

curanderismo the art of traditional medicine without borders

curanderismo the art of traditional medicine without borders is a centuries-old healing practice rooted in indigenous cultures and spiritual beliefs that transcends geographical and cultural boundaries. This holistic approach to health combines herbal remedies, spiritual healing, and ancestral wisdom, emphasizing the connection between mind, body, and spirit. As a form of traditional medicine, curanderismo has endured through generations, adapting to modern contexts while maintaining its core principles. Its influence extends beyond Latin America, reaching diverse communities worldwide that seek natural and integrative alternatives to conventional healthcare. This article explores the rich history, key practices, and global impact of curanderismo the art of traditional medicine without borders, providing insights into its role in contemporary healing traditions. The following sections will delve into the origins, methodologies, cultural significance, and the ongoing relevance of curanderismo in today's healthcare landscape.

- Origins and Historical Context of Curanderismo
- Core Practices and Healing Techniques
- Cultural and Spiritual Significance
- Curanderismo in a Globalized World
- Challenges and Preservation Efforts

Origins and Historical Context of Curanderismo

Curanderismo the art of traditional medicine without borders finds its roots in the indigenous healing practices of the Americas, predating colonial influences. This ancient tradition blends native knowledge with elements introduced by Spanish colonizers, including Catholicism, creating a syncretic system of healing. The term "curandero" refers to the healer or practitioner who employs a variety of methods to restore health and balance.

The history of curanderismo is intertwined with the survival of indigenous cultures under colonial rule, where these healing practices served as both medical and spiritual support systems. Over time, curanderismo evolved to incorporate herbal medicine, rituals, and spiritual cleansing, reflecting an adaptive and resilient approach to health care. Understanding this historical context is crucial to appreciating how curanderismo functions as more than just a medical practice but as a cultural heritage and identity.

Core Practices and Healing Techniques

At the heart of curanderismo the art of traditional medicine without borders lies a diverse array of

healing techniques designed to treat physical, emotional, and spiritual ailments. These methods emphasize the interconnectedness of all aspects of health and the environment.

Herbal Medicine

Herbs play a fundamental role in curandero healing practices. Curanderos utilize a broad pharmacopeia of native plants known for their therapeutic properties. These herbal treatments are often prepared as teas, poultices, or infusions to address specific illnesses or to promote overall wellness.

Spiritual Cleansing and Rituals

Spiritual healing is a cornerstone of curanderismo. Rituals such as limpiezas (spiritual cleansings) employ items like eggs, herbs, and incense to remove negative energies or spiritual blockages believed to cause illness. These ceremonies foster emotional and spiritual balance, aligning the patient's energy with natural and divine forces.

Massage and Bodywork

Physical manipulation techniques, including massage and bone setting, are common in curandero practice. These hands-on methods aim to relieve pain, correct imbalances, and stimulate the body's natural healing processes.

Prayer and Invocation

Prayer, often combined with Catholic or indigenous spiritual elements, is integral to the healing process. Curanderos invoke saints, spirits, or ancestors to aid in the restoration of health, reinforcing the belief in a higher power's role in healing.

Cultural and Spiritual Significance

Curanderismo the art of traditional medicine without borders is deeply embedded in the cultural and spiritual fabric of communities. It transcends mere physical healing to address the holistic well-being of individuals, reflecting a worldview where health is inseparable from spiritual harmony and social relationships.

Community and Identity

Curanderismo fosters a sense of community and cultural continuity. Healing ceremonies often involve family and community members, reinforcing social bonds and shared values. The practice serves as a repository of cultural knowledge, preserving language, rituals, and traditional wisdom.

Syncretism and Religious Integration

The integration of indigenous beliefs with Catholicism demonstrates the syncretic nature of curanderismo. This blending allows practitioners to navigate complex spiritual landscapes, making healing accessible and meaningful across diverse populations.

Curanderismo in a Globalized World

In recent decades, curanderismo the art of traditional medicine without borders has gained recognition beyond its indigenous origins, appealing to a global audience interested in holistic and natural healing alternatives. This expansion reflects broader trends toward integrative medicine and cultural exchange.

Adoption in Diverse Communities

Curanderismo has been embraced by various ethnic groups worldwide, adapting its practices to new cultural contexts while maintaining its core principles. This adaptability underscores its universality as a healing tradition.

Integration with Modern Healthcare

Some healthcare providers and institutions have begun to acknowledge curanderismo's value, incorporating elements into complementary and alternative medicine programs. This collaboration aims to enhance patient care by respecting cultural backgrounds and offering diverse therapeutic options.

