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Introductory Note

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Introductory Note Vol 3 Issue 2

Maya America presents in this issue a novella by Gaspar Pedro González and an autoethnographic Storywork by Ana Celeste MacLeod. These two works of literary and academic creation present the reader with unique visions of the Maya Diaspora.

Maya Migrant: A Journey of No Return

After years of listening to Maya migrants in the United States and listening to migrants forced back to Guatemala, Gaspar created the story of Palas Yakin and Malkal, man and wife.

The story begins with a discussion of the causes behind migration, and then proceeds to Palas while he arranges his trip with the coyote, makes his goodbyes to his family and community, makes the overland passage through Mexico, and when finally in the United States finds some hopes and plans unobtainable. Palas, and his family left behind in Guatemala, will encounter challenges to their cultural traditions, their personal and community identities, their values and the way they see the world and life, and their personal, family and community relations. The original Spanish version was published in *Maya America* in Volume 2 Number 2 (2020).

Indigenous Youth Storywork

Ana Celeste MacLeod was adopted from Guatemala as an infant and raised inside (the occupied lands) of Canada (Kkkkanda) by Caucasian parents. Ana migrated, not on foot nor carried on her mother's back, but she was migrated through adoption. Aided by Native American "Old Ones, mentors and Knowledge Keepers", Ana followed a path of discovery to overcome her bestowed "white privilege" to connect with her indigenous heritage. Ana wrote the original version of this Storywork for her Master of Arts degree at the University of Victoria, (Canada) in the School of Child and Youth Care.

As one of the Maya editors to the journal wrote, adoption is something "rarely talked about" among the Maya communities.

Conclusions

Palas according to national laws crossed the border without "papers" but Ana was transported to Canada with the aid of lawyers and laws. Both essays taken together give two visions of individuals who resisted the constructs given by the time and place of birth. And perhaps their stories will help challenge the meanings of legal and illegal.

Book Publication Announcement

Yaxte' Books will publish *The Maya Migrant: A Journey of No Return*, later in 2021, in English and Spanish. The story of Palas and Malkal make strong reading for the college classroom, and the Yaxte' website will have a comprehensive study guide available without cost.

Alan LeBaron