

## **Connie Baxter Marlow On Combination**

### **A Talking Circle on Prophecy: The Pilgrim Vision, Native Prophecy and the Future**

**Rhythms of Creation: Impressions of Indigenous Peoples of the World  
An Exhibit of Images and Ideas  
Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center  
Cambridge, Massachusetts  
June 23, 2001**

Imagine – a world in which an all-knowing, all-loving, all-creative force guides each conscious aspect, animate and inanimate, of all that is, in a dance of indescribable beauty.

Imagine - free will allowing one to choose to walk in alignment with that infinite balance, or to walk contrary to it, all the while moving inexorably forward to the realization of the highest vision ever dreamt.

Imagine - one aspect of this Creation carrying the beauty of the light and the horror of the darkness; being given the freedom to choose between them.

Imagine – a force of love so unconditional that by its nature it must give everything that is asked of it.

When we touch upon these things in our heart's mind we have synthesized the highest knowing that I feel has been carried in the lives and dreams of humanity's great teachers and visionary elders throughout time. We have glimpsed a new understanding of the nature of things, an understanding that comes from combining the vision of the tiny band of 40 Mayflower Pilgrims, who came to a new land to start a new nation based on freedom to choose according to individual conscience, guided by a force they called "The Hand of God", with the essence of the people they encountered when they arrived on these shores, those we call Native American Indians.

Strangers on the surface, the elders and leaders spoke a shared language of peace and understanding. They bridged a chasm of differences to walk in alignment with the vision that drove them, and created an agreement of peace that was to bind them and their people together for 40 years.

The Mayflower Compact, drafted in the hold of the Mayflower, was first called the Mayflower Combination. It combined together the disparate groups of Mayflower passengers to pledge allegiance to the laws and offices they would create to serve the common good. This concept of combination continued into the peace agreement with the native peoples, bringing together two worlds separated by custom and perspective.

To me, Massasoit, great sachem of the Wampanoags and John Carver and William Bradford, inspired Pilgrim governors, planted a seed of unity, of family, that has yet to bear the fruit of understanding in the hearts of humanity.

Prophecy predicted that a great winter would come upon this land for 500 years after the coming of the pale-faced man, after which 1000 years of peace would prevail on Earth. 1992 signaled the end of this time of the cold, closed heart and the coming of warmth of spring. In the 1600's there remained 300+ years of winter yet to prevail upon the land, but a great vision was born.

Imagine, if you will, a seed lying in the cold ground for 350 years, the seasons changing and the soil beginning to warm up and the life contained in that seed stirring, beginning to send out roots, shoot up the first tentative, tender leaves into the light. I see that the heart of humanity is stirring; deep within, an expansive knowing and a great love are sending out their first tiny signals that they indeed survived the ice, the darkness and the cold. And if you have ever watched spring come to New England, it comes slowly, a bud here, a flower there, one senses it before one sees it, then suddenly the brilliant, fragrant blossoms of summer herald the coming of the fruits of August.

Has humanity reached summer yet? Or are we still in the spring, that time when the cold storms of winter buffet the tiny shoots – how many of us are ready to open our hearts, yet feel the cold blasts of winter still lurking? Did that shared fall feasting of 140 Indians and Pilgrims of 1621 symbolize the celebration of the harvest of the fruits that were to come in the heart of mankind hundreds of years later? Together Squanto and the Pilgrims fertilized the over-used fields and planted the corn, most sacred of the plants and nourisher of humanity. You will see in my photographs of the Native Peoples the recurring use of corn as the fundamental staple of life on this continent. To the Hopi, corn is the Mother.

Are we ready to tend to the soil that nourishes the seed that will ultimately bear the fruit of profound freedom and peace on Earth? Squanto and William Bradford became close friends in Plymouth, possibly living under the same thatched roof. Are we ready to follow the example of Massasoit, Samoset, Squanto, Hobomak, John Carver and William Bradford, those first emissaries of peace, and come together as family and show humanity the extent of the love that is contained in the human heart?

Having been raised in New England, the descendant of a Maine family, the most noted members of which served humanity, the Earth and the animals through public service as governors and mayors, and extraordinary generosity; having spent the last 10 years with many of the visionary Native elders of our land throughout the United States and Mexico; having recently done extensive research on my more distant ancestors, The Pilgrims, I have come to see a common thread of a vision of truth, beauty and balance that pervades the highest aspirations of the many aspects of humanity and the rest of Creation, which, to be fully realized, must be combined together to create one body that functions with one mind, the expanded mind that embraces the power and knowing of

the heart.

The way I see it, just as with the human body, the hands play a different role from the feet, so do the various aspects of Creation carry their special functions that contribute to the whole; without the contribution of every aspect, the whole is crippled. To me, we have all been crippled by missing information and by misunderstanding; the parts of the whole have not yet come together, the synthesis has not occurred, the trust that comes through knowing has not come into play in our daily choices as to how we will live.

Tonight we will speak of beauty. Tonight we will ask everyone to walk into their hearts that we might come together for one brief shining moment and be as one envisioning a future that is not only possible, but is probable, in fact, in my view, a given: a future, in our lifetime, that realizes all of humanity's greatest dreams.

And now I turn the floor over to those profoundly brilliant and visionary elders of our land – Wallace Black Elk, Arnie Neptune and Donna Augustine who will share a worldview and a vision of the future that is carried deep within the heart of humanity, clues to which I feel have been kept alive on Earth in the way of life of the native peoples and a few great mystics and holy people throughout time.

Thank you.