Education and Awareness

Efforts to educate healthcare professionals and the public about curanderismo promote understanding and respect for traditional medicine. Workshops, publications, and cultural events serve as platforms to share knowledge and dispel misconceptions.

Challenges and Preservation Efforts

Despite its enduring presence, curanderismo the art of traditional medicine without borders faces challenges related to modernization, cultural appropriation, and regulatory frameworks. These issues threaten the integrity and sustainability of traditional healing practices.

Threats from Modernization

Urbanization and globalization have led to diminished transmission of curandero knowledge, as younger generations may prioritize biomedical education or migrate away from traditional communities.

Cultural Appropriation and Misrepresentation

The commercialization and misinterpretation of curanderismo can dilute its cultural significance, reducing complex practices to exotic trends or commodified products.

Preservation Initiatives

Community-led programs and collaborations with academic institutions work to document, protect, and revitalize curandero traditions. These initiatives emphasize ethical stewardship, cultural respect, and the empowerment of indigenous healers.

- Oral history projects to record healer knowledge
- Training programs for new practitioners
- Legal advocacy for recognition of traditional medicine
- Promotion of cultural festivals and ceremonies

Frequently Asked Questions

What is curanderismo and how does it differ from conventional medicine?

Curanderismo is a traditional healing practice that originated in Latin America, combining spiritual, herbal, and ritualistic methods to treat physical, emotional, and spiritual ailments. Unlike conventional medicine, which often focuses on scientific and clinical approaches, curanderismo emphasizes holistic healing and the balance between mind, body, and spirit.

How does curanderismo incorporate cultural beliefs and practices in healing?

Curanderismo deeply integrates cultural beliefs, including respect for nature, ancestral wisdom, and spiritual entities. Healers, known as curanderos or curanderas, use rituals, prayers, herbal remedies, and energy work that align with indigenous and mestizo traditions, addressing not just physical symptoms but also emotional and spiritual causes of illness.

What role do herbs and natural remedies play in curanderismo?

Herbs and natural remedies are central to curanderismo. Curanderos utilize a wide variety of plants, flowers, roots, and natural substances known for their medicinal and spiritual properties. These remedies are often prepared as teas, poultices, or baths to cleanse, heal, and restore balance within the body and spirit.

How is curanderismo practiced across different regions and communities?

Curanderismo varies widely across regions and communities, adapting to local traditions, available plants, and cultural influences. While it is most commonly associated with Mexico and Latin America, elements of curanderismo are found in indigenous healing practices throughout the Americas, each with unique rituals and healing techniques.

Can curanderismo be integrated with modern healthcare systems?

Yes, curanderismo can be integrated with modern healthcare systems to provide holistic care. Many patients and practitioners recognize the value of traditional healing alongside conventional treatments, especially for chronic conditions and mental health. Collaboration and mutual respect between curanderos and medical professionals can enhance patient outcomes.

What is the significance of spiritual healing in curanderismo?

Spiritual healing is a fundamental aspect of curanderismo, as it addresses the root causes of illness believed to stem from spiritual imbalances or negative energies. Practices such as *limpia* (spiritual cleansing), prayer, and rituals help remove harmful influences and restore harmony, promoting overall health and well-being beyond just physical symptoms.

Additional Resources

1. *Curanderismo: Traditional Healing Arts of Mexico*

This book explores the ancient practices of curanderismo, focusing on the spiritual and herbal healing methods used by Mexican healers. It delves into the cultural significance of rituals, ceremonies, and natural remedies, providing readers with an understanding of how these traditions have been preserved through generations. The author combines historical context with personal stories from contemporary curanderos.

2. *The Art of Curanderismo: Healing Beyond Borders*

Highlighting the cross-cultural aspects of curanderismo, this book examines how traditional medicine transcends geographical and cultural boundaries. It discusses the integration of indigenous knowledge with modern medicine and the role of curanderos in multicultural communities. Readers gain insight into the holistic approach to health that includes mind, body, and spirit.

3. *Herbs and Healing in Curanderismo*

Focusing on the botanical knowledge central to curanderismo, this title details the medicinal plants commonly used in traditional healing practices. It includes descriptions of plant properties, preparation methods, and their applications for various ailments. The book serves as a practical guide for those interested in herbal medicine within the curanderismo tradition.

