



# MOWENTIHKE CHALMAN

LOS PEREGRINOS DE CHALMA  
PIEZA PARA MUÑECOS



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LOS PEREGRINOS DE CHALMA

MOWENTIHKE CHALMAN

THE PILGRIMS OF CHALMA

MELE  
Honolulu  
1969

## PILGRIMS OF CHALMA

### A Puppet Play

In the 1930's and 40's, the Mexican Government was intent on spreading the benefits of literacy and hygiene even to remote villages. To this end, puppeteers were sent to give representations on mobile stages. Playlets were created in the various Indian languages, to be given before the assembled villagers. Then a Government spokesman expounded the advantages of book-reading and teeth-brushing.

The following script was originally written in nahuatl, the language of the Mexican plateau. It proved successful in holding the interest of its rustic audiences.

Chalma is a famed Indian pilgrimage. The miraculous Christ venerated there stands on top an equally famous spot, the cave where dwells Tezozomoc, god of the caverns, according to Aztec mythology.

ACT I. The interior of an Indian hut, in the village of Milpa Alta.

Malintzin, a young girl  
Petolo, a 'wolf'  
Nozihtzin, the girl's grandmother.

Malintzin dresses in a plaited blue skirt, linen blouse, and the wide purple belt that is woven and worn in Milpa Alta.

Petolo in white Indian calzoncillos, folded sarape on a shoulder. A wide-brimmed sombrero shades his features that strikingly resemble those of a wolf.

Nozihtzin is but a voice off-stage.

As the curtain rises, Malintzin is alone.

MALINTZIN	Knocks on the adobe wall	Its name is house.
	Stamps on the earth-beaten floor	Its name is kitchen.
	Beats her breast	My name is Malintzin.

( Mary to you )

She kneels by the metate and busies herself grinding. She works in silence. Turns towards the wings, calls to offstage.

Now I make tortillas.

Granny, would you care to join me?

NOZIHTZIN A voice only

No. I shan't. I am sleepy.

Malintzin proceeds with her work. A loud knock at the door. She looks up. A crescendo of knocks. Malintzin rises, goes to the door. Meanwhile Petolo enters through the back. As Malintzin turns around, they bump into each other.

Who is it?

MALINTZIN

Oooooh!



MALINTZIN

PETOLO      Mock polite

My name is Petolo. I come from  
the capital.

MALINTZIN      A mixed-up girl

Step inside, Sir Wolf.

PETOLO      Menacingly

Grrr...

MALINTZIN      Frightened

I mean--Mister Man.

PETOLO      A humorous sway of  
his sombrero

Charmed to meet you, Miss.

MALINTZIN      Shyly

My pleasure.

Without waiting, Petolo sits down.

Please be seated.

PETOLO      Demandingly

I am thirsty.

Malintzin gets the jarro of pulque  
off the shelf, brings it to Petolo.

MALINTZIN

Here is your pulque, Sir.

Petolo's snout disappears inside the  
jar. He drinks noisily. Remains so  
until it is time for his next line.

Glugluglug...

MALINTZIN      With urgency, to off-  
stage

Granny, would you care to join  
us?

