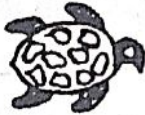


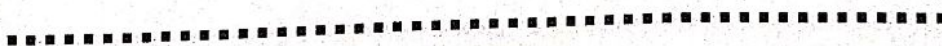
Conclusion

Gathering the Gifts of Woman



To continue weaving the web of the Sisterhood and make it strong, we must first honor the two bylaws that are Native American Traditions—protect the women and never do anything that would hurt the children. These are the unwritten laws that kept the Tribes in the Americas strong for hundreds of years. In modern times, we could translate these two laws into meaning that the Planetary Family is restored when the women can feel safe anywhere and anytime. When that occurs, the nurturing of children's dreams is taken care of by women who have become extensions of the Earth Mother and thus Mothers of the Creative Force. Through the nurturing of healed women, the spiritual health and well-being of the next seven generations is assured.

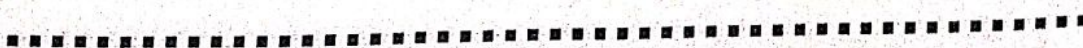
The Sisterhood grows strong when every woman sees every other woman as an equal part of the whole. There is no room for pecking order in a circle of women. "Life, Unity, and Equality for Eternity" is the foundation for the harmonious circle of the Sisterhood. Every woman is asked to do her part by developing her gifts, talents, and abilities. Each woman is acknowledged for the work she contributes to the whole. Every woman is her own judge; the truth of her actions and the integrity of her words is the model she uses as she leads through example. Each woman is required



to face the limitations, fears, and challenges within herself and to heal those parts of her self in order to become the living personification of her personal vision.

When each woman honors her Self, more raw, creative energy is available to be used by the whole to effect changes in the way humankind reacts to life. When women are no longer lost, asking others to tell them what they should do or how they should live, there will be great changes in our world. This is not to say that the friendships and bonds of women are not to be used; on the contrary, the support of other women who have walked the same path is paramount. This kind of support is based in truth and delivered with caring—without projections or judging another. That kind of support is healthy and productive, when other women create a safe space in which to share personal thoughts and offer alternatives in a respectful way. The Sisterhood always supports every woman who is willing to surmount her own challenges in order to grow.

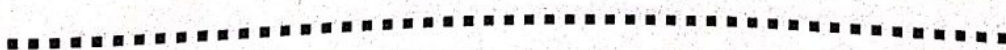
Any woman who has taken care of business by becoming strong and her personal best is already standing in the Turtle Council House with the Thirteen Original Clan Mothers. How she continues to develop her talents depends on her desire to see through the smokey illusion of the Great Smoking Mirror. The Mayans say, "I am another one of yourself." Through the Great Smoking Mirror we can look at every life form in the tangible world as representing some gift, trait, or talent that also is a part of our own makeup. When we look beyond the smokey illusions, we can travel past our hesitations and limitations, finding that every one of the Thirteen Clan Mothers is a part of the person we are. Some of those skills may not be fully developed,



but they are available to us if we decide we want to use them to grow further.

One way we can balance the male and female sides of our nature is through developing our skills, putting ourselves out in the world in order to make a difference in the lives of others we encounter. Through example, we can show others how to love unconditionally, be their personal best, drop the need to control or belittle, and show compassion. The Legacy of Woman does not have to include the former hurts that have set women against women, women against men, or caused women to destroy themselves through sabotage. The way out of these crooked trails is provided by the Thirteen Original Clan Mothers. When we acknowledge the traits of the Original Thirteen as gifts we can find and develop within ourselves, we have many goals to accomplish and plenty of work to do. There is no need to get involved with the high drama and pettiness that has kept us from achieving human harmony when we are busy working on becoming our personal visions.

To gather the gifts of the Thirteen Original Clan Mothers and to develop them as our own, we must see other women as role models. This is not to put the women who have developed a certain gift on a pedestal, because they too are human and will fall. Every human being is perfect in her or his imperfections and has a right to learn through trial and error. In admiring how another woman uses the gifts she has developed, we can then see how she handles situations in her life. It may not be how we would do it ourselves, but it gives us one alternative to look at without judging it as right or wrong. Being the observer of several women who have certain gifts that we want to develop



within ourselves can give us a multitude of new ideas and ways to approach life.

