

①

And the symbol Seven Flower
 was said to be both good and bad.
 When good, they celebrated it
 with great devotion;
 the painters honored it,
 they painted its image,
 they made offerings to it.
 The embroiderers were also joyful
 under this symbol.
 First they fasted in its honor,
 some for eighty days, or forty,
 or they fasted for twenty days.

And this is why they made these supplications
 and performed these rites:
 to be able to work well,
 to be skillful,
 to be artists like the Toltecs,
 to order their works well,
 whether embroidery or painting.

For this reason they all burned incense
 and made offerings of quail.
 And they all bathed and sprinkled themselves
 when the fiesta began,
 when the symbol Seven Flower was honored.

And when this symbol was bad,
 when an embroiderer broke her fast,
 they said that she deserved to become a woman of the streets,

this was her reputation and her way of life,
 to work as a prostitute.

But for the one whose actions were good,
 who worked well, who guided herself,
 all was good; she was esteemed,
 she made herself worthy of esteem
 wherever she might be.

It was also said
 that whoever was born on that day
 would thereby be greatly skilled
 in the several arts of the Toltecs.
 He would work like a Toltec,
 he would bring things to life,
 he would be wise of heart,
 all this, if he guided himself well.⁶⁴

②

He who gives life to clay:
 his eye is keen, he molds
 and kneads the clay.

The good potter:
 he takes great pains with his work;
 he teaches the clay to lie;
 he converses with his heart;
 he makes things live, he creates them;
 he knows all, as though he were a Toltec;
 he trains his hands to be skillful.

The bad potter:
 careless and weak,
 crippled in his art.⁶⁷

③

The death
 which our fathers, brothers, and sons met
 was not because they owed anything;
 nor for stealing or lying.
 It was for the honor
 of our country and nation
 and for the valor of our Mexican Empire;
 and for the honor and glory
 of our god and Lord Huitzilopochtli.⁴⁴

④

Not with envy,
 not with a twisted heart,
 shall you feel superior,
 shall you go about boasting.
 Rather in goodness shall you make true
 your song and your word.
 And thus you shall be highly regarded,
 and you shall be able to live with the others.³⁵

If you live uprightly,
 you shall be held highly for it,
 and people will say of you
 what is appropriate, what is just.³⁶

⑤

⑥

They preserved their history.
 But it was burned
 at the time that Itzcoatl reigned in Mexico.
 The Aztec lords decided it,
 saying:
 "It is not wise that all the people
 should know the paintings.
 The common people would be driven to ruin
 and there would be trouble,
 because these paintings contain many lies,
 for many in the pictures have been hailed as gods."³⁹

It was said, that in the twelfth heaven
 our fates were determined.
 When the child is conceived,
 when he is placed in the womb,
 his fate comes to him there;
 it is sent to him by the Lord of Duality.³⁶

⑦