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RELATIONS BETWEEN PERU AND EGYPT: A PROMISING FUTURE

MIGUEL ALEMÁN URTEAGA

AMBASSADOR OF PERU TO THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT



COURTESY VISIT TO AMBASSADOR ASHRAF MOUNIR, DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE MINISTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN AFFAIRS OF THE EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY.

Source: photo L-El_ Cairo

Having received the high honour and responsibility of serving as Ambassador of the Republic of Peru to the Arab Republic of Egypt, I assumed my duties on April 1st, 2025, with the challenge and simultaneously the opportunity to advance in the expansion and deepening of the solid bilateral ties between the two countries.

On the path towards seven decades of diplomatic relations (established in 1963), the ties between Peru and Egypt are of much longer standing, due to Arab influence on the Spanish language, gastronomy, architecture and art, amongst other aspects, as a consequence of the eight-century Arab presence on the Iberian Peninsula, whose imprint reached Peru in colonial times.

The mutual knowledge achieved thanks to this ancient connection is the foundation for seeking to deepen our political-diplomatic ties, alongside which the possibility of expanding economic-commercial links will be a priority through the introduction of new products, addressing the logistical challenge imposed by the distance separating both countries, and through attracting investments, as well as expanding cooperation in the most diverse areas of interest to both parties, especially in those that lead to the welfare and economic and social development of their populations.

In order to contribute to inclusive economic growth, it will be highly relevant to explore possibilities for collaboration in sharing successful experiences in areas such as entrepreneurship, job creation, access to formality and improvement of basic infrastructure, as well as knowledge of programs with good results in poverty reduction, including attention to migrant populations that are found in large numbers in both countries.

Climate change as a cross-cutting challenge for the development of our countries provides opportunities for bilateral cooperation to find similar solutions to some of its effects, such as the fight against desertification, addressing water stress through the search for novel water use and irrigation techniques, adapting crops to high temperatures, amongst others. For example, Egypt has valuable experience in reclaiming desert lands for use as agricultural fields, which could be utilized by Peru.



PRESENTATION OF COPIES OF CREDENTIALS BY THE AMBASSADOR OF PERU TO EGYPT, MIGUEL ALEMÁN URTEAGA – APRIL 6, 2025
 Source: photo L-El_Cairo

their invaluable legacy, so an important objective will be to strengthen collaborative ties for the protection, conservation and recovery of that heritage, and alongside this, to strengthen cooperative links in the area of tourism, given that these are countries with destinations that attract numerous visitors, especially those interested in their multiple archaeological monuments.



COURTESY VISIT TO AMBASSADOR ASHRAF MOUNIR, DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE MINISTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN AFFAIRS OF THE EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY
 Source: photo L-El_Cairo

On the other hand, the metropolitan areas of both countries' capitals, Cairo and Lima, are megacities in constant growth whose problems require multidimensional solutions, and here areas of collaboration can be found to learn about good practices in urban development, sustainable cities, provision of basic services, public transport and waste management.

As heirs to great civilizations, one of the fundamental pillars of bilateral ties is constituted by the cultural sphere in its most diverse manifestations. With the conviction that culture is a bridge that brings peoples together and contributes to mutual understanding, it will be very important to continue expanding knowledge of Peruvian cultural expressions, such as the diversity of its gastronomy, literature, music and other artistic manifestations.

In sum, the ancient friendship between Peru and Egypt is a solid foundation for projecting bilateral ties in a promising manner, through the expansion and diversification of collaboration in diverse areas of mutual interest, for the benefit of both countries.

Furthermore, knowledge of the archaeological and historical heritage of their ancient civilizations will allow present and future generations to understand

BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN PERU AND EGYPT: CULTURAL COOPERATION AS A STRATEGIC AXIS

AHMED HAMDI BAKR

AMBASSADOR OF EGYPT TO PERU

Peru and Egypt share an exceptional legacy: the privilege of being the cradle of millenary civilizations that left indelible marks on the history of humanity. On the banks of the Amazon and the Nile, highly developed societies flourished that achieved remarkable advances in architecture, medicine, hydraulic engineering and agriculture, centuries before the modern era. This profound cultural connection, forged over more than 4,000 years, today constitutes a strategic axis in the bilateral relationship between both countries, and a valuable meeting point for contemporary diplomacy.

