

**TXLEAMA A TALE  
OF  
ANCIENT MEXICO**

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Txleama a Tale of Ancient Mexico by J. A. Knowlton

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BY  
J. A. KNOWLTON

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# TXLEAMA.

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## CHAPTER I.

“WHAT, thinkest thou, hath changed the humor of our noble king?”

“I cannot tell, unless it be the fear that he hath displeased the gods, who for many days have sent famine and death to his faithful subjects; he dreads the wrath of the terrible sun-god, which was predicted would fall upon his kingdom, lay it in waste and people it with strange men who would come from the East to depose him of his throne and carry off his treasures of gold and jewels.”

“Why should the great and noble Montezuma fear these strangers? Hath he not the largest armies, the bravest generals, and the favor of the great

high priests? Hath he not built temples for the sacrifice which reach to the skies, upon which have been slain by his priests thousands of his prisoners as offerings to the gods?"

"That which thou sayest is true, most noble lord."

"Then why doth the great king of the Aztecs fear and tremble for the future?"

"I know not why, but that he doth I am most certain. But wherefore this? Thou knowest the king hath called us to the council, where will be made known his wishes."

"Thinkest thou he will send another army against Tlascala, who, since defeating the last one, hath become more bold than before?"

"I cannot tell; since the death of his noble sister, our king hath become moody and uncommunicative. The young prince, Txleama, who hath solicited the hand of his favorite niece in marriage, will be given audience to-day,



and all the lords and nobles of the realm are expected to be present."

The speakers, two lords of the Aztec nation, and of the council of the immortal Montezuma, had accidentally met in the grounds surrounding the palace while on their respective paths to the daily debate of the council, the meeting of which to-day was to be of more than ordinary importance.

The last speaker, the lord Tecomo, was noted for his wise and kindly disposition, therefore a favorite with the people, as well as with his sovereign, whose right-hand man he invariably was in both the council and battle.

His companion of the morning was the choleric, and at all times jealous lord, Ixillii, who was as cordially disliked by all, both of high and low degree, as to the contrary was Tecomo beloved and respected.

Had it not been that Ixillii was possessed of great wealth wherewith to bribe the high priests, who in most

things were the true rulers of the people, his star would have long been in the descendant.

This wily lord had long cast covetous eyes upon the rare beauty of the princess Lxtonwa, the favorite niece of the Aztec monarch, and had planned to make the maiden his wife.

To this the king had not as yet consented, neither had the favored one lent to her would-be lord the most attentive ear.

Now to crown his discomfiture a prince of a distant, warlike nation had journeyed to the court of Montezuma to sue for the hand of the fair princess.

It was reported that the latter was already more than half in love with the young stranger, whom she had seen, but had not as yet, owing to the customs of the country, been allowed to meet, but was fully aware of his errand through the information vouchsafed by the ladies of the court.

To the speech of Tecomo, in relation to the prince Txleama, the lord Ixillii answered fiercely:

“Why should this prince Txleama, the son of our king’s most deadly foe, be allowed to solicit that for which hundreds of her own countrymen sigh in vain?”

“Thou knowest well that our sovereign admires a courageous foe, and as the son is as brave as the father, and will one day succeed him as a powerful ruler, what could be more advantageous than such an alliance?”

“There could be many things more advantageous than to slight a faithful subject, who hath long served his king, in favor of a stripling foe! But enough! let us to the council, and ’tis time! For here comes he of whom we have spoken.”

Looking in the direction pointed out by the angry Ixillii, his companion discovered the strange prince approaching the spot accompanied by his own servant.