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### Cultural Artifact

One may ask what makes a cultural artifact in a culture? Is it the importance of an object or does it even have to be an object? These are all the questions I had before writing this but ultimately understood that a cultural artifact can be almost anything that has a personal meaning to a specific culture whether it be a physical object or a visible one like a tattoo . Cultural artifacts have meanings in one's family or shared rituals whether it be in the form of an instrument or a piece of clothing that was used often or was used by a family member in the past. The cultural artifacts resonate and are a part of a person's daily life. In my family culture the cultural artifact that resonates is the tambourine which is an instrument played by tapping it that comes in different shape forms and sizes .

The tambourine has multiple ways of being made; some can be made of plastic or wood with little jingles attached to it made of metal called zills. The version that resonates with me the most is the wooden one with a top covering attached to it. The cover would make the sound similar to a drum and the jingles on the side would make the sound complete almost like a mini drum. The nostalgic sound still rings in my head till this day. The instrument can seem so casual and basic because it's very easy to play but in reality the meaning it has to me is much more than just another instrument. My family may play instruments like my father who plays the guitar and

my sister who plays the piano a bit, but none has more meaning than the tambourine, don't get me wrong I love the guitar and piano and plan on learning it someday but the connection I have with those instruments is not as strong as the connection I have with the tambourine.

The tambourine is special to me because it brings memories of my pentecostal church. When I see the tambourine I see an instrument that is used to worship and praise God. My spanish church is very unique because not many use the tambourine nowadays because of other instruments that have modernized the church.. The instrument makes me think of all the people who have held it in my church and my family. My grandmother and my mother have held one and played them. It's so amazing to me because I see it as a time machine. I think about the people in my past who have held it and think about all those late nights at church listening to the sound of the tambourine. Although I don't remember much about my grandmother I know she was a strong woman of God due to the way my mom was brought up telling me stories about what her mother went through in her country and how other people outside of my family described her as a woman of prayer and worship. The tambourine may look easy to play but my mom played it with a specific pattern , that pattern was a fast paced beat that made it her own unique instrument.

Personally the tambourine is an instrument that made a pentacostal church culture very unique. When I think of it's significance to my pentecostal culture I think of unity. The reason I think unity is because although a christian church represents the body of christ, not all share the usage and common aspect of the tambourine. When members of the church sang on the altar usually the audience would clap or sing along but there would always be tambourines in the bottom of the seats and who ever picked them up would play along and add to the piano and

drums giving it more “Sazon” as hispanics would say. It was special to me because It stood out to me as a kid because the jingles would ring loudly and the tambourine would have different shapes that looked like circles or half moons. These little features meant so much to me that whenever I touched it I felt honor knowing many of my church members used it to praise and worship.

Ultimately the tambourine is a cultural artifact that is personally specific to the spanish pentecostal christians because it united the church in a way that was so beautiful. It symbolized worship with a simple instrument which is like when David beat the giant Goliath with a simple sling and a stone. The songs I hear when I see the tambourine are countless ,the memories are countless, and the people who have held it are countless. Time may have modernized the church a bit more but the tambourine will never change it’s significance to my culture.