The practice of learning through observing is the way that Native American Tribes have taught Clan or family members to develop their skills for centuries. We are only as accomplished as those we choose as our role models or teachers. When a child showed a skill or talent of some kind, the family would go to the Tribe Member who was the very best at that particular thing and ask if the child could learn from that person. This ensured that the child would learn from the best teacher available and it was the unspoken duty of that teacher to make sure that the student equaled or surpassed the abilities of the teacher. When this was accomplished, the reward belonged to both the teacher and the student for a job well done. There was no jealousy or envy or holding back of some information or technique that would make the teacher superior. That kind of selective teaching was practiced only when separation divided the Indian Nations after the Trail of Tears.

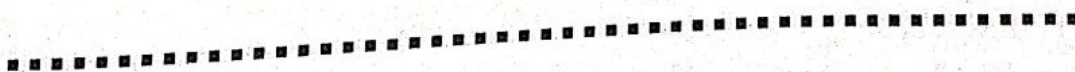
Today, there are many ways to find role models. We can find the information or resources we need through books, seminars, schools, or libraries. We can make it our priority to develop new ways to look at our lifestyles and our environment. We can decide to live in a way that shows respect for the Earth Mother and All Our Relations. We can learn through observing our neighbors. We can develop skills through sharing or helping another accomplish a task. We can ask that the right person or situation be put in our paths so we can observe alternatives. Everything in life is our teacher and everything is alive. The discovery of that alive-

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ness is the adventure that life offers us on a minute-to-minute basis. Our main task is to be aware of every moment in order to take advantage of the opportunities presented.

To gather the gifts of woman, we must be aware of everything in the tangible and intangible worlds. The role models we need are represented in all life forms, not just in women. The feminine principle is present in all things and in the natural world is balanced with a positive male role model, giving us the blending we need to find in ourselves. The receptive observer is the feminine aspect of gathering the information of how to develop a skill. The willingness to take the actions necessary to accomplish that task belongs to the demonstrative male principle. Observing and listening, making sure we understand, and then taking action is the balanced path to developing any talent or accomplishing any goal.

Saying no to anything that is inappropriate or harmful for ourselves or another is one form of taking action. The refusal to be a party to pettiness is another way to take action, through nonaction. When we think enough of ourselves to respect our Sacred Spaces and our bodies, we choose the activities that support right action. When our opinion of ourselves is low, we tend to be drawn into situations that ultimately inflict physical, mental, or emotional harm on some part of our beings. These wrong actions come from woundedness. It is then necessary to heal the part of ourselves that is willing to accept any interaction with others as a substitute for self-esteem. In our desire to be liked or admired, we often set aside the standards that we have



found will support our growth. The lessons of this crooked trail are hard ones that fall like an avalanche of broken dreams, further wounding the Self. It is the male/demonstrative side of our nature that is willing to risk saying no to protect the Self's identity. It is the nurturing female side that is willing to receive *any* kindness or attention, even if the consequences are not readily seen.

The wounded male side of our nature may insist that we constantly defend, battle, or compete with others to show our worthiness, instead of working together in a supportive way. These reflections of self-importance are seen through the Great Smoking Mirror, making us aware of the pain they have caused in this Fourth World of Separation. If we are constantly defending our right to be, we are defending a deep wound to our sense of Self.

Self-esteem is reclaimed when the feminine principle of nurturing the Self is practiced, instead of expecting our sense of wholeness to come from our relationship to another person. When we care enough for ourselves to take the time we need to give to the Self, we will feel complete. When we feel love for the Self, we will then draw another person to us who can add his or her sense of wholeness to the relationship. The union of two people who have developed the skills of self-reliance and self-esteem is one that will stand the tests of life's experiences.

