

APPENDIX I

Sacred Prayer of the Cochineal Ritual

THE SACRED PRAYERS OF THE COCHINEAL RITUAL

your word the god nopal
your hand - - 39 your pustura
the ocote the three the earth
the god nopal - - 39 the god cochineal - - 39
your mother and your father - -39
great miracle the word miracle of life - - 39
the spirit saint - - 9 lemima liana - - 39
the lord spirit comtas quilla - - 39
your spirit - - 99 pieces
now i have come
i am going to rise up here where you are
where i may make payment
to the lord spirit the god earth
the snake obscure red or black
the lightening black and red guel sutay
to where he burst forth
to where he was born
the god nopal here where he grew
where they raise up
snake (culebra) nopal lightening nopal
they he may give what he has in his hand
to he that was born of nopal
the black spirit guel sutay he

spirit that gave
what price do you seek
miracle north wind miracle keeper of the house (casador)
miracle daughter of the earth
miracle
i dream miracle of my home
heed that you may not see
that you may not think
he that arrives in your heart
here you taught them and you taught
grown seeds that gave flower of smoke
flower of the earth (torr'ones)
here you see the nine plates
the nine that you eat
the sowing of blood
that it may not be that you frighten us
by the other heart
god nopal

i return to give the hand
 the great miracle lightning man
 i dig god nopal that it may blossom
 the remedy to the stopping
 here he taught that i may teach like the great miracle
 heed that you see
 or become frightened by the other heart
 north wind earth
 here is your good word

in order to extract the illness of the nopal earth
 begins the cochineal the lower terrain - - 37
 the lord spirit comtas guills - - 37
 lord seismina - - 37 spiny worm - - 7
 spiny wings - - 7 snake worm - - 7
 armadillo - - 7 gourd bowl (jicara) - - 7
 the incense (ocote) dog - - 7 naypu - - 7 rattlesnake - - 7
 masalengua - - 7 the tender one - - 7 the ant - - 7
 the cricket - - 7 snake worm - - 7 winged ones - - 7
 the good word here
 a better man

the water middle of the earth - - 39
 the lord capitogue middle of the earth - - 39
 gods of spirit - - 39 the lord pieces of earth - - 39
 the god pieces of earth - - 39
 the sister snake - - 39 the god snake - - 39
 the lord of illumination - - 39 the god moon - - 39
 the lord spirit - - 39 the great demon - - 39
 the great miracle - - 39 miracle of life - - 39
 now i have come
 i raise up the son lica mul
 not even i seek lica mul

to where is the mother the father
 to where is the life for living
 he told him son you see
 daughter that you may see
 in order to live the life of earth man
 the disclaiming the life
 he said so look to the east where the sun is born
 look to the west where the earth ends
 the aura of sky
 i make payment
 the afternoon arrives
 where your mother is
 and your father
 together
 red
 earth red eminge cumina

society of the grand

the sowing of the great miracle
 in preparation for the coming
 the one the two the three the four
 the five the six the seven the eight
 the nine where ten is made
 i inform the thunderbolt cochineal leconla
 where the stream is
 where you mother is and your father
 that he may take the dew
 the dew of thunderbolt
 thunderbolt
 that he may give the meal and the sea
 he runs through the dew
 the miracle man
 made your mother and your father
 look
 the cooking pot for dining that you seek
 the earth
 great miracle
 he puts it in the best milpa afoguaxco
 that you strike not
 the air
 it is one thunderbolt lion

mother father
 i take it i carry it
 the light
 the heart it paid
 that i become castogueta
 re-seed he said
 assembled are the nine plates
 the nine meals flower
 seeds flower guixilay
 i while away weeks north wind
 north wind

i point out the heron
 that he does not come to an understanding
 that he does not agree to bring her
 that she comes
 point of the earth
 point of the sky
 i take it the thunderbolt reed (otate)
 for the struggling he is told
 spirit of hands lumamica chite
 reed spirit cula spirit of hand
 it arrives i take it
 my son my heart he says
 no caxtoqueta
 re-seed he is told
 i show them the nine plates the nine meals
 the sowing the blood

