Ch'orti' speaker: Isidro González Anthropological linguist: John Fought Chorti (Mayan) Texts pp.285-294

Transcription/translation by Ch'orti' Project, Robin Quizar

## 22 Tsikin (Tz'ikin) – Day of the Dead – Día de los Muertos

1. Ayan		otronte'		kostun	nbre	ore tya'		ture'n.		Tama		e	
Ther	There is another		custom		where		I live.	I live.			the		
primer	o di	nobyem	bre		che'no	ob'	ke'		me'yr	a	nojk'i	c'in	
first of	Noven	nber			it is sa	id	that		great		festival		
twa'		tuno'r		e	chame	nob',		ke'	ja'x	e	diya		
for		all		the	dead,			that	it is	the	day		
tya'		e'kmay	y	tuno'r		e	chame	nob',	pero	e	diya	yaja'	
when		come o	lown	al		the	dead,		but	the	day	that	
me'yra	l	nojk'ir	1	tu't	e jente		ta		ni'lug	ar.			
great		festival		for	the	people	e in		my village.				
21. An				Uturul		e tamal		ta		•	uturub'ob'		
Th	ey cele	ebrate.		They p	out out	the	tamale	es	on table,		they put out		
						1						1 1.	
	xeb',		uturub		e	b'ajb'ı	ır	sa',	uturub		e	chab'	
the	xepes,		they p	ut out	the	sour		atol,	they p	ut out	the	sweet	
. 1. 2			, . l. ,		:	_		, _1_,		1 ,			
ch'um,		uturub		e 41	naranj				e 41	kene',		uturub'ob'	
squash,		they pu	ut out	the	orange	es,	they put out		the banan		as,	they put out	
e	wiskil			uturub	oh'	e	sik'ab	·.	uch'al	a'a'h'	e	k'ujtz	
				they p		e sik'ab the sugar						tobacco	
tiic	e <i>güicoy</i> squash,		шсу р	ai oui	tiic sugai		carre,	шсу р	cy place		1000000		

	esa	twa'		uchambri		e	<b>y</b> ,		uchob'		mandar
on ta	ble	so that		he smokes it		the	dead person,		they do		order
aturub'ana e to be placed the			arrosb'ir		ak'ach, chicken,		uwab'wo'b' they set out		murujruch gourd bowl		
to o <b>c</b> plac	ou the	1100		CHICK	, ,	they s	or our	a	goura	50111	
chicha	ta	mesa.		Uman	yob'	e	pan,	uturul	o'ob'	konda	
chicha	on	table.		They	buy	the	bread,	put it	out	when	
atarderan		utzor	zoh,	e	k'ajn		tuno'r		uti'		otot.
evening o			ine up	the	bench	ec	all		around	1	house.
evening	omes,	they	те ар	the	benen	CS	un		aroun	4	nouse.
Che	ke	' twa'		aturw	anob'		e	dejunt	to	xe'	
They say	tha	t for th	em	to sit	on		the dead		those v		who
war											
they are	im.										
53. Ayan	ani	i	inte'	winik		uk'ab	, , ,	Dolor	ec	Feylip	æ
•	e was on		a man			named		Dolor		Felipe	
THE	was on		a	man		паттес		Dolor	CS	Tempe	
Konde	wa	r	atzikn	ıi,			uch'ar	ni	uk'ajn	l <b>,</b>	aturwan
When	he	was	celebrating Day of th			e Dead, he took			his bench,		he sat
takar	tu'	ti'	pwert	a.	Uche		mandar		r atzojra		e
on it	in		doorw	/ay.	He did		order		to be lined up		the
1.											
k'ajn		no'r	uti'		otot,		ja'xir		aturwa		ta
benches	all		aroun	đ	house	,	he		sat do	wn	at
pwerta.	Un	oejka		tuk'ah	o'a' tuk	x'ab'a'	tuno'r		lo ke	,	
door.	-	called			after na		all		those		

