

La Leyenda de Quetzal

En la jungla de Guatemala había una tribu quiché. Los quichés eran personas fuertes. Eran personas inteligentes. Los quichés eran personas valientes. El líder de la tribu tenía el título de «cacique». El cacique era un líder bueno y bondadoso. A la tribu le gustaba mucho su líder.

In the jungle of Guatemala there once was a Quiché tribe. The Quiché were strong people. They were intelligent people. The Quiché were brave (valiant) people. The leader of the tribe had the title “cacique” (chieftain). The chieftain was a good and gracious leader. The tribe liked their leader a lot.

El cacique tenía un hijo. Su hijo se llamaba Quetzal. Quetzal era un muchacho valiente. Era un guerrero fuerte. Quetzal también era un hijo bueno y ayudaba mucho a su padre el cacique, y a la tribu.

The chieftain had a son. His son’s name was Quetzal. Quetzal was a brave young man. He was a strong warrior. Quetzal also was a good son and he helped his father the chieftain, and the tribe.

Cuando Quetzal cumplió dieciocho años (18) hubo una celebración grande en la tribu. Había música y comida. El cacique invitó a todos los guerreros quichés de la tribu a la fiesta de su hijo Quetzal. El cacique invitó a todos los miembros de la tribu a la celebración de su hijo Quetzal. Entonces, todos celebraron que Quetzal se convirtió en adulto.

When Quetzal turned eighteen, there was a big celebration in the tribe. There was music and food. The chief invited all of the Quiché warriors in the tribe to his son’s party. The chief invited all of the members of the tribe to the celebration of his son Quetzal. So everyone celebrated that Quetzal had become an adult.

En la fiesta, había un adivino. El adivino era un quiché especial. Era especial porque pudo ver el futuro. El adivino estudiaba a las personas y luego decía el futuro de la persona. El adivino quiché estaba en la fiesta para decir el futuro de Quetzal.

In the party there was a fortuneteller. The fortuneteller was a special Quiché. He was special because he could see the future. The fortuneteller studied people and then told their future. The fortuneteller was at the party to tell the future of Quetzal

Durante la fiesta, Quetzal visitó al adivino. El adivino estudió a Quetzal por un momento. El futuro de Quetzal estaba decidido. Entonces el adivino miró a la tribu y declaró el futuro de Quetzal: Quetzal no iba a morir nunca. Quetzal iba a vivir siempre con los quiché.

During the party, Quetzal visited the fortuneteller. The fortuneteller studied Quetzal for a moment. Quetzal's future was decided. Then the fortuneteller looked at the tribe and declared the future of Quetzal: Quetzal would never die. Quetzal would live forever with the Quichés.

Todas las personas en la celebración estaban sorprendidas. ¿Quetzal no iba a morir? ¿Cómo sería posible? Pero las personas de la tribu aceptaron las palabras del adivino. Ellos creyeron que Quetzal iba a ser inmortal. Ellos estaban emocionados y respetaron mucho a Quetzal.

Everyone at the celebration was surprised. Quetzal would never die? How was that possible? But the people of the tribe accepted the fortuneteller's words. They believed that Quetzal would be immortal. They were excited and they greatly respected Quetzal.

Pero un miembro de la tribu no estaba emocionado. Este hombre no admiraba a Quetzal. El hombre que no admiraba a Quetzal se llamaba Chiruma. Chiruma era una persona importante en la tribu. Chiruma era el hermano del cacique y el tío de Quetzal.

But one member of the tribe was not excited. This man did not admire Quetzal. The man that didn't admire Quetzal was named Chiruma. Chiruma was an important person in the tribe. Chiruma was the brother of the chief and the uncle of Quetzal.

Chiruma no estaba feliz con las palabras del adivino porque él quería ser el cacique cuando su hermano murió. Chiruma quería ser el líder de la tribu. Era el hermano del cacique. En las tribus quichés era común pasar el título de cacique a su hermano. Pero después de la profecía del adivino, era obvio que la tribu iba a seleccionar a Quetzal como su líder y no a Chiruma. La tribu admiraba a Quetzal mucho. La tribu pensaba que Quetzal era inmortal. Chiruma no era inmortal. La tribu no admiraba a Chiruma.