The imminent inauguration of the Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM) in Giza—one of the most ambitious cultural projects of the 21st century—represents a singular opportunity to renew cultural dialogue between Peru and Egypt. This venue, which will house more than 100,000 pieces of pharaonic heritage, is not only a manifestation of Egypt's historical wealth, but also an invitation to museological and academic cooperation with countries with comparable cultural trajectories, such as Peru.

Indeed, Peru has also made important efforts in the preservation and dissemination of its pre-Columbian legacy, as evidenced by the work of the Ministry of Culture, the research of the Qhapaq Ñan Project and the international projection of museums such as the Pachacamac Site Museum, the National Museum of Archaeology, Anthropology and History of Peru and the Royal Tombs of Sipán Museum. These spaces, like the GEM, demonstrate how heritage can be a vehicle for development, identity and diplomacy.



PERU AND EGYPT FLAG
Source: Shutterstock



A profound cultural parallelism



NILO RIVER

Source: es.wikipedia.org

The similarities between Ancient Egypt and Andean civilizations are not limited to the chronology or monumentality of their remains. In both contexts, practices such as cranial trepanations, the symbolic use of metals, the construction of complex hydraulic systems and centralized state organization around a sacred power have been recorded. This convergence invites the development of comparative research, joint exhibitions and exchange programs between heritage professionals, archaeologists, curators and restorers.

Likewise, there is growing interest on the part of the Peruvian public in the history of Ancient Egypt, just as there is in the Andean world on the part of the Egyptian and Arab public. Cultural diplomacy can facilitate these links through film cycles, educational programs, book fairs, translations of key works, heritage piece tours and institutional twinning arrangements.

Diplomatic presence and history of bilateral ties



EGYPT EMBASSY

Source: es.wikipedia.org

formalized in 1963, when Egypt² inaugurated its first Embassy in Latin America, established in Lima. This gesture was a significant precedent in strengthening ties between South America and the Arab world, marking the beginning of a bilateral relationship based on mutual respect, South-South cooperation and recognition of cultural value as the foundation of understanding between peoples.

Since then, the connection between both nations has evolved favorably, expanding towards the economic, political, academic and multilateral spheres. However, the cultural dimension continues to be the one that offers the greatest possibilities for consolidation in the medium and long term, especially in a world that increasingly values diplomacy of knowledge and heritage cooperation.

Economic cooperation and shared development



TEXTILE INDUSTRY

Source: es.wikipedia.org

In addition to the cultural component, Peru and Egypt present structural similarities as middle-income emerging economies. One of the shared challenges is the high level of labor informality, which reaches nearly 70% in Peru and around 40% in Egypt. This phenomenon limits access to services, tax collection and the general productivity of the economies.

Faced with this reality, there exists significant space for the exchange of good practices. Peru has developed a solid network of microfinancial institutions, such as Municipal Savings Banks and specialized banks, which have been key to promoting formalization and entrepreneurship. This experience can serve as a model for similar initiatives in Egypt, where there is also a quest to integrate a greater number of economic actors into the formal sector.

Diplomatic relations between Peru and Egypt were

Similarly, both countries face the challenge of adding value to their exports and overcoming dependence on raw materials. Bilateral trade, which currently stands at around 50 million USD, can be made more dynamic if products with added value and sectoral complementarity are promoted. For example, Peru has a recognized textile industry of high competitive level, whilst Egypt possesses a strong construction materials industry, with concrete opportunities for expansion in the Peruvian market.

