

## Kab'iix "Latina" Chweh, Paneh Na In Latina Taj<sup>1</sup>

Rumaal AjT'ziib': Julia Gomez Ixmatá

Jee la' kab'iix *indios*, *Marías*, *ajti'koneel*, *moos*, *meeba'h*...

Chiri' ajsik pa releb'al kaqiiq' kab'ixiik chi oj *Latinos*, *Hispanos*.

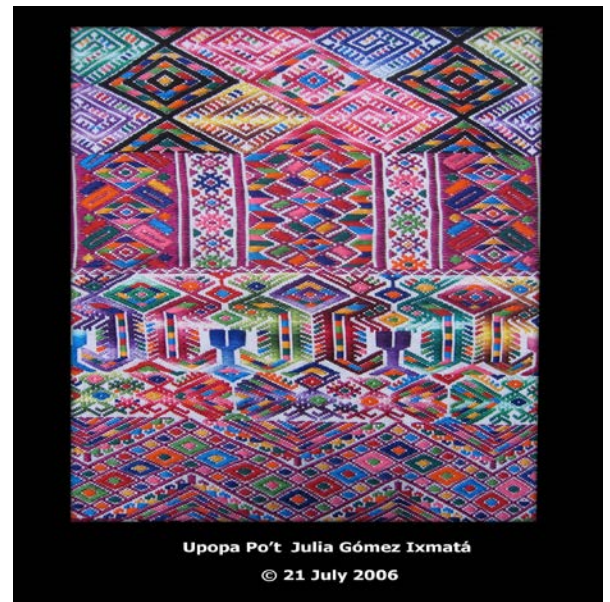
Chuq kab'ixiik chi oj na *legal* taj, xaa oj ma'lik paneh na keeta'aam taj jasa quliik qab'anoom, puneh chuq saqsii waraal oj k'oo wih, pa wee qanik'aj sutil uwachuleew.

In maj juun cheech wa' ri', ni jumuul taj kinuxiik.

Koh nuuchapeem lee nuch'ab'aal, K'ichee'.

Kinwatziaqiiq lee qatz'iyab'aal ronejeel taq q'iiq,  
ruk' ki'kotemaal, unima'lil.

Wuk'a'aam nuuchapeem lee ojeer qab'antajiiq  
keech ri ee qati't qamaam, ee qawi' qajoloom.



Iiweta'aam chi na in *Latina* taj, maa xiiwetzelaaj uya'iik lee wuuj reech lomab'al wakatb'al, puneh<sup>2</sup> sib'alaaj naaj xiniyeb' cheech. Are k'u maaj uk'axaal xiyaa chikeh lee ajiil tz'qaat lee kikojom ub'ik atz'yaq b'anoom puchii' ch'iich' t'isomb'aal. Chuq loq'otal apanoq pa *China*.

Chuq iiweta'aam arechi' xiiuruxuteej cheer na xink'ex taj lee ukaab' nub'ii'.

Aarechi' xiiyaa lee wuuj reech q'axenb'al chweech, pa releb'aal kaqiiq'.

Chuq arechi' xiib'iiq jas kab'aan cheh, usik'ixiik lee ukaab' nub'ii', maa na si ta aree kinb'an cheh.

Na in *hispana* taj, pa ri naab'eh q'iiij xinb'ee pa ri tijob'al reech retaamaxiik ESL, areetaq lee ajtiiij xub'iiij chi rajawaxiik qonojeel kaqatz'iib'aaj q'ib' pa taq lee cholaaaj jawii' kariqitaj wih lee qab'antajiik oj winaq, pa wee uwachuleew. Maj k'u juun xintz'ib'aaj wih wib' in: aj-*Africa*, aj-*Arabia*, aj-*China*, aj-*Europa*, aj-*Japón*, aj-*Corea*, chi'l *Hispanos*....

Iiweta'aam chi na in *Hispana* taj areetaq xiniyeb' na jub'iiq', xintzijon ruk' lee wajtiiij jawi' xub'iiij wih chi utz wee kintz'ib'aaj wib' pa jun chik cholaaaj, jaawi' kub'iiij wih, nik'aaj chik.

