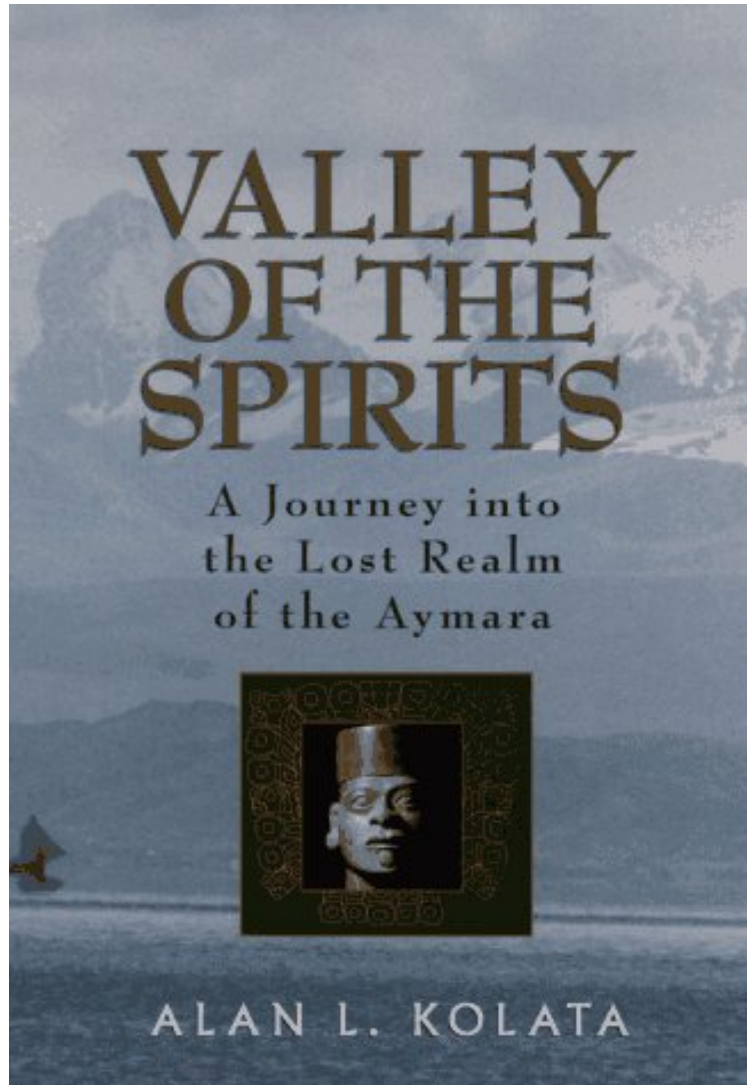


(Download free pdf) Valley of the Spirits: A Journey Into the Lost Realm of the Aymara

## Valley of the Spirits: A Journey Into the Lost Realm of the Aymara

*Alan L. Kolata*

*\*Download PDF / ePub / DOC / audiobook / ebooks*



DOWNLOAD



+

READ ONLINE

#653232 in Books 1996-03Ingredients: Example IngredientsOriginal language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.57 x 1.10 x 6.38l, 1.39 #File Name: 0471575070288 pagesISBN13: 9780471575078Condition: NewNotes: BRAND NEW FROM PUBLISHER! 100% Satisfaction Guarantee. Tracking provided on most orders. Buy with Confidence! Millions of books sold! | File size: 79.Mb

**Alan L. Kolata : Valley of the Spirits: A Journey Into the Lost Realm of the Aymara** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Valley of the Spirits: A Journey Into the Lost Realm of the Aymara:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Some great books on archeology have the flavor of a thriller-- ...By David ChaffetzSomeone should buy Professor Kolata's story and turn it into an adventure movie along the lines of "Raiders of the Lost Ark". Some great books on archeology have the flavor of a thriller-- Looking for Dilmun was one

of them. This is another one.0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Three StarsBy w. nathan NeubauerExcellent0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Lady Earth, Father SkyBy Joseph H. WoodsideThis highly autobiographical true to life tale of ancient history, rediscovery of lost technological mastery, with authentic descriptions of contemporary Indian people brings modern Bolivia to life. When the book begins, the author has spent almost ten years working with local Aymara Indians and other Bolivians excavating graves, drainage systems, and ruined temples of the legendary city of Tiahuanaco, near Lake Titicaca. He speaks the peoples' languages and participates in their religions. During this time, he has developed many theories for the success and the almost total collapse of the imperial city during the tenth century of the Christian era The Tiwanaku: Portrait of an Andean Civilization. He fingers recurrent, long term droughts as the main reason. His analysis convinces him that the so-called raised fields, constructed like the foundations of a pyramid but with irrigation channels, were the central productive nodes of an advanced agricultural system that made the wealth of the empire possible. Now, he needs some proof. So, he decides to restore one of the nodes he thinks is in pretty good condition. Persuading, manipulating, and pressuring the Aymara families, whose land includes the ruins of a well preserved raised field, to help him required all the political skill Dr. Kolata had acquired over the years. The Aymara are subsistence farmers in a very harsh land who rely on religious worship, divination, sacrifice, and hard work to eke out a living near the huge high altitude lake. Neither Kolata nor the Indians have much idea how to manage a restored raised field because they have never seen one. The Aymara think their raised field is good only for pasture because it is so wet that the roots of their staple crops rot when planted there. They are all in for a big surprise.

