

Glossary for *Bless Me, Ultima*

abrazo – embrace, or hug

acequia – an irrigation ditch

Agua Negra – Black Water

¡Ah la veca! – slang referring to male genitals

Ah la verga – genital reference

álamos – cottonwood trees

Arrímense vivos y difuntos / Aquí estamos todos juntos – Gather round living and deceased / Here we are all together.

arroyo – a gully

atole – Cornmeal-based beverage/cereal

Ave María Purísima – a religious exclamation referring to the Virgin Mary, especially the *Virgen de Guadalupe*.

¡Ay Dios, otro día! – Oh God, another day!

¡Ay que diablo! – Oh, what a devil!

Benditos sean los dulces nombres. –Holy be the sweet names

bosque – a wooded area

Buenos días le de Dios. – God grant you good days; a greeting among New Mexican Chicano/as

bulto – a wood carving of a holy person; also, a ghost

bruja – witch

cabritos, cabroncitos – kids, small goats.

cabrón – can be similar to “dude,” but can be used to refer to someone as a pimp or a cuckold

Cabronas putas – Pimped whores.

chapas – chaps, as in cowboy chaps

chicos – dried corn

¡Chinga tu madre! F*** your mother!

chingada – the f***ed one (referring to la Malinche)

crudo – hung over

curandera – a folk healer

culo – ass, backside

desgraciado – despicable

diablas putas — devilish whores

El hombre volador – The flying man

En el nombre del Padre, del Hijo, y el Espíritu Santo– In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit

entremetido – a meddler, or intruder

¡Espíritu de mi alma! – Spirit of my soul!

Es una mujer con un diente, que llama a toda la gente. – It's a woman with one tooth, who calls all the people (a riddle whose answer is “the church bell”).

Es una mujer que no ha pecado – It's a woman who has never sinned.

Está sola . . . ya no queda gente en el pueblito de Las Pasturas. – She is alone, and there are not many people left in the village of Las Pasturas.

farol – a lantern

gabacha – a white woman

¡Gracias a Dios que venites! – Thank God that you came!

grillos – crickets

Hechicera, bruja – sorceress, witch

¡Hijo de tu chingada! — ! Son of your f***d mother!

Hi-jo-lah! – code for "hijo de la chingada"

huevos – balls, testicles

jefa/jefe – boss; jodido – a person who is in a bad way

la Grande – the elder

la llorona – the weeping woman (a mythical character alleged to have drowned her children and destined to search the river eternally for their souls)

¡La mujer que no ha pecado es bruja, le juro a Dios! – The woman who has not sinned is a witch, I swear to God!

llaneros – plainsmen; plainspeople

Llano Estacado – the Staked Plains, located in eastern New Mexico and West Texas

llano – plains; in this case, the Staked Plains in eastern New Mexico

Lo mató, lo mató. – He killed him, he killed him.

¡Madre de Dios! – Mother of God

maldecido – a cursed person

maldito – wicked, cursed

manzanilla – common chamomile

médica – doctor

¡Mira! Qué suerte, tunas. – Look! What luck, prickly pears

mitote – gossip

molino – a mill; in this case, a feed mill

mollera – fontanelle (the membrane covering “soft spots” on the top of an infant's head)

muy sabrosos – very tasty

No está aquí. – He's not here

Nuestra casa es su casa. – Our home is your home

Pase . . . pase. – Come in . . . come in

Pecado – sin

Perdón. – Forgive me; I'm sorry

¿Pero qué dices, hombre? – What are you saying, man?

Pesadilla – nightmare

¡Pinche! – an expletive meaning lousy or worthless

Por la sangre de Lupito, todos debemos rogar.– For the blood of Lupito, we all should beg.

Puta – whore

¡Puto! – a sodomite; a promiscuous man.

¿Qué pasa aquí? – What's going on here?

¿Quién es? – Who is it?

Que Dios la saque de pena y la lleve a descansar – That God lift her punishment [or pain] and let her rest.

Qué lástima. – What a pity

ristra – a string of dried chiles or garlic

a matar, cabrón! – I'm going to kill you, you jerk! (cabrón is literally “goat,” but it functions as an insult with figurative meanings ranging from “coward” to “pimp” to much stronger implications, depending on the context)

the campo santo – holy burial grounds; a cemetery

tío – uncle.

Ultima – the last one, the ultimate

vaquero – cowboy

velorio – a wake to honor the dead

Voy a tirar tripas. –I'm going to throw up.

Ya las campanas de la iglesia están doblando – Already the church bells are tolling.

Ya vengo. – I'm coming.

yerba de la vívora – snakeweed