Cross-investments: a reflection of mutual interest



AJE IN CAIRO

Source: <https://www.ajegroup.com/aje-en-el-mundo/>

Reciprocal interest is also manifested in the sphere of investments. The Peruvian company AJE maintains operations in Cairo, taking advantage of Egypt's strategic location as a regional hub. For its part, the Egyptian company Elsewedy Electric, a leader in electrical solutions in the Middle East, has begun operating in Peru, contributing to energy infrastructure projects.

These experiences reflect the potential that exists to expand direct investment flows, strengthen technological cooperation and generate productive linkages that benefit both economies.

Convergence in multilateral forums and global commitments

Both Peru and Egypt have demonstrated their commitment to international peace and stability through their participation in United Nations peacekeeping operations. Peru has received a letter of recognition for sending 205 "blue helmets" to the Central African Republic, whilst Egypt has participated in 38 peace missions, being one of the

main contributors from the African continent.

Furthermore, both countries have a shared responsibility in protecting their principal rivers: the Amazon and the Nile, vital not only for biodiversity and economic development, but also as identity elements of profound cultural rootedness.

A shared agenda towards the future



TORRE TAGLE PALACE

Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Peru

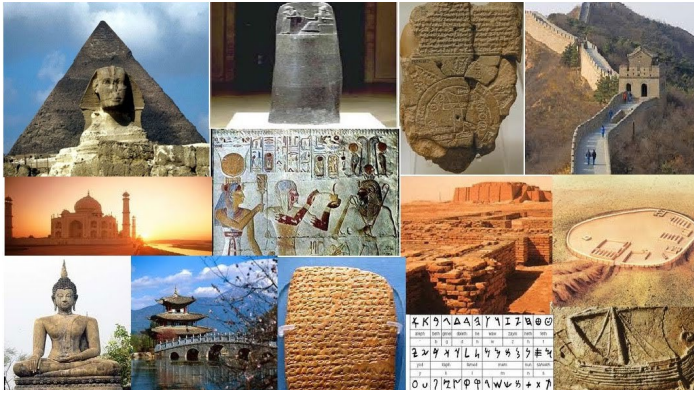
Bilateral relations between Peru and Egypt are supported by a shared past of cultural greatness and common challenges in the present. The enhancement of their historical legacies, academic and artistic exchange, and heritage cooperation must occupy a central place in the bilateral agenda. Added to this is the opportunity to consolidate an intelligent economic alliance, based on complementarity and mutual learning.

The Peruvian Foreign Ministry reaffirms its commitment to the active promotion of this relationship, within the framework of a foreign policy that recognizes the transformative role of culture as a driver of development, social cohesion and international dialogue. At the crossroads between millenary civilizations, Peru and Egypt can—and must—build a present of solid cooperation and a future of lasting understanding.

PERU AND EGYPT IN THE FORUM OF ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS

MINISTER COUNSELLOR EDUARDO PALACIOS RANGEL

FIRST SECRETARY GIANCARLO ANDRÉ PEDRAZA RUIZ



ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS FORUM

Source: <https://eju.tv/>

The Forum of Ancient Civilizations is a space for dialogue and cultural cooperation between countries considered as cradles of civilization. It was established in Athens, Greece, through the "Athens Declaration" on 24th April 2017, and comprises 10 countries: Armenia, Bolivia, China, Egypt, Greece, Iraq, Iran, Italy, Mexico and Peru.

The constitutive Declaration synthesizes the inspiring principles common to the 10 members, highlighting the importance of the legacy of great civilizations; the international resonance of each culture; their wealth and diversity as a heritage of humanity and as an essential cumulative contribution; and the constant interaction of civilizations throughout the history of humanity. Likewise, it refers to the primary responsibility of each State to protect its cultural heritage, especially against illicit trafficking in cultural goods, guaranteeing their restitution and safe return to their countries of origin.

The Forum sets itself the following objectives:

1. To foster communication between participating States, cultural exchange and cooperation;
2. To promote dialogue and consultation between participating States, with a view to achieving

coordinated positions on matters of great importance related to the protection of cultural heritage at the international level;

3. To examine the most appropriate ways to enhance the efforts of participating States to optimise the use of culture as an effective tool for contemporary diplomacy; and finally;

4. To work together, as appropriate, and in coordination with UNESCO, to safeguard the historical and cultural heritage of participating States.

