



# WILKA TIKA

A Luxury Retreat in Peru's Sacred Valley

## A Qero Andean Wedding Ceremony with Pachamama



The correct name for an Andean offering ceremony is *haywarikuy*. Haywarikuy means “let us play,” where an exchange of vibrant energy takes place between the *pakko*, ritual specialist, the *apukuna*, mountain deities, Pachamama and the participants. The *pakko* calls upon the spirit guardians of the surrounding mountain *apukuna* by name. The *kuntur*, condor, messenger of the gods, is invited to join the ceremony where individuals and family members request a special offering to Pachamama. By way of the *kuntur*, the *pakko* delivers the blessings from the spirits of *Hanakpacha*, the upper world of Divinity to an individual, family or large group.

Special gifts selected to be included in the offering to Mother Earth bring high-yielding results. Prayers, blessings and good intentions are offered before the “plate” is folded, closed, then wrapped

inside an *unkuña*, a beautiful hand-woven, ceremonial cloth. The *pakko* passes the bundle across the energy field of the participants so they may receive its blessing energy. Haywarikuy are meticulously prepared. There is the anticipation that in return, Pachamama will bless those present with health, fruitful results, and a productive agricultural year. The ceremony concludes with an outdoor fire ceremony.

### Ceremonial Preparation of Haywarikuy

The sending of a haywarikuy, or offering “to reach the earth” is a common practice among the Quechua. *Haywarikuykuna* (plural) are used for all life situations that are considered important, and are sent throughout the year. They are offered for a variety of joyful occasions, celebrations for a new home, new land, new baby and wedding unions.

After asking permission from the protecting *apukuna*, mountain spirits, *wayra* the wind and the higher Andean spirit world to conduct this ceremony, the *pakko* turns his full attention to Pachamama, and offers special, loving prayers of gratitude to Her.

First, a *haywaska*, blessing prayer is made to the *apukuna* of the sender. Then, the *pakko* begins with the *haywarikuy akllay*, the ceremony of the selection and setting out of the items to be used in the offering, is most sacred and must be performed by a qualified specialist called a *pakko*. Methods of each specialist and the contents of the offerings may slightly differ. The most dedicated and authentic *pakkokuna* who honor and practice the Andean traditions in their daily lives come from Qero communities.





### **Invocation to Pachamama**

Thirty years ago, while researching authentic Quechua spiritual traditions for my first book “Pachamama’s Children,” I met Professor Faustino, Espinoza Navarro in Cusco. He was 90 years old, completely lucid and healthy at the time.

Navarro told me that he was born in 1905 when his family changed their Quechua names to Spanish in order to be accepted in the social and academic world of Cusco. Despite the fact that Spanish residents were prejudiced against indigenous Quechua living in the city, he went to school, became educated and became recognized as a highly-regarded professor, as well as, great authority on the Kkechuwa (Quechua) language. Navarro deeply regretted that his name had been changed.

During the next three years in the late eighties, Navarro accompanied my groups of American and South African friends to the sacred cave of the carved stone snakes, where he conducted his authentic haywarikuy during the full moon. In those days, the caves were deeply respected and used only for special ceremonies. Now, they have been invaded by housing structures. Navarro would walk us to another ancient Inkan complex where the offerings were burned and received by Pachamama and all Her spiritual beings.

Impressed that a foreign woman had interest in his ancestral culture, he wished to share a special invocation to Pachamama that he had learned from Andean pakkokuna when he was a young boy living in Waroq, a Quechua community.

In a culture where traditions were passed down orally, it is quite unusual to have a traditional Quechua prayer documented so long ago. He helped me translate it from Quechua to Spanish. This prayer is used for very special occasions such as weddings, a birth of a child or move to a new home.

### ***Blessing to Pachamama***

\* \* \* \* \*

*To Pachamama, Mother Earth, our eternal happiness and bed of satisfaction.*

*We ask that we may be healthy and helpful, faithful and true in our work,*

*That we may be fruitful and abundant, that success and joy steer us on the right path.*

*On this occasion we offer you this haywarikuy, a very special offering.*

*Praised be Pachamama, Praised be Pachamama*