

Chant  
of  
Paradise



LAND OF PARADISE

ALAN BRENTON



Illustrated by

Bill Rodwell

PER 8-52 205-07115

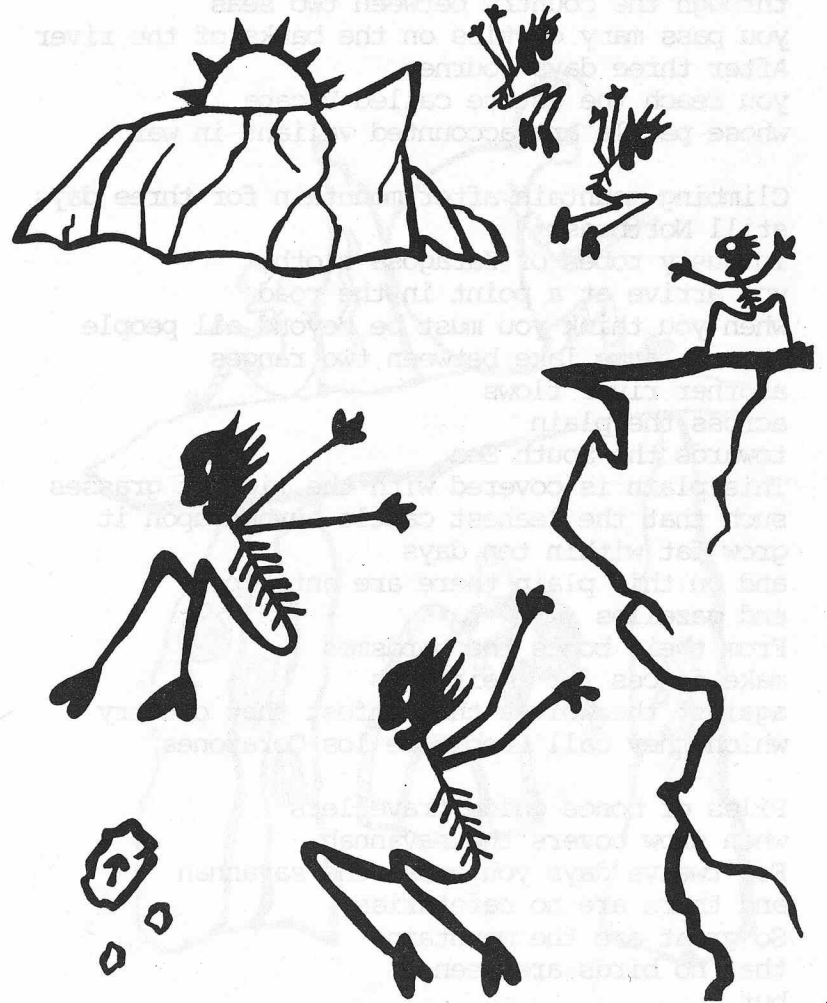
1906

1907



HANT OF PARADISE

Alan Brunton



Illustrated by  
Sally Rodwell

RED MOLE ENTERPRISES

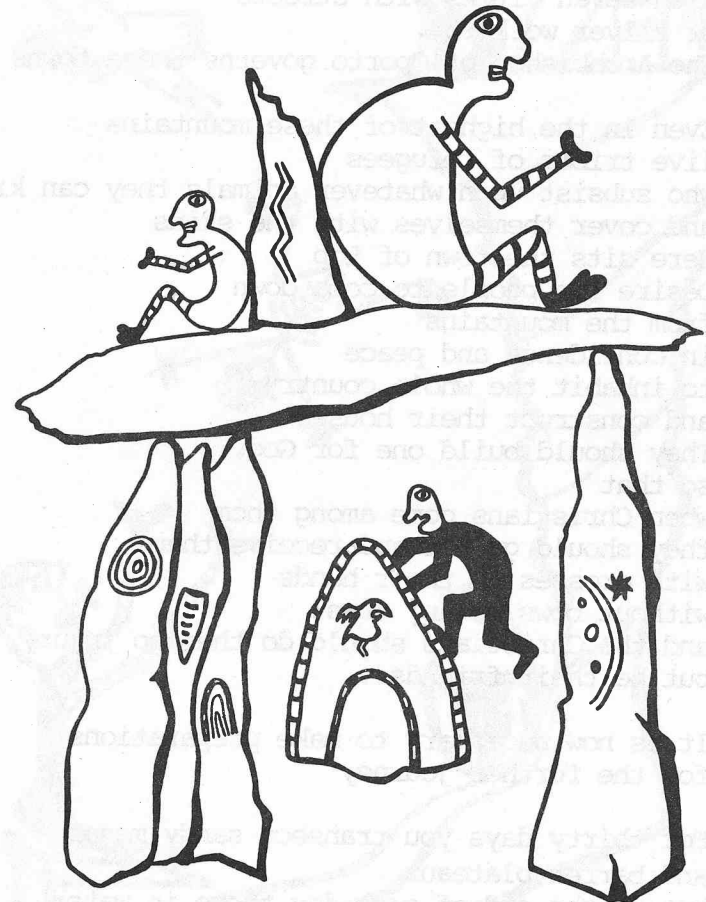
Taos

1985

Leaving the province of Tonalá  
and travelling Northeast  
through the country between two seas  
you pass many castles on the banks of the river  
After three days journey  
you reach the estate called Vacapa  
whose people are accounted valiant in war

