



# Becoming an Ancestor: The Isthmus Zapotec Way of Death

*Anya Peterson Royce*

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*A striking look at the death rituals of an indigenous community in North America.*

Powerful and beautifully written, this is the story of the Isthmus Zapotecs of southern Mexico and their unbroken chain of ancestors and collective memory over the generations. Mortuary beliefs and actions are collective and pervasive in ways not seen in the United States, a resonant deep structure across many domains of Zapotec culture.

Anthropologist Anya Peterson Royce draws upon forty years of participant research in the city of Juchitán to offer a finely textured portrait of the vibrant and enduring power of death in the Isthmus of Tehuantepec of Mexico. Focusing especially on the lives of Zapotec women, *Becoming an Ancestor* highlights the aesthetic sensibility and durability of mortuary traditions in the past and present. An intricate blending of Roman Catholicism and indigenous spiritual tradition, death through beliefs and practices expresses a collective solidarity that connects families, binds the living and dead, and blurs the past and present.

A model of ethnographic research and presentation, *Becoming an Ancestor* not only reveals the luminescent heart of Zapotec culture but also provides important clues about the cultural power and potential of mortuary traditions for all societies.

“...[a] well-written anthropological study ... The author’s attention to the aesthetic quality of the death-related customs and the inclusion of numerous photographs and eloquent poems by local authors enhance her book.” — CHOICE

Anya Peterson Royce is Chancellor’s Professor of Anthropology and of Comparative Literature at Indiana University Bloomington. Her books include *Anthropology of the Performing Arts: Artistry, Virtuosity, and Interpretation in a Cross-Cultural Perspective* and *The Anthropology of Dance*.

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Playing with family inside a park, coming to see the coastal world or hanging out with friends is thing that usually you might have done when you have spare time, after that why you don't try factor that really opposite from that. Just one activity that make you not experience tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you are ride on and with addition of knowledge. Even you love Becoming an Ancestor: The Isthmus Zapotec Way of Death, you are able to enjoy both. It is great combination right, you still want to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh seriously its mind hangout men. What? Still don't get it, oh come on its known as reading friends.

#### **Olive Griffin:**

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#### **Kim Nielsen:**

In this era which is the greater man or woman or who has ability in doing something more are more treasured than other. Do you want to become among it? It is just simple method to have that. What you must do is just spending your time little but quite enough to possess a look at some books. Among the books in the top record in your reading list will be Becoming an Ancestor: The Isthmus Zapotec Way of Death. This book which can be qualified as The Hungry Hills can get you closer in getting precious person. By looking way up and review this e-book you can get many advantages.

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