usobri'no'b', o' chamen -uyerma'no'b', upri'mo'b', uyami'go'b', were dead --his brothers, his cousins, his nephews, or his friends, utata'byejob', tuno'r uparyentyob', upejka tuk'ab'a' tuk'ab'a' his grandfathers, all his relatives, he called them name by name maku'. o'choy I ti'ne upejka o'choy war to come inside. And those whom calling he was to enter tuk'ab'a', a'xin uyajk'u uk'ajn i uk'eche uk'ab', he gave his bench he raised his hand, by name, he went and che ke' saludar takar war uche xe' war doing greeting they say that he was with those who were o'chob' yaja'. there. entering 100. Porke' che'nob' ke' tama e diya yaja' tuno'r --Because it is said that the day that everyone -on dejuntob' xe' chamenob', tarix e tyempo e'kmob' e the dead men who are dead, long ago they came down twa' uwarajse u'fami'lyob' tya' uyaktob'. I poreso they visit so that their families where they had left them. And that is why akojknob' Che'nob' ke' diya yaja'. me'yra tama e they are awaited that. It is said on the day that great

nojk'in tu'tob'. festival for them.

114. Tuno'r uti' otot ab'ut'k'a a'xin taka tuno'r All is filled around house going with everything uturub'ob'. Porke' uxich'yob' u't e manta tama they put out. Because they spread cloth its surface the on pojchb'ir, i tu'jor uwab'o'b' e rum, e sa', e washed, the earth, and on top of it they set the atol, the chab' ch'um, kene', tuno'r lo ke' k'ani uturub'o'b', everything they want sweet squash, bananas, that to put out, uturub'ob' inte'ra. Porke' che ke' me'yra xe' those who they put out together. Because they say that many ak'otoy awarob' yaja'. war to visit there. are coming 134. I lo ke' aturub'ana konda yaja', ixto ak'a'pa And what is put out there, when then are finished ache'na tu'jor e apujka (e) resar tamal, entonses are distributed being done the praying over the tamales, then taka e jente lo ke' ak'otwob' uwirob' e the people who the among come to see ajk'unob' sik'ab', nojk'in; ja'x kene', e ak'ach, e celebration; are given chickens, they the bananas, sugar cane, the tamal --tuno'r lo ke' aturub'ana ajk'unob'. Porke' tamales -everything has been put out they are given. Because that

ke' dejunto che ajrer ume'yn uk'uxi e e they say that the only his spirit he eats the dead person xe' ak'otwob', xe' akojknob'. Pero tamal ira war e mero awaited. But tamale who there comes, who is the real xe' turu ma'chi uk'uxob', i poreso ja'xob' is there they eat it, that is why that not and they uturub'ob' tuk'i'k tuk'i'k twa' uk'uxi, lo ke' war they put out everything they eat, those who so that are

ukojko'b'. waiting.

165. Xe' ach'ajma uche tuno'r e akb'ar; resar The one who was brought all night; says prayers the uche asakojpa axana, war axana resar ejsto he walks, is walking doing praying until it gets light diya. I me'yra jente takar porke' axana otro with him next day. And many people walk because ja'xir tya' k'otoy, i e tamal xe' atrub'ana he where he comes, and the tamales that are set out upuki taka jente. I ja'x e poresu jente e he offers the that is why people to people. And the ach'uwan axana tu'pat tya' axana uche resar. follow walking behind where he walks saying prayers.

180. Konda ixto asakojpa i ak'a'pa uche resar, When then it grows light and they finish doing praying, chicha, aka'y uyuch'yob' entonses tya' ayan e when there is chicha, they begin to drink then the chicha, musika taka byolin, e tya' ayan e e chicha, when there is with violin, the the music the taka taka akordyon. A'kto'b'. e gitarra, with guitar, with accordion. They dance. the the War akarayob' tarde che ke' a'xin porke' They are getting drunk goes evening because they say the that atza'yob' porke' anojk'inyob'. War ukojko war they are happy celebrating. They are awaiting because they are lo ke' utato'b', udejunto'b', tuno'r chamen, uyerma'no'b', their dead people, all those who are dead, their fathers, their brothers, tuno'r lo ke' ukojkob'. I uparyentyob', war awaiting them. all those who are their relatives, they are And poreso umanyob' me'yra e kandela, utz'ajpesob'. they light them. that is why they buy candles, many the che 220. Ayan me'yra e kandela, porke' tye'ne candles, There are some many the because they say ke' inte'nte' twa' u'akada dejunto xe' ukojkob' war that for him dead person whom they are awaiting every each

