Spectacles of ritualized warfare and human sacrifice played an important role in the political theology of the Moche people of ancient South America (AD 200-800). In light of our recent excavations in northern Peru, I will reinterpret the rich iconography and sacrificial rituals of the Moche. In particular, I argue that Moche architecture materialized philosophies of life, death, and rebirth at the important ceremonial centre of Huaca Colorada in the Jequetepeque Valley of Northern Peru. Despite the lack of written histories, an examination of the literally “sacrificed buildings” of this early Andean culture provides a rich font of information on Moche conceptions of self, community, moral order, and cosmos. Ultimately, my reconstruction of the peculiar sacrificial ideology of Huaca Colorada permits an improved interpretation of the meaning of human sacrifices incorporated as foundation offerings into the religious architecture of the centre.