The countries making up the Forum agree on the need to strengthen dialogue between civilizations through continuous communication and cooperation, to promote understanding, recognition and tolerance between cultures and peoples. Likewise, they recognize the importance of using dialogue between civilizations as a powerful diplomatic tool, thus contributing to overcoming gaps and improving mutual understanding.

Since its inauguration, this Forum has met on 8 occasions: the first meeting took place in Athens, Greece, in 2017; the second was held in La Paz, Bolivia, in 2018; the third was held in Beijing, China, in November 2019; the fourth and fifth were organized by Peru, in 2020 and 2021 virtually due to the COVID pandemic; the sixth meeting was organized in Baghdad, Iraq, in December 2022; the seventh was in Tehran, Iran, in December 2023; and the eighth and latest was held in Yerevan, Armenia, in December 2024.



UNESCO

Source: <https://www.perfil.com/>

In successive Forum meetings, the will to strengthen cooperation on cultural matters between participating States has been reiterated, with a view to promoting sustainable social and economic growth. As a curious fact, the foundational Declaration also adopted the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) as a tool for communication and cooperation in the cultural sphere.

In the case of Peru and Egypt, in addition to sharing their status as cradle countries of civilization, the link is also notable for both maintaining a vast cultural legacy—material and immaterial—that is protected, conserved and enhanced, which allows them to have a comparative advantage over other countries with a similar millenary past.

Both countries have belonged to the Forum since its foundation, and whilst Peru organized the annual meeting on two occasions and Egypt has not yet done so, these countries have known how to take advantage of the collaborative framework offered by

this Forum to carry out some actions in the bilateral sphere under the protection of its foundational objectives and principles.

Thus, an effective communication mechanism was established in the sphere of safeguarding historical and cultural heritage, in accordance with the 1970 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Convention. This has allowed the exchange of timely and early alerts aimed at preventing illegal trafficking of cultural goods belonging to the rich heritage of both countries.

Likewise, the signing of a triennial bilateral cooperation framework agreement was promoted, whose latest version is in the negotiation phase, and which has allowed the establishment of an effective collaborative framework to facilitate spaces for organizing various events with the aim of favoring greater cultural rapprochement, in line with the principles and objectives of the Forum.

It should be noted that in the annual Forum meetings, joint declarations have been generated such as the Tiwanaku Declaration (2018), the Beijing Declaration (2019), the Lima Declaration (2020); and the Baghdad Declaration (2022). In the case of the Lima Declaration, participating States expressed their interest in the Cusco Forum—inaugurated in September 2020 as a space for coordination of international cooperation against illicit trafficking in cultural goods, and which counts on the participation of UNESCO and experts and delegations from Latin America and the Caribbean.

In relation to this Peruvian proposal, the Forum agreed to organize an experts' meeting to present proposals for strengthening efforts in the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural heritage and in the restitution of illegally commercialized cultural goods, considering UNESCO's role and the need to take stock of the 1970 UNESCO Convention.



