

Quetzalcoatl Gains Support

Quetzalcoatl has come to the great capital Tula as an immigrant teacher and prophet, and his speeches exhorting the people to respect all living things do not please the priests of the god Tezcatlipoca, who demanded war and blood sacrifice, including human hearts. Others, however, reacted differently.

Tālia fundēbat vehemens hortantia dicta

Auribus arrectis vulgī sanctīque senātus,

Persuādēns animīs commūnī intentus amōrī.

110 Ille rudī cultū paucīs comitātus alumnīs

Ībat et ērudiēns vulgus spem laetus alēbat.

Dēmissa ad tālōs vestis tegit horrida villīs

Prōcērum corpus, crīnēs iactantur utrinque

Plūrimaque in pectūs undāns cadit hispida barba.

115 Utque gradūs effert multō spectātus in urbe

Indigenās mulcet mūnītō pectore dictīs;

“Bellua bella movet, feritās aliēna virīs est,

Nec simul incēdunt hominis nātūra furorque.

Victima nec pecus omne cadat fūmantibus ārīs

120 Exta nec ēripiat vōtīvī corporis augur.

Candida corda placent Superīs nōn tincta cruōre

Hostia, sanguis alit caedēs mortālibus aegrīs.”