NOZIHTZIN      Voice only

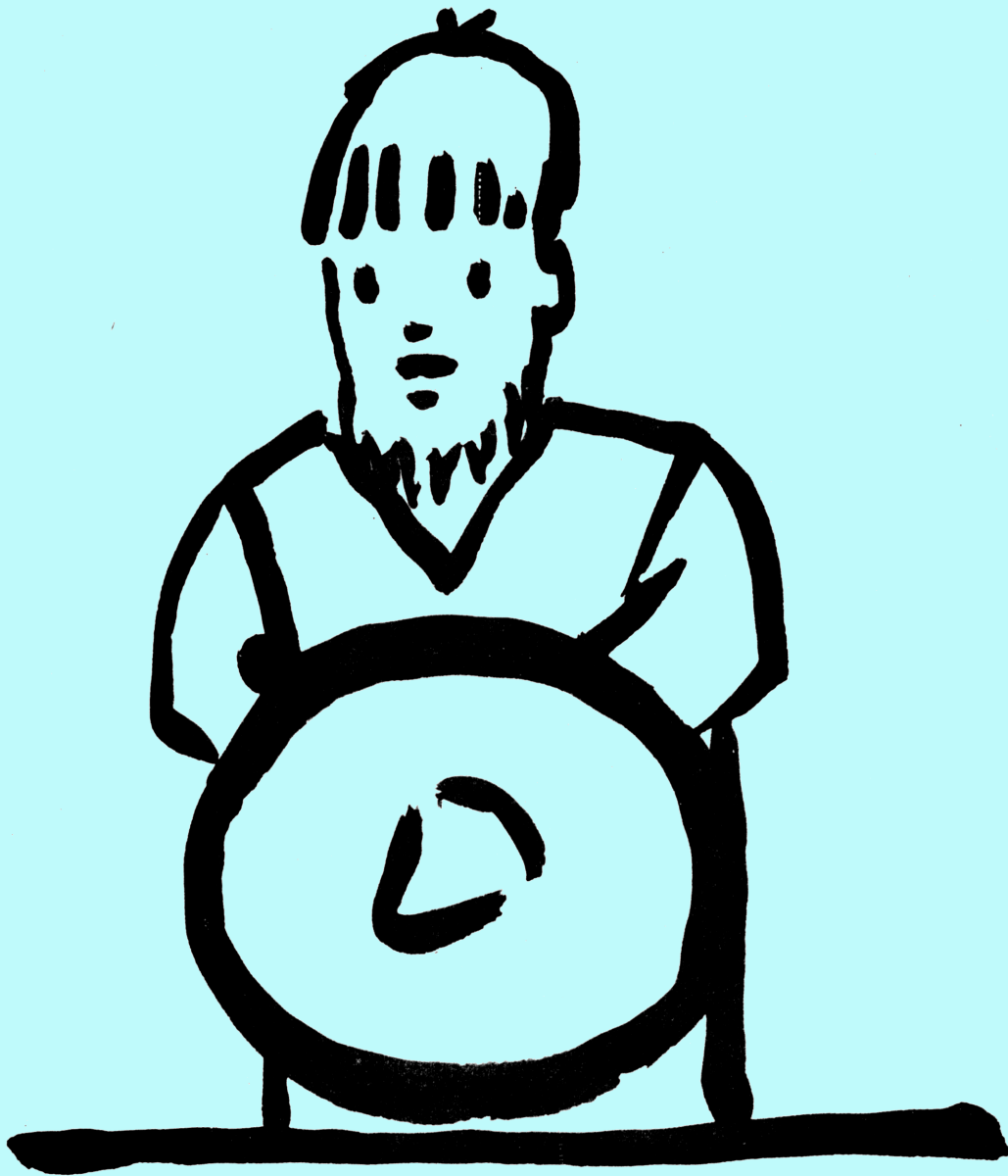
No. I shan't. I don't like  
people.

His snout out of the jar at last,  
Petolo turns it upside down, to show  
it is empty.

PETOLO      He rises unsteadily.  
Speech blurred.

That was good.  
Show me the way to Xochimilco.





NOTAHTZIN

As the curtain rises, Malintzin works, kneeling at her metate. Her father squats asleep, sombrero pulled down over his face.

MALINTZIN At her work  
Works awhile

I make tortillas.

Papa, I want to go to Chalma.

No answer. Notahztzin snores peacefully.

In a louder voice  
Notahztzin stirs.

Papa, I want to go to Chalma!

NOTAHTZIN In a sleepy voice.

Malintzin, you know we don't have what it takes to travel.

MALINTZIN Hopefully

Someone could loan us a horse.

Notahztzin yawns, stands up, goes center stage, facing the audience, hat in hand.

NOTAHTZIN

Would one of you good people lend us a pack horse?

Improvised dialogue with the spectators, according to their reactions.

To Malintzin

You can't? Too bad.  
You would? Oh, thank you? etc..  
I go fetch the animal. I'll be back in a jiffy.

Exits.

MALINTZIN Happily, to Nozihtsin offstage.

Granny, we'll have to pack things for the journey. Would you care to join us?

NOZIHTZIN A voice

No, I shan't. I am making mole.

Malintzin busies herself packing stuff in twin saddle-baskets. Notahztzin returns, holding in his arms a horse made of straw. Lowers it front stage.

NOTAHTZIN Pointing to someone in the audience

Our good friend here (add name) lends us a horse. And also its paddle.

MALINTZIN Tying baskets onto the horse

That word I don't get: paddle.

NOTAHTZIN Proudly

You don't know much, daughter. Paddle, that's the leather thing he sits on when a Spaniard rides a horse.

Things are ready now.

Up you go!

Malintzin, baby on back, arranges herself between the baskets. Notahztzin takes hold of his pilgrim staff.

How pretty you look up there, between the baskets!

They start. Backdrop moves on vertical rollers, suggesting motion. We are now in the open country. But Malintzin is going one way, and Notahztzin the other.



NOTAHTZIN     Shouting                             Turn the horse around, Malintzin!

