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Book 11 - Earthly Things

Translated from the Aztec into English, with notes and illustrations

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IN THIRTEEN PARTS

PART XII



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BOOK ELEVEN -- EARTHLY THINGS

LIBRO VNDE

cimo que es Bos

que, jardin, ver

gel de lengua

Mexicana.

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De las propiedades de los animales

ELEVENTH BOOK, WHICH TELLETH OF THE DIFFERENT ANIMALS, THE BIRDS, THE FISHES; AND THE TREES AND THE HERBS; THE METALS RESTING IN THE EARTH—TIN, LEAD, AND STILL OTHERS; AND THE DIFFERENT STONES.

JNJC MATLACTLI OCE AMOXTLI, IN-TECHPA TLATOA, IN NEPAPĀ IOLQUE: IN TOTOME, IN MJMJCHTIN: YOAN IN QUA-VITL, YOAN IN XIHUJTL: IN TLALLAN ONOC TEPUZTLI, AMOCHITL, TEMETZTLI, YOĀ OC CEQUJ, YOAN IN NEPAPĀ TETL.



First Chapter, which telleth of the four-footed animals.¹

FIRST PARAGRAPH, which telleth of the wild beasts.

OCELOT²

It is a dweller of the forests, of crags, of water; noble, princely, it is said. It is the lord, the ruler of the animals. It is cautious, wise, proud. It is not a scavenger. It is one which detests, which is nauseated by [dirty things]. It is noble, proud.

It is long: long bodied, straight, round like a pillar; squat, not tall; thick, corpulent; hard-fleshed, very hard-fleshed; long-tailed; of gopher-like paws, very thick; wide-padded—of very wide pads; thick, fat of neck; of pot-like head, very pot-headed, great-headed; of droplet-shaped ears; of thick, stubby, spongy, soft muzzle with a fatty, oily nose; of wide face with eyes like live coals; toothy, with small, pointed front teeth, with molars like pestles; wide-mouthed, open-mouthed; clawed, with sharp, curved claws, with dewclaws.³ It is varicolored, quite varicolored, spotted with black, blotched with black; white-chested, smooth, sleek.

Like ocelots, it becomes varicolored; it is variously colored, variously marked; it becomes varicolored, it is variously colored, like an ocelot. Claws emerge.

Injc ce capitulo: intechpa tlatoa in iolque, in manenemj.

JNJC CE PARRAPHO: intechpa tlatoa in tequanjme.

OCELUTL:

quauhtla chane, texcalco chane, atlan chane: tecpilli, tlaçopilli: qujl inpilllo, intlatocauh in iolque: mĵmati, moiecĵmati, mocenmatinj hamo tzopilojanj, tlayĵianj, motlaeltianj: pilli, tlaçotli.

Veiac tlacveiac, melactic, temjmjlitc, pachtic, amouecapan: tomaoac, tlaque, nacatetic, nacatepul, cujtlapilhujiac, matôtoçantic, matôtomactic, macpalhueuei, macpalpatlactic, quechtomaoac, quechnanatztic, quatecontic, quateconpul, quatenamaztic, nacazchĵchipichtic, tentomaoac, tentetepontic, tenpochectic, tenpochichitic, iacatzolchiactic, iacatzolchiaoac: ixpechtic, ixtletlexochtic; tlancuĵcujtztic, tlăcujnene, tlancoiolomjtlic, tlăcochtexotl, camaxacaltic, camaxacal: izte, iztiuĵujtztic, izticucultic, chôchole. Cujcujltic, cujcuĵlpatic: moholchapanj, motlilchachapatz, eliztac, tetzictic, alaztic,

ocelotic, cujcuĵlivi, mocujcuĵloa, cujcuĵltic, cujcuĵltia, mocelocujcuĵloa, iztiqũĵa, tlamotzoloa, tlamomotzoa, tlăqũĵa tlancochqũĵa, coatlanqũĵa, tlancuj-

1. The identification of mammals is based upon Rafael Martín del Campo: "Ensayo de interpretación del libro undécimo de la Historia General de las Cosas de Nueva España, de Fray Bernardino de Sahagún," III, "Los mamíferos," *Anales del Instituto de Biología*, Vol. XII, No. 1, pp. 489–506 (Mexico, 1941), and Bernardo Villa R.: "Mamíferos silvestres del Valle de México," *Anales del Instituto de Biología*, Vol. XXIII, Nos. 1 and 2, pp. 269–492 (Mexico, 1952). Changes due to current taxonomy, as well as the English names, are the result of consultation with Dr. Stephen D. Durrant, Professor of Zoology, University of Utah.

2. *Ocelotl*: in earlier publications we have translated *ocelotl* as ocelot. Martín del Campo (*op. cit.*, p. 491) identifies it as *Felis henningsii henningsii* or ocelot; Durrant identifies it as *Felis onca henningsii* (Gray) or jaguar.

3. *Chocholli* is translated as talon or as *pie de venado*, depending upon whether the term applies to the *Felidae* or *Cervidae* family. Corresponding Spanish text: "tiene pescuños en los brazos, y en las piernas."