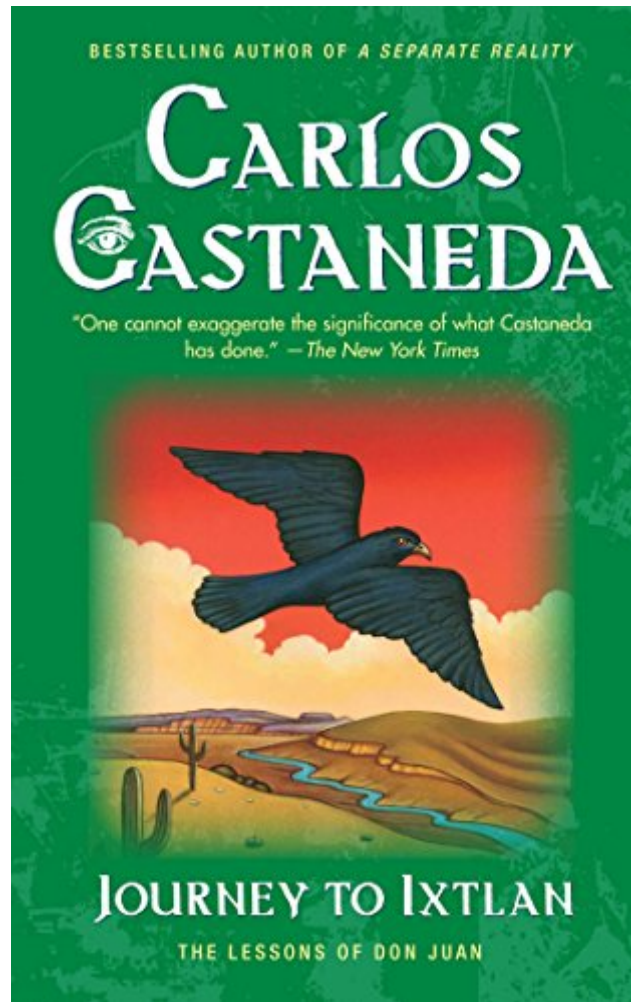


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# Journey To Ixtlan



## Synopsis

Originally drawn to Yaqui Indian spiritual leader don Juan Matus for his knowledge of psychotropic plants, bestselling author Carlos Castaneda immersed himself in the sorcerer's magical world. Ten years after his first encounter with the shaman, Castaneda examines his field notes and comes to understand what don Juan knew all along: "psychotropic plants are merely a means to understanding alternative realities that one cannot fully embrace on one's own. Journey to Ixtlan introduces these clear new ideas omitted from Castaneda's classic volumes *The Teachings of Don Juan* and *A Separate Reality* to the reader for the first time. Castaneda explores, as he comes to experience it himself, his own final voyage into the teachings of don Juan, and shares with us what it is like to truly "stop the world" and perceive reality on his own terms.

## Book Information

File Size: 3493 KB

Print Length: 205 pages

Publisher: Washington Square Press; Reissue edition (April 17, 2012)

Publication Date: April 17, 2012

Sold by: Simon and Schuster Digital Sales Inc

Language: English

ASIN: B0078XGIUI

Text-to-Speech: Not enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #138,362 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #42

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Special Groups > Native American Studies #96 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Other Religions, Practices & Sacred Texts > Tribal & Ethnic > Native American #278 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Specific Demographics > Native American Studies

## Customer Reviews

Forget the debate as to whether Castaneda's writings were a hoax or that his books became important reading for the drug culture. Although I suggest you read his first two books before reading this one but if you read only one book by Carlos Castaneda this is the book to read. Be his

books accurate reporting by a cultural anthropologist (which is becoming increasingly more and more doubtful), mysticism or hokum, this particular book is quite moving and lyrical. And whether his stories are real or imagined and whether the teaching he transmutes came from Don Juan or from his own mind by his knowledge as a trained anthropologist the underlying mystical principles of these stories cannot be dismissed out of hand. Shaman, poet and perhaps an academic scoundrel it is Castaneda's poetry and story telling that comes shining through in this book. If Castaneda's books were a hoax and were represented as cultural anthropology as a better hook to sell books it is a shame because he did a disservice to science and to his legacy. Still I myself, as a former researcher in Harvard University's anthropology department and a student of human ethology, can forgive this sin on one level and enjoy this book as a powerful work of literature. For if there has been a wrong that has been committed against anthropology it is one that was done by the way the books were marketed and perhaps by the author's personality itself. The works themselves should not suffer and be shunned for this. His legacy would have been better served if he wrote these same works as a writer of fiction.

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