

Indigenous Cosmology: From Left Field to Center Stage

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It is fitting that we are here tonight at the Ringling Rocks Foundation speaking on the eve of Columbus Day, celebrated by many as Indigenous Peoples Day. The Ringling Rocks Foundation explores the world documenting and preserving healing practices and spiritual traditions. They have contributed significantly to the arena of ideas that sees indigenous cosmology as important and relevant in the world today. Andrew and I are here tonight to take the work of Ringling Rocks a step further. We will demonstrate and discuss how the cosmology of the indigenous peoples relates to quantum physics and how we can use the principles now being "proven" by science to transform our lives and our systems. Andrew will focus on the quantum reality, I will share my journey with indigenous elders and cultures throughout the United States and Mexico that led to the development of my worldview.

From my 15 year association with visionary Native American elders of the Americas and my extended visits with the Hopi here in Arizona, the Wabanaki of Maine, the Ute of Colorado, the Lakota of South Dakota and the Maya, Huichol, Tarahumara of Mexico and the Kalahari Bushmen of South Africa I caught a glimpse of a reality based on assumptions radically different from those I was raised with. I discovered a conscious, loving, interconnected, abundant universe. I sat in conversation with people who remembered the beginning, experienced the present and could see into the future. It occurred to me that if these people see and experience what I have come to call an "expanded reality" then why can't I - why can't everyone. My reality, where what these elders experienced on an everyday basis was called phenomena, superstition, magic and discounted as unreal or inapplicable to life in the 20th century, became untenable for me. Especially when I became a mother and it was my responsibility to teach my children the nature of things so they could become contributory members to the evolving human condition.

I have always believed in the human potential. Early in my life I was struck by extraordinary acts of love displayed by significant people in the world - I remember it was Florence Nightengale who triggered this knowing in me.

I believe there is a life of beauty, balance and harmony awaiting the human race and the path to this life is within the grasp of each of us, in fact, it is within each of us, in our dreams, our hopes, our highest aspirations. It merely awaits our taking up the courage to walk these ideas in our daily lives through our choice to honor our hearts and our spirits.

When I came upon the Native American "way of life" or cosmology I knew my search for the missing pieces of the paradigm I had been raised in had turned up something significant. As a teenager I started an active quest for more than what my reality had to offer. The quest led me to Berkeley in the 60's, to Europe, the mountains of Wyoming and Colorado and finally to my own backyard. In New Mexico I discovered 500 Indian nations that knew something important, something that resonated to my heart and my knowing.

I came from a family who gave their money away. My ancestors were politicians who lived and acted according to their hearts and championed the animals, the earth, women, the poor, the water. What made these men extraordinary, I wondered. Growing up a Baxter in Maine where sacred mountains and parks and libraries

and boulevards were given to the people by my ancestors gave me a mandate: "Find a better way. Take action. Live your life based on what you believe in."

My journey has been a long and thoughtful one. "Listen" the elders said. "Listen to the Silence". What does that mean? It took me many years to figure it out. When I heard stories from Grandfather Wallace Black Elk that described his reality I sat in awe and listened. Then I began to act on what I heard. I began to believe this reality was possible, and my life transformed. Could animals and trees and rocks really speak. If Grandfather could have two-way conversations with rocks and beavers, what does that mean? When he hears the trees singing what amazing world does he inhabit? When he honors the rocks in the sweat lodge, calling them stone people, when he uses sage to cleanse the aura of a person, place or thing - what do these things mean? When Grandmother Bertha Grove, Ute Elder picked up a glowing hot rock from the fire and handed it to her son, when she read the smoke rising from the fire and prescribed a remedy for a skin disorder that the medical doctors couldn't treat - what was happening? After many years, many experiences and much listening and pondering I had what many call an epiphany. I got it:

