

Both good and wise and already more mature than his years  
 They say he migrated to Tula, capital of the world of the ancients,  
 Powerful with Toltec authority. Here, extending the branch of rich olive  
 For peace and pardon he asked: “spare the helpless and keep the hostile  
 throngs  
 From bloody slaughter. Both with sacrificial slaughter and  
 with foul blood; being gentle, prohibit sacrifices from the rite.  
 Withhold threats against brothers and hostile crowds.  
 After battle, let a harmonious treaty lead to arts.  
 Created by the decisions of divine power, more sacred offspring  
 Of all living things and one owed to eternal heaven,  
 The human race demands for itself its earned honors.”

### GRAMMAR AND WORD USE QUESTIONS

1. From lines 37 and 38, give and translate two examples of litotes (see Appendix 3).

*Non iustior* “none more just”; *nec amantior* “nor more loving.”

2. Explain the syncope (see Appendix 3) in line 40 and translate the word.

*Migrasse stands for migravisse* “to have migrated (traveled).”

3. The last word in line 44 looks very much like a word in line 47. Translate both words.

*Foeda* “foul”; *foedus* “treaty.”

4. Give and translate a figure of speech in line 50.

*Genus poscit* “the race demands”—personification.

### COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. In what three ways do Quetzalcoatl’s beginnings resemble those of many classical mythological figures?

*He was born of a maiden and a god, he was brought up by relatives other than parents, and he was taught by Muses.*

2. Name four good qualities the youth Quetzalcoatl possessed.

*He was just, wise, good, and mature.*

3. Name two things he preached against when he reached Tula.  
*Bloody sacrifice and bitterness after war.*
4. What does he say of the whole human race?  
*That it is the sacred offspring of the divine and deserves honor.*



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