4. *Spiritual Medicine: The Rituals of Curanderismo*

This book emphasizes the spiritual dimension of curanderismo, exploring rituals such as *limpia* (spiritual cleansing), prayer, and the use of sacred objects. It illustrates how these practices help restore balance and harmony in individuals and communities. The author provides an anthropological perspective on the symbolism and meaning behind these healing ceremonies.

5. *Curanderismo in the Modern World: Challenges and Adaptations*

Examining the evolving role of curanderismo in contemporary society, this book discusses how traditional healers navigate modern healthcare systems and globalization. It addresses issues of cultural preservation, legal recognition, and the blending of indigenous and Western healing practices. The book also highlights stories of curanderos adapting their methods to new environments.

6. *The Curandero's Handbook: Tools and Techniques of Traditional Healing*

Serving as a comprehensive manual, this book outlines the essential tools, techniques, and diagnostic methods used by curanderos. It covers topics such as energy work, massage, herbal remedies, and divination. Ideal for practitioners and students, it offers practical advice alongside insights into the philosophy of curanderismo.

7. *Healing Traditions Without Borders: Curanderismo and Global Indigenous Medicine*

This title places curanderismo within the broader context of indigenous healing traditions worldwide. It compares and contrasts practices from different cultures, emphasizing shared values of holistic care and respect for nature. The book advocates for the recognition and preservation of indigenous medical knowledge as a vital part of global health.

8. *Voices of the Curanderos: Stories from Traditional Healers*

Through interviews and personal narratives, this book gives voice to curanderos from diverse backgrounds. It captures their experiences, philosophies, and the challenges they face in maintaining their traditions. Readers gain an intimate look at the human side of curanderismo and the deep connections between healer, patient, and community.

9. *The Energy of Healing: Curanderismo and Mind-Body-Spirit Medicine*

Exploring the energetic aspects of curanderismo, this book focuses on concepts such as spiritual energy, chakras, and the flow of life force. It explains how curanderos work with these energies to promote healing and well-being. The book integrates traditional wisdom with contemporary theories of holistic health and energy medicine.

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responsible for a host of negative conditions including physical ailments, depression, insomnia, and dysfunctional behavior patterns. Exploring how to retrieve this sacred energy, or soul fragments, as well as resolve cases of soul theft, the author details how to journey through the non-ordinary realms of the Underworld, Middleworld, and Upperworld to locate lost soul fragments and reintegrate them. She explains how to enter a trance journey, providing instructions for shamanic breathwork practices, shamanic dancing, sounding and toning methods, as well as hand postures (mudras) to facilitate trance states. She explores how to perform soul diagnosis, create a loving and nurturing space for soul fragments to return, and work with the healing wisdom of the 5 Mesoamerican cardinal directions: South, West, North, East, and the Center, which marries the other directions and offers a portal to other worlds. She offers pressure point exercises to release the energies of traumas and contemplative exercises to continue the reintegration of soul fragments after the trance journey. She also explains how to connect with animal guardians to aid you in the soul retrieval process. Revealing how to achieve a lasting retrieval of soul energy, Buenaflor shows how the dynamic process of curanderismo soul retrieval can heal many forms and degrees of trauma and help people move forward in life with more clarity, self-awareness, empowerment, and greater depths of authentic self-love.

curanderismo the art of traditional medicine without borders: Curandero Hispanic Ethno-Psychotherapy & Curanderismo Antonio Noé Zavaleta Ph.D, 2020-10-08 Curandero: Ethno-Psychotherapy & Curanderismo Hispanic Mental Health in the 21st Century, is the product of more than 50 years of the study of curanderismo and Hispanic mental health. In this book, Dr. Zavaleta examines curanderismo and the folk beliefs carried by immigrants across the U.S.-Mexico border. In the United States, the Hispanic population is notoriously underserved in both physical and mental health care. In Curandero, Dr. Zavaleta reviews the history of curanderismo, beginning with pre-Columbian populations, and traces the development of curanderismo over the past 500 years. He also examines the history and practice of psychiatry and the emergence of ethno-psychotherapy as well as psychiatry's historic failure to incorporate culture in the treatment of the mental health of Hispanic populations. Dr. Zavaleta seeks to introduce curanderismo to psychiatry with the intention of incorporating its important aspects in the treatment of Hispanic mental health.