In a secluded valley high in the Andes Mountains, long before the time of the Incas and the Aztecs, the empire of the Aymara rose from the shores of Lake Titicaca and flourished for nearly a thousand years. The secrets of the Aymara civilization, one of the first great empires of the Americas, have only recently been deciphered from the haunting ruins of their splendid temples, among which their contemporary descendants still live and work today. In Valley of the Spirits, Alan Kolata takes us deep into the mystical world of the Aymara, where past and present come together and the spirits of ancient ancestors still speak to shamans in the voices of mountain springs. Kolata's unique knowledge of the Aymara is based on 17 years of research at the site of the ancient empire. Its crown jewel was the dazzling ancient capital of Tiahuanaco, whose gold and silver-appointed temples and "monumental stone sculptures intensified the mythic aura of the city, imbuing it with a quality of the supernatural." From A.D. 400-1100, it was the spiritual center of the Andean world. According to Aymara myth, the creator god Viracocha brought man to life from the springs and rocks of Tiahuanaco's sacred landscape. The city's rich symbolism linked man inextricably to the majestic plan--and the cyclical fates--of nature. Royal priests performed elaborate animal and human sacrifices and buried human trophy heads and the mummified remains of Aymara kings in lavish religious pageants. So impressive was the legacy of Tiahuanaco that the Inca rulers claimed descent from the Aymara kings more than 500 years after the empire's mysterious catastrophic demise. Kolata deciphers the mysteries of the ancient monuments, from the massive Akapana pyramid, the symbol of sacred mountains, and of fertility and abundance, to the imposing archway known as the Gateway of the Sun, among the most exquisite artistic monuments of the ancient Americas. And he takes us into the contemporary world of the Aymara as well, where shamans recite the names of ancestral spirits in a hypnotic protocol of remembrance and homage to Lady Earth and Lord Sky. "To anyone fascinated by the total experience of humans, to anyone who wishes to go beyond the familiar world, to anyone wanting to push the envelope of their own perceptions, a sojourn into the mind and history of the Aymara is disturbing, exhilarating, and ultimately unforgettable."--Alan Kolata, in his Introduction to Valley of the Spirits

.com A millennium before the Incas built their empire, the city of Tiahuanaco sat at the center of a great empire of its own. Located on Lake Titicaca, the world's highest at 13,000 feet, in what is now Bolivia, at the very limits of agriculture, the people of Tiahuanaco developed an ingenious system of cultivation based on raised planting beds alternating with trenches that served as irrigation ditches. From A.D. 400 to 800, the temples of Tiahuanaco glittered with gold and the empire supported as many as 250,000 people. Kolata, who has spent more than 17 years excavating the empire's ruins, weaves together the story of Tiahuanaco and the region's modern inhabitants, the Aymara. From Library JournalColumbus's coming brought only grief to native Americans, as the Spanish destroyed civilizations as glorious as those of Europe. Such was the Andean realm of the Aymara around Lake Titicaca. Far from being victimized by a desolate environment, the Aymara formed a spiritual bond with nature that industrialized society fails to comprehend. In their culture, which survives to this day, time and space merge; the order of the universe is as it is. After 17 years of study, Kolata, who is a leading authority on the ancient cultures of Latin America and director of the Center of Latin American Studies at the University of Chicago, induced the Aymara to recapture their future through the raised-bed agriculture that worked wonders for them in the past. Less intense than his previous book, The Tiwanaku: Portrait of an Andean Civilization (Blackwell, 1993), and with fine pictures, this is fascinating reading for the lay reader. A similar book on the universe of the neighboring Quechua is Catherine J. Allen's The Hold Life Has (Smithsonian, 1988). Highly recommended.?Louise Leonard, Univ. of Florida Libs., GainesvilleCopyright 1996 Reed

Business Information, Inc. From Kirkus sAn absorbing introduction to the culture of the Aymara, whose past and present are intimately linked to the landscapes of the high Andes. University of Chicago anthropologist/archaeologist Kolata has been working among the Aymara for two decades on agricultural projects that have captured international attention. His long acquaintance with this hard-working culture of farmers is evident throughout, as Kolata lucidly explains concepts that have guided that society for millennia. For instance, he explains that for the Aymara ``the place of time is inverted. It is the past that is in front of us, visible, knowable, graven in the physical world and in memory. . . . The future, on the other hand, lies behind, invisible and knowable only through ritual specialists trained in the arts of prognostication." Kolata guides the reader through the Aymara year, writing of seasons of sowing and harvest, of ritual cycles and pilgrimages, and of the small moments of everyday life in marketplaces, pool halls, and homes, giving us telling glimpses of the world in which these people live and removing somewhat their alien qualities--alien, at least, in First World eyes. At the heart of Kolata's book lie his descriptions of the ancient capital of Tiahuanaco, once a sacred city full of temples and stelae and now in ruins. Here Kolata occasionally falls into Indiana Jones school prose: ``Like all empires," he writes, ``Tiahuanaco, in its time, was forsaken by the gods and the ancestors. No amount of sacrificial blood flowing on the great earth shrines of the city would change its fate." Such lapses are atoned for by Kolata's well-reasoned consideration of the life and death of empires across history, an inexorable cycle of growth and decline. Kolata's clear perceptions and appreciations make this a fine study of a little-known society. (14 illustrations, maps) -- Copyright 1996, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.