IV Ministerial Meeting of the Forum of Ancient Civilizations

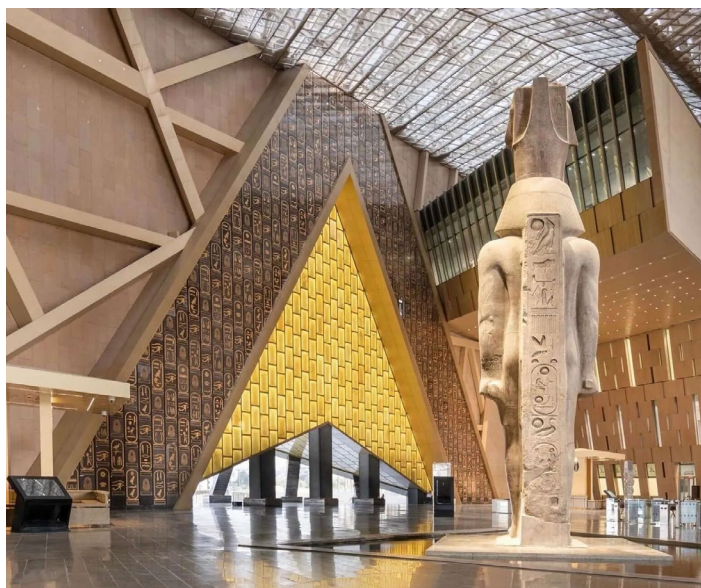
Source: www.gob.pe

Likewise, in the fifth edition of the Forum of Ancient civilizations (2021), Peru proposed the creation of a formal body that, in the manner of a National Secretariat in each participating State, could facilitate coordination between members and serve as a focal point for the preparation of subsequent ministerial meetings. It also advocated for the key role of culture in fulfilling the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), promoting the importance of the 1970 UNESCO Convention, as well as the promotion of cultural cooperation between participating States and their rich cultural heritage, with a positive impact on economic and social development, strengthening national identity and memory.

Peru has played a leadership role alongside Egypt in the Forum of Ancient Civilizations, due to their shared interest in the recovery, repatriation and protection of cultural goods, and their efforts to strengthen such practices in the bilateral and multilateral spheres. Likewise, said Forum offers both countries the opportunity to strengthen bilateral relations by assuming shared international leadership through initiatives on themes such as the preservation of ancestral knowledge, the promotion of intercultural dialogue, the fight against illicit trafficking in cultural goods, international cooperation for the valorization of the heritage of ancient civilizations, amongst others.

For the present year 2025, Greece will assume the function of host of the ninth Ministerial Meeting of the Forum, with the aim of presenting diverse initiatives designed to increase its visibility and address critical problems such as illegal trafficking in cultural goods, as well as promoting the exchange of specialized knowledge in conservation, restoration and safeguarding of cultural heritage.

It is to be hoped that, for next year, Egypt will assume an active role within the Forum, being host or promoter of some global initiative, taking into account its enormous cultural heritage, its regional prominence and its commitment to the promotion and enhancement of part of its rich heritage, reflected in the construction of important cultural centers such as the Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM), whose inauguration is scheduled for 3rd July of the present year.



GREAT EGYPTIAN MUSEUM (GEM)

Source: es.wikipedia.org



EXPANDING **AFRICANNESS**

INTRODUCTION

CULTURE AND SYNCRETISM IN THE AFRICAN DIASPORA

The arrival of African populations in America during the colonial era influenced the continent's historical development and left an indelible mark on its culture. Through music, dance, popular religiosity and festivities, Afro-descendants have forged a legacy that combines their ancestral roots with European and Amerindian influences. From the Caribbean to the south of the continent, these manifestations have served not only as forms of celebration, but also as mechanisms of resistance and identity reaffirmation.

In the Caribbean, a traditional expression endures that combines the religious with the festive, reflecting African heritage and its adaptation to new realities. Similarly, in Peru, there exist diverse festivities with profound African roots that demonstrate the syncretism between ancestral beliefs and the influence of evangelization. In both cases, elements are shared that show how Afro-descendants have reinterpreted their beliefs and practices to keep their roots alive. Due to this, the articles in the "Expanding Africanness" section seek to explore with greater depth the origin, meaning and evolution of these traditions, on this occasion, in Trinidad and Tobago and Peru.



TRADITIONAL MUSIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Source: ich.unesco.org

MOKO JUMBIE: THE PROTECTIVE SPIRIT OF CARNIVAL

COUNSELLOR RAÚL DANIEL LOARTE RUÍZ

For G&G
I hear a distant melody
Blowing through the hills of Laventille
Powerful and sweet music
And when the rhythm begins to beat
Mas, song by Mical Teja and Freetown

In Trinidad and Tobago, carnivals are considered an important part of the national ethos. There are many activities that revolve around these celebrations, whose preliminary activities begin each new year, attracting thousands of tourists for what is popularly considered one of the most outstanding festivals in the Caribbean region.

