



HOW TO CREATE AN OFFERING CEREMONY TO CULTIVATE AYNÍ

Ceremony brings us close to the Source, it creates an intimate connection with the lineage, and helps us dream the new world we long for us and for the generations to come. Haywaricuy is an ancient Andean ceremony to honor Mother Earth and to offer gratitude for all she gives us: her love, nourishment, protection, and home. Also known as Despacho (in Spanish), it is done to cultivate reciprocity and harmony with the world above, below, and all around; to be in Ayni with all the organizing principles of the Universe.

The offering is done to complete or to begin cycles or to restore health and balance to an individual or community. Within the ceremony, the medicine person places a variety of small items over a textile or a gift paper as to wrap it all up in a bundle. During the process, he/she anchors the intentions with his/her breath on each item and creates a beautiful mandala which later is burned or buried.

Suggested items to offer include: sugar, corn, beans, grains, leaves and herbs, chocolate, flowers, incense, paper money, feathers, colorful yarn, and anything symbolic proper to the occasion. The exact elements are less important than the intent. Humility, honesty, and gratitude are keys for this ceremony.

STEPS BASED ON THE ANDEAN TRADITION:


1. BEGIN WITH A LARGE PIECE OF WHITE OR COLORED PAPER

This will be the “wrapping” for your offering – think of it as a present.

Fold the paper into thirds one way and then thirds the other way so you have nine squares.

Working within the center square, you begin to layer the burnable items that have been informed with your breath, so the energetic essence of your prayers is within each one.

2. INGREDIENT SUGGESTIONS AND THEIR REPRESENTATIONS

- Large piece of white or beautiful colored paper: Envelope of dreams in which we “write” our prayers. Blow your intent for reciprocity and balance in to this empty, folded gift.
- Sugar: Offers sweetness and love.
- Qintu: In Peru, they typically use three coca leaves, but you can utilize three small leaves from trees native to your area. We often use bay leaves, so look for leaves about that size.
- Red and White Carnations: Red for the Earth and white for the heavens. Place a red and a white carnation petal on top of the Qintu (to represent the snow-covered mountains reaching the Heavens) on top of the red petal representing the Earth.
- Build the foundation of the despacho with the Quintus, informing each with your prayer (use a minimum of 12 Quintus).
- Sprinkle red wine into your offering honoring mother Earth, and then white wine to honor the spirits of the high mountains and heaven.
- Cover the Quintus with some dry herbs or resin, like sage and copal, to purify and enhance your prayers.
- Place one open shell in the middle of the prayers, representing the womb of the Earth, our source and birthplace. Blow your intention for Ayni with the mother and all life.
- Sprinkle seeds like Chia or flax (in Perú they use  seeds) to sow the seeds of your becoming.



3. NOW FEED YOUR PRAYERS WITH A HANDFUL OF WHAT SUSTAINS YOU

- Rice: Fertility and abundance, to bring your prayers into fruition.
- Various grains, beans, and nuts: Sustenance.
- Corn: this is the traditional Andean offering...giving back to the Earth for what we have been given.
- Raisins: to honor the spirits of our ancestors.
- Figs: Spirits of the ancient ones who dwell in the sacred mountains.
- Alphabet noodles: To speak with vision and heart; or to step outside and beyond language.
- Animal crackers: to honor the spirit of animal spirits.

4. AND THEN ADD A FEW MORE PINCHES OF "SWEETNESS"

- Candies, candy hearts, sweet gum drops, candy corn, etc.: to be in ayni with all our relations.
- Chocolate: Pachamama LOVES chocolate.
- Black licorice for protection.
- Gummy or candy frogs: Represent messengers, envoys to carry our prayers; and cycle of waters.
- One bill (money): to pay our karmic debts and attract abundance.
- Unraveled cotton balls (clouds): May we come into right relationship with the heavens.
- Confetti stars: to honor our connection to the stars.
- Colored confetti or sprinkles: To celebrate all life.
- Rainbow yarn: Represents the bridge between the worlds.
- Red and white ribbons: to honor our path as humans with a physical body (red like blood) and spiritual nature (white). Together they are the 'hatun ñan'(the great road).
- Flower petals: to uplift the soul for healing.

The experienced shaman will likely follow a specific pattern, but again, the intent is more important than the pattern. In the end, the offering is carefully wrapped and secured with a ribbon or string. The bundle is ceremonially buried for slow, steady results; burned for faster transformation; or fed to running waters summoning the grace of Spirit.

