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Curanderismo

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CURANDERISMO

GABINO NORIEGA III

With this yerba, I can heal your pain, heart, and mind.

I can take this potion of Romero and alcohol and use it to help you see your past, your now, your future.

We can sit together and summon the power of our ancestors in a bath of steam and heat filled with song and spirit.

I am dedicated to the craft that was passed down from the so-called “heathens” who died at the hands of the righteous.

And in my heart, I can feel the steady flow of generations of magic and sorcery pushing the limits of what is comprehensible.

Yet despite this, the practices and ceremonies that have kept our mind, body, and spirit as one have experienced an arduous death.

Think of the pain that our antepasados feel as they see a “witch kit” sold in stores that contains the sacred remedios that many of them died for.

Envision the stolen histories and knowledge that were supposed to be passed down through the release of a breath engulfed in tradition.

I see the way you scoff at the red I wear upon my head to protect my being.

I feel the way you disregard my medicines in order to justify the poison you ingest on the daily.

I hear the way you describe my culture as “backward” and “uncivilized.”

After all, what do I know? I’m just the brown vato whose culture and traditions were stolen from him and replaced with Taco Tuesday and OxyContin.

Oh, and while you smudge your mansion and luxury cars, remember to thank my familia for sharing this precious knowledge with the world.