Each carnival possesses two constitutive elements: the first is Catholicism, which is constant in these celebrations, and the second is the contribution of the region where it is celebrated. For the first characterization, it should be remembered that the carnival period is framed from the perspective of the Catholic liturgical year, so it is worth saying that there are no proper carnival celebrations in non-Catholic regions. The origin of carnival can be traced from the Middle Ages, where in the days prior to the beginning of Lent, various manifestations began to take place in which—apparently—society would take a pause to dilute its structures and behaviors and form a kind of unity in a festival prior to the forty days of prayer, fasting and almsgiving before Holy Week.

In the case of the Caribbean and especially Trinidad and Tobago, a great contribution comes from the population originating from Africa. It will be the slaves of evangelized black people and subsequently the freedmen (emancipated) who will contribute with their rhythms, dances, instruments and characterizations to the essence of the local carnival. Various 19th-century sources mention the celebrations that took place on sugar plantations in Trinidad; whilst the masters, a good part of them of French descent, held banquets inside their houses, the slaves organized festivities outdoors. These gatherings were not well regarded by the English authorities who governed Trinidad at that time, since, in addition to expressing inappropriate behaviors,



MOKO JUMBIES, CARNAVAL 2025

Source: photo by Nicole Tang

they could be the beginning of revolts. The restrictions initiated in 1881 gave rise to what is known as the Camboulay or Kambulé revolts (a Creole word meaning burning cane, due to the coincidence with said agricultural season), where carnival adapted to the prohibitions and came to be celebrated in the early hours of the Friday prior to Ash Wednesday, with imaginative percussion instruments (bamboos instead of drums), masquerades and dances, descending from Laventille, in the southeast of the city, towards the streets of Port of Spain.

Among the protagonists of Trinidad's carnival are the Moko Jumbies, characters on stilts over three meters tall who open and close the parades, dressed in flowing costumes that oscillate whilst they dance and perform acrobatics. The concept of moko jumbie contains two roots: "moko" which is a word originating from West Africa, possibly from the Guinea region, meaning "God", and "jumbie" would be a word used by Afro-Caribbeans to denote "spirit". On the other hand, the use of stilts for walking has been observed in societies such as the Banna in Ethiopia, who use them with skill to move safely through difficult areas and have better vision for tending livestock.

In this sense, the figure of the moko jumbie would represent a protective divinity, who guards from above the population that participates in carnival celebrations and joins them with their dances and agile and challenging movements. Over time, the moko jumbie became popular and is currently present at festivals and celebrations other than carnival. But, on the other hand, I want to highlight that the concept of moko jumbie, like that of carnival, would be linked to the religious and to Catholicism, since the enslaved and freed populations, upon being evangelized and baptized, accepted faith in the Holy Trinity of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, a "jumbie" superior to other animist spirits, a "jumbie" that moves freely, observes, whispers and cares for those under its protection and dances with them, and which would be very well characterized in a popular hymn sung in Trinidad's churches, written by Sydney Carter and entitled "Lord of the Dance":

Dance, then, wherever you may be.
I am the Lord of the Dance, said He.
And I'll lead you all wherever you may be.
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said He.

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LA PEONCITA: DEVOTION AND AFRO-PERUVIAN CULTURE IN EL CARMEN

PATRICIA ALEXANDRA CARRASCO MEJÍA

In Peru, the festival of the Virgin of Carmen, celebrated in the district of El Carmen, Chincha, is a clear example of the fusion between Catholic religiosity and Afro-Peruvian traditions. Just as in Trinidad and Tobago, the Moko Jumbie constitute a figure of protection within carnival; in Peru, the image of the Virgin, popularly known as La Peoncita, is the center of a celebration that combines music, dance and popular fervor. Whilst the Virgin of Carmen is a Catholic devotion, her veneration in El Carmen is strongly influenced by African traditions.

