

Humanities Core: Animals, People, and Power
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Guide to Reading The Huarochirí Manuscript (Chapter 5 & Chapter 6)

What you are reading is an English translation of an original manuscript (meaning an unpublished written document) that is housed today in Spain's Biblioteca Nacional (National Library) in Madrid (number 3169). It reads like a "rough draft" for a number of reasons. One, because the original was written by a Quechua (an indigenous Andean language) by Tomás and other indigenous Andean scribes. Therefore, the "we" of the manuscript is people of the Huarochirí region (on this map San Damian District), a valley in the mountains above the city of Lima, who testified to these colonial writers.



There are also headings, marginal notes, and borrowed words in Spanish probably inserted by the priest Francisco de Avila. Why this mixture? This manuscript was probably composed, on and off, from 1598 to 1608 when Father Avila was digging up dirt on the local beliefs of indigenous people (called “idolatry” by Spanish missionaries). So, the two chapters emphasize places because Father Avila wanted to know where local indigenous Andean people worshipped their deities so he could wipe out indigenous religion! Confused about when everything is happening? I get it! See the timeline.

I am going to be talking about Chapter 5 and Chapter 6, so I would urge you to read both chapters before you come to lecture. Concentrate on the stories. Which people succeed in ancient Huarochirí,

and why? Which animals contribute what? What is dangerous in ancient Huarochirí and where does it come from? Are rich men always in charge?

Read the chapters again, for the arguments that they assert. What did people of Huarochirí value? What did they fear? Where can you sense Spanish influences? What were the people of colonial Huarochirí saying about the Spanish invaders? Do you think that Andean men or Andean women were telling these stories?

To help you read:

- The footnotes are annotations or explanations from the ethnohistorian Dr. Frank Salomon who edited, or put together, this version of the manuscript. You can decide when you want to read those! Notice when you needed to use a footnote, and why.
- Here some main (people) characters:
 - Paria Caca: the fivefold Andean deity of the region and a mountain
 - Huatya Curi: son of Paria Caca, ancestor of the Huarochirí (and his wife)
 - Tamta Ñamca: a wealthy lord, ancestor of the Huarochirí
 - Chuqui Suso: woman of Cupara village, ancestor of the Huarochirí
 - What are the other characters who matter? Why?
- Here are some words in Quechua:
 - muro: colored or spotted maize
 - ayllu: a local or regional social group identified with a particular ancestor

- guanaco



- vicuña



- tinamou



- yunca: valley lands where crops grow best or the people from there
- curaca: a native political lord