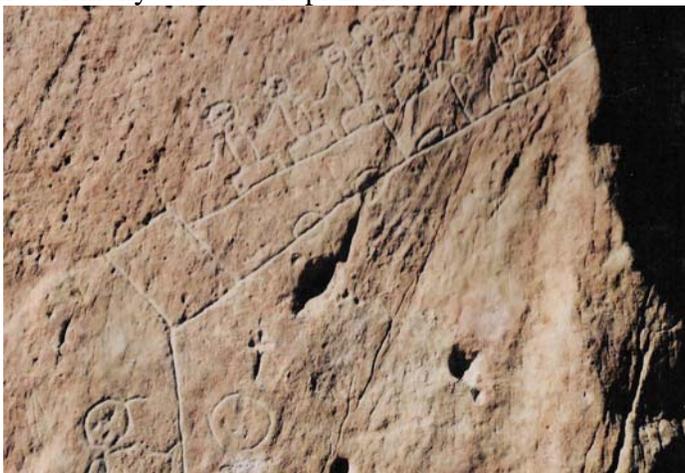
The Native American way of life, their understanding, their experiences are not a religion nor a belief system - they are manifestations of the true conscious, loving interconnected, abundant nature of the universe. They are symbols of what can be. If we pay attention we can find clues to laws that we can integrate into our own lives and boldly use them to transform our systems into systems that enhance our humanity, our beauty, our spirits. The giveaway so prevalent amongst native cultures became a symbol to me of the abundant universe. So this is what those Baxters were resonating to when they gave most of their wealth away. If we live in an abundant, loving, interconnected universe why would we hoard money? If we knew, if we trusted that there would be food tomorrow - would there be? If we are loved by this conscious universe wouldn't it care for us?

I'm not a Christian - but didn't that quintessential hippie out in Galilee tell anyone who would listen a few things about the nature of this abundant, loving, interconnected universe?

"...Do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink... Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?" Jesus : Matthew 5: 25

The Hopi elder Grandfather David Monongye, religious leader of Hotevilla expressed it in 1976 as *"The True Path - living in harmony as brothers and sisters, sharing our Mother, the Earth with all other living things. In this way, he states, we could bring about a New World. A world which would be led by the Great Spirit and our Mother would provide plenty and happiness for us all."*

The Hopi sum it up in their "Life Plan" or Prophecy - a drawing on a rock on Third Mesa that came into my life in 1990 during my first of many visits to Hopi Land.



"This rock drawing shows part of the Hopi prophecy. There are two paths. The first with high technology but separate from natural and spiritual law leads to these jagged lines representing chaos. The lower path is one that remains in harmony with natural law. Here we see a line that represents a choice like a bridge joining the paths. If we return to spiritual harmony and live from our hearts we can experience a paradise in this world. If we continue only on this upper path, we will come to destruction." Excerpt from the Hopi message to the United Nations General Assembly. Submitted by Thomas Banyacya. December 10, 1992. See www.alphcdc.com/banyacya/un92.html

Again, the "little hippie guy" as Grandfather Black Elk used to call him expressed the same understanding in his words 2000 years ago:

"Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house upon the rock; and the rain fell and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat upon that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house upon the sand; and the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against the house, and it fell; and great was the fall of it." Jesus. Matthew 8:24

Do these two passages describe the same condition? Are they both trying to tell us something? Do we have the ears to hear such a message? The courage to live in alignment with universal law?

Universal law? You ask. Grandfather always spoke of "man-made" law - which suggests something not created in the mind of man. What could that be? This I pondered. Over the years I came to understand that there are laws of the universe - absolute and irrefutable laws - which are the mechanics of how the universe works. The Hopi call it the "True Path of the Great Spirit."

We shroud the understanding of these laws in religion, in dogma. We negate them by calling them magic, coincidence, phenomena. People who see them and try to help us understand them are more often than not removed from the planet. Ghandi, Jesus, Martin Luther King, Jr., JFK, RFK, John Lennon, the indigenous peoples. It has not been time for the heart. Not quite time for humanity to choose to walk in balance. For 50 years in Plymouth Massachusetts in the 1600's inspired Englishmen and women and the Wampanoag Indians led by a visionary leader lived together in peace striving for a world which served an individual's connection to the divine, through his conscience - and a great nation was founded on these principles. And what have we done with these principles, how are we as a nation showing up in the world? It is said we promise according to our desires, and fulfill according to our fear. Would assumptions aligned with the heart bring America closer to living out her promises?

Could it be time now to exercise our free will and decide to live our lives in alignment with our own knowing? The Maya say it is in their Mayan Calendar that predicts the end of the world as we know it in 2012. That is the time we will collectively take the leap into our hearts, into trust, and transform life on Earth. Several Native American prophecies speak of purification and the coming of 1000 years of peace.

The Bushmen of the Kalahari in Southern Africa, the world's oldest people and one of the most amazing, heart-centered cultures I have ever encountered shared their understanding of the possibilities with Bradford Keeney of the Ringing Rocks Foundation:

Brad states in his book "Kalahari Bushmen Healers: "...The most powerful experience shared by all Bushman healers is the deep bond and love of relationships among all people. This ecstatic bliss arises when you throw yourself into the spirit of shaking and dancing, which opens your heart to the whole of life."

