

Calm and amiable,  
consider, oh Lords,  
whatever is best.  
We cannot be tranquil,  
and yet we certainly do not believe;  
we do not accept your teachings as truth,  
even though this may offend you.

Here are  
the Lords, those who rule,  
those who sustain, whose duty is to  
the entire world.  
Is it not enough that we have already lost,  
that our way of life has been taken away,  
has been annihilated.

Were we to remain in this place,  
we could be made prisoners.  
Do with us  
as you please.

This is all that we answer,  
that we reply,  
to your breath,  
to your words,  
Oh, our Lords!<sup>2</sup>

After Miguel Leon Portilla  
"Aztec Thought and Culture"