

CANTUÑA – THE MAN WHO TRICKED THE DEVIL



Instruction: Cloze the gaps in the story of one of the most beloved legends of Quito, Cantuña.

According to legend, Cantuña was a _____ of great talent. Although he worked diligently, it was slow going and it soon became apparent that he would not finish the _____ on time. He wished to avoid this, as he would not be paid at all if it were not ready on a certain date.

Just as Cantuña thought he will not complete the atrium on time, the

_____ appeared in a puff of smoke and offered to make a deal. He would finish the work overnight and the atrium would be ready on time. What the devil asked him in exchange was ... his _____. The desperate Cantuña accepted the _____. The Devil called in a large band of worker demons and they spent the whole night building the atrium.

Cantuña was pleased with the work but naturally began to regret the deal he had made. While the Devil was not paying attention, Cantuña _____ one of the stones of the walls and hid it. As dawn broke on the day the atrium was to be given to the Franciscans, the Devil eagerly demanded _____. Cantuña pointed out the missing _____ and claimed that since the Devil had not fulfilled his end of the deal, the contract was void. Foiled, the angry Devil disappeared in a puff of smoke. And so, Cantuña prevented the devil from fulfilling the contract.

soul
removed

payment
stone

Devil
deal

native builder

project