

# Shouts of the Khori-Challwa: Andean Mythological and Cosmological Reconsiderations of the American Identity in Gamaliel Churata's *El pez de oro*

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### Shouts of the Khori-Challwa: Andean Mythological and Cosmological Reconsiderations of the American Identity in Gamaliel Churata's *El pez de oro*

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#### Abstract

This thesis explores the possible creation of a new categorization of American Literature as presented in the Andean novel *El pez de oro: Retablos del Laykhakuy* (1957) by Gamaliel Churata. In *El pez de oro*, Gamaliel Churata presents a strategy for the recuperation of native Andean cultural agency that enables the Andean subject to reclaim traces of their ancestral past under more verisimilar and verifiable terms. Churata argues that through a recuperation of native language and its infusion into the body of the major colonial language, Spanish, the Andean subject is equipped with a new culture producing tool that enables the recuperation of language, agency, history, and, ultimately, representation and inclusion within cultural and political institutional frameworks. By introducing his own function of bilingualism, vernacular language, and mythological infusions into the body of colonial letters, Gamaliel Churata is able to destabilize and disrupt colonial historical and textual authority to the point where the invented concept of America and the colonial product of American identity can be re-examined. Through this examination emerges a new option for the categorization of American identity as an aesthetic construct. Within this new categorization of aesthetic American identity, the Andean subject can begin his own process of self-identification through his native language toward the production of a future Andean American subject.

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The Andean civilizations were complex societies of many cultures and peoples mainly developed in the river valleys of the coastal deserts of Peru. They stretched from the Andes of southern Colombia southward down the Andes to northern Argentina and Chile. Archaeologists believe that Andean civilizations first developed on the narrow coastal plain of the Pacific Ocean. The Caral or Norte Chico civilization of Peru is the oldest known civilization in the Americas, dating back to 3200 BCE. Recommended Citation McNabb, Stephen Delaney, "Shouts of the Khorí-Challwa: Andean Mythological and Cosmological Reconsiderations of the American Identity in Gamaliel Churata's *El pez de oro*" (2017). *Dissertations and Theses*. Paper 4010. <https://doi.org/10.15760/etd.5894>. This Thesis is brought to you for free and open access. It has been accepted for inclusion in *Dissertations and Theses* by an authorized administrator of PDXScholar. For more information, please contact [pdxscholar@pdx.edu](mailto:pdxscholar@pdx.edu). Shouts of the Khorí-Challwa: Andean Mythological and Cosmological Reconsiderations of the. Amer... Genealogical tables of the sovereigns of the world, from the earliest to the present period; exhibiting in each table their immediate successors, collateral branches, and the duration of their respective reigns; so constructed as to form a series of chronology; and including the genealogy of many other personages and families distinguished in sacred and profane history; particularly all the nobility of these kingdoms. Genealogical tables of the sovereigns of the world, from the earliest to the present period; exhibiting in each table their immediate successors, collateral branches, and the duration of their respective reigns; so constructed as to form a series of chronology; and including