

The Healers Project Decolonizing Knowledge Within Afro-Indigenous Traditions

Clip of Interview Mary and Johnny, Santiguos, Prayers, and Healing (Translation)

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

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Speaker 5: I remembered now that it came to my mind because sometimes I remember, is that I remember that mami used to take me when I was little with her wherever she was because he loved to visit the sick and help them.

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And all those things, and she really liked going to houses to pray the rosary and all that. And I remember that one day I went to un rosario with mami, and the dead one –

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a person had died and the dead person was on top of like a wooden table, and they had like a table like this, and the dead person was on top of it. I remembered that. It wasn't like it is now

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in coffins, they did it at home. And I remember that they prayed for him and everything, and then they took the dead person with that same board that they had, and put it on the sides, side to side and up and down.

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They'd hit it with a hammer, and put nails right there, and they made the box to bury the person. It's not like the boxes now, now that's --

Speaker 4: Already prepared.

Speaker 2: When women were going to give birth, you had to go find the midwife. The midwife was in charge. Sometimes

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the woman giving birth lived here and the midwife lived in the village, [inaudible 00:49:05] to the village to look for the midwife. I was born with a midwife. I was born with a midwife at home; Magdalena, Edwin, Mercedes and me.

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Speaker 1: At home.

Speaker 3: What about everyone else?

Speaker 2: At the hospital.

Speaker 5: But that's right, I think so. And I remember that my mami was one of those people who used to say, Do you remember? Santiguaba. My mom, she would santiguar. When women were

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pregnant, I remember about Jahaira, I remember that I once went with her, and she told me, baby, let me rub your belly. I used to tell her

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that my belly hurt here, and she's say, baby, you're empachada. And then I let her rub me, and after she gave me that rub, she said some prayers and whatnot,

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and then that pain went away, and my mom did that to many people when they twisted or broke their arms and things like that. And she would go and rub it, and I know that she would heal the arm and everything,

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this is like a chiropractor now, something like that. And then she would rub them, and people would heal.

[END]

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

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