



On Nahuatl Wisdom

Mother and your father, as we are, as we live; our fame, our name, is nothing, since all the great ones who departed left us here. Did they by chance also throw us their hands and feet as the gods do to you also to your relatives and those around you—for whom Our Lord does no good—who in the end will be forgotten.

Although you be someone, born of someone, someone's intimate, the child of lords, place raised, noble and illustrious, you still must sustain yourself and get up for yourself.

Hark: courtesy, modesty, humanity, weeping, sobbing, the knowledge of one's own misery is nobility, valor and glory.

Hark: No one haughty, no one vain, no one without shame or dissolute has ever reigned.

Note: Fragment from *Hueyquetlatolli*, the sixth book of the *Florentine Codex*, published by the National University of Mexico, Mexico City, 1995, with paleography, Spanish-language version, notes and index by Salvador Díaz Cintora.

With this fragment, Voices of Mexico inaugurates a section to bring the philosophy and literature of the pre-Hispanic peoples who inhabited what is today Mexico to English-speaking readers. The materials have been collected and translated by specialists in Mexico's indigenous languages and cultures.