inte'nte' e for every one the				two'b'. for him.		I And	e the	kandela candle		yaja' that	
che	ke'	ja'x	uk'ajk	ob'	twa'		k'otwo	ob'	tu't	e	dyos
they say	that	it	his lig	ht	for hir	n	to con	ne	before	the	God
takar.	Poreso	o	ja'xob	,	b'an		ak'ub'	'esyano	b'	ke'	e
with it.	That i	s why	they		so		believ	•		that	the
kandela	ja'x		twa'		uchob	,	entreg	ar	ak'o to	yob'	
candle	it is		for the	em	they do				coming	coming	
taka e			dyos.		Utz'ajpesob'			twa' a ka		ı	dejunto
to the			God.		They light the		em for		to each		dead man
lo ke'e'r		ukojko	o'b'.			I	tama	e	chinan	n,	tama
that		they a	ney are waiting for.			And	in	the	town,		in
iglesya	at'ojtr	na	e	kampa	ına	ejsto		ak'oto	oy	a las	dyes
church	is toll	ed	the b		bell			it comes		ten o'clock	
tama	e	diya		tya'	sakojp	a	e	tzikin			Porke'
on	the	day		when	dawns		the	Day o	f the De	ad.	Because
che	ke'	ja'x	e	kampa	ına	yaja'		e	ut'ab'e	esnib'ir	
they say	that	that	the	bell		that		the	elevato	or	
e dejunt	ob'	yaja'	lo ke		,	war	axana		u'fami'lyob',		
the dead p	eople	those		that		are	walkir	ng to	their fa	amilies,	
uparyentyob'.		I	ja'xto		at'ab'e	esnob'		taka	e	kampa	ına.
their relatives	•	And	then th	ney	are rai	sed up		by	the	bell.	

I And	poreso that is why		e the	kampana bell		tama in		iglesya church		e the	chinan town	n
Allu	mat is	wily	tiic	ocn		111	Churc	11	in	tiic	town	
war		at'ojtr	na	ejsto		ak'otoy	a las	dyes.		Porke	,	
is		being	tolled	until		comes	ten o'	clock.		Becau	ise	
che		ke'		ja'x	war	at'a	b'esnob'	taka	e	kampa	ana	
they sa	ay	that		they	are	beii	ng raised	by	the	bell		
yaja'. that.												
292. <i>A</i>	Avan	inte'		aldeya	1	uk'ab'a'	mina.		I	aldeya	1	yaja',
	There is			village		called		La Mina.		village		that,
				S					And	C		
konda		sakojp	oa	e	tzikin,	,	tuno'ı	r	e	jente		
when dawns		3	the	Day o	f the Dead,	all	all		people	people		
tzikny	oh'	I	konda		sakojp		ulr'oo	hab'ta		2	tamal,	
celebra		And	when			omes light,		uk'echob'to they carry		e the	tamale	
ccicor	aic.	Alla	WIICH		n occ	mes ngm,	they c	arry		tiic	tamarc	λ3,
e	ch'ab'	ub'ir		pa',		uturub'ob'		to'r	e	kampo	osanto	
the	flat			tortilla	as,	they put the	em out	out up in		cemetery		
tya'		mukb	'ir	e	dejunt	cob'	tuno'ı	tuno'r		;	ayan	
where are buried		ried	the	dead		all		those	who	have		
udejun	nto		mukb	'ir		uk'eche	e	ch'ab'	uh'ir	pa'		
their d			buried			they carry	the			tortilla	as	
men u	caa		Julicu			mey carry	шс	mai		WHILE	40	
uturub	o'a.		I	ya'	upuky	ob'.						
they p	ut them	out.	And	there		ffer them.						

