

# Despacho

## The Offering Ceremony



The Teaching Team

<https://www.munaykitraining.com>

# DESPACHO

- Ceremonial offerings are deeply intertwined with all indigenous cultures.
- They can be material, a simple stick, or a stone, flower, incense, candle ... or more intricate ceremony and creation.
- They can also be non-material, a prayer, a thought, giving thanks, meditation, giveaway, action ...
- A Despacho is a traditional ceremony from the Andes, to bring us into Ayni, to give back to Pachamama and Spirit, the organizing principle of the Universe.
- The ceremony invites old energy to be cleared and new energy to come in.

# DESPACHO

- A Despacho is an interactive ceremony where all involved build together an offering using items gathered from the environment to offer prayers and intentions to Spirit.
- These offerings are put together in a way that energetically weave the three worlds of existence, the Upper world (Hananpacha), the Middle world (Kaypacha) and the Lower world (Ukhupacha) together by balancing the Devine Feminine and the Devine Masculine. This balance brings our intentions to the universal forces that govern the balance that exists between all beings so they can assist us in rightly relating ourselves to the world around us.
- There are many different intentions that can be offered in Despacho, but Ayni Despacho has the greatest impact on all our lives.

# WHAT IS A DESPACHO?

<https://thefourwinds.com/blog/shamanism/what-is-a-despacho/>

- A despacho is a prayer bundle or offering. For hundreds of years, the Laika (high shamans or wisdom keepers of the Q'ero lineage of Peru) have used the despacho ceremony for a wide variety of occasions – births, deaths, as an expression of gratitude, to heal physical and emotional ailments, to restore balance and harmony, or when there is a specific request of the spirit world.
- Similar to a mandala or sacred creation, the despacho holds symbolic elements and the prayers of the participants. As the elements are added to the despacho, the vibration of the participants and the room raises. The despacho becomes a living prayer that brings energy shifts and healing.



# WHAT IS A DESPACHO?

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- Prior to the despacho ceremony, a variety of ingredients (biodegradable whenever possible) are gathered as offerings. Tangible offerings enhance the feelings and intentions of our prayers and are of great importance when praying for a community or humanity.
- Suggested offerings include sugar and sweets, corn and/or other grains, coca leaves (or whatever herbs or small leaves are readily available), flowers, incense, paper (or “play”) money, salt, feathers, beans, colorful yarn, and any other item that is significant to the occasion. The elements are less important than the intent. You will also need a large piece of paper, or a sizeable leaf, to place the offerings on and later, wrap them with.

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- The ceremony can be as simple and short, or intricate and lengthy as desired.
- As with any ritual, the despacho begins by opening sacred space.
- Then the offerings are selected one by one, a prayer is said over each, and the prayer is gently blown into the offering before it is placed on the wrapping. The offerings can be arranged however feels right. (The experienced shaman will likely follow a specific pattern, but again, the intent is more important than the pattern).
- Humility and gratitude and an open heart are important throughout the ceremony and will ensure that you experience more grace in your life by becoming a better vessel for grace.

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- Once completed, the despacho is carefully wrapped and secured with a ribbon or string. The bundle can be ceremonially buried (for slow, steady results), burned (for quicker transformation) or fed to running waters, thus conveying the gifts to Spirit.
- If the despacho is burned, someone should stay with the fire until the embers are cold, if at all possible.
- Do not put water on the fire. Ashes created in this sacred fire should be buried in the earth at a later time.
- Remember to close sacred space once the ceremony is over.

# THE DESPACHO CEREMONY: HOW TO CREATE YOUR OWN DESPACHO

<https://thefourwinds.com/blog/shamanism/despacho-ceremony-create-despacho/>

- The despacho is a gift for the organizing principles of the Universe and constitutes the central axis of energetic exchange for healing, reestablishing perfect ayni (right relationship), or protection.
- The despacho is the living embodiment of the shaman's landscape of life, that which meets at the level of the soul and ultimately connects to the source of all creation.
- The despacho ceremony, in its physical beauty, is a journey to the soul of nature, and with the assistance of the spirit world, we explore the energetic inner workings and symbolism of each element of our offerings.





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- Traditionally, in the Andes, a despacho ceremony is performed (individually or communally) after each earth cycle to renew and re-imprint the powers of nature on our luminous body, to connect with the Universe and accomplish perfect ayni – not for us personally, but for the wellbeing of our “Ayllu” or group.
- A despacho brings the shaman into harmonious relationship with Heaven and Earth, aligning the three worlds of the Uhupacha, Kaypacha, Hanqpacha and the archetypical organizing principles of the Universe. Each item of offering represents a prayer and a gift of power that sparks the momentum for energy shifts and healing.