"My last visit to Motaope was on January 3, 1999. He again asked me to tell everyone about Bushmen healing. He wanted everyone to know that it is possible for all people to experience what the Bushman experiences. His final words to me were as follows: 'God brought you and me together. This makes me very happy. I see you in

my dreams. I know what you are doing and I protect you. You must tell everyone about our medicine. That's why we were brought together. Please teach them to dance, shake and touch. Everyone needs to meet god through this experience. It teaches us to forgive and love everyone. Go and touch everyone as a Bushman. Go and love everyone as a Bushman. Let the dance show that we are truly one people, one family, one love."

Taken from "Kalahari Bushmen Healers" "Profiles in Healing" Ringing Rocks Press.
Afterward. p, 125.

Once I made the "leap" I started seeing this "Truth" everywhere. In Hollywood - *Star Wars*, for example is in my estimation a handbook for how to live "The True Path", as is *Field of Dreams* - in advertising - Nike - says "Just do it." "No Fear" Gear brings us a command from the divine. I started to remember stories I'd heard from the Bible, notice it in the essence of all religions, in America's Freedom Documents, in our classic literature, our children's books, in our own experiences day- to- day that we negate with our doubt - our "what if". "What if" it isn't true, what if I'm not loved by these energies, "what if" there isn't any food tomorrow? It becomes our choice whether to live in trust or in doubt.

Now one might ask - what steps do we take to transform our lives?

The first and most critical step: We must change our assumptions.

I will throw out a "what if" - What if we applied the principles found in indigenous thought to our lives and to the systems we create? I will list the prevailing characteristics I have found that underlie the indigenous cosmology. This was well expressed by a Native American writer Donald Fixico in an article titled " Call for Native Genius and Indigenous Intellectualism." There are concepts here which are 180 degrees off from our prevailing assumptions.

To access the reality our indigenous peoples see - we can only see it if we believe it - it is a point of view - as a photographer I live every day with the difference a slight shift in perspective can make to the content of a photograph - the same is true with life. You can change what's in the picture by changing your perspective.

The concepts below reflect an understanding of an alignment with the Universal Laws of perfect balance, abundance, harmony and win/win. When we choose to implement them in our lives we will let go of fear, separation and doubt and move into total trust of a universe driven by unconditional love. It is our lack of understanding of the nature of this love that has us see it as not love. The nature of unconditional love is that it MUST give everything that is asked of it. Our assumptions are our requests. Below you will see the "requests" given this energy of love by the two paradigms: the path in balance, the path out of balance.

Respect and reverence for all of life and the gifts each being brings -

vs. Dominance of concern for profit

Trust in the love of a Higher Power manifested in all action -

vs. Fear, doubt

Living in balance with the rhythms of life -

vs. Being driven by a man-made concept of time.

Understanding the interrelatedness of all things and all actions -

vs. Separation

An understanding of the co-creative power of thought-

vs. Random Coincidence

Equality between all aspects of life –

vs. Human dominance

Incorporation of the metaphysical into physical reality –

vs. Bound to the limits of physical reality

Sharing -

vs. Hoarding or Saving

Concern for the common good -

vs. Individualism at the expense of the common good.

Cooperation -

vs. Competition

Concern for the future impacts of present action -

vs. Instant Gratification

Andrew will share with you the quantum reality that scientifically explains the result of this sort of thinking. It has to do with frequencies and vibratory levels. The trust frequency is a high vibration that accesses a reality unavailable to those in the lower vibration fear frequency. It is fascinating and in my experience entirely real. One can put one's life on the line in the trust frequency. This places one solidly in the vibration of abundance and beauty. Try it, it's fun !

The following behaviors will follow from the above assumptions:

We will stop co-operating with and enforcing fear-based behavior in our childrearing practices, our education, our workplaces and our international relations.

We will understand that circumstance loves us and is guiding us. That there has been a secret purpose of history. We will trust our hearts and our intuition and allow things to unfold while we take bold action from this place of trust.

We will stop hoarding and using our perceived wealth as a means of power and control over others.

Our hearts will open and peace will come to pass on Earth !

Thank you.

P.S.

A New Energy

All of this is possible because there is a new energy available on Earth which supports the manifestation of the infinite balance, abundance and unconditional love that are at the foundation of Universal Law. Individuals are beginning to experience this in their lives which, step-by step will influence them to make new choices on how they will live day-by-day:

Spontaneously

Trust will replace fear.

Ease will replace struggle.

Serenity will replace tension.

Generosity will replace hoarding.

Abundance will replace scarcity.

Unity will replace separation.

New Systems will develop.

New Relationships will replace out-moded ways of being.

An understanding of the interconnectedness and sacredness of all things will begin to emerge.

It is in this way that true peace and profound freedom will come to prevail on Earth.