he deceives he sprinkles the blood of star
 i return to scratch the earth
 the hand the great miracle thunderbolt man
 made the thunderbolt of lions dark lions
 lions
 society of the great

to the arrival to the coming
 the god nopal he is made
 spirit the aura
 he puts the offerings behind him
 i speak to him the great miracle
 fly here
 is your mother and your father

lightening cochineal
 gum of thunderbolt dew of thunderbolt
 mother and father
 i am going to destroy that which i gave
 so that it may be
 this the (letra)
 the society of the great
 he tells him
 place the body that it may be seen

he tells him good
 he tells him good son i search the earth
 it greets not
 they give it not
 the word
 leap if it greets you
 they told you they adore you
 unto the earth they tell you
 good you understand that he may take you
 your mother your father
 and strikes you not
 that it may come
 the one the two the three the four
 the five the six the seven the eight the nine
 he seeks he offers the smoke
 that he scatters the god nopal
 that he guards the seed
 the spine that spills the blood of the nopal

gnonfinchiale

(bastong) of god nopal of (tortuga)
 he says
 the miracle the great miracle three
 i search for illness
 i walk
 he told him you come
 not the thunder

where are you going to hide from the dust
 of the spirit
 i follow it
 i tell him
 you tell him when i come
 you tell him i close when i come
 that i may tell him lminge
 dust of the earth sutay
 where is preserved this that is heard
 the incense the three gums
 red comes the lord seismina
 he guards the great miracle
 he tells him who
 north wind my heart
 he tells him
 this daughter heart

that she may tell him the great miracle lord
 my lord nothingness gueyxtogueta
 re - seed he tells them
 the nine plates the nine meals
 the long seeds
 flower of smoke flower of gum
 the dog star
 north wind if it is good let it be
 that it may become i
 he recalls
 he
 that he may take it
 the (letra)
 the (letra) of the hours the (letra) of life
 the (letra) of the great society
 in preparation of the knowing
 my son
 it does not beg it does not salute
 they do not give you the word you seek
 make happy your heart that it may go
 where it is saluted

where it adores you
 earth also your home your life
 they say
 son he begs you
 filth that it may be drawn out
 the straight path the good
 it seeks you
 the earth
 it salutes you that it might give you the word
 that it may not pass that he may not speak
 i come to an end that i may not speak
 you learned the word of the society
 that i may be quiet great miracle

that he comes
 i hid spirit dust earth
 spirit chutay spirit black spirit
 that seeks the incense the three
 that takes a walk
 this flower of hand and feet
 i finish he said
 great miracle flower of my life
 i gave of life

i speak to him
 i saw it he tells him
 son my heart
 i take him the best drinks
 great miracle
 give him thunder black nopal
 he tells him
 father mother daughter
 i cut the nopal
 i take it thunder of nopal
 the two dark black plants of plants
 in order to cut the face
 the skin spirit gula tola
 in order to cut where i beg filth
 my husband come he says
 that if they carry it out
 he is called
 so he tells him do not make a hole
 the (jicara)
 the (jicara) of iron

the (jicara) of great refuse
 that they take the straw mat thunder
 receive it great one
 i fly to give the hand
 lightning man
 made the bowl the pieces of the bowl
 refuse of the great god nopal
 daughter days he gave my life
 my life to live
 listen look daughter heart
 here life to the world that might have gone

do not frighten the other heart
 the bird here is the word
 the hill of spirits - - 39
 lord of the thunder of thread - - 39
 lord hairless lion - - 39
 this finished and departed
 the illness the felling
 this the spirit where are the great spirits
 the thunders

i show them the great seeds that it gave the flower of gum
 flower of smoke that it passes the life
 north wind god the damnation
 great one of the thunder
 i show them
 i offer them
 they show them
 the great miracle the good word

the great miracle teacher of life
 is going where the sun rises and
 the afternoon where the sun sets
 the aura of the earth
 the other aura of the earth
 where i saw not the light the life
 he said the great miracle teacher of life
 he does nothing
 the light the life
 your nine to the sky you will flash
 lord i show you