curanderismo the art of traditional medicine without borders: Global Perspectives on Indigenous Oral Traditions Mukuni, Candido, 2025-09-05 Indigenous oral traditions are vital to preserving cultural memory, transmitting knowledge, and sustaining community identity across generations. These rich practices offer alternative ways of knowing that challenge dominant Western paradigms and support efforts to decolonize education. As global awareness grows around the importance of indigenous knowledge systems, oral traditions play an increasingly prominent role in informing pedagogy, cultural resilience, and intercultural understanding. Exploring their relevance today helps bridge past and present, fostering more inclusive and respectful approaches to learning and cultural preservation. Global Perspectives on Indigenous Oral Traditions provides an interdisciplinary exploration of the functions, preservation, and educational integration of indigenous oral traditions. It presents theoretical frameworks, comparative case studies, and practical applications from all around the world. Covering topics such as colonial debunking, intergenerational knowledge, and storytelling, this book is an excellent resource for anthropologists, educators, curriculum developers, historians, linguists, instructional designers, administrators, researchers, academicians, and more.

curanderismo the art of traditional medicine without borders: Llewellyn's Complete Book of North American Folk Magic Cory Thomas Hutcheson, 2023-04-08 From the cohost of the popular podcast New World Witchery, more than twenty diverse traditions from New England to the West Coast. Drawing on the expertise of twenty-four renowned practitioners, this book features contemporary folk traditions from all over North America. Diverse as the landscapes they thrive on, these authentic practices will expand your worldview and inspire you to enrich your own spirituality. Explore the history, tools, and spiritual beliefs of many different paths of folk magic from Mexico, the United States, and Canada. You'll tour the continent's rich and varied cultures region by region,

taking an insider's look at more than twenty traditions, including: Appalachian Mountain Magic Brujeria Curanderismo Detroit Hoodoo Florida Swamp Magic Irish American Folk Magic Italian American Magic Melungeon Folk Magic New England Cunning Craft New Orleans Voodoo Ozark Folk Magic Pennsylvania Powwow & Braucherei Slavic American Folk Magic Southern Conjure Contributors include: Stephanie Rose Bird • H. Byron Ballard • Starr Casas • Ixtol Paloma Cervantes • Kenya T. Coviak • J. Allen Cross • Alexander Cummins • Morgan Daimler • Mario Esteban Del Ángel Guevara • Lilith Dorsey • Morigane Feu • Via Hedera • Cory Thomas Hutcheson • Melissa A. Ivanc-Murray • E. F. E. Lacharity • Dee Norman • Aaron Oberon • Robert Phoenix • Jake Richards • Sandra Santiago • Robert L. Schreier • Eliseo "Cheo" Torres • Benbell Wen • Brandon Weston "Rich, engaging, and incredibly diverse, this book gives us irreplaceable and enlightening glimpses into every folk magic you can imagine from the South to the North and all the way out West. A must-have book for any folk practitioner." —Frankie Castanea, AKA Chaotic Witch Aunt, author of Spells for Change

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curanderismo the art of traditional medicine without borders: Cleansing Rites of Curanderismo Erika Buenaflor, 2018-07-10 A tutorial on the ancient practice of limpias to heal the mind, body, and soul • Offers step-by-step instructions for the practice of limpias, shamanic cleansing rituals to heal, purify, and revitalize people as well as physical spaces • Examines different types of limpia ceremonies, such as fire rites for transformation, water rites for cleansing and influencing, and sweeping rites for divination • Explores the sacred stories behind limpia rituals and traces these curanderismo practices to their indigenous roots Exploring the essential tools and practices of Mesoamerican shamans and curanderos, specifically the ancient Yukatek Maya and Mexica (Aztec), Erika Buenaflor, M.A., J.D., provides a step-by-step guide for conducting the most common practice within curanderismo: limpias. These practical and incredibly effective shamanic cleanses heal, purify, and revitalize people and spaces with herbs, flowers, eggs, feathers, fire, and water. They are also powerful tools for self-empowerment, spiritual growth, soul retrieval, rebirth, and gracefully opening up pathways for new beginnings. Drawing on her 20 years' experience as a curandera and her graduate studies focused on Mesoamerican shamanism, the author traces modern curanderismo practices to their indigenous roots. She explores the sacred stories behind limpia rituals and examines different types of limpia ceremonies in depth, such as fire rites for transformation, water rites for cleansing and influencing, and sweeping rites for divination. She outlines how limpias work holistically to enable one to let go and cleanse the body, mind, and spirit of limiting beliefs, traumas, and broken stories; heal acute and chronic illnesses such as depression, insomnia, and anxiety; and revitalize and activate sacred spaces by renewing their essence and clearing negative energies. She explains the healing properties of the plants used in limpia rites and how to perform the medicinal chants used by the curanderos. In addition, the author details how the practice of pláticas, heart-straightening talks, supports limpia rites by encouraging one to vocalize their needs as they eject traumas and unwanted energies from the body, setting the stage for self-awareness and healing. Sharing the story of her own complete healing from a catastrophic injury with limpias as well as inspirational testimonies from others who have experienced limpias, the author provides a personal and thoroughly practical guide to the ancient shamanic method of limpias to promote healing and personal transformation in our times.