315. Ab'ut'k'a jente to'r kamposanto konda e e Fill up the people on top the cemetery when asokojpa tzikin. I che ke' tyempo e mas tarix dawns Day of the Dead. a longer time ago the And they say that kandela uputob', che ke' konda asokojpa, uk'echob' e candles they burned, when it dawned, they carried them the they say that e'kmay chinam, uchob' entregar e taka e tama going down they did give them the town, the to to ut'a'b'se. Insolo b'an uchob'. pagre twa' ani did they do it. priest so that he keep. Only thus Porke' che'nob' ani ke' e tzikin maja'x Because it was said Day of the Dead that the wasn't kwalker unojk'inar nojk'in, sino ke' ja'x tye'ne just any festival, but rather that it was their festival those who Porke' chamenob'. tuno'r e'kmob'. were dead. Because all of them came down. 344. I poreso tarix e tyempo kwando tya' twa' And that is why long ago when where that a'kb'are tzikin, ak'axi che'nob' e e chirja', ani Day of the Dead, it falls drizzle, it gets dark the the they say jente ke'. "Ja'x war e'msenob' taka chirja'." e people "They bringing down with drizzle." the that, are the

Pero		kone'	r	ma'ch	ı <b>i</b>	ak'axi	i	e	chirja	,	tama	e
But		today		not		falls		the	drizzl	e	on	the
									. 1	•		
tzikin			•	kawa'		ke'	kisas		ma'ch		water	
Day o	of the D	ead,	well,	we say	y	that	mayb	e	not th	en	came	
	daine	+ a <b>la</b> ,		,,,,,,		**********	-	ma'ch	.:,	ak'axi		
e	dejun	ιου		ya',		poreso			11 X			e
the	dead			there,		that is	why	not		fell		the
chirja	·.	Porke	,	tarix	e tyen	npo		che'n	ob'		ke'	
drizzl	e.	Becau	ise	long a	go			they s	ay		that	
				C	C			•	•			
ja'x		e'kmo	o'b'	taka	e		chirja	,	konda		ak'axi	
they		came	down	with	the		drizzl	e	when		fell	
e	chirja	,	de ta	rde,		pero		kone'	r	konda		ak'otoy
the	drizzl	e	in the	evening,		but		today		when		comes
e	tzikin			matuk	a'a	e		chirja	,	pwes,		poreso
the	Day o	of the D	ead	without		the		drizzle,		well,		therefore
kawa'	're	ke'	kisas		ma'ch	ixto	ak'tan	na		e'kmo	'b'	ya'
we sa	у	that	maybo	e	not the	en	they v	vere all	owed	to con	ne down	there
porke	,	ma'cl	ni	utares	ob'	e	chirja	<b>.</b>				
becau	ise	not		they b	ring	the	drizzl	e.				
376.	I	pores	0	ma'ch	i	alok'o	ру	e	b'ejwa	ar		porke'
	And	that is	s why	not		it com	nes	the	secon	d harves	st	because
matuk	κ'a	e	chirja	,	utares		e	dejun	to'b'.		Porke'	
not ar	ny	the	drizzle	e	they b	oring	the	dead.			Becaus	se

dejunto'b' achamo'b' uk'ajtyob' ke' xe' ani e died they used to tell that the dead people who che ke' b'an kocha usoldado e e they say just like its soldiers the that the i gobyernob' ke' maker ya umener, government there shut up by it, that and kwando ak'otoy a'ktana wato'b'; e entonses anyo, when has passed they are allowed the then to come; year, uwarajsyob' u'familyob' lo ke' uyakto'b', porke' they visit their families they have left, that because alok'wob' me'rer kwalkyer tyempo, porke' ja'xob' turob' not able just any because they dwell to get out time, uk'ab' koche'rer twa' alok'wob'. tama e dyos, i ma in his hand the God, and there is no way for them to get out. uk'ajtyob' ke' 410. B'an ani konda achamay e So they used to tell it that when die the a'xin i jente tu't dyos, yaja', ma koche'rer e people before the God, and there, there is no way go twa' alok'oy, porke' echer kocha inte' ja'xir for them to get out, because they held like a ajk'ampa'r. B'an uk'ajtyob' ani tarix e tyempo.

servant. So they used to tell it long ago.

I b'anto uk'ajtyob' ejsto kone'r. And so they tell it to this day.