

Caribbean Women Healers Decolonizing Knowledge Within Afro-Indigenous Traditions

Clip of Interview with Miladi and Amelia, Tradition (Translation)

Recorded by Dr. Ana-Maurine Lara and Dr. Aláí Reyes-Santos

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Miladi: I don't know my pair neither does my aunt but that's why we have Oggún as dad so he can be the one in charge of those things [voices overlap] that other people do and like that, my child, uh, life

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passes by and we believe even more, we get powers because the powers are the ones that prop you up, do you understand? They give you force, they give it to you because the Saint

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himself can't. He sends you health, uh, work stability, love, solidarity, sometimes family union, all those things, you start to prop up, then you set base

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and you just keep on going on what our ancestors started and we help the isolated ones, we help friends, not because of any interest involved because sometimes they don't even thank you but the one that is thankful for,

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the one that thanks you for is your guardian angel and then eh, the pain you caused me, is the happiness I find in it, uh, and never course anybody and all of this we have

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is for the greater good, not ill will. Whenever someone does wrong to do, sit down and talk with you guardian angel, sit down and talk with the powers they have, let them be the ones taking care or solving the

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situation because they don't do things to do wrong, sometimes that happens because sometimes you're not right when you think you are -

Alai Reyes-Santos: Hehe.

Miladi: And you want to do harm, then since Polofi is watching everything says:

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"why do you want to do that?". He, he is the one that helps, then, why do you want to do that? Then, what falls on you is Pandora's Box and you say "why? What happened?" - [unintelligible]

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Amelia: [Unintelligible]at the moment of –

Miladi: Yeah, what a man drew with a, you with a palero now –

Amelia: Now they move to the pot [voices overlap] of us—

Miladi: But let's make it clear to you that

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when I talk about killing, we have only just killed on rooster, on the other hand, if we have to run, we have to do it, do you understand? Yeah, no you can't see me [unintelligible].

Amelia: You know.

Miladi: Sure, sure.

Amelia: [Unintelligible]But, uhm,

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whenever you have to work like this, there's a tata, a father but—

Miladi: That has the faculty to do it.

Alai Reyes-Santos: Yeah.

Miladi: But you have to have everything ready for me and in the

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coconut, when you give a coconut, the woman looks [voices overlap]because she can't see outside [unintelligible] but we do give chamalongo and we put it all together and we go there.

Alai Reyes-Santos: Come on! Come on!

Miladi: Coco, walk. Come on, champion, we have got to

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solve this!

Alai Reyes-Santos: Oh God!

Miladi: I have a lot of faith in [unintelligible], of course!

Alai Reyes-Santos: And [unintelligible] yes.

Amelia: [Unintelligible] the first garment he gave was

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for my Mafé and since there were two, [unintelligible], I was fifteen years old.

Alai Reyes-Santos: Very young.

Amelia: Because I had to have that garment when I was little and my mom was

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scared of me having that garment.

Miladi: With such great dead ones Concha had.

Amelia: And she was scared when the saint said 'no, you have got to be fifteen years old'
[unintelligible].

[END]

You can find this healer interview and others on the [Caribbean Women Healers Website](#).

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