curanderismo the art of traditional medicine without borders: Get Rooted Robyn Moreno, 2023-06-06 The alchemy for real personal transformation lies in digging up your own medicine and tools. Your ancestors, with all their struggles, strength, and resilience, are your greatest guides. Anyone scrolling through Robyn Moreno's social media and seeing her with her adorable kids and taking the stage at empowerment conferences would have thought she had it all together. But the truth behind her well-curated pics was that Robyn was burnt out: in the midst of a full-on, midlife meltdown caused by that all-too-familiar working mom tightrope walk coupled with painful family drama. To save her soul, sanity, and family, Robyn quit her manic #mommyboss existence, and set

out on a 260-day spiritual journey based on an ancient Mexica (Aztec) calendar, studying the medicine of her Mexican grandmothers: curanderismo. She learned about sustos—soul losses—and ser—your true essence. She reconnected with family she hadn't spoken to in ages, and learned fantastical stories about her great-grandmother, Mama Natalia, who was a curandera. She took cooking lessons with a tough but tender-hearted Mexican chef and found community, and joy, in hiking. She had dramatic moments with her sisters, her mom, her husband, and herself. And finally, she went into the jungle of Belize and found healing in the most unexpected way. Reckoning with the hidden stories and aspects of her family and her Mexican American culture that were transforming and heartbreaking brought Robyn to an unshakable understanding of who she is and how she fits into this world. And, by looking to her past to decide which traditions, which medicines, to pass on to her daughters—and which to leave behind—she began to root into the person she was meant to be.

curanderismo the art of traditional medicine without borders: Higher Education

Leadership Sharmila Pixy Ferris, Kathleen Waldron, 2021-04-20 Offering a unique insider view of higher education, Ferris and Waldron skillfully showcase expert leadership, providing a rich and meaningful understanding of higher education leadership from across the nexus of existential, philosophical and practical concerns.

curanderismo the art of traditional medicine without borders: Border Medicine Brett Hendrickson, 2014 Mexican American folk and religious healing, often referred to as curanderismo, has been a vital part of life in the Mexico-U.S. border region for centuries. A hybrid tradition made up primarily of indigenous and Iberian Catholic pharmacopeias, rituals, and notions of the self, curanderismo treats the sick person with a variety of healing modalities including herbal remedies, intercessory prayer, body massage, and energy manipulation. Curanderos, 'healers,' embrace a holistic understanding of the patient, including body, soul, and community. Border Medicine examines the ongoing evolution of Mexican American religious healing from the end of the nineteenth century to the present. Illuminating the ways in which curanderismo has had an impact not only on the health and culture of the borderlands but also far beyond, the book tracks its expansion from Mexican American communities to Anglo and multiethnic contexts. While many healers treat Mexican and Mexican American clientele, a significant number of curanderos have worked with patients from other ethnic groups as well, especially those involved in North American metaphysical religions like spiritualism, mesmerism, New Thought, New Age, and energy-based alternative medicines. Hendrickson explores this point of contact as an experience of transcultural exchange. Drawing on historical archives, colonial-era medical texts and accounts, early ethnographies of the region, newspaper articles, memoirs, and contemporary healing guidebooks as well as interviews with contemporary healers, Border Medicine demonstrates the notable and ongoing influence of Mexican Americans on cultural and religious practices in the United States, especially in the American West--

