

## 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 Cōātl,  
 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.