

THE ANDEAN COSMOVISION

Culture

Every culture in the world has its own way of viewing its surroundings. These views are based on religion, history, or cultural concepts. Even though we may not all share the same opinions, we must respect each other's way of thinking, just like we expect others to respect our own.

To understand the Andean cosmovision, one must have an open mind and be willing to see things from a different perspective. The Andean cosmovision is mystical. It searches for harmony and recognizes diversity and plurality as positive aspects.

According to the Andean cosmovision, there are three main worlds that coexist. The *hananpacha* is a Quichua word that means "heaven". This is where the clouds, stars, rainbows, and *lightening* are. The second part, the *kaypacha*, literally means "here land" in Quichua. It includes everything that is found on Earth: animals, people, mountains, plants, oceans, rivers, lakes... Finally, there is the *uckupacha*, the lower world of mystery. This is where the seeds and the spirits of ancestors are buried and come up as new life.

In the Andean cosmovision, it is believed that between the underworld and the earthly world, there is communication through openings such as *caves*, *craters*, and *lagoons*. The role of human beings is one of interpreters of the messages that are transmitted from heaven. The constellation of the Southern Cross, known as *chakana* in Quichua, is an important symbol that represents the union of the three worlds that are in constant communication.



LINK

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