This type of healing, provided by the Great Smoking Mirror, applies to every human relationship. When two wounded people become friends, the relationship will invariably produce a common ground that will provide many lessons. They may mirror their common weaknesses, lack of understanding, or inflexibility to one another. They could

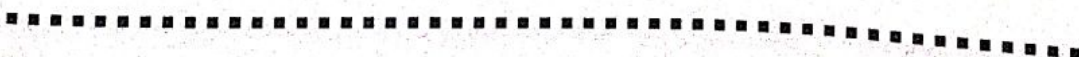
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provide a support system for one another or reflect how one is growing and the other has fear of change. In every instance, no matter how the situation presents itself, each individual is responsible for seeing her or his own hurt and for finding a way to heal it without making the other person responsible for that pain. This is the way of the feminine nurturing principle: going within, finding the problem, and remedying it through nurturing the self.

The male principle is then used to affect or change the patterns that caused the person to draw those lessons to the Self. The actions that created the problem are habits that can be broken. If a person always goes along with another's decision and is angry about it later, the anger is really with the Self. If a person is afraid to speak up when something seems amiss, the unexpressed resentment will strangle the relationship.

These and other habits that are limiting can be changed if we use the feminine principle of observing the obvious in ourselves. It is far easier to see the wrong behavior in another than it is to see our own refusal to take right action. We do not need to insist that others do it our way, but we do need to insist upon honesty within the Self in order to support our own well-being. Personal integrity changes as the person grows and develops. It would be unfair to insist that everyone follow one set of rules.

The rigidity within belief systems that makes one faith the true faith and all others false is one of the mainstays causing the Fourth World of Separation to be so destructive. In the Indian Way of the Ancestors, if a person received a dream or vision about a particular way to perform a task, ceremony, or healing, it was never questioned because it



was between that person and the Great Mystery. If people chose to dress differently or follow any course of action that did not hurt others, it was accepted as their way of doing things and was not judged. For the most part, families living in a tribal situation did not stick their noses in anyone else's business unless they were asked to. The respect for another's Sacred Space was of utmost importance even if she or he were not behaving properly. The only time anything was brought before one of the Council of Elders was when a tribal Law had been broken that would affect the survival of everyone.

We gather the gifts of woman when we allow all persons to make their own choices about who and what they want to be and then allow them to find a path that suits their personality and unique way of learning those skills. These are the gifts of the good mother who refuses to smother her children but instead gives responsibility according to each child's capacity. This manner of allowing a child to develop the ability to respond from his or her sense of integrity ensures that the children will become self-reliant. The purity of the loving feminine principle is based in unattached guidance giving proper boundaries and at the same time providing a fertile ground for developing the seeds of potential. The Thirteen Original Clan Mothers allow every Child of Earth the opportunity to become his or her potential in this same way.

We can no longer separate the female and male principles within ourselves, because one without the other will leave us stranded on the shores of the future without the means to become our personal visions. Gathering the gifts of woman and bringing those gifts home to our hearts

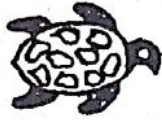
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means acknowledging both sides of our nature and investing both sides with goodness. Negative judgments will divide the natural marriage of our *thoughts* (feminine) and *actions* (masculine) that give us the abilities we need to accomplish our goals.

The Sisterhood has been given the task of being the bridge from the Fourth World of Separation into the Fifth World of Peace and Enlightenment. The chasm we are being asked to cross can only be bridged with forgiveness. We all desire the abundance of the Fifth World, but to receive it we must *for-give*. We are being asked to give of ourselves, to forgive ourselves and others, and to allow the abundance of wisdom to flow. Our greatest potential lies within and can be found through forgiving, creating the bridge across the abyss of our woundedness. We are standing at that point in time now.

Every human being who accomplishes the task of becoming her or his personal vision will become a role model for others, whether she or he is aware of it or not. The more gifts we gather and the more skills we develop, the more enlightenment we are able to share with others. This is the road to the Fifth World of Peace, and the Thirteen Original Clan Mothers are the Guardians of that path to wholeness. The time has never been more fertile. The dreams of humankind are nestled in the hearts that are ready to heal the old pain and become the living vision of Life, Unity, and Equality for Eternity.

The History of the Turtle Council House



Many thousands of moons ago when Turtle Island was one land mass and the Children of Earth lived together as one, a call from the Earth Mother went out to all women of the human race. This plea has been echoed through the centuries in the hearts of women everywhere and still reflects the Earth Mother's purest desire for women to take their roles as the Guardians of beauty, harmony, equality, and peace.

