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**Qadede Idá?at**  
**Ancient tradition running through the family**

**Edgardo Civalero**  
National University of Córdoba  
Córdoba  
Argentina  
edgardocivallero@gmail.com  
www.thelogofalibrarian.blogspot.com

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***Abstract***

## **Latin American indigenous peoples**

For centuries, millions of individuals gazed at the stars, rooted in the lands that, today, we consider ours. For generations, they weaved a unique, incomparable cultural tapestry, made of a countless number of small and big characteristic, distinctive and inimitable features of their own.

For centuries, these millions of persons built exquisite and deeply singular visions of the cosmos. They maintained intimate relations with their environment, strong connections with the magical and spiritual universe, artistic expressions of undeniable creativity, and languages endowed with rich sounds and vocabularies. With all these elements, these peoples made up together a vast, immense human mosaic, endowed of a virtually boundless diversity.

Later labeled “ab-original” -natives- they hardly survived the brutal impetuosity of European expansive imperial powers, whose political and socio-economic systems were based on the ideas of conquest, control and exploitation.

Most of those fragile human miracles did not bear the pressure and succumbed. Others just vanished in the middle of the “civilized” world that occupied their lands and their lives. Some of them adapted themselves, through a metamorphosis that forced them to accept certain degrees of assimilation or acculturation. And some others regarded silence and their memories of better times as a refuge from the conquerors.

Many of them, however, never surrendered.

The pressure, the violence and the oblivion were not enough to silence their voices. More than 300 million indigenous people currently try to find their own way amid so much exclusion, so much discrimination and so many problems. Of these survivors, almost half a million, belonging to approximately 12 different ethnic groups, live in the territory that, since two centuries ago, was named “Argentina”. They try to maintain their customs, their habits and practices -mainly orally transmitted-, their wisdom, their beliefs and those features that make them special, different, unique... And they fight to preserve their identity in a day after day more globalized and homogeneous world, dominated by technology.

In spite of the setbacks they suffer daily trying to make themselves a place in societies that never will open their doors for them, they do not give up. Nor do they forget. They keep on remembering that they are the sons and daughters of the Earth, born from their celestial creators throughout the millennium. They are certain to put down their roots again in the mountains, plains and forests that protect the resting places of their ancestors... They firmly believe in blooming, once more producing flowers and bearing their fruit.

It is to support this story, these living memories of a painful past, these living testimonies of a shameful present, and their struggle, that the “Aboriginal library” project was created.

### ***Guaykurú: the fierce warriors***

Among the surviving ethnic groups currently inhabiting Argentinean territory, those belonging to the Guaykurúan linguistic family play an important role in the history and the human geography of the country.











