

THE JOURNEY OF TUNURI AND THE BLUE DEER

A HUICHOL INDIAN STORY



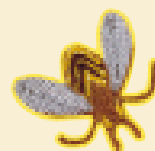
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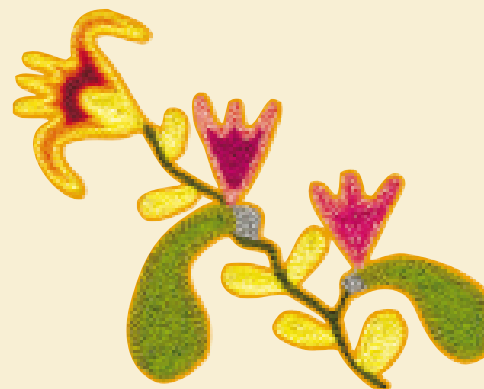
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From the moment of its birth, this book has been a gift to me from my main spiritual teachers: Earth, Water, Wind, Sun, Deer, Trees, Birds, and Hikuri. To them I humbly offer my work.

I give grateful thanks to my Huichol elders, brothers, and sisters for allowing me a glimpse from the inside into their ancient and sacred Earth-honoring tradition.

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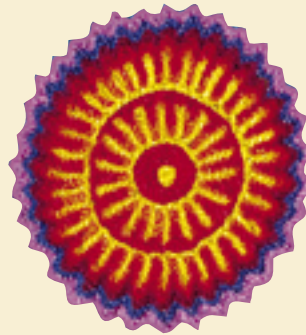
Last, profound thanks without words to the sacred land of Wirikuta, which inspired this book.

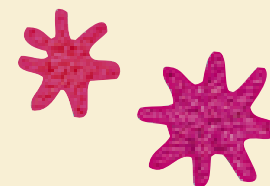




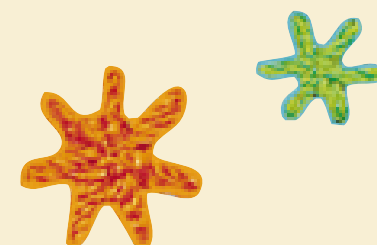


One day the families of a village in the mountains of Mexico began walking through the woods on their way to the sacred mountain, which was far away in Wirikuta and took many days to reach. Among the adults in one of the families was a small boy named Tunuri. Because he was very adventurous, Tunuri loved the long journey to the sacred mountain and often liked to walk where his parents couldn't see him.





In the middle of their journey, as they walked in the early morning light, Tunuri saw a beautiful butterfly with wings of many colors, and he decided to follow it to see where it was going. He ran with the butterfly over many hills and through the forest—until he looked around and realized that he couldn't hear or see anyone anymore.





There were no voices and there was no laughter in the air. The forest was full of shadows and stillness. He knew then that he was far away from his family—he was lost! Tunuri was afraid. He turned in every direction, trying to see something familiar, but he didn't know where he was or which way to go.

Then something caught his eye. What was it? Tunuri looked up and saw a family of deer standing at the top of the next hill, and one of the deer was walking toward him. As the animal came closer, Tunuri knew that this was no ordinary deer, for his coat was a lovely deep blue—and he glowed all over, as if the sun or moon shone from inside him.

As he came near, the magical Blue Deer spoke. “Hello, Tunuri. I know you are lost and I know where your family is. Grandfather Fire has sent me to show you where you can find them. You must follow me—and hurry, so they won’t miss you!”

