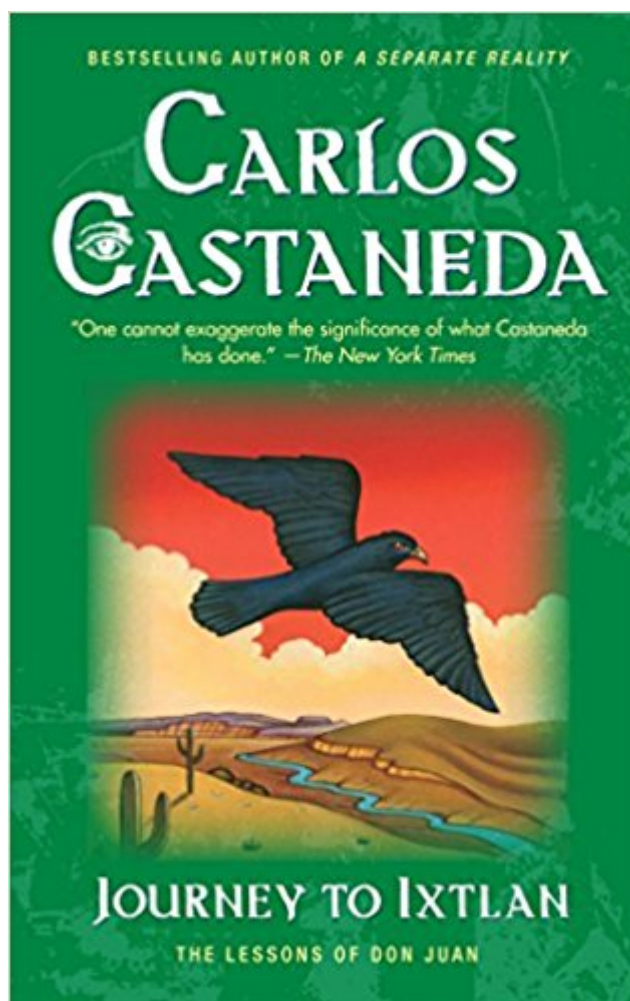


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Journey To Ixtlan: The Lessons Of Don Juan



Synopsis

In *Journey to Ixtlan*, Carlos Castaneda introduces readers to this new approach for the first time and explores, as he comes to experience it himself, his own final voyage into the teachings of don Juan, sharing with us what it is like to truly "stop the world" and perceive reality on his own terms. Originally drawn to Yaqui Indian spiritual leader don Juan Matus for his knowledge of mind-altering plants, bestselling author Carlos Castaneda immersed himself in the sorcerer's magical world entirely. Ten years after his first encounter with the shaman, Castaneda examines his field notes and comes to understand what don Juan knew all along that these plants are merely a means to understanding the alternative realities that one cannot fully embrace on one's own.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Praise for the groundbreaking work of bestselling author Carlos Castaneda "Extraordinary in every sense of the word." (The New York Times)"An unparalleled breakthrough... Remarkable (Los Angeles Times)"Hypnotic reading." (Chicago Tribune)"It is impossible to view the world in quite the same way." (Chicago Tribune)"Excquisite... Stunning... Fresh, unexpected visions with the logic of dreams." (Detroit Free Press)"Taken together [Castaneda's books] form a work among the best that the science of anthropology has produce." (The New York Times Book Review)"Staggeringly beautiful reading. Itself timeless, *Journey to Ixtlan* is one of the important statements of our time." (Book World)

Born in 1925 in Peru, anthropologist Carlos Castaneda wrote a total of 15 books, which sold 8 million copies worldwide and were published in 17 different languages. In his writing, Castaneda describes the teaching of Don Juan, a Yaqui sorcerer and shaman. His works helped define the 1960's and usher in the New Age movement. Even after his mysterious death in California in 1998, his books continue to inspire and influence his many devoted fans.

It's been a long time since I first read this book. Recently I found myself feeling forced to download it to Kindle just so I could read a quote at a conference (not having the physical copy with me). Yes, Castaneda wrote a lot of books. Yes, most of them are very interesting. Yes, it would be wise to start with his first, *The Teachings of Don Juan: A Yaqui Way of Knowledge*, and work forward to *Journey to Ixtlan*. Yes, *Journey to Ixtlan* is probably the single most powerfully moving of all his books--though most of them have beautiful and memorable passages in them. You can skip the second half of the first book--the part where he tries to put what he says was Don Juan's teachings into anthropological mumbo-jumbo hoping he could (so he said anyhow) submit it for university credit. Ignore that part of book one completely. You can also completely skip (in my own opinion) the book about using various physical poses. Certain questions have gone unanswered, specifically: how much of what Castaneda wrote, did he believe himself, as opposed to creating a work of fiction and presenting it as actual experiences? I've seen some compelling arguments to suggest that at least some pieces are a deliberate fiction (like a passage about hiking all day in the heat of a Southwest summer day, without ever mentioning phenomenal water requirements or the possibility of death by heat stroke). There are other things suggesting he really believed at least a part of the experiences he describes (whether or not you the reader would literally believe them is an altogether separate issue). For example, the clumsy attempt to anthropology-study the experience, in book one, never repeated again after that, seemed legitimately like someone changing from the role of "university student" or at least "part-time student", to at least a part time APPRENTICE to this man he calls Don Juan. The book all about use of certain postures, much like a martial arts or a meditation book, also seems very matter-of-fact like, WHY BOTHER, unless someone actually instructed him in those things and he came to believe himself that they had some importance.... Perhaps what's most fascinating of all is that even though Castaneda seems to have been raised with a largely Westernized world view, the world-view which he presents as the teachings of his two mentors, Don Juan and Don Genaro (pseudonyms no doubt even if the individuals were real), is so COMPLETELY NON-WESTERN, it's quite an act for one writer to

imagine the entire thing alone. And yet, despite being a world view unique from other cultures, he portrays some profound and universal truths about the nature of living, and of a life well-lived as opposed to a life stumbled through, that I think virtually anyone who reads this seriously will be deeply moved. Read it, and be moved. Let it change your attitude toward life.

Regardless of the controversies surrounding Castaneda, he writes far, far better than his critics, and he delivers the most penetrating analyses of the cognitive experience of the shamans.

I have read pieces and pieces a hundred times. For me, it is just like seeing a student's joys and predicaments under a great Taoist, Zen or another esoteric and/or mystical master. If you take out the time, place and names of the protagonists, that is the essence. When we are ready, the master appears... and we never go back to what we were. Just like a pie from a circle: the larger the circle, the larger the pie. When the song "Beauty And The Beast" came out, I just paired it with this book.

This may be Carlos's best book. Great adventures and this book gives very useful information for anyone on the path of Self discovery.

The fundament of the saga. Amazing to realize that while Carlos was learning about the ways of the warrior he was dealing with Don Juan at another level.

Changed my life. There's nothing more exciting than coming to the realization that the world around us is a wonderful and mysterious place and that we are all connected...people, plants, animals and the earth

Bought these for my Son. He is reading them now and really is enjoying the books!

A fascinating book unlike any other. You can read it for the mysticism or for the skeptics: simply as a parable to improve yourself in your life. I've found it immensely helpful

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