

Ritual Humor in Highland Chiapas

Texas Pan American Series



White Heads dance beside a Spaniard. (Photo by Frank Cancian)

Ritual Humor in Highland Chiapas

By Victoria Reifler Bricker

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Ta šak'be h-beh ʔelov;
Ta šak'be h-beh loʔil;
Ta šak'be h-beh ɣeʔeh,
Ta šoral,
Ta ʔamak',
Ta spasik sk'in;
Ta spasik spasku,
Htotik hesus,
Htotik lasareno.

They will offer a little entertainment;
They will offer a little joking;
They will evoke a little laughter,
On the roadway,
In the plaza.
They will celebrate the festival;
They will celebrate the holiday,
Of our father Jesus,
Of our father the Nazarene.