The festival of La Peoncita takes place at two key moments: in July and in December. During the procession, the image of the Virgin is carried by bearers to the rhythm of drums, violins and bells, whilst music and dance, fundamental pillars of this tradition, envelop the celebration in an atmosphere of fervor and joy. Devotion is manifested through traditional dances such as the Hatajo de Negritos, in which the dancers perform rhythmic foot-stamping to the beat of the violin, whilst the Pallas interpret chants and choreographies that reflect the people's devotion. Both accompany the image on a route that, as Baena (2016) notes, transforms the streets of El Carmen into places where one can experience an encounter with the sacred.



WALK OF THE VIRGEN DEL CARMEN

Source: <https://www.verdaddelpueblo.com/2016/12/manana-sale-la-procesion-de-la-virgen.html>

Likewise, this celebration constitutes a space of cultural resistance where the drums resonate with intensity, evoking the ancestral rhythms brought by enslaved populations. For their part, the panalivios, with their lyrics charged with memory and resistance, represent a form of Afro-Peruvian song that recalls suffering and the struggle for freedom. In every movement and in every note, the community reaffirms its identity. One of the most representative verses says:

"Now my foreman has come out
with his whip in his hand
teachin' us to pray
to be good Christians"

(Santa Cruz, N. 1971).

The syncretism in this festivity is evident in the way religious elements intertwine with Afro-Peruvian cultural practices. In this way, both cultures reflect a parallel process of transformation, where religion and tradition merge to preserve the identity of the Afro-descendant people. Like the Moko Jumbie, La Peoncita stands as a testament to how the African diaspora has managed to preserve and reframe its traditions over time, keeping its roots alive on a continent that, despite the distance, still pulses to the rhythm of Africa.

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RECIPE KOSHARI

Koshari is an Egyptian national dish that combines carbohydrates with a spicy tomato sauce and crispy fried onions. It is a comforting, flavorful and very popular dish.



INGREDIENTS:

- 500g rice - 500g small pasta (short macaroni, ditalini, etc.) - 500g brown lentils - 500g chickpeas (soaked overnight) - 1kg tomato juice - 500g onions - 1 cup Thin noodles - 1½ cups vegetable oil - 10 garlic cloves (crushed) - Salt to taste - 2 tablespoons ground cumin - 1 teaspoon hot chilli (optional)



PREPARATION:

1. Slice the onions thinly. Sprinkle with flour and salt. Fry in plenty of hot oil, stirring constantly, until golden and crispy. Remove with a slotted spoon and place on paper towels to absorb the excess oil. Reserve the frying oil.
2. Boil the soaked chickpeas in enough water with a teaspoon of minced garlic, salt, and cumin, until tender. Reserve the cooking water (about 3 cups).
3. In a pot of boiling salted water, cook the pasta until al dente. Drain and mix with two tablespoons of the reserved onion frying oil to prevent sticking. Set aside.
4. Boil the lentils in water with salt, cumin, and 3 crushed garlic cloves, until tender but not falling apart. Set aside.
5. In a pan, fry the thin noodles in a little of the reserved oil until golden brown. Add the rinsed rice, salt, and cumin. Cover with water (about twice the amount of rice) and cook over low heat until the liquid is absorbed and the rice is done.
6. For the tomato sauce, mash the remaining garlic with salt. Take one tablespoon of this mixture and sauté it in two tablespoons of oil. Add the tomato juice and the remaining minced raw garlic. Season with salt and simmer over low heat until the sauce thickens.
7. For the "dakka" sauce (optional): Take 3 cups of the chickpea cooking water and add a tablespoon of minced garlic and lemon juice to taste. Boil for one minute, then remove from heat.
8. For the spicy sauce (optional): Mix half of the prepared tomato sauce with the teaspoon of hot chili and boil for one minute.
9. To serve the Koshari: In a deep plate, first place a layer of rice, then half of the lentils, followed by the pasta, then the other half of the lentils. Sprinkle generously with crispy fried onions. Distribute the boiled chickpeas on top. Finally, drizzle with tomato sauce to taste, and if desired, with spicy sauce.





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