



The Bear and His Sons: Masculinity in Spanish and Mexican Folktales

By James M. Taggart

University of Texas Press. Paperback. Condition: New. 356 pages. Dimensions: 9.2in. x 5.6in. x 0.8in. All the world over, people tell stories to express their deepest feelings about such things as what makes a real man or woman; what true love, courage, or any other virtue is; what the proper relationships are between people. Often groups of people widely separated by space or time will tell the same basic story, but with differences in the details that reveal much about a particular groups worldview. This book looks at differences in the telling of several common Hispanic folktales. James Taggart contrasts how two mena Spaniard and an Aztec-speaking Mexicantell such tales as The Bears Son. He explores how their stories present different ways of being a man in their respective cultures. Taggarts analysis contributes to a revision of Freuds theory of gender, which was heavily grounded in biological determinism. Taggart focuses instead on how fathers reproduce different forms of masculinity in their sons. In particular, he shows how fathers who care for their infant sons teach them a relational masculinity based on a connected view of human relationships. Thus, The Bear and His Sons will be important reading not only in anthropology...



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