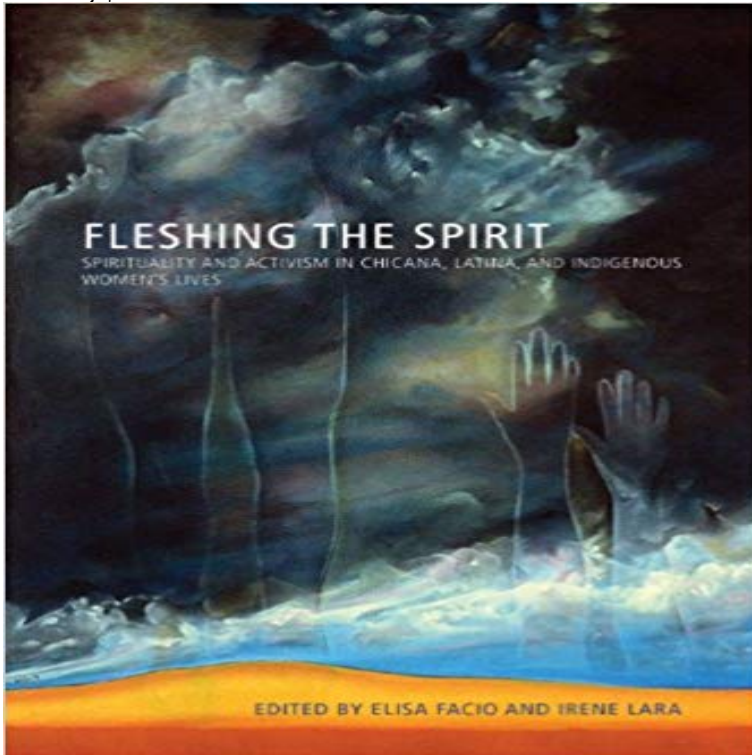


# Fleshing the Spirit: Spirituality and Activism in Chicana, Latina, and Indigenous Women's Lives



Fleshing the Spirit brings together established and new writers exploring the relationships between the physical body, the spirit and spirituality, and social justice activism. Examining the complex and dynamic connections among these concepts, the writers emphasize the value of flesh and blood experience as a site of knowledge. They argue that spirituality—something quite different from institutional religious practice—can heal the mind/body split and set the stage for social change. Spirituality, they argue, is a necessary component of an alternative political agenda focused on equitable social and ecological change. The anthology incorporates different genres of writing such as poetry, testimonials, critical essays, and historical analysis and stimulates the reader to engage spirituality in a critical, personal, and creative way. This interdisciplinary work is the first that attempts to theorize the radical interconnection between women of color, spirituality, and social activism. Before transformative political work can be done, the authors say in multiple ways, we must recognize that our spiritual need is a desire to more fully understand our relations with others. Conflict experienced on many levels sometimes severs those relations, separating us from others along racial, class, gender, sexual, national, or other socially constructed lines. *Fleshing the Spirit* offers a spiritual journey of healing, health, and human revolution. The book opens an invitation to engage in critical dialogue and social activism with the spirit and spirituality at the forefront, illuminates the way to social change and the ability to live in harmony with life's universal energies. Contributors: Volume Editors: Elisa Facio, Irene Lara; Chapter Authors: Angelita Borbon, Norma E. Cantu, Berenice Dimas, C. Alejandra Elenes, Alicia Enciso, Litschi, Oliva M. Espin, Maria Figueroa, Patrisia Gonzales, Ines

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