Chiruma was not happy with the fortuneteller's words because he wanted to be the chief when his brother died. Chiruma wanted to be the leader of the tribe. He was the chief's brother. In Quiché tribes it was common to pass the title of chief to one's brother. But after the prophecy of the fortuneteller, it was obvious that the tribe would choose Quetzal as their leader and not Chiruma. The tribe greatly admired Quetzal. The tribe thought that Quetzal was immortal. Chiruma was not immortal. The tribe didn't admire Chiruma.

Unos días después de la fiesta de cumpleaños de Quetzal, había un rumor de un ataque. El rumor dijo que unas personas querían atacar a la tribu. El cacique quería defender a la tribu. Entonces Quetzal, Chiruma y los otros guerreros quichés fueron a defender su tribu. Ellos participaron en una lucha.

Some days after Quetzal's birthday party, there was a rumor of an attack. The rumor said that some people wanted to attack the tribe. The chief wanted to defend the tribe. So Quetzal, Chiruma and other quiché warriors left to defend their tribe. They participated in a fight.

Chiruma estaba cerca de Quetzal durante la lucha. Chiruma observó a Quetzal cuando luchaba. Quetzal no tuvo problemas en la lucha. Los enemigos no tocaron a Quetzal. Fue como Quetzal estaba completamente protegido. Chiruma estaba impresionado, pero también estuvo triste porque era obvio que Quetzal iba a ser el cacique y Chiruma no iba a ser el cacique.

Chiruma was close to Quetzal during the fight. He observed Quetzal when he fought. Quetzal had no problems in the fight. The enemies didn't touch Quetzal. It was as if Quetzal were completely protected. Chiruma was impressed, but he was also sad because it was obvious that Quetzal was going to be the chief and Chiruma was not going to be the chief.

Con los años, las personas de la tribu admiraban más a Quetzal. Cuando Quetzal luchaba, no tenía problemas. Siempre defendía bien a la tribu y mató a sus enemigos. Cuando Quetzal hablaba con la tribu, era bueno y ayudaba a muchas personas. Cuando el cacique hablaba de su hijo, todos escuchaban. Cuando el adivino visitaba a la tribu, todos pensaban en el futuro perfecto de la tribu con Quetzal, el inmortal.

As years passed, the people of the tribe admired Quetzal more and more. When Quetzal fought, he didn't have problems. He always defended the tribe well and killed his enemies. When Quetzal spoke to the tribe, he was good and helped many people. When the chief spoke of his son, everyone listened. With the fortuneteller visited the tribe, everyone thought of the perfect future of the tribe with Quetzal, the immortal.

Chiruma estaba celoso de Quetzal. Él quería la admiración de la tribu. Quería un futuro perfecto. Chiruma quería ser Quetzal. Con el tiempo, Chiruma se puso menos feliz y más enojado.

Chiruma was jealous of Quetzal. He wanted the admiration of the tribe. He wanted a perfect future. Chiruma wanted to be Quetzal. As time went on, Chiruma became less happy and more angry.

Un día, el cacique se puso enfermo. Quetzal estaba con el cacique porque el cacique era su padre. Chiruma estaba con el cacique porque el cacique era su hermano. Todos estaban tristes.

One day, the chief became sick. Quetzal was with the chief because the chief was his father. Chiruma was with the chief because the chief was his brother. Everyone was sad.

Cuando el cacique se murió, la tribu decidió en Quetzal como el nuevo cacique. Todos miraron a Quetzal, el nuevo cacique, con admiración, excepto Chiruma. Miró a Quetzal con frustración. Chiruma miró a Quetzal con mucho celos, pero después, tuvo una idea.

When the chief died, the tribe decided that Quetzal would be their new chief. Everyone looked at Quetzal, the new chief, with admiration, except Chiruma. Chiruma looked at Quetzal with frustration. He looked at Quetzal with jealousy, but then he had an idea.

Chiruma fue a hablar con Quetzal. Le dijo que había unos guerreros malos en la jungla. Chiruma le dijo a Quetzal que estos guerreros querían atacar a los quichés y robar su comida.

Chiruma went to speak with Quetzal. He told him that there were some bad warriors in the jungle. Chiruma told Quetzal that these warriors wanted to attack the Quiché and steal their food.

Quetzal decidió que fue necesario atacar a los guerreros. Quetzal quería preparar a todos para una lucha grande, pero Chiruma tuvo otras planes. Chiruma explicó a Quetzal que solo fue una banda pequeña de guerreros. Chiruma convenció a Quetzal que solo ellos dos podían defender a la tribu.

