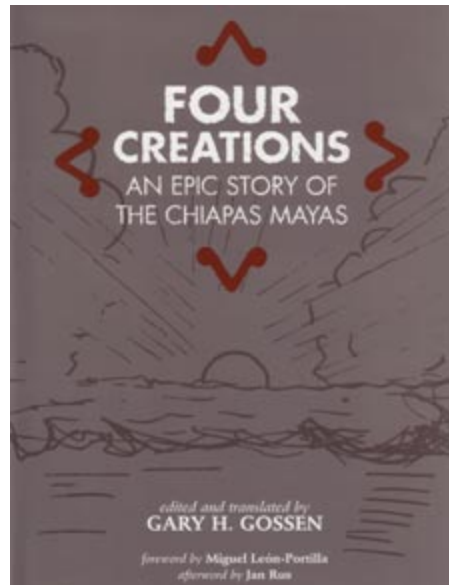


**FAMSI © 2003: Gary H. Gossen**

## **Four Creations of True People: Tzotzil Maya Account of the Human Experience**



**Research Year:** 2000

**Culture:** Maya

**Chronology:** Epi-Classic

**Location:** Chiapas, México

**Site:** Chamula

### **FOUR CREATIONS: An Epic Story of the Chiapas Mayas**

*Edited and Translated by Gary H. Gossen*

[Map](#): Chamula in Chiapas and México, by Gary H. Gossen

Illustrations by Marián López Calixto

Foreword by Miguel León-Portilla

Afterword by Jan Rus

With Contributions by Manuel López Calixto, Marián López Calixto, Xalik López Castellanos, Xalik López Setjol, Mateo Méndez Tzotzek, and Xun Méndez Tzotzek

Excerpt from Foreword:

"Gary Gossen has brought us the words of the Tzotzil sages—a treasure trove of stories both sacred and mundane. It is a literature that has many links with the glorious past of the Mayas and also illuminates a variety of occurrences in the everyday lives of the people today. In the texts one can hear both the voice of an ancient oral tradition and, at other times, a storyteller's spontaneous recollections of a gamut of happenings."

—Miguel León-Portilla

## Contents

### PART 1.

#### THE FIRST CREATION

- Text 1. Of Our Father Sun in Heaven
- Text 2. Let Us Make Pathways for the Rivers
- Text 3. Of How the World Began Long Ago
- Text 4. About Corn
- Text 5. About Why We Did Not Receive Our Lord Sun/Christ's Magical Hoe
- Text 6. Of What Happened to Rabbit Long Ago
- Text 7. About Hummingbirds
- Text 8. Of Our Father Who Died on the Cross
- Text 9. Of Our Holy Mother in Heaven
- Text 10. Why the Moon Has Only One Eye
- Text 11. Of the First People, Who Were Like Gods
- Text 12. Of When the Earth Darkened for Five Days
- Text 13. Of Long Ago When the First People Appeared
- Text 14. About Why Our Lord Sun/Christ Destroyed the First People with a Rain of Boiling Water
- Text 15. About How the Ancient Ones Ate Their Own Children
- Text 16. About the Time When We Were Created Long Ago
- Text 17. About How and Why the First People Perished in a Boiling Rain
- Text 18. Monkeys Were Still People Long Ago
- Text 19. His Wife Turned into a Monkey; the Man Became a Squirrel
- Text 20. About the Boiling Rain

### PART 2.

#### THE SECOND CREATION

- Text 21. Of Our Mother Moon and Her Two Sons
- Text 22. Of Our Father Sun and His Older Brother
- Text 23. About How the Second People Became Monkeys
- Text 24. About a Time When Raccoons Were Still People
- Text 25. Of Olden Days When Weeds Could Speak
- Text 26. About How Our Lord San Juan Made His Home in Chamula, I
- Text 27. About How Our Lord San Juan Made His Home in Chamula, II
- Text 28. The Earth Lord's Daughter
- Text 29. Of a Poor, Wretched Woman Who Had No Husband for Herself

