

Quetzalcoatl the King

Mexīcae longaeua canō prīmordia gentis
 Ēgrediā quae stirpe fluēns Toltēca superbit,
 Nūminis afflātū dīvinōs nacta triumphōs
 Rex dum iūra dabat Quetzāl cognōmine Cōatl,
 5 Multa diū bellō passus longōque labōre
 Pāce super, dīvis nōtās dum conderet artēs,
 Quinque ferē regnō lustrīs lābentibus almō
 Scepra tulit mīrōque genus dītāvit honōre,
 Parcere subiectīs superāns ratiōne furōrem.
 10 Pātribus hortātus, soliō vix sēderat altō,
 Rādere iussit humum rastrīs et sēmina sulcīs
 Irriguō nūtrīta solō committere ductīs.
 Nōbile sīc crēvit cācāum nectare pōtus
 Coelestī potior, nātīvaque farra comānsque
 15 Gossipium. Certās āgrīs hortisque colendīs
 Instituit lēgēs praeceptaque grāta colōnō.

TRANSLATION

Of the ancient beginnings of the Mexican people I sing
 Which, rising from the illustrious Toltec root, shines forth;
 Having gained its holy triumphs by the breath of divine will
 While King Quetzal by surname Coatl gave laws, Inc.
 Having suffered many things in war and in extended labor
 In peace besides, while he founded arts known to the gods,
 In almost five lustra (twenty-five years) slipping by, with uplifting power
 He bore the scepter and enriched the race with outstanding honor,
 Overcoming rage with reason (in order) to spare the conquered.