

Rain Ceremony in Yucatan, Mexico. Part 1.

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This is the first part of the paper in which I describe two Mayan rain ceremonies (Timucuy and Oxkutzcab) in Yucatan, Mexico. There exist many reports and studies on the rain ceremony in Yucatan. But most of them presents only fragments of the prayers recited in the ceremony, and very few are intended for comparative study, although the differences of the ceremonies and especially of the prayers among the locations and even the prayers (*h-men*) are notable. So in this paper, I propose a framework for comparative study of Yucatec-Mayan rituals, especially of *h-men's* prayers.

In this part, first of all, I discuss the ritual structure of Yucatec-Mayan rain ceremony reviewing how the rain ceremony was reported to be conceived and performed especially in Chan Kom. And after that, I describe a case of rain ceremony which I witnessed in Timucuy in July 1995.

Mainly I transcribe two prayers recited in Maya on two occasions in the rain ceremony and translate them into Japanese. The first prayer was uttered for requesting permission for getting water for the ritual use from a spring (*cenote*). The second prayer is a main prayer for "calling rains" (*ch'a' ch'áak*).