- Text 30. Of a Man Who Went to the Underworld
- Text 31. Why the Damned Buzzard Has a Red Neck
- Text 32. Of How the Buzzard Got to Be Like He Is
- Text 33. Of War and Peace with the Chief of Guatemala
- Text 34. On the Origin and Nature of Ladinos

### PART 3.

#### THE THIRD CREATION

- Text 35. Of the Third People
- Text 36. About How Rabbit and Deer Got Their Short Tails and Long Ears
- Text 37. Adventures of Coyote and Rabbit, I: Of the Beeswax Doll and the Corn Thief
- Text 38. Adventures of Coyote and Rabbit, II: Of Music, Dance, and Fiesta Time
- Text 39. Kidnapped by a Demon
- Text 40. Of a Man Who Was Swallowed by a Water Monster
- Text 41. On the Adventures of Xun beyond the Sea
- Text 42. Of the Stinking Ladino Woman and Her Dog
- Text 43. Of the Great Stone Stairway to Heaven

### PART 4.

#### THE FOURTH CREATION

##### SECTION 1.

##### EARTH LORDS, DEMONS, AND HEROES

- Text 44. Of the Earth Lord's Daughter
- Text 45. Of a Man Who Sought Riches from the Earth Lords
- Text 46. Of the Heroes of Bell Cave Who Slew the Demon Pukuj
- Text 47. Of an Encounter with the Soldier on the Mountain
- Text 48. About a Man Who Made a Pact with the Demon Pukuj
- Text 49. Of an Encounter with the Old Red Man, Who Was Actually the Demon Pukuj
- Text 50. On How the Rabbit Lost His Hat and Got His Long Ears

##### SECTION 2.

##### SPOOKS, WITCHES, SOULS, AND BAD NEIGHBORS

- Text 51. Bitten to Death by the Backwards Wailing Man
- Text 52. On the Lacandon People of Chiapas, Who Are Like Beasts of the Jungle
- Text 53. About Tenejapanecos, Who Engage in Witchcraft
- Text 54. Of an Encounter with a Potz'om, the Soul of a Witch
- Text 55. The Perils of an Animal Soul as Revealed in a Dream
- Text 56. She Killed Her Animal-Soul Companion and Thus Killed Herself

##### SECTION 3.

##### EROS IN THE FOURTH CREATION

- Text 57. Of an Encounter with the Snake-Woman
- Text 58. Of the Troubles of Men Who Have Turned into Women

- Text 59. Of an Unfaithful Wife Who Goes to the Grave with Her Lover  
Text 60. Abducted by a Demon Lover

#### SECTION 4.

##### LIFE AND CHANGE IN THE FOURTH CREATION

- Text 61. Of Drought and Flood  
Text 62. About the Great Famine  
Text 63. On How the Old-Timers Became Impoverished, Just Like Their Land  
Text 64. About How Coyotes Came to Chamula  
Text 65. Memories of Times Past: Everything We Bought Was a Lot Less Expensive and Coffee Plantation Wages Were Better Back Then . . .  
Text 66. Accounts from Old Men about Olden Times

#### SECTION 5.

##### A BRIEF CHRONICLE OF THE FOURTH CREATION

- Text 67. On Cuscat's War with the Frock-Coat Soldiers of San Cristóbal  
Text 68. About the Prayer Makers of Long Ago  
Text 69. An Account of Those Who Followed Pajarito  
Text 70. About How the Carranza Soldiers Came to Live with Us Forever as Rats  
Text 71. About How the Old Child and the Mother of Sickness Brought the Fever Epidemic to Chamula  
Text 72. Of the Time of the Burning of the Saints  
Text 73. An Account of the Construction of the Highway to Tuxtla Gutiérrez  
Text 74. An Account of the Protestant Prayer Makers Who Perished by Fire