Climbing mountain after mountain for three days  
still Northeast  
in dusty robes of Zaragoza cloth  
you arrive at a point in the road  
when you think you must be beyond all people  
From a large lake between two ranges  
another river flows  
across the plain  
towards the South Sea  
This plain is covered with the richest grasses  
such that the leanest cattle turned upon it  
grow fat within ten days  
and on this plain there are antelopes  
and gazelles  
From their bones the herdsmen  
make fences for their cows  
against the wolves that infest that country  
which they call Pueblo de los Corazones

Piles of bones guide travellers  
when snow covers the savannah  
For twelve days you cross the savannah  
and there are no cafetarias  
So great are the mountains  
that no birds are seen  
but  
you still have forty days to travel  
in that direction  
towards the path of the North  
There are many rivers  
once you cross the despoblado  
some villages

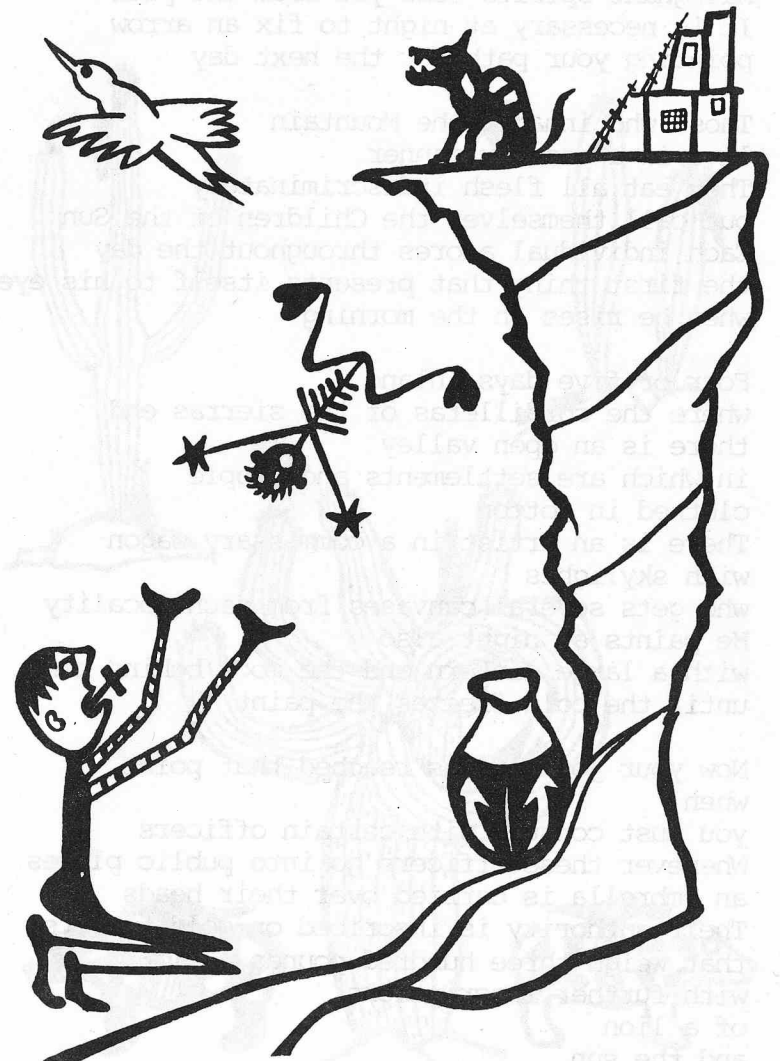


several deserts made of white sands  
and gypsum lakes  
but no flowers  
This region is called Belero  
with seven cities with streets  
of silver workers  
The Archbishop of Oporto governs these towns

Even in the highest of these mountains  
live tribes of refugees  
who subsist upon whatever animals they can kill  
and cover themselves with the skins  
Here sits the town of Lop  
Desire the people to come down  
from the mountains  
in confidence and peace  
to inhabit the whole country  
and construct their houses  
They should build one for God...  
so that  
when Christians come among them  
they should go out and receive them  
with crosses in their hands  
without bows or any arms  
and the Christians should do them no injury  
but be their friends...