# THE DESPACHO CEREMONY: HOW TO CREATE YOUR OWN DESPACHO

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- Begin with a large piece of white or colored paper. This will be the “wrapping” for your offering – think of it as a present. Flip chart paper or non-foil wrapping paper works well.
- 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 objects that have been informed with your breath, so the energetic essence of your prayers is within each one.

A suggested list of contents, order and their meaning is below; however, there really are no rules. Create your prayer bundle in a way that is meaningful to you. Once you have filled the despacho with your prayers and vision for yourself and the Earth, fold the bundle into the shape of a gift; left to right, right to left; then bottom up and top down. Tie it with a white cord and add one “Qintu” (an organized stack fashioned with three leaves from a native tree, informed with a prayer) tucked into the yarn for any “forgotten prayers.”

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- **Ingredient suggestions and their representations:**
- *Large piece of white paper:* Envelope of dreams in which we “write” our prayers. Blow your intent for reciprocity and balance in to this empty, folded gift.
- *Sugar:* Represents 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 mountains. 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).
- *Cover the Qintus* with a little more sugar, representing even more love and sweetness.
- *Place one open shell* in the middle of the prayers, representing the womb of the Earth, our source and birthplace. This holds us, nourishes us, and provides opportunity and safety.

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- **Now feed your prayers with a handful of what sustains you:**
- *Rice*: Fertility and abundance, to bring your prayers into fruition.
- *Various grains*: Sustenance.
- *Nuts*: Gifts for the Plant People.
- *Beans*: For protection, abundance, power places, and the springs that nourish us.
- *Corn*: Sustenance, gift back to the Earth for what we have been given.
- *Raisins*: Spirits of our ancestors, our blood lineage.
- *Figs*: Spirits of the ancient ones who dwell in the sacred mountains.
- *Alphabet noodles*: To step outside and beyond language.
- *Animal crackers* for animal spirits, and health.

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- *Candies, candy hearts, sweet gum drops, candy corn, etc.:* Represent everything we are in relationship with.
- *Chocolate:* Pachamama LOVES chocolate.
- *Loose sage or other incense:* To feed the elements of the Earth.
- *Black licorice* for protection.
- *Gummy or candy frogs:* Represent messengers, envoys to carry our prayers; and cycle of waters.
- *“Play” money (one piece):* To ensure successfulness of the despacho.
- *Unraveled cotton balls (clouds):* Represent aware-time and dream-time.
- *Confetti stars:* Represent connection to the stars.
- *Colored confetti or sprinkles:* To celebrate all life.
- *Rainbow yarn:* Represents the bridge between the worlds.
- *Red and white cord:* Represents the “red” road and the Hatoon Yan, or road to the stars.
- *Flower petals* for healing.

# THE DESPACHO CEREMONY: HOW TO CREATE YOUR OWN DESPACHO

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- When you have placed all your items in the despacho, the corners of the large paper are then folded over the contents so that they all overlap at the center to form a smaller square. Tie the despacho without flipping it over so that all the prayers are sustained.
- The despacho can be either buried (for slow, steady results), burned (for quicker transformation), or fed to the running waters ceremonially within a reasonable amount of time after it is prepared. When the despacho is placed into the fire, participants generally do not look towards the flames until after the offering has been burnt. This symbolizes non-attachment to the outcome and release of all claim to that which has been given away.

# Ceremony

- Ceremony brings us close to the Source, it creates an intimate connection with the lineage, and help us dream the new world we long for us and for the generations to come.
- In Ceremony we weave Munay into the literal, the symbolic, the mythic and energetic levels of Creation.
- Gratitude and generosity open our hearts to enter a harmonious relationships with all our relations.
- During the Ceremony we will be placing symbolic offerings which carry our prayers and gifts to Mother Earth, Heavens, the four directions, the elements of nature, and the lineages.
- An Offering Ceremony is a spiritual practice to honor the seeing and unseeing world, to celebrate life, and to bow humbly to the vastness of creation we are part of.

# Ceremony

- Step into the place of gratitude
- Open Sacred Space
- Open Wiracocha over yourself and the offering
- Cultivate a moment of stillness
- Call the lineage and set your intention
- Follow your intuition in the creation
- When done, wrap the offering in a ceremonial cloth
- Burn in fire, bury in the earth, or offer to the water
- Gather the folds of Wiracocha and close Sacred space



# Despacho Ceremony

- During our Munay-Ki training, we will create a Despacho during the first class, to offer our intentions and gratitude to the lineages and all the archetypes and energies that help us on this journey.
- We will witness Ayni Despacho by Don Pascual for the Pampa Mesayok Karpay, you will have opportunity to create your own offering to your mountain, Apu, and we will create and dismantle offerings for the Taitanchis Rantis.
- If you at any time during the class, feel called to create an offering, please do and follow the guidance from Spirit!









Example of Creating Despacho and Offering it to the Fire







**Email us if you have questions**

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