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""17: Cosmology: The World in the Eyes of the Indians of the Sierra de Puebla""""18: The Souls of Beings and Things""; ""19: Supernatural Beings in the Beliefs and Religious Practices of Indians in the Sierra Norte de Puebla""; ""20: The Non-Syncretic Religion of the Last Nahuas of Central Mexico""; ""21: Religious Syncretism among Todaya€™s Indians in the Sierra Norte de Puebla""; ""Bibliography""; ""Index""

Sommario/riassunto

The first English translation of Guy Stresser-Pean's tour-de-force presents two decades of fieldwork in the Sierra Norte de Puebla, Mexico, where native pre-Hispanic pagan beliefs blended with traditional Catholic evangelization from the sixteenth century and the more recent intrusion of modernism. The Indians of the Sierra Norte de Puebla are deeply devoted to Christianity, but their devotion is seamlessly combined with pagan customs, resulting in a hybrid belief system that is not wholly indigenous, yet not wholly Christian. The syncretism practiced here has led the Totonac and Nahuatl people to identify Christ with the Sun God, a belief expressed symbolically in ritual practices such as the Dance of the Voladores. Spanning the four centuries from the earliest systematic campaign against Nahuatl ritual practices - Zumarraga's idolatry trials of 1536-1540 - to the twentieth century, Stresser-Pean contextualizes Nahuatl and Totonac ritual practices as a series of responses to Christian evangelization and the social reproduction of traditional ritual practices. The Sun God and the Savior is a monumental work on the ethnographic and historical knowledge of the peoples of the Sierra Norte.