Quetzal decided that it was necessary to attack the warriors. Quetzal wanted to prepare everyone for a big battle, but Chiruma had other plans. Chiruma explained to Quetzal that it was only a small band of warriors. Chiruma convinced Quetzal that the two of them alone could defend the tribe.

Entonces, Quetzal y Chiruma caminaron en la jungla preparados a luchar. Pero Quetzal no sabía que Chiruma era malo. Chiruma era su tío y Quetzal confiaba en él. Quetzal no sabía que la banda de guerreros malos no existía. ¡Chiruma había mentido a Quetzal!

So, Quetzal and Chiruma walked in the jungle prepared for battle. But Quetzal didn't know that Chiruma was bad. Chiruma was his uncle and Quetzal trusted him. Quetzal didn't know that the band of bad warriors didn't exist. Chiruma had lied to Quetzal!

De repente, Chiruma atacó a Quetzal. Quetzal no estaba preparado y no se defendió. Chiruma pegó a Quetzal en el pecho. Sangre salió del pecho de Quetzal. Había mucha sangre roja.

Suddenly, Chiruma attacked Quetzal. Quetzal was not prepared and he didn't defend himself. Chiruma hit Quetzal in the chest. Blood streamed from Quetzal's chest. There was a lot of red blood.

Quetzal se cayó. Chiruma pensó que Quetzal estaba muerto. Chiruma se puso contento pensando que Quetzal se había muerto. Chiruma fue a la tribu para decir que Quetzal estaba muerto.

Quetzal fell. Chiruma thought that Quetzal was dead. Chiruma became content thinking that Quetzal had died. Chiruma went to the tribe to tell them that Quetzal was dead.

Pero Quetzal no estaba muerto. Quetzal no se murió. Había mucha sangre en su pecho, pero no se murió. Estaba muy cerca de morir, pero Quetzal no se murió.

But Quetzal wasn't dead. Quetzal didn't die. There was a lot of blood on his chest, but he didn't die. He was very close to death, but Quetzal didn't die.

Quetzal habló. Habló con los dioses de los quichés. Unos minutos después, un pequeño ave visitó a Quetzal. El ave tocó el pecho rojo de Quetzal.

Quetzal spoke. He spoke with the gods of the Quichés. Some minutes later, a small bird visited Quetzal. The bird touched Quetzal's red chest.

Poco a poco, Quetzal se convirtió en ave. Su cuerpo cambió de piel a plumas verdes, pero su pecho, con toda la sangre, cambió a plumas rojas y brillantes. Quetzal, en su nueva forma, dio las gracias a los dioses y voló al cielo.

Little by little, Quetzal became a bird. His body changed from skin to green feathers, but his chest, with all the blood, changed to bright red feathers. Quetzal, in his new form, gave thanks to the gods and flew to the sky.

Chiruma volvió a la tribu. Tuvo todo planeado. Chiruma explicó como una banda de guerreros malos atacaron a Quetzal y que Quetzal luchó valientemente. Pero un guerrero malo pegó a Quetzal en el pecho y Quetzal se murió.

Chiruma returned to the tribe. He had everything planned. Chiruma explained how a band of evil warriors attacked Quetzal and that Quetzal fought bravely. But an evil warrior hit Quetzal in the chest, and Quetzal died.

La tribu estaba sorprendida. ¿Cómo fue posible? El adivino dijo que Quetzal no iba a morir. La tribu quiso ver el cadáver de Quetzal entonces Chiruma y otros miembros de la tribu fueron a la jungla. Chiruma los guio al espacio dónde Quetzal murió, pero Quetzal no estaba. Solo había unas plumas verdes y rojas.

The tribe was surprised. How was that possible? The fortuneteller said that Quetzal wasn't going to die. The tribe wanted to see Quetzal's body so Chiruma and other members of the tribe went to the jungle. Chiruma guided them to the space where Quetzal died, but Quetzal wasn't there. There were only some green and red feathers.

Quetzal no se murió. Quetzal estaba vivo y vive todavía. Vive en la jungla de Guatemala y protege a los quichés hoy y siempre.

Quetzal didn't die. Quetzal was alive and he still lives. He lives in the jungle of Guatemala where he protects the Quiché people today and always.



You can find this and more stories at smalltownspanishteacher.com *This story is an original work by Camilla Given. Any resemblance to stories by other authors is purely coincidental, unless otherwise noted.*