
to experience the wrath
of such an insolent man
as You yourself know?
- JESUS. Go, Ananias, as soon as possible,
and do what I tell you,
for this man is a vessel of choice,
the one I send to you.
Since Saul is the one
who will preach My divine name

among the nations,
bearing infinite fruit.

ANAN. Well, Lord, if it must be so,
I will set out on my journey right
away.
Follow me now, companions,
for I am going on the precise path
according to the command of God
who sends me.

LOS TRES. We follow you now.

(VA DANCING TO SAULO'S FIELD, WHERE THEY WILL COME
OUT TO MEET THEM DANCING, AND FROM THERE THEY
WILL INTERMINGLE WITH EACH OTHER, WITH ANANIAS
STAYING NEXT TO SAULO)

ANAN. Saul, the other God of Israel
has sent me to this place
to tell you that He wants you
to be a pilgrim vessel
who will carry His holy name
through the great and wide age.

SAULO. Who are you, so loving,
(though I am so unworthy)
to bring me such great news
of such a high portent?

ANAN. I am Ananias, Saulo.

SAULO. The highest miracles
of Jesus crucified,
whom I, blind and proud,
followed out of ignorance,
not knowing that He was the
benevolent Messiah
who came to take away the stains
of human sins.

ANAN. So true it is, that He is the Messiah,
 the one who was born and chose to die
 for the men who, in His name—
 (He places His hands,
 His sight turns propitious upon you—
 in the prison)
 so that you may know that He alone,
 with His infinite power,
 works great wonders
 and marvelous, exquisite deeds.

SAULO. O sovereign power! — (He pauses)
 I am no longer blind, now I see.
 O God, who would have loved You
 and not offended You!
 O Crucified Lord!
 O great and infinite love,
 who, to give me better life,
 calls me to Your fold.
 Here I am, Lord,
 at Your feet surrendered.
 I will preach Your name,
 though for it, my Lord,
 I endure a thousand trials
 and expose myself to a thousand
 dangers.
 O men, those who hear me,
 and all the trouble you have seen,
 praise the Redeemer
 who knows how to work such a
 miracle,
 calling with so much love
 even the greatest enemy,
 who has persecuted His law
 and abandoned His rites.
 Long live Jesus of Nazareth,
 Loving and kind Shepherd.

TODOS: Blessed be His holy name
 for all the ages of ages.

HORM. And here ends, my lords,
 as I understand it,
 the conversion of Saint Paul
 with all its requirements.

ZOMP. And to crown the work,
 and to make everything complete,
 the Poet asks for a crown,
 not a doubloon, but a victor.

(ALL DANCE AND IT ENDS)

Guatemala, December 22, 1772.

(Marginal) RI. Palace, October 7, 1796. Report by Mr. Manuel Bances
 (Signature)

M. Y. S. / Lord. The stewards and other deputies of the Brotherhood of
 Nuestra Sra del Rosario of Las Bacas, from the Valley of the
 Hermitage, request to hold their celebration on October 22 of the
 current year, as has been customary, with a Mass, Procession, Sermon,
 and a Dance of Moors, which they have rehearsed for this occasion
 (the story is from San Pablo). And to carry it out, they seek the approval
 of Your Lordship.

(f) José Aroche (Signature), (f) Tomás Letrán (No Signature), (f) Manuel
 Roldán (Signature) / S. M. and S. Dn. José Domás y Valle.

M. 'Y S. P. / The Commissioner Don Manuel Antonio de Vanzas,
 fulfilling the decree of V. S. from the seventh of this month, must inform
 that the individuals presented have never requested any license to
 celebrate the feast of Nuestra Sra del Rosario, of the Balle de las
 Bacas, where, with the greatest shamelessness, little fear of God, and
 lack of respect for justice, they have committed disorders in all the vices

that can be imagined among Christians. / The license that is now requested from Your Excellency is motivated by an ordinance letter that on the second of the current month, I sent to Sergeant Aroche, one of the officials, of that feast in which I ordered that, in consideration of the many disorders and bad consequences that have occurred in all the previous years, due to the gathering of vagrants and criminals from those areas who attend, I ordered that in no case and under no pretext should such a feast be publicly celebrated, nor did I permit the dance of Moors or any other gathering of people; as I instructed to the aforementioned. Aroche, cease, and require everyone, with the aforementioned order, and if they still insisted against what was commanded, that the corresponding notice be sent to me, as in such a case, I would be in the position to request from Your Excellency a detachment of soldiers to bring the Virgin and all those found there. At the same time, I was notified on behalf of the Reverend Priest of Candelaria, that although it was true that he had arranged the feast for the first Sunday of October, he immediately desisted from it due to the aforementioned inconveniences. With this understanding, and having the authority from the Mayor of Zacatepeques to oversee and administer justice in his territory, I ordered what seemed appropriate for the service of God and the public, without in any way contradicting the superior judgment of Your Excellency, but truly (According to the experience I have of twenty-three years as a neighbor, and in these, four years of administering justice), I find not only the mandate to be appropriate, but also that Your Excellency should have that image transferred from this Parish, so that in the presence of the Lord Priest and the court, they may celebrate their feast here. And that the expenses, which are usually excessive, are not incurred, as I can assure Your Excellency that they exceed one hundred pesos, while the expenses for the oratory and rights of the Lord Priest do not reach four; so we can truthfully say that the feast is not for the Virgin, but for them. And the worst part of the matter is: that I suspect (not without reason) that many of them are a group of thieves, and to be able to hold this feast, they resort to stealing, as happened two years ago, when from the same 'Bayle de Moros' I had to remove Manl. Ortíz during the Feast of the Bacas and have him imprisoned for being one of the accomplices in the insult and robbery they committed against Dn. Franco Gutierrez, as he is now a fugitive from this prison, with an eight-year sentence, and the robbery occurred shortly before the feast. The Valle de las Bacas, and you will have long news of the harmfulness it causes to the entire Republic, both by being a refuge for thieves and by harboring drunkards and gamblers, which is why, due to a decree from the

Mayor's Office directed at me, I tried to depopulate that valley and move them to this Capital, as I had already done with many, until, due to a certain disagreement I had with Dn. Josef Anto. Battres and other citizens, I became discontented and suspended this operation. All these reasons have motivated me to prohibit this feast and the 'Bayle de Moros,' but above all, you may determine what is most convenient and inform me of the decision, so that I do not interrupt your orders but instead carry them out exactly and punctually.

Nueva Guatemala, October 8, 1796 / (f) Manl. Anto. de Vanzas (Signature).

RI. Palace, October 8, 1796. / There is no place for the request contained in the preceding document, and it must be made known to those involved, and to the Mayor Dn. Manuel Bances, so that in the event that the celebration referred to takes place, there shall be no dances, neither of Moors nor private ones, or any other excesses. Regarding the other matters referred to in the previous report, this case shall be forwarded to the Most Illustrious Archbishop with the corresponding notice. / (f) Domas (Signature), (f) Ignacio Guerra (Signature) / Doctors 4 r. S. D. / S. D. 4 rs. / On the 11th of the above-mentioned month, I notified Dn. Manuel Bances of the above decision, he was informed and I attest. / (f) Vanzas (Signature), (f) Franco Aquilera (Signature), Snr. Recepr.