In those ancient times, women were uncertain of their roles, and yet they strove to give of themselves in order to preserve the Legacy of Woman on their Mother Planet. It was a time before the religions of the later-established Matriarchy would worship the Great Mother. The beginning of this story takes place in the days when the Earth was new and the steam from her cooling body made tropical environments where the Children of Earth wandered naked, without shame. Great reptiles and mammals roamed the Earth, feasting on the lush vegetation. The human Children of Earth knew no lack because there was food growing in abundance and all of the Children of Earth lived in harmony. It was a time that the Grandmothers call the First World of Love, and the light of Grandfather Sun was the symbol of the constant love that guided the Original People,



the Human-beings. The Earth Tribe called Human-beings knew no separation because male and female were honored as equals. For the Human-beings, there was no battle between the genders, because each sex had equally important roles in Creation and both joyously performed their tasks in a loving and good way, supporting all other humans, creatures, and plants.

As the rotations around the sun passed, each of these yearly orbits was marked by thirteen cycles of Grandmother Moon. As new generations were born, the love freely given to all life forms by Grandfather Sun became a source of comfort that marked day from night, Sun from Sleep. His golden light of love brought warmth, because at that time humankind did not understand the mystery of fire or how to contain it. Like the warmth and nurturing ability of the mothers of humankind and the protective, providing roles of the fathers of the Human Tribe, Grandfather Sun's Sacred Fire warmed the hearts of all the Children of Earth.

The five races of Two-legged humans lived in harmony and honored the differences between them as being unique aspects of beauty for many hundreds of generations. The yellow, red, brown, white, and black races of Two-leggeds were not fearful of a scarcity that they had never known. All of their needs were abundantly taken care of until greed changed the orbit of the planet. Something was wrong, very wrong. The Earth Mother could no longer maintain her balance as she traveled across the Sky Nation, circling Grandfather Sun. Slowly she was losing her balance, slipping off her path, and every wobble worried her more. The gold that held her internal guidance system and revolving relationship to the sun was being removed by her human children.

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It was during this time of subtle climatic change that jealousy began to rear its ugly head and fear clutched the hearts of the Two-leggeds. Food was not as plentiful as it had been before, because the seasons began to evolve, making changes in the fruit-bearing cycles of the Plant People. The races of humankind began to seek others who looked like their own particular race, causing the first separation of the Tribe called the Human-beings. These Two-leggeds began to believe that Clans or families of the same race should be formed to protect their food stores for those of the same skin color. Grandfather Sun loved all his children equally, without exception, and his heart was saddened by this Crooked Trail that his human children had taken.

The separation continued as gold was chipped from the Earth Mother's body and hoarded. Confused human children believed that gold was the manifested, collected light of Grandfather Sun's love. They believed that Two-leggeds who possessed the greatest amount of this precious metal would rule the others in the Human Tribe. The yellow race of Two-leggeds began to enslave the other races until greed had finally destroyed the ideas of equality that had invested the First World with unconditional love. The male Human-beings were physically strong and began to hunt and hoard the food in order to dominate the females, creating further separation and woundedness.

Misunderstanding of Grandfather Sun's Sacred Fire and the color yellow that represented the Eternal Flame of Love and Light caused the misuse of gold and deterioration of the First World's original intent. The Earth Mother could no longer stand the cries of her children, who had become the Children of Sorrow because love was lost. The First World

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would have to be destroyed by the same Sacred Fire of unconditional love in order to purify the Mother Planet for a new beginning. The Sacred Fire of Love had been replaced by gold metal, becoming an all-consuming fire of greed, ownership, and control.

Grandmother Moon spoke to her daughter, the Earth Mother, and brought forth an idea from deep within her heart. "Oh, my daughter, do not grieve for that which cannot be changed. There is much love and compassion inside you that can be used to heal the broken hearts of these Children of Sorrow."

The Earth Mother lifted her voice to question the wise Grandmother who wove the tides of her oceans with the feelings of human beings. "Speak to me of the healing my human children need, Moon Mother, for my heart is heavy and my senses are reeling with their pain."

