

Contemplative Traditions

The Native American Contemplative Tradition

Arnie Neptune, Connie Baxter Marlow, Sherri Mitchell

Pathway to Peace

Connie Baxter Marlow

I would like to speak to you about the Native American worldview or cosmology and how it has influenced my thinking and my life over the past 15 years.

I would like to begin with the supposition that within the heart of every human lays the desire for Peace on Earth. I imagine every mother and father who gazes at their newborn child yearns for a world of peace and abundance for him or her to thrive and flourish in.

Contained within the Native American worldview – or indigenous – since Native Americans share an underlying cosmology with the indigenous peoples of the world – are, I believe, the keys to profound freedom, unlimited abundance and Peace on Earth – the highest aspirations of humanity. I believe that these aspirations stem from a knowing carried within the hearts of all people – a knowing I call “Pan-Indigenouslyness – the thread that ties the heart of humanity together in a vision of a world in balance.”

Through my 15-year association with many visionary elders of the United States and Mexico – and most recently the Bushmen of the Kalahari Desert in Africa, I believe I have seen a pathway to peace through the love contained in the human heart and in what I call “the conscious, loving, interconnected universe.”

What I discovered within the Native American understanding of the nature of the universe is something I call Truth, with a big T.

I made a major leap in my own understanding in 1990 at the Hopi Indian Reservation in Arizona. I came to know, within my own personal knowing, that the Native American “way of life” reflected a deep understanding of “the true nature of the universe” and the universal laws upon which it functions. I experienced a revelation or insight, if you will. My life’s path since that day has been to show the world the beauty I have seen through the doorway of that perspective and to live in alignment with it. My personal life and my childrearing took a radical leap into the unknown; to which my three children can attest.

The Native American/Indigenous connection to the conscious, loving, interconnected universe reveals clues to the lives and thinking of such mystics as Henry David Thoreau, Albert Einstein, Mahatma Ghandi, John Lennon and many others. These men saw what I call “the expanded universe” seen and experienced by the indigenous peoples of the world and they spent their lives trying to communicate their vision to a world that could not hear the essence of what they were saying.

The human mind operates by taking in information and placing that information within a logical construct which is built upon a set of assumptions. This is commonly known as a paradigm; a set of assumptions that drive our behavior.

The mystics and the Indigenous peoples of the world do not fit within the prevailing construct and therefore remain inspiring, but ultimately unintelligible and somewhat irrelevant to current life on a day-to-day basis.

I believe that the prevailing paradigm is based on a set of assumptions that are fear-based and this fear has led the human race to choose greed, war and power over others. The indigenous worldview, in its essence, is a trust-based paradigm in which the unconditional love that drives a conscious, interconnected universe reflects the “divine” or “Creator-driven” purpose in all lives, all actions as it leads us to Peace on Earth, Heaven on Earth.

The Native Prophecies, the Bible, the Mayan Calendar all see the coming of 1000 years of peace in our lifetime. The Native people call it the 5th world of unity, the Bible calls it the 5th Kingdom-“The Kingdom of God”, the Mayan Calendar and the Bible point to 2012 as a turning point in human consciousness. This turning point will reflect the evolutionary leap in consciousness that the human race will collectively agree to (100th Monkey Principle) on an individual basis. We will choose to align with the deep knowing we carry in our hearts and with that choice we will walk through our fear into trust in ourselves and in the love that drives all things.

Basic to this choice will be our understanding of the nature of this love. It is not love as we currently define it or expect it to manifest. The nature of unconditional love is that as a consciousness it must give everything that is asked of it. When we realize that our beliefs, our assumptions are our requests to the consciousness that creates our reality on an individual as well as a collective basis, we will each shift our expectations and choices to align with the loving and abundant aspects of the universe and allow them to manifest in our lives, leaving fear and its attendant concepts of scarcity and separation, violence and war behind. Quantum physics explains the mechanics of this characteristic of universal law the co-creative power of

There have been individuals who have chosen to walk in alignment with this knowing throughout history. These are our great leaders, poets and writers. The founders of America aligned themselves with a higher power. The shared vision of the Mayflower Pilgrims, the Native Americans and the drafters of America’s freedom documents reflects the trust that came from a broader vision of reality, beyond the scientific paradigm.

My ancestors James Phinney Baxter and Percival P. Baxter as white, wealthy, male, Republican politicians – 5 strikes – both chose to align with a higher truth in their lives and political careers – demonstrating that it is purely a matter of choice how one walks through life. They championed the earth, the animals, the women, the poor, the water and gave their money and their time to the people they loved – the people of Maine. These choices of my ancestors drove me to seek the rules or laws that were guiding their lives and choices – and in seeking I found 500 Indian nations and an entire cosmology

that could explain their behavior and guide mine as I followed their mandate to model a better way of living on Earth.

I would like to close by reading my Uncle Percy's *Proclamation by the Governor "Law-Not War"* which he wrote for "Law-Not War" day which was observed by 28 states and 18 countries July 29, 1923 the 9 year

In conclusion I would like to ask each of you to go inside your own indigenous heart, listen very closely and act upon what you hear

Thank you.