curanderismo the art of traditional medicine without borders: Curandero Torres Eliseo "Cheo", Timothy L. Sawyer, 2014-08-15 Eliseo Torres, known as Cheo, grew up in the Corpus Christi area of Texas and knew, firsthand, the Mexican folk healing practiced in his home and neighborhood. Later in life, he wanted to know more about the plants and rituals of curanderismo. Torres's story begins with his experiences in the Mexican town of Espinazo, the home of the great curandero El Niño Fidencio (1899-1939), where Torres underwent life-changing spiritual experiences. He introduces us to some of the major figures in the tradition, discusses some of the pitfalls of teaching curanderismo, and concludes with an account of a class he taught in which curanderos from Cuernavaca, Mexico, shared their knowledge with students. Part personal pilgrimage, part compendium of medical knowledge, this moving book reveals curanderismo as both a contemplative and a medical practice that can offer new approaches to ancient problems. From Curandero . . . for centuries, rattlesnakes were eaten to prevent any number of conditions and illnesses, including arthritis and rheumatism. In Mexico and in other Latin American countries, rattlesnake meat is actually sold in capsule form to treat impotence and even to treat cancer. Rattlesnake meat is also dried and ground and sprinkled into open wounds and body sores to heal

them, and a rattlesnake ointment is made that is applied to aches and pains as well.

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curanderismo the art of traditional medicine without borders: *Curanderismo, Mexican American Folk Healing* Robert T. Trotter, Juan Antonio Chavira, 1997 The practice of curanderismo, or Mexican American folk medicine, is part of a historically and culturally important health care system deeply rooted in native Mexican healing techniques. This is the first book to describe the practice from an insider's point of view, based on the authors' three-year apprenticeships with curanderos (healers). Robert T. Trotter and Juan Antonio Chavira present an intimate view of not only how curanderismo is practiced but also how it is learned and passed on as a healing tradition. By providing a better understanding of why curanderos continue to be in demand despite the lifesaving capabilities of modern medicine, this text will serve as an indispensable resource to health professionals who work within Mexican American communities, to students of transcultural medicine, and to urban ethnologists and medical anthropologists.

curanderismo the art of traditional medicine without borders: *Latine Herbalism* Iosellev Castañeda, 2025-04-29 Discover the art of Modern Curanderismo as you explore the rich history behind modern-day herbal remedies, natural recipes, plant medicine, holistic and spiritual rituals, and more practiced by Curanderos(as) across the Americas. Delve into the healing traditions of Latine folk herbalism and modern curanderismo with this all-in-one guidebook offering a fusion of time-honored and contemporary practices. Latine Herbalism details the medicinal power of herbs and plants, their origins, and their most common uses while also exploring the folk traditions from sacred locations in the US, Mexico, and South America. This book even goes one step further, helping you navigate through the most common afflictions of body and mind, from digestive issues to stress management and beyond, with remedios y rituales such as: Breath vibrations Heart vibrations Spirit of the flowers Moon energy And more Authored by a passionate advocate and practitioner, this book explores and honors the nuanced realms of curanderismo and Latine herbalism.

curanderismo the art of traditional medicine without borders: *A Magic Feather* David Atekwatzin Young, 2020-08-13 When the Spaniards first invaded Mexico, they encountered advanced medical practices among the Indigenous peoples called huehuetlahtli (ancient ancestral medicine). The Spaniards renamed it curanderismo. Despite 500 years of colonization, huehuetlahtli remains deeply embedded in the Indigenous communities of North America precisely because of its success in treating myriad physical, mental, emotional and spiritual illnesses. A Magic Feather divulges key healing secrets still utilized in the Indigenous Chicano community. Atekwatzin, a curandero who studied with Aztec/Mexican, Apache, Chicano, Genízaro, and Lakota medicine people, shares the theory, philosophy and science of curanderismo. Beginning with original sources written in the sixteenth century up to contemporary oral teachings that predate European contact, A Magic Feather takes us inside these living traditions across time to arrive at a contemporary expression of Indigenous medical practices deeply rooted in the Aztec cosmology of Mexicayotl. The sixteen chapters of the book are divided into three sections: The Foundation of Illness; Methodologies for Healing; and Evolution of a Philosophy. The book explores how curanderismo has evolved over the centuries, why it is still practiced and it provides practical applications for addressing illness for both Indigenous individuals and communities.

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Brownsville and Texas Southmost College.

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Alberto Salinas Jr, 2011-10-26 The Border Healer My Life as a Curandero is one of the most significant contributions of its kind. Alberto Salinas, Jr. a curandero tells his story in the native voice. He tells us about his life and how he became a healer. He explains the spiritual world of El Nino Fidencio, the spiritual realm in which he practices and he shares with us many of his experiences as a working exorcist. He recounts his life growing up as a migrant farm worker in south Texas, marrying, raising children and working as a deputy sheriff before he recognized his calling to spiritual service as a curandero.

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