"Daughter, I would speak to you of yourself. You hold all that is good within the feminine. You carry the model of wholeness for all women inside your heart. It is time for us to create the parts of you that will express the hidden human potential. Each time my face comes full one aspect of the feminine healing potential will be revealed. Each of these thirteen parts of the dream of wholeness will be spun of gossamer thread made of my silver light and will move from the Dreamtime into the manifested world to walk the Earth. They shall become the Thirteen Original Clan Mothers, who will be the foundation of the Legacy of Woman. They will hold the Sacred Hoop intact through all the coming worlds. Each will be the Guardian of the secrets of one moon cycle and Keeper of the Mysteries of Woman. Every Clan Mother will represent another part of your spirit and



will work in harmony with the others. Together they represent your Medicine and your truth. It is through this Medicine that womankind will once again find the strength of equality. Pass this legacy to your human daughters so that all life may come back into balance."

The Earth Mother's heart was gladdened as she and Grandmother Moon set out to spin the threads of woman. The shimmering fabric of woman was delicate and yet eternally durable, light, and free of form. The individual patterns of the Thirteen Clan Mothers would emerge from this woven light, one at a time, as each of the next thirteen moons passed. The spirit of each would be called forth from the heart of Yeodaze, the Earth Mother, when Grandmother Moon's full light brought forth the hidden feelings, desires, and characteristics of each Cycle of Truth. All women would be called *Yeo*, after Yeodaze, the Earth Mother, and would find their roles through accessing the teachings of the Thirteen Original Clan Mothers. These Thirteen Clan Mothers of humankind would walk the Spirit World and then take their places together as human beings when the manifestation of these magical womankind creations was complete.

During the Clan Mothers' creation process, Swennio, the Great Mystery, smiled upon Mother Earth and Grandmother Moon, for their hearts were pure. The Great Mystery saw the wisdom in a new beginning. The Earth had been raped and defiled by those who would rob her body of the element of gold. These pockets of golden ore guided Mother Earth's lifeforce and maintained her body's connection to Grandfather Sun. The Two-leggeds had chosen a crooked path that had changed the life flow within their



Mother Planet by robbing the golden ore. Mother Earth's body no longer followed the same path across the Sky Nation and continued to dangerously wobble and tilt. These changes in her path caused shifts in the weather that brought the Four Seasons into being. With the changing seasons came the unexpected scarcity of food. All of Earth's Children had to adapt to the shifts in climate. These paramount shifts in the quality of life added fuel to the fire of greed that had been born of the fear of scarcity. When the weight of winter brought ice, cold, and hunger, those who robbed the yellow metal were able to buy food from the hoarders. The hoarded fruits and tubers that had once been freely given by the Plant People were now used as a means to create inequality and control. Greed caused many to starve and others to follow a crooked path, digging for gold to pay for food in order to survive.

The Earth Mother sent a decree into all parts of Creation that was heard by those who listened with their hearts. "I am giving birth to a legacy that will bring forth the best in all of humankind," she cried out. "Never again will the beauty of the feminine aspect be hidden from those who seek Grandmother Moon's light or my gift of nurturing and physical strength to guide their paths. I will give all women of Earth the Medicine they need to birth their children and their collective dreams. Then together with these daughters, I will reverse the pattern of fear that has wounded the hearts of all my children. My promise to the Plant People and Stone People, the Winged Ones, Finned Ones, Four-leggeds, and Creepy-crawlers is that my compassion and love will be present in the Two-leggeds called Yeo, woman. It may take some time and help from other Relations in the

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Planetary Family, but woman will find her way, reclaiming for every living thing the love that was lost during this First World's imbalance."

And so it was that the dream visions of the Thirteen Original Clan Mothers became flesh and were nestled in the heart of the Earth Mother deep inside the Inner Earth. The fire consumed the Above World as the flaming purification was followed by ice. Together, these cleansings represented the fire of greed and the hardened hearts that had grown cold from lack of loving compassion. The Clan Mothers, as aspects of the Earth Mother who had taken human bodies, gathered together to dream the vision of the coming worlds when all would be made new. The dream that came out of this Dreaming Circle was later called the Whirling Rainbow Dream. It brought the promise of future wholeness that would manifest during the Fifth World of Illumination and Peace.

The Clan Mothers laