

# Maya America: Journal of Essays, Commentary, and Analysis

---

Volume 4  
Issue 2 *Tourism in the Lands of the Maya*

Article 9

---

12-5-2022

## Prince Jaguar

Ismael Briceño Mukul

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/mayaamerica>



Part of the [Ethnic Studies Commons](#), [Indigenous Studies Commons](#), and the [Latina/o Studies Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Briceño Mukul, Ismael (2022) "Prince Jaguar," *Maya America: Journal of Essays, Commentary, and Analysis*: Vol. 4: Iss. 2, Article 9.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/mayaamerica/vol4/iss2/9>

This Literature and Stories is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@Kennesaw State University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Maya America: Journal of Essays, Commentary, and Analysis by an authorized editor of DigitalCommons@Kennesaw State University. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@kennesaw.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@kennesaw.edu).

# LITERATURE AND POEMS

**“Prince Jaguar” is an original poem by Ismael Briceño Mukul, a well-known Maya poet and scholar. This poem in English has been translated from the Yucatec Maya that also appears in this issue of Maya America.**

## Prince Jaguar

Your glance which fires my spirit  
Is like a burning stone which caresses my hope.  
¿Where have you hidden your eyes?  
Your eyes of a dark twilight sky.  
You, who were born by the ocean,  
Lost in the shadowy silence of the mornings,  
Which hides your mocking smile  
breaking the silence of time.  
Call me by my name because on your lips  
It sounds like the word of gods.  
I break up your glance into crumbs  
Which I chew up and taste piece by piece.  
¿Where have you hidden the song of hope of our land?  
Oh, my jaguar prince,  
my eagle prince,  
my prince of the dark night  
my jaguar prince.  
We hear your name in the mountains,  
Your song resounds in tiny minds

¡Ooh! My lord ¿where is your voice,  
which puts my soul at peace?  
Do not hide your song, for it is my soul,  
Do not hide your words, for they are the voice of my people.  
You are the great dark jaguar, you are the great nocturnal jaguar,  
you are stone  
you are man come from the lineage of stone,  
You are the brother of the sun,  
descended from men of hail,  
carved between the song of gods and the sound of the mountains,  
descended from men with hearts of stone.  
in the pupils of your eyes we can see our thirst for freedom,  
take me flying between your wings and your stone breast.  
My lord, my jaguar prince,  
I come with this humble smile to conquer your song.

## **The threshold of your silence**

Let me rest in the darkness of your gaze  
And dance among your dreams.  
Let your gaze hold in my silence,  
And keep my winter flowers between your hands.  
Let me be a swan dancing in your smile  
Allow me to caress your dreams  
Give me the right to tell the night of your sweetness  
Let me whisper your strength so the trees can hear  
Let my passion rest in your cheeks.

Knowing that I long for your view,  
look me in the eyes once more.  
May your eyes be the flame of the path  
Lord of the eyes of fiery stone,  
Voices of the paths which rush through the silence.  
Let me be a fiery butterfly in your eyes  
Let me be a nocturnal hummingbird in your passions  
Allow me to change into a turtle dove  
Beneath the rain of your gaze.

## **My universe**

What am I doing here?  
Tell them I am following your silence  
That I am caressing your jaguar eyes  
That I am following the tracks marking your footsteps  
One day you changed into my sun.  
You changed into my smile and my tongue  
One day you became the stone which enlightens my solitude  
You became the crystal water of my cup  
You became the roots of my corn fields  
You became the sacred eyes of the deer.  
You became both night and day  
You changed into thirst and hunger in the paths of the universe  
Today be my pen so you may become eternal in the universe.