he told him
 lord light that comes
 do it
 he said comes your nine to the sky
 he said who is it
 your nine to the sky answered the lord light
 he tells him nothing
 asked the spirit
 re - seed
 nothing happened
 he speaks to him
 he tells him
 flash of lighting flash the great miracle
 miracle of life lord spirit
 spirit re - seed well
 that takes the miracle hill of the maiden
 the miracle rows of offering
 the miracle returns he tells him

the lord of the sky the black sky
 the lightening sky
 such is your hand your foot god nopal
 he reaches the point of seeding
 of hearing
 it is good guard it
 the place the great
 that he carries that he goes forward that he comes
 the sevens north wind
 the nine north wind
 the he rests that he continues to sleep
 to your awakening

what a thought
 what do you think he is not here to god nopal
 he finished
 and he ran to where they enter the mountain

good take it
 you want the number
 so that he takes the nine to the sky
 where is your mother your father
 the god nopal alone what do you require
 what do you ask what do you say
 lord of the sky darkness of the sky
 give me the one to be cared for
 your heart i take it i carry it
 what says your mother your father
 what do you make so far
 what do you ask what do you say
 the miracle man the miracle of life
 he has not arrived the road where he sings out
 he tells him the great miracle
 you have not asked what is it that you request
 spirit my dream
 i give the word
 he says spirit re - seed

in line
 in order to speak
 in order to struggle with oneself
 in order to live
 the man of the earth when they bring the seed
 the blood
 your word
 that i take the plate of blood the plate of gum
 in order to water you the earth
 in order to find you the darkness
 peace of the earth that aura
 your plate he tells him
 it waits that you take it
 that you come to take it

good that you carry
 that you go
 that you arrived the seven north wind
 the nine north wind
 what do you give the north wind
 the nine north wind
 the one to care for lives
 he rests
 the great miracle the miracle of the life
 lord spirit he calls it
 he tells him you take it you carry it the god nopal
 if you want him

what phantom
 that you embrace that you take
 what do you tell him what will be
 that you might have been
 that you put the word to life
 what do you tell him dust of the earth
 i pay he tells him good
 that you look for it the incense
 the three
 that you look
 for it became your hands your feet
 the god nopal

he tells him great miracle miracle of the life
 that you might have looked for me
 he told me
 my heart i am going to care for
 i am going to fatten
 what is your reply
 great miracle great miracle of the life
 what do you say what words do you send me
 that it might not arrive
 that i might care for it that it is fattened
 what do you say the great miracle miracle of the life
 here you fill the life the grand life
 he puts together the nine to the sky
 so i return to ask that you bring the god grain
 god thread
 what do you day lord of the sky
 blackness of the sky
 i take it i carry it god cochineal

god thread
 ask your mother your father
 not to be frightened to the caring to the fattening
 as i told you
 my word of spirit
 the seed of the blood the plate of gum
 do not betray the other heart
 what do you say to him the great miracle
 the miracle of life
 that you guard that you take it that you carry it
 what do you day the lightening of lions
 the lions
 great refuse that you send it

the herb ash your life
 you tell him
 don't tell of the visit until
 no longer arrives your mother and your father
 that i gave him the great miracle the miracle of the life
 that they arrive the seven north wind

the nine north wind
 he says so
 you arrive to the day you arrive to the life
 you go away to the hill your hill
 spirit of nature where the lords are
 gods lights
 where do they run the nine of the sky
 the nine to the world
 he says lords
 gods i carry it away
 your black one your herb i begin

i return to set before you god north wind
 to the giving
 he says lords spirit
 re - seed he says
 great miracle to the seeing
 the spirit the aura of the blood the plate of blood
 the plate of gum
 that you receive it good
 that you carry that it might go
 that it comes where the god nopal is
 that you want that you put the hand the feet
 what do you say
 it is made my life my good living
 i return to dig
 the word god thread god nopal god north wind
 what is your reply
 that you take it that it lives
 the man of the earth that he may speak
 that you tell him
 that you might give him to they that sell