Afterword, by Jan Rus

Notes

Bibliography

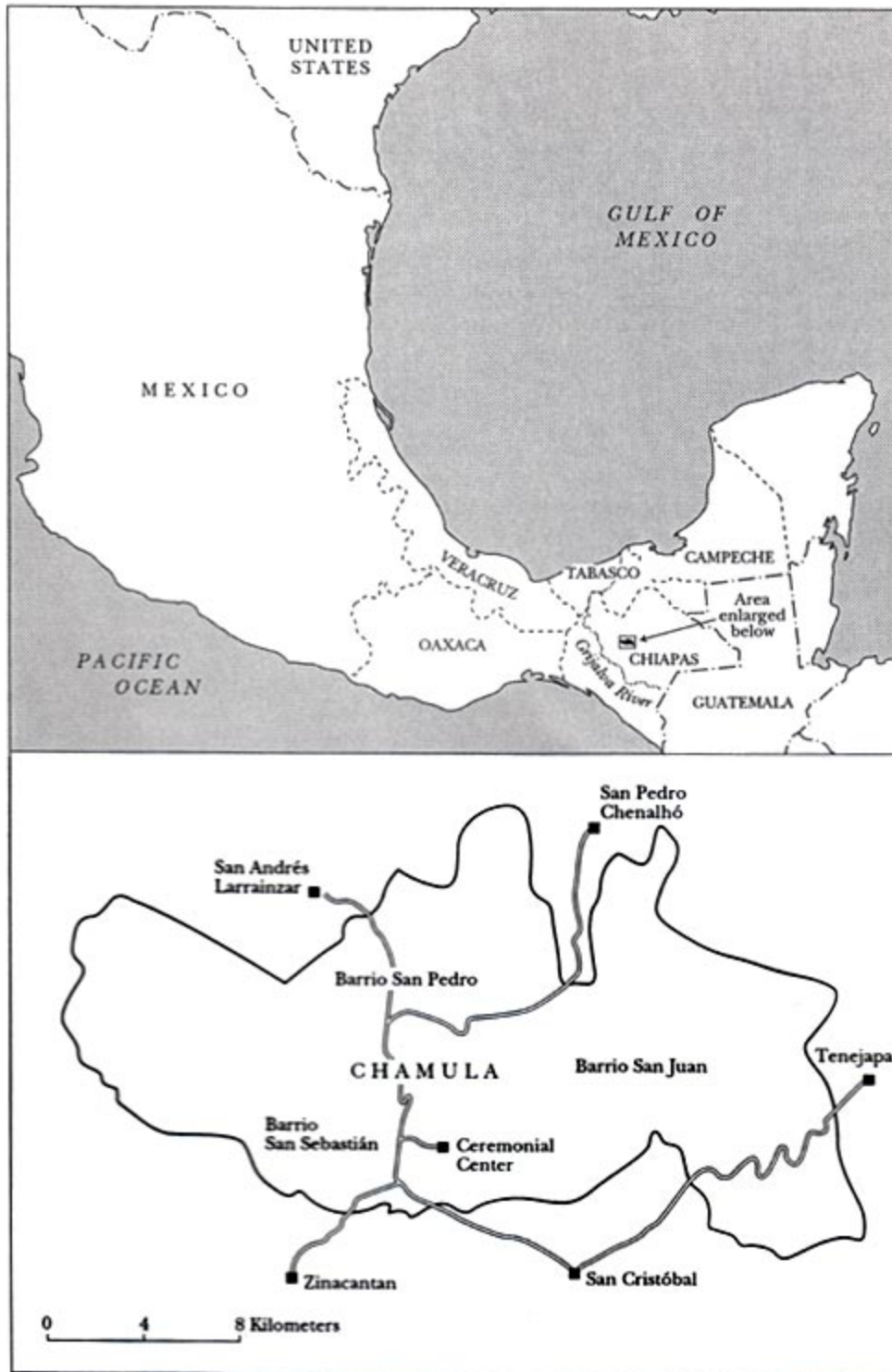
Index

#### MAPS

1. Central Chiapas, México
- [2. Chamula in Chiapas and México](#)
3. A Chamula chart of the universe
4. A Chamula chart of the world

Publication available from University of Oklahoma Press, Norman  
ISBN 0-8061-3331-7 (1,134 pages)

*Submitted 12/06/2000 by:*  
Dr. Gary H. Gossen  
[gossen@sarsf.org](mailto:gossen@sarsf.org)



MAP 2  
 Chamula in Chiapas and Mexico, by Gary H. Gossen