



## ON NAHUATL WISDOM

The following is an excerpt from **Los once discursos sobre la realeza** (The Eleven Discourses on Royalty), **Book Six of the Florentine Codex**, ed. Salvador Díaz Cíntora, UNAM, Mexico City, 1995.

Serve and labor! Come to the heavy burden, difficult to lift, unbearable. Open thy wings, and draw beneath them thy subjects, thy vassals; in thy care, in thy shadow shall they place themselves, that thou hast been made our lord, a luxuriant silk cotton tree and juniper; now the governed shall be prosperous and happy.

This is all that I put in thy hands and on thy feet, my supplication to thy heart and thy body; firm and silent, our lord and governor, beloved lord. Serve and labor! Join our Lord, come to thy city. ❧