that which i place
 i beg the earth
 that i ask thread that he enters
 the god thread the god
 that place of greeting i give my word
 they day the great spirit the spirit of woman
 to show the life the good living
 he that disturbs he that sows
 which do you want he that disturbs he that sows
 he that salutes he strikes the word also
 he is frightened
 the other heart lord great demon lord

here he will arrive they give you the word
 the seven
 that he carries down the course of prayer
 'earth lord devil that he salutes
 that he prays of this earth
 leap that you may go here where they salute

i give you the word
 all my strength that you speak
 the other heart the good
 here is the good word

your house
 the lord that he enlightens
 lord moon - - 9 lord of the sky - - lord of the world - - 9
 lord of the great spirit - - 9 the north wind - - 9
 the stone grinder (metate) - - 9 the bowl - - 9
 the water - - 9 the parched corn - - 9
 pieces god north wind your mother and your father
 to the lord i pray in the arroyo
 the god that arrives
 the arroyo the incense the spirit
 the north wind the great devil spirit
 the great spirit - - 37

i arrived where the spirit of the house is
 the spirit of the life
 that he may go not
 that he is frightened not by the other heart
 he says here i show them
 i advise him the great miracle
 the nine plates the nine of offering
 where the water is the best
 where you eat the best blood
 god thread north wind the god that he might harvest
 that it may not be that he frightens the other heart
 son the other heart
 now i take you i carry you
 you are going to drink the spirit of the life
 that he may give you the word

of the life the bird is here
 word god thread

Glossary for the Cochineal Ritual

afoguaxco - Difficult to translate from the Chontal. It seems to be an ancient kind of milpa.

bastong and nopal de tortuga - Two useless varieties of nopal.

flower of the earth (torro'nes) - This refers to the pieces of Copal.

frighten us by the other heart - Chontal deities can be both good and evil in spirit simultaneously. The other heart, therefore, is the heart of a demon.

god thread (hilo) - The cochineal or the grano is referred to as the god of thread. Juan explains that the cochineal secretes a thread very much like spider webbing. It may also be metaphorically connected to the dying process.

great refuse - The Spanish word given here is "basura" and is used in a metaphorical sense. Copal is looked upon as the cast-off or refuse of the gods. Therefore, to burn copal is to return something associated with the divine to the gods.

grano - The grano is the cochineal, referred to as grano because of its granular appearance.

heron - In Spanish this was referred to as "garza." Garza does not refer to an animal however, but carries the metaphorical meaning of the entire ceremony. The heron is therefore the ceremony.

i while away weeks - This refers to lost days or weeks. It may have some relationship to the Aztec unlucky days which fell at the end of a year.

letra - This refers to the greatness of a civilization; it is a religious concept, probably meaning the understanding or knowledge of things on a grand scale - - the Word.

mother and father - The parents of the cochineal. This is the "seed" which begins the producing of cochineal on the nopal.

ocote - Substitute incense used as an offering in place of copal.

pustura - Arrangement of the ceremony in the form of a square with a candle at each cardinal point.

sprinkles - This refers to the sowing of blood in a sanga or canal running from east to west.

the bird is here - The reference here is to the heron or ceremony being presented.

the herb ash - This probably refers to the herb tlapalnextli (Nahuatl) which is mixed with the cochineal in preparation of the dying medium.

thunderbolt (rayo) - According to Juan, thunder and lightning are calmed by the burning of a pot of copal. If the burning of copal does not cause the thunder and lightning to calm, a plate of salt is placed in a fire and heated. As the salt heats, it jumps. Salt is the enemy of thunder and lightning and causes it to stop.

winged ones - - 7 - - Offerings of 7 (numbers 7, 27, 14, and 37 are indicative of supplication to an evil spirit) are made to this and previously named insects which might be attacking the nopal plant. Offerings are being made to the spirits of the insects which seem to form part of the naturalistic spirit world.

you eat the best blood - This obviously refers to the nine plates of blood which have been offered throughout the ritual, but it may also refer to the cochineal's eating of the nopal and growing fat like a blood blister.

your mother your father - This refers to the transplantation of cochineal from one plant to another. The prayer here is being directed toward the insect.

Source: Bufis 1971, p. 18-32.