Iiweta'aam areetaq lee ee wachi'iil tijoxelaab' xuyaa jun tz'e'aal tziiij chikeh, ee nik'aaj xkib'iiij, "Julia, majayanah kaqatik ruk' lee nabee ramaaj tijob'al; ri at na kaakoij taj chi awib' chi at Latina, xaq ri' xaakoij laa awib' chi at *gringa* na xaawiye'j ta nah jub'iiq'."

Iiweta'aam chi na in *Latina on hispana* taj, maa na si ta utz lee nutzijoneem, ch'aweem pa lee kaxlan tziiij.

Chuq iiweta'aam, rumaal na kina' taj lee upoqonaal, b'aaqaeem lee iixuruxuteem.

Iiweta'aam chuqje' areetaq kintzijon pwii lee uk'asleemaal ub'antajiik lee qach'ab'aal ruk' lee Kaxlan Ch'ab'aal.

Iiweta'aam chi na in *Latina* taj areetaq kiitaa chweh wee jee la' kinpee pa *Otavallo* on pa *Oaxaca*, chuq wee ne in aj *San Juan Chamula*.

Iiweta'aam chuqje' areetaq kiib'iiij chi aree utz wee aree kink'amowaaj retaamaxiik lee kaxlan ch'ab'aal, na aree taj lee Q'anchi'.

Iiweta'aam chuqje' areetaq nojimaal xiitziijooj chi jujun chiiweh ee k'oo iiwati't iimaam xeech'aaw pa qas ch'ab'aal.<sup>3</sup>

Iiweta'aam chi na in *latina* taj, maa na kitak'ab'aataj lee b'inb'aal ch'iich' pa taq lee tak'alb'al areetaq in iniye'b'enaq cheech.

Iiweta'aam areetaq na kiiyatab'eh chweh kinok pa taq lee nima'q taq warab'al puneh nutojom chik, sib'alaaj are kiiwaaj kiiiwesaa'j ub'ik.

Chuqje' iiweta'aam chi na in *latina* taj xaa rumaal sib'alaaj utz walachixiik kib'anoh pa taq lee ik'ayib'aal.

Chuqje' iiweta'aam maa k'i-alaaj muul aree kiiwaaj kiixelq' atij taq lee cholaaj chi nuwach areetaq chi' kinloq'omanik, areechi' kinpaqi pa taq lee ch'iich', areechi' in k'oh pa taq lee jah k'olb'al reech taqb'al jastaq uchii wuu'j.

Na in *latina* taj xaa rumaal chi lee nuleej ruk' nuq'ab' kinsaq' wih; na xaa taj kinpitz'oh.

Chuqje' iiweta'aam areetaq kiiwiloh chi xew lee leej, sub', kinaq', chi'l lee iik kaq'ab'an nunumiik.

Chuqje' iiweta'aam areetaq kiimayijaaj wiliik cheech lee unuk'iik lee q'aaq', ruk' nuuq'ab', na ruk' taj lee ch'iich' chokonisab'aal.

Na in *latina* taj xa rumaal chi sib'alaaj utz nuq'atutexiik kab'aniik areetaq chi' kinopan pa taq lee uqajb'al xik'ik'eem taq ch'iich', puneh jorojob'naq taq lee eyawaal-k'ayowaal.<sup>4</sup>

Chuqje' sib'alaaj tzel kinitoh areetaq kinch'aaw pa nuch'ab'aal k'uk' lee ee waal, chi kixo'l winaq.

K'oor katak'i' staq iweyawaal, kib'iij, "Waraal kujch'aaw pa *Americano*, na pa *Arabe* taj!"

Iiweta'aam chi na in *latina* taj, maa kib'aq'uuj uwach lee nuk'oxomab'aal-eta'mab'aal.

Iiweta'aam puch areetaq chi xiitziujuj o'laaj k'al taq'aja'l pwaq, chi iik' chweh jaawichi' rajawaxiik kinb'an wih ronojeel uwach chaak pataan pa lee ajupajah.

Chuq iiweta'aam areetaq nojiim xipaqab'aa pa juuq'oob' lee wajiil areetaq chi' xinb'iij chi weta'aam jampaa' lee uq'ii<sup>5</sup> jun ajchaak q'atoom, rumaal q'atb'al tziij.

