

*Fourth World
Indigenous Woman*

SYMBOL FOR THE SIXTH SUN



Juan Hernández

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What this little book is about

This book examined existing research and focused on education and women in the ancient way of life of the Mexica who created one of the world's great civilizations and produced an illustrious people, gleaming cities, great architecture, a nearly perfect calendar, powerful philosophy, and a culture of equality. Women participated fully in daily life, in governance, the economy, education, religion, and the arts. All of that resonates today in the modern world.

What makes this book unique

The book is cutting edge in that, for the first time, it brings together in one place what has been discovered about women in the ancient Mexican societies. This is significant because a new perspective emerges about the nature of those societies. That new perspective is profoundly important for contemporary struggles in human relationships and, as this era ends and the next begins, for creating the future society.

Who would want to read this

Women's Studies, Ethnic Studies, Social Sciences, sociology, anthropology, education, social work, psychology, psychiatry, public administration, community organizers among the Spanish-speaking, cultural studies, philosophy, professionals of all stripes would want to read this – especially educators and human services practitioners; feminists and all who are concerned with human authenticity; students searching for meaning and mission; and all who seek value and a human destiny in justice; parents of daughters and sons who dream of achievement and yearn for lives of providing, protecting, and loving their families; and finally New Age believers in the advent of monumental world-wide change and all who seek to participate fully in creating the just society, the just future as promised by the Sixth Sun.

How to secure your copy

On the internet, go to www.lulu.com/purchase. The cost is \$19.95. You will be glad you did.

There is also a version containing ancient images in color that can be purchased for \$27.80. You will love this one, too. An eBook version for \$12.99 is available. A Spanish language version will soon become available.

About the Burning Water Symbol

Atl-tlachinolli, burning water, the union of opposites to create, when coupled with a human skull is an image that summarizes the ancient Mexica culture. The symbol is a thought image, a picture that had to be contemplated and interpreted according to all its parts. Laurette Séjourné, in her book *Burning Water: Thought and Religion in Ancient Mexico*, presented line drawings of the image as they appeared in picture-writing and sculpture, described them, and analyzed their meaning. That meaning related to a person's lifelong struggle for authenticity as well as a people's search for mission and destiny. In modern terms, that struggle would be described as existential and, because all aspects of what it means to be human are involved, as humanist.

The skull represents death, when the soul was released to the spiritual worlds beyond. Imbedded in the skull and protruding from it is a human thighbone wrapped in colors to denote the inner struggle that transpired and to represent the person's sacrifice of self in pursuit of the lifelong search for authenticity. It was expected that everyone would engage the "flowery way," the ceaseless inner struggle for becoming authentic persons.

The skull is implanted with Tezcatlipoca's sign, a smoking and pierced mirror. The mirror is held in place by the thighbone to relate self-sacrifice with education. The mirror smokes, and in the smoky mist, vaguely perceived, shines the Divine Couple. The eyes of Quetzalcóatl and Xólotl pierce the mist: Education is godly. The pierced mirror is also an image representing the process of education that included self-knowledge, a wise face, a strong heart, and upright behavior.

Attached to the pierced and smoking mirror are feather balls of white down, the image of divine incarnation and of sacrifice and rebirth through penance. The burning water issuing from the mouth of the skull signifies the spirit freed by burning up the body, liquefying its material prison, in the interior war made possible by rightful education toward creativity and justice. The fiery spirit, then, ascends to heaven, its eternal abode of self-forgetfulness.

Juan Hernández

About the Author

Juan Hernández was born in Watts, California, and enjoyed a childhood paradise with his undocumented immigrant parents in Sawtelle, California. His impoverished youth was spent in Texas where he developed his musical talent, secured his bachelor's degree at Midwestern State University, and completed his military training and active duty. He received his master's degree from the University of Southern California, where he also completed some doctoral study. He developed three careers as a reservist, musician and teacher, and social worker before his 30-year academic career that began in 1972 at California State University, Sacramento. Professionally, he is most proud of his crucial involvement in omnibus national litigation that sought to resolve the issue of the unequal provision of services to the Spanish Speaking and that resulted in the establishment of Offices for Civil Rights in State and county jurisdictions – the means for increasing the hiring of Latinos and other underrepresented groups – an instant and permanent institutional change. He also provided leadership in curricular change toward cultural competency in higher education by researching and developing the theoretical framework as well as courses for a graduate curriculum so focused. He and his wife Ann have five now adult children.