

The Legend of the Volcanoes

A Tale from Mexico

Gathered from linking partnership with Universidad Regiomotana

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Characters : Narrator, Villager #1, Villager #2 Iztaccihuatl - the Chief's Daughter, Popocatepetl – Young male – in love with the princess, Chief – Iztaccihuatl's father (seen only if there are two or more males in the cast)

4 -5 characters

Narrator

Over looking the world's largest city, Mexico City, are two of the highest volcanoes in the hemisphere and they are named Popocatepetl and Iztaccihuatl. These two volcanoes have been very important to the people who have long admired and revered them. They have also been the inspiration for many legends about their origin and creation. Today we present one such story, *The Legend of The Volcanoes – A Tale from Mexico*.

Thousands of years ago the Aztec Empire ruled the Valley of Mexico and charged unfair taxes to the people.

Villager #1

I cannot afford to pay my taxes! They are too high and unfair!

Villager #2

We will never have enough food or clothing because the taxes are so high!

Narrator

The Chief of the Tlaxcaltecas became weary of this oppression and wanted to help his people. He decided to fight for the people's freedom. The chief had a daughter named Iztaccihuatl who fell in love with the most handsome of her father's warriors. And it was on this day that the Chief gave the young couple his permission to marry.

(enter Princess and Warrior)_

Warrior

I am so happy that your father has given us permission to marry! We will defeat our enemies and live a long and prosperous life!

Princess

And I will be waiting for your return from the battle. I will think of you every day and wait for your return.

Narrator

The words of the Princess gave the young warrior hope and the strength he needed to go into battle. He kept the promise of the princess in his heart and departed for the battle field. Soon afterward, however, a rival of the princess who was jealous of the love shared by the young couple, shared some terrible news with her.

Villager #2

Princess! I am sorry to tell you that your young warrior has died in battle. He will never return!

Narrator

The princess had no idea that this was not true and that her warrior was still alive. Thinking that her love was dead she became crushed by such a tragedy and becoming overwhelmed by sadness, she died.

The young warrior returned, victorious to his people, hoping to find his beloved princess. But upon his arrival he received the terrible news of the death of the princess.

Villager #1

I am so sorry to share the sad news with you that the princess has died.

Narrator

Devastated by the news, the young warrior wandered about the streets for many days and nights.

(Warrior wanders back and forth)

After grieving for some time, the warrior made up his mind to do something for his princess.

Warrior

I am going to build a great tomb under the sun in honor of my princess so that she will never be forgotten!

Narrator

The warrior ordered a great tomb built under the sun, piling up ten hills together to form a huge mountain. He carried the Princess in his arms and took her to the summit and laid her on the great mountain. He took a smoking torch and knelt in front of this beloved to watch over her eternal sleep.

From then on, they continue together, facing each other in silent love. Eventually the snow covered their bodies, forming two majestic volcanoes that would remain joined until the end of time.

To this day, whenever the young warrior remembers his beloved princess, his heart that preserves the fire of eternal passion shakes, and his torch still smokes.