Iiweta'aam chi na in *latina* taj areetaq chi', kitaa kitzijool konojeel lee iiwajch'ab'e'l keepee pa Iximuleew, pa chaa lee naan Petro'n pa Kob'an; a Xwan pa Kuchumatan; chi'l al Mari'y pa Xelaju'.

Iiweta'aam areetaq kitaa chweh, wee qas tziij chi lee al Rigoberta Menchu' karaaj kutoj uk'e'x ronojeel lee ketzelaal lee aa Musaaab'<sup>6</sup> pa Iximuleew.

Chuq iiweta'aam areetaq kitaa' chweh jas kinchomaaj puwi' lee uq'atb'al tziij lee RajPoop Bolivia, Evo Morales.

Chuq iiweta'aam maa iitoom jutiiij kaamuul wee kab'anik kinb'iij jas ub'antajiik lee upalaj lee *Subcomandante* Markux.

Iiweta'aam chi na in *latina* taj areetaq kiitaa chweh jas kuux lee iiwach'ik', chuq wee kinkowinik kinsik'iij, upaq'ab'aaj, chuq wee neh kinkowin kinwil apanoq lee chuweq kab'iij.

Iiweta'aam areetaq xiitoo jas uwach lee pataan poronik xinb'aan cheh "uximiik" lee wachajiil.

Iiweta'aam areetaq kiitaa wee kinkowinik kintoj uk'axeel etzelaal, chuq na kik'amowaaj taj lee nu-ja'ii', chuq xaa kib'aq'uj uwach areetaq kinb'iij chi in Qas Winaq<sup>7</sup> na in aj-'iitz taj.

Na in *latina* taj, maa kasaach nuk'u'x chi riliik lee wah uk'iya' katilileex ub'ik, xa rumaal weta'aam lee uk'axk'oliil kuk'am uloq paqawi' qonojeel.

Kiiwiloh chi na in *latina* taj, maa kinikayeej areetaq kinsik' lee ixiiim lee tzaqinaq pa taq lee b'eh.

Chuq kiiwiloh chi na in *latina* taj, maa na kinsik'aaj taj lee siik' cheech nuki'k'otemaal; xaa kintzakoh, kinkoj cheech nukunab'aal.

Na in *latina* taj, maa xaa jutiiij kinramiiij lee nuwi' pa jun junaab'.

Iiweta'aam chi na in *latina* taj maa maj kub'iij nuk'u'x chee uq'axexiik uq'ijiil uroo' q'iij reech *Mayo*, uro'lajuuj q'iij *Septiembre*; are kaqaq'axeej urox q'iij *Mayo*, chi'l Wajxaqiib' B'aatz'.

Iiweta'aam chi na in *latina* taj areetaq xiitaa chweh pwi' lee "uk'isb'al uwachuleew" pa junaab' jo'oob' ub'eleej winaq roxlaaj q'oob'.<sup>8</sup>

Iiweta'aam maa xaa k'u xiib'aq'uuj areechi' xinb'iij chi lee uk'isiik uchooloxiik, jun chik ramaaj usolib'al uparaqan q'iij, na aree ta kub'iij wa' chi aree uk'isb'al uwachuleew.

Iiweta'aam chuq je' areetaq kiniiterene'j cheech relesaxiik taq wachib'aal areetaq weqaam aq'anoq lee waal chwiiij, maj utayik b'eh kiib'anoh.

Chuq iiweta'aam areetaq chi' kiib'iij wee in lee in kati't lee eewaal, xaa rumaal chi nukojom atz'iyaaq keech ojeer taq winaq waraal, chuq wine' in lee in chajineel chi keh lee ak'alab', areetaq chi' kujel apanoq pa lee b'eh.

Chuq iiweta'aam areechi' kiib'iij chi lee ee waal sib'alaaj taq ee *je'lik*, chuq *suk'ul* ri kiina'ooj, rumaal "kub'iij qak'u'x chi lee kitaat na qawinaq taj."<sup>9</sup>

Iiweta'aam chi na in *latina* taj areechi' kixyoq'on chi nuwach, chikeech ee nik'aj chik ajiil tz'aqaat ee Qas Winaq kepee pa taq nik'aaj chik amaq' tinamit.

