

Tecún Umán

Art of Guatemala

Rebecca Hinson

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Dedicated to Tomas Reynoso Juan, my inspiration.

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Long ago, a wise and brave prince led the Maya nation. His name was Tecún Umán.



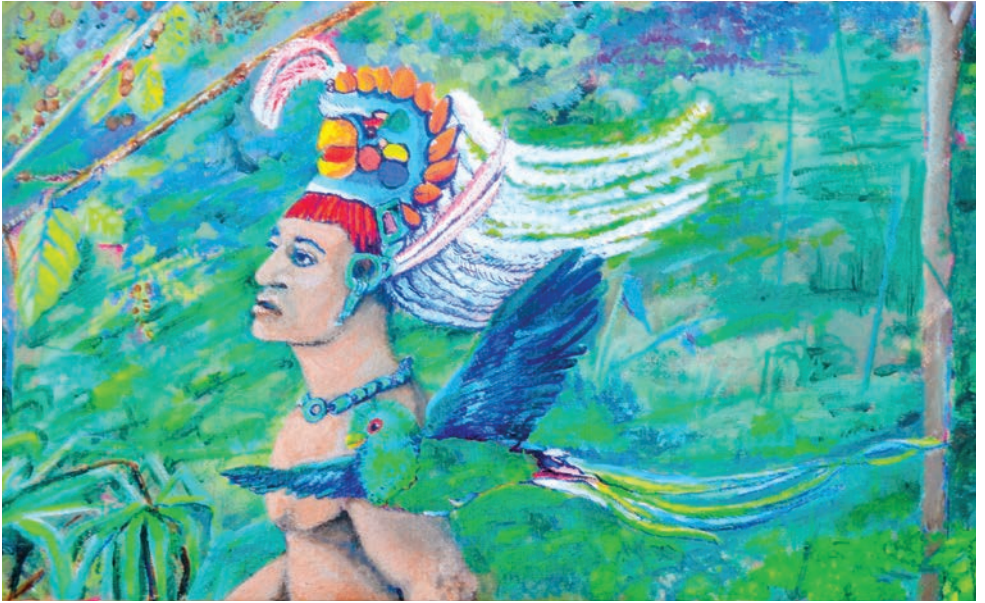
He had many strong, brave warriors.



They were skilled in battle.



Sometimes Tecún Umán sat on his throne, but often he and his warriors had to fight to defend the freedom of their people.



His spirit guide, in the form of a bird called the Quetzal, always flew by his side.



Far across the ocean, King Charles V of Spain had heard of the wonderful treasures of the Maya nation.



King Charles sent one of his generals, Don Pedro de Alvarado, to conquer that nation and claim it for the Spanish empire.



Alvarado brought many armored conquistadors, horses, steel swords and lances, and guns. They were well-armed to fight for their king.



They sailed many weeks to reach the Americas.



When they arrived, Tecún Umán and his warriors fought bravely to defend their people from the Spanish invaders.



During the battle, Alvarado struck Tecún Umán in the heart with his lance.