Now the horse is jumping wildly.  
Malintzin loses her balance.

MALINTZIN   That stone, it should help me  
   dismount...

Malintzin and baby fall head first.  
She sits dazed.

NOTAHTZIN     Gives her his staff                     Use that stick on the rascal!

Malintzin beats the horse until it  
lies quite still. Night falls. She  
lies down, her head pillowed against  
the horse. Notahztzin too lies down to  
sleep.

NOTAHTZIN     Half asleep                             Malintzin, tomorrow, what shall  
   we eat?

MALINTZIN     Half asleep                             Father, my guess is--horse meat.

Both sleep.

It is night.

END



YOLCATL

LOS PEREGRINOS DE CHALMA (MOWENTIHKE CHALMAN)

ACTO I. MALINTZIN / PETOLO / NOZIHTZIN (Invisible)  
María / Pedro / Abuela

El interior de una choza.

MALINTZIN tocando la pared  
tocando el suelo  
Toca su pecho  
Se arrodilla a su metate,  
empieza a moler  
Voltea hacia las bambalinas

NOZIHTZIN una voz nada más

María sigue trabajando. Se oyen golpes. Levanta la cabeza.

Golpes más fuertes. María va a ver.

Sin verlo, se golpea con Pedro, voltea y lo ve

PETOLO

MALINTZIN, confusa

PETOLO, indignado

MALINTZIN, temblando

PETOLO, saluda exageradamente

MALINTZIN, con miedo

Pedro se sienta. Dice MALINTZIN

PETOLO, sentado y impaciente

ITOKAYO CALLE  
Se llama casa  
ITOKAYO TLAKWALCHIWALOYAN  
Se llama cocina  
ITOKAYO MALINTZIN  
Me llamo María

MOLCHIWA  
Mole hago  
NOZIHTZIN TIMONEKILTIA NOTLAKW  
Abuela, quieres venir conmigo  
TIWALMIKAZ  
aquí?  
NEHWATL AMO NIKNEKI IKA  
No quiero ir allá  
NIKNEKI NICOCHIS  
quiero dormir

KAMPA METZTIKA  
Quién es?  
KAMPA METZTIKA  
Quién es?

0000000H

ITOKAYO PETOLO OMPAH MEXIHKO CHANTIA  
Me llamo Pedro. En la capital vivo.  
XIMOPANOLTI KOYOTZINTLE  
Pase, Señor coyote.

BRRRRR

XINECHMOPAKAHYOWILTI XIMOPANOLTI  
Perdón Pase,  
TLAKATZINTLE  
Señor hombre.

SENKA PAKI NOYOLO MONAWATZINKO  
Mucho gusto en conocerla  
CIHUATZINTLE  
Señorita.

IWAN ZAN NOIHKI  
Y yo también

XIMOTLALITZINO  
Siéntese Ud.

NIKNEKI NIKIS  
Quiero beber.

MALINTZIN, llevándole un jarro	NIKAN KA SE XALO NEWKTLE Aquí está un jarro de pulque.
PETOLO proba primero. Después se queda nariz adentro del jarro hasta su próxima frase, bebiendo ruidosamente	Glugluglug
MALINTZIN, hacia las bambalinas, con urgencia	NOZIHTZIN TIMONEKILTIA <u>TOTLAKW</u> Abuela quieres con <u>nosotros</u> TIWALMIKAZ venir
NOZIHTZIN, una voz nada más	NEHWATL AMO NIKNEKI IKA No quiero ir allá. AMO NIKNEKI NIKIIXMATIZ TLAKATL No quiero conocer a gente.
PETOLO, el jarro ya vacío se levanta, algo bebido	KWALLE KA Bueno es XINECHMOLWILI: KAMPA KA IN OCHTLE Dígame: Allá el camino IKA XOCHIMILKO para Xochimilco?
MALINTZIN, indicando	IKA OPOCHTLE KA A la izquierda es.
PETOLO, indicando al contrario	IKA YEHEMAXTLE KA A la derecha es!
MALINTZIN, con paciencia	YEHMASTLE AMO. OPOCHTLE KA. A la derecha no. A la izquierda sí.
PETOLO, imitándola, y su voz con voz propia, amena- zante	AMO OPOCHTLE AMO YEHMASTLE A la derecha no, a la derecha no. TLAMELAUKA derecho!
Pedro le da un beso a María. María grita con terror. Pedro la deja suelta y se va, riendo.	HA HA HA
NOZIHTZIN? una voz nada más	MALINTZIN AXAN TIMOMACHITIA IPAMPA María hoy sabes tú porque AMO NIKNEKI NIKIIXMATIZ TLAKATL no quiero conocer a la gente.
MALINTZIN, llorando	NIPINAWA Tengo verguenza.

ACTO II. MALINTZIN / NOTAHTZIN / NOZIHTZIN (Invisible) / KONETL / KAWAYO  
María / Su padre / Abuela / Infante / Caballo

El interior de la choza.  
Un año después.  
Cuando se levanta el telon, María  
está arrodillada delante del metate,  
con su niño en la espalda. Su  
papá sentado durmido.

MALINTZIN, trabajando

MOLCHIWA  
Mole hago.

con voz suave

NOTAHTZIN NIKNEKI NIAS CHALMA  
Papá Quiero ir a Chalma.

Padre no contesta. Levantando la voz.

NOTAHTZIN NIKNEKI NIAS CHALMA

NOTAHTZIN, despierta algo

MALINTZIN AMO TIKPIA TLON IKA TIASKEH  
María ¿tenemos con qué ir

MALINTZIN, con decisión

AKEN MITSTLANEWKTIS KAWAYO  
Alguien te prestara un caballo

NOTAHTZIN, se levanta, y dirigién-  
dose al público, se  
quita el sombrero.

TOMAIKNEWAN WELES NEMONEKILTIS  
Amigos quizá querrán  
TECHTLANEWKTIS IN YOLCATL  
prestarnos un animal?

Cuando uno accede

KEMA? KEMA! TLAZQHKAMATI OMPAH NIAW  
Sí? Sí! Gracias Allá voy.  
SAN ACHI TEPITZIN NIWALLAS  
En un momento regresaré.

A Malintzin, lléndose

Notahtzin se va pa fuera.

MALINTZIN, voltea hacia las bam-  
balinas con alegría

NOZIHTZIN TIMONEKILTIA NOTLAKW  
Abuela, quieres venir conmigo  
TIWALMIKAZ TEHWAN TIKIXTISKEH  
allá! Nosotras sacaremos  
KIMILLE  
bultos.

NOZIHTZIN? la voz nada más

NEHWATL AMO NIKNEKI IKA. MOLCHIWA.  
No quiero ir allá. Mole hago.

María prepara dos canastas  
atadas juntas. Regresa su padre  
llevando en brazos un caballito.

NOTAHTZIN, pone el caballito  
en el suelo

NOMAIKNEW (aquí el nombre de algún  
conocido)

Mi amigo  
NECHMOTLANEWKTILI KAWAYO  
me presta caballo  
IWAN 'FUCHI'  
y su 'fuchi'

MALINTZIN, arregla las canastas  
sobre el caballo

NOTAHTZIN, con orgullo

María se sube en la silla.

NOTAHTZIN

Cambia el fondo a paisaje, con  
sugestión de andar.

Andan, pero por lados opuestos.  
Grita el padre.

MALINTZIN, sobre el caballo  
desbocado ya.

Ya al punto de caerse

Se cae de cabeza.

NOTAHTZIN, le da un bastón

María mata al caballito a palos.

MALINTZIN, bostezando  
Reclina, usando el  
caballo muerto como  
almohada.

NOTAHTZIN, hace lo mismo

A Malintzin, ya medio  
durmido

MALINTZIN, contesta, también  
medio durmida

Los dos duermen.

AMO NIKASIHKAMATI 'FUCHI'  
No comprendo 'fuchi.'

IPEHPECH MIHTOS 'FUCHI' KAXTILANKOPA  
Fuste se dice fuchi en español.  
XIMOKAWAHTLALI MALINTZIN  
Móntate a caballo, María.

KWALLE TIAS INTSALLAN HUAHCALTIN  
Qué bien vas entre los bultos.

OMPAH CHALMA TIASISKEH  
Para Chalma vamos.

XIKTENKWEPA YOLCATL MALINTZIN  
Dale vuelta al animal, María.

AWELLE NIKTENKWEPA. KINEKI KIKWAS  
No se puede volar. El quiere comer  
ZACATL  
yerba.

NIKNEKI NIKAWAHEMOS IPAN TETL  
Quiero desmontar en esta piedra.

NICAN KA TLACOTL IKA TIKMAKAS  
Aquí un bastón para pegarle.

NIKNEKI NIKOCHIS  
Tengo sueño.

ZAN NOIHKI  
Yo también.  
MOSTLA TLEN TLAKWALLE?  
Mañana qué comeremos?

MOSTLA KAWAHMOLE NOTAHTZIN  
mañana comeremos mole de caballo, p  
papá.

Cae la noche.

TELON