Iiweta'aam areetaq chi' kitatab'eej ee jachin ri nuwokaaj rija'aal, kitaa chweh pa taq b'eh, cho taq lee uwaa saq reech tijob'al, on pa taq k'ayib'al.

Iiweta'aam rumaal chi na iisuk'mayiim taj iwib', cheech ronojeel lee uk'axaal iiya'oom pa lee qak'aslemaal: lee elaq', lee kamisanik, lee yoq'onik-kichonik, b'anooj taq tziij, lee b'aq'wachaaj tiktoteem, lee alachixineem, chuqjee lee kalkateem req'oweem pwii lee qatinamit.

Le eewachi'iil qawinaqiil, keepeh pa releb'al kaqiiq', pa uqajb'al kaqiiq' keta'aam chi na nusachoom taj lee qas nub'antajiik,<sup>10</sup> xa k'u cha' kinkich'ab'eej, kakiyaa rutzil nuwach pa taq lee kitziij, kich'ab'aal, tzijob'al pachaa: B'atz'il K'op, Inuktitut, Kanien'kéha, Nāhuatlahtōlli, on pa Meemul Ch'ab'aal.

Keetaa'am chi na in *latina* taj rumaal chi kakik'amowaaj chweh maa na kink'ix taj che lee nub'antajiik.

Keta'aam rumaal keemaltyoxinik keek'amowik chee lee watz'iyaaq kinkoj ronojeel taq q'iij maa chwi nuq'aab' keel wih.

Keeta'aam xaa k'u cha' keesik'in k'ut pa taq lee mulim taq iib' jawi' kojkwonik kojtzijon pa uwi' taq lee qab'antajiik jachaa lee kunab'al kaqakoj pa taq lee upaqo'ch, pa taq lee qawokaaj.

Qeta'aam chuqje', kuk' lee ee wachi'iil qawinaqiil chi sib'alaaj niim ub'antajiik, uq'ijiil ucholaaj, lee qija'aal oj Qas Winaq punee chuq qeta'aam chi sib'alaaj k'ax ruk'axiik, riliik xaa rumaal iiweech.

Qeta'aam chi oj naturaliib' areetaq kujunamaaj rib' ri qachomaniik puwii lee k'aslemaal, qak'oxomaam chi lee mek'ek'eem ajawareem, arela' lee uxe' ruk'amal k'aslemaal.

Kaqaterene'j k'ut uchapiik, ruk'axiik ri kak'utuw ri qab'antajiik; jachaa lee qach'ab'aal, qatziyaqib'aal ri xkiyaa kanoq ri oojeer taq Qataat, Qanaan.<sup>11</sup>

Chuqje' qeta'aam areetaq kaqamayijaaj lee utz'aqiik uwokiil lee uje'laal taq lee qachaak qaq'o'b'aal.

Chuq qeta'aam areetaq kaqasik'iij qib' pa taq lee chomaal; cheech riliik utayiik jupaaj kapaaj tziiij no'jib'al kaya'ik. Chuq cheech utayiik utz'oniik ri na ya'oom taj chi qeech, chuq jee pa taq lee muliim ib' keech Qas Winaq.

Chuq qeta'aam areetaq kaqato'la' taq qib' pa taq lee rajawaxiik, kaqasik'ij qib' kaqataa qatzijool chirib'ilom taq qib'.

Le ee wach Naturaliib' qeta'aam chi na oj junaam taj qonojeel, areetaq kaqanatajsaj aq'anoq chi oj naab'eh, oj k'oo waraal pa wee Setul Uwachuleew.<sup>12</sup>

Qeta'aam qak'amowaam chi oj petinaq pa k'ih uwach taq tinamit, ma<sup>13</sup> k'aree ta kub'ij wa' chi xaa quqxa'nim qib'.

Qeta'aam areetaq kaqiloh, kaqariqoh lee ujunamatajeem taq lee qaaq'axeem pa taq lee qak'aslemaal.

Qeta'aam areetaq k'oo lee junamaam k'amowaam iib' chi qaxo'l, cheech utzukuxiik uch'o'jixiik lee utziil ub'e'eel chi qaxo'l qonojeel.

Lee ee wach taq naturaliib', na oj taj lee kojyakow aq'anoq taq lee etzelaal kamisanik.

Chuq na oj taj xujk'utuw uyojiik, uchikixiik lee uwachulew.

Na oj junaam taj iiwuk' areetaq xiiwaaj xiisachisaaj uwach ri qab'antajiik jachaa lee qatzij qach'abaal, ronojeel lee naq'atal ub'aniik pa taq lee qawokaaj, pa taq lee qatinamit.

Chuq na oj taj xaq kaqapaq' upaq'iij cheech kiyooq'iik utze'xiik uwach lee qajule'aal pa wee uwachulew. Ri oj Naturalib' taq winaq lee jule'aal, juun cheech ri nimalaaj uje'laal uchaak upataan ri Qaqajaaw<sup>14</sup> xuyaa chiqeh qonojeel oj winaq.

Nu suk'ub'aam k'u wib' puwii lee nu b'antajiik.

In Mayaab', K'ichee' Winaq, ub'i'.

In echab'eneel reech kawokaaj k'aslemaal, ri keech ri ojer tzij chuq jee lee keech aa musaab' xeepee pa saqa setul uwachulew, cheech utoqixiik<sup>15</sup> ronojeel lee uq'inomaal wee qasetul. Chi la' puch in teleneel, uk'aneel, chajineel k'ut cheech uterne'xiik pa wee nuk'aslemaal, wik'ilaal-nuch'umilaal uloq waraal.

Lee utz'ib'akiik, utzijoxiik lee nub'antajiik chi na in Latina taj, maaj uk'isiik; niim kuk'am ub'ik lee uch'ob'iik.

Lee uch'ob'iik lee uk'aslemaal lee Qas Winaq, pwii lee uk'axaal etzelaal kamik k'ut xaa tajin kanimarik, maa sib'alaaj k'ih naa kach'ob'otaj taj.

Xaa k'ucha' qawa'lijsaaj b'aqib' qonojeel, cheech uja'mariik jub'eq' lee uk'axaal etzelaal qariqoom. Mata b'axaa chujtob'an cheech reletzaxiik aq'anoq qib'.

Naan, taat, alab'oom, alitomaab', alaq taq ak'alaab' maqatzaq b'a' lee gas qab'antajiik Pa jun q'iij k'ut kaqiloh kaqamayijab'ej chik'unah lee uraxaal uq'inomaal lee uwachulew. Pachaa riliik lee uwa q'iij, lee iik' kel uloq chirij taq lee juyub', taq'aaj, lee xkanuul, lee poloh.





Utikiik lee Nab'ee Peraaj Keem, rumaal Julia Gómez Ixmatá

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## Notes

by Erich Fox Tree

<sup>1</sup> The K'ichee' phrase in the title translates in English literally as “[Some] have called me ‘Latina,’ although I am not Latina.”

<sup>2</sup> The author varies between two alternative pronunciations of the subordinating conjunctions *pane*h and *pune*h, both of which likely derive from historic conjunctive phrase *puch ne*[h], which meant something like “although.”

<sup>3</sup> The K'ichee' term *qas ch'aab'al* (“true language”) demotes a wide range of indigenous languages. It is usually interchangeable with the term *qach'aab'al* (“our-language”). The terms *qas tzij* “true word/story/language” and *qatzij* (“our- word/story/language”) are similarly interchangeable, although *qas tzij* also serves as euphemism for absolute truth, while *qatzij* denotes a potentially more subjective truth belonging to the speaker's people.

<sup>4</sup> *Eyawaal-kayawaal* is the author's own neologism for “terrorism.” Although the word *eyawaal*, looks like a noun derived from the verb *-eyaaj*, “to scold” (which itself is likely derived from the ancient root *-eeh*, “tooth”), it functions here as just a variant pronunciation of the noun *oyawaal*, “anger.” It is combined with the word *k'ayawaal*, “bitterness, hate, anger, envy” (< *kah*, “bitter”) to form a diphthastic kenning for the more abstract concept of “terrorism.”

<sup>5</sup> Although the word *q'ijj*, meaning “day” or “sun,” belongs to an odd class of Maya nouns that supposedly cannot be possessed, in this case, the possessed term has the specialized meaning of a “work day.”

<sup>6</sup> The particle *aa* which is usually used before male personal names is here used before the plural noun *Musaab'* (sing. *mu's*) which the author glosses as “ladinos y chapines,” as if *mu's* were a personal name. This usage supports the theory that the term *mu's* actually derives from the Spanish word *mozo*, “servant,” which would have not only been most non-Indigenous peoples' job for wealthy Spaniards during the colonial period, but also a cruelly impersonal form of address.

<sup>7</sup> The K'ichee' phrase *qas winaq* means literally “true people,” and is used rather interchangeably with the very similar sounding term, *qaawinaq*, meaning “our people.” Although the possessive prefix *qa[a]-* (“our”) marks the latter term as a semantic shifter that refers to different groups, depending on who a speaker counts as “us” in a given speech context, K'ichee' Mayas effectively use both as shifters denoting anything from the members of an intimate K'ichee' group, to (increasingly) all the indigenous peoples of the Americas more generally.

<sup>8</sup> The number *jo'oob' ub'eleej winaq roxlaaj q'oob'*, translates as “5125 toward 5200,” or more literally as “five of ninth unit of twenty toward thirteen units of 400.”

<sup>9</sup> Following a pattern already found in respectful K'ichee'an speech since early colonial times, the quotation, which reads literally “our heart says that their father is not [of] our-people,” frames presumption as a potentially erroneous voice from one's heart. For explanation of this metaphor, see Coto (439)

<sup>10</sup> The phrase *qas nub'antjik* literally means “true doings of mine,” or more figuratively, “my indigenous culture,” although the author translates it as “*quien soy*,” “who I am.”

<sup>11</sup> The phrase Qataat, Qanaan, “Our Mothers, Our Fathers,” is a diphrastic kenning used to represent the more abstract concept of “ancestors.” Common in K'ichee' and all of the indigenous languages of Mesoamerica, such diphrasisms are a common part of K'ichee' speech, especially formal and ritual discourse. This work itself contains numerous examples, including *qawi'*, *qajoom* (lit. “our tops, our heads”) for “ancestors”; *eyawaal-k'ayowaal* (“anger-bitterness”) for “terrorism”; and *ik'ilaal-ch'umilaal* (“moon-ness, star-ness”) for “destiny.”

<sup>12</sup> The phrase the author glosses as *América* here, “*Setul Uwachuleew*,” means literally “surrounding/protecting surface-of-land.” The term coincidentally resembles the neologism for “continent” proposed by closely related Maya groups, *setul*, which evokes the imagery of a continent as a tectonic “plate” or disc (Cholchi' Tz'utujiil, 37).

<sup>13</sup> *Ma* here is a negative particle meaning “no” or “not,” emphasized by its pairing with second negative particle, *ta[j]*. Although *ma* is an ancient form of the negative particle that is still the primary one used in closely-related Mayan languages and even in nearby K'ichee' towns, the initial consonant of the particle has shifted in Nahualá with few exceptions (such as the case here) so that the word is pronounced *na*. One result of the shift (and potentially one contributing factor to it) has been that the negative *na* particle no longer is a near-homophone with the particle *maa* (pronounced both [ma] and [ma:]), “because.” Used frequently by the author in this poetic essay, *maa* is a synonym for (and etymologically related to) the relational noun *rumaal*, “[for] its-cause.”

<sup>14</sup> *Qaqajaaw* [qa-q-ajaaw], the term the author glosses as *Ser Supremo* or “Supreme Being” derives literally from a doubly possessed noun that would translate literally as “our-our-

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lord/ruler,” although the possessed noun *q-ajaaw* (lit. “our-lord”) has been a gloss for “father” for centuries, in a way that fits the paternal divine imagery of the Christian phrase “Our Father.”

<sup>15</sup> The word glossed in the author’s Spanish translation as *colonialismo* (“colonialism”), *toqixiik*, is one that in K’ichee’ literally refers explicitly to the removal by force of one’s belongings or clothes, against one’s will and despite one’s resistance. It therefore has notions more akin to the cognate concepts of *rape* and *robbery*, rather than *invasion*, *military conquest*, or the *arrival of settlers*.