It is now necessary to make preparations  
for the further journey

For thirty days you transect sandy mesas  
and barren plateaux  
but at the end of each day there is water  
enough for a hundred people  
and their beasts of burden  
At three or four of these places  
the water is sweet and good  
In this tract you meet neither beasts  
nor birds however  
because there is no kind of food for them



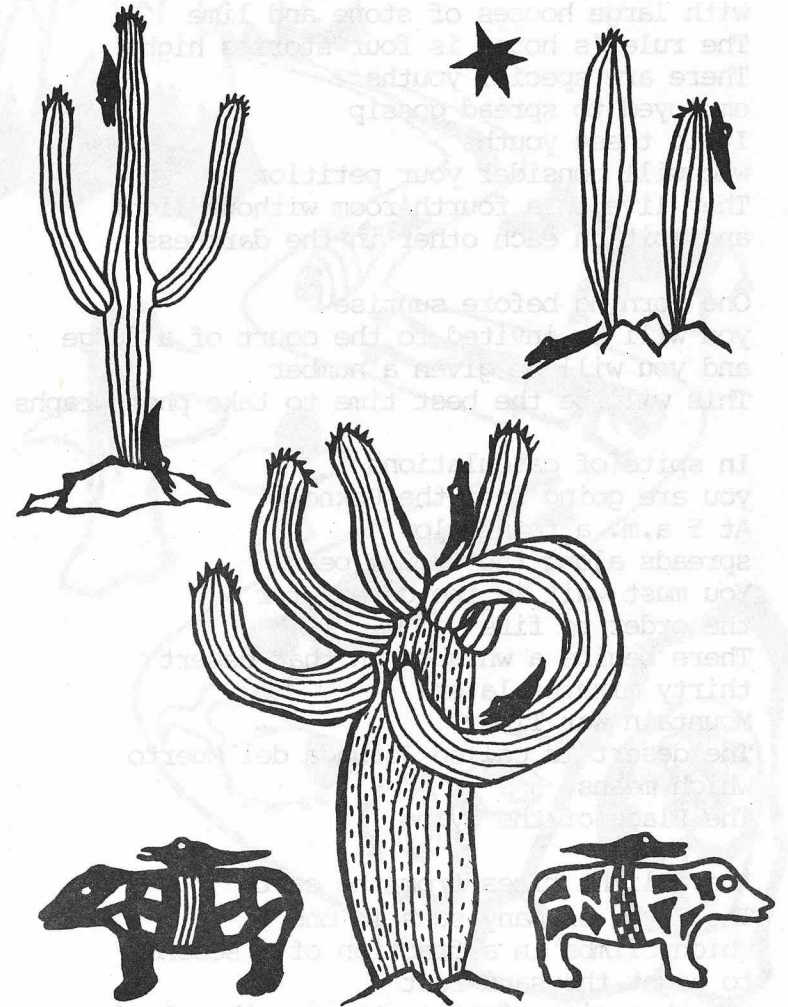
The air is filled with music  
Malignant spirits lead you from the path  
It is necessary at night to fix an arrow  
pointing your path for the next day

Those who inhabit the Mountain  
live in a beastly manner  
They eat all flesh indiscriminately  
but call themselves the Children of the Sun  
Each individual adores throughout the day  
the first thing that presents itself to his eye  
when he rises in the morning

Four or five days inland  
where the cordilleras of the sierras end  
there is an open valley  
in which are settlements and people  
clothed in cotton  
There is an artist in a commissary wagon  
with skylights  
who gets several canvases from each locality  
He paints at night also  
with a large lantern and the moon behind him  
until the cold freezes the paint

Now your journey has reached that point  
when  
you must consult with certain officers  
Whenever these officers go into public places  
an umbrella is carried over their heads  
Their authority is inscribed on gold tablets  
that weigh three hundred pounds  
with further inscriptions  
of a lion  
and the sun  
and the moon

You must wait in this place  
You must wait in this place  
for favorable phenomena  
In this place called San Augustine



you will see signs  
of the province of seven very large cities  
all under one ruler  
with large houses of stone and lime  
The ruler's house is four stories high  
There are special youths  
employed to spread gossip  
It is these youths  
who will consider your petition  
They live in a fourth room without light  
and spit on each other in the darkness

One morning before sunrise  
you will be invited to the court of a judge  
and you will be given a number  
This will be the best time to take photographs

In spite of calculations  
you are going into the Unknown  
At 5 a.m. a faint glow  
spreads along the Oscura peaks  
You must wait in the desert for  
the order to fire  
There begins a whisper in that desert  
thirty minutes later  
Mountain War Time  
The desert is called Jornada del Muerto  
which means  
The Place of the Dying

And a light rises from the earth  
The light of many suns in one  
which climbs in a fraction of a second  
to eight thousand feet  
and then rises further to scar the clouds

Your skin shrinks and dries  
You have become the destroyer of worlds  
You are one mile below Paradise



you will see signs  
of the presence of many very large cities  
all over the river  
with large houses of stone  
The river's name is the Nile  
There are special young  
employed to spread  
It is these young  
who will spread  
They live in the  
On the banks of the Nile  
and the people of the Nile  
This is the Nile  
of olden times  
you will see signs  
of the presence of many  
very large cities  
all over the river  
with large houses of stone  
The river's name is the Nile  
There are special young  
employed to spread  
It is these young  
who will spread  
They live in the  
On the banks of the Nile  
and the people of the Nile  
This is the Nile  
of olden times  
you will see signs  
of the presence of many  
very large cities  
all over the river  
with large houses of stone  
The river's name is the Nile  
There are special young  
employed to spread  
It is these young  
who will spread  
They live in the  
On the banks of the Nile  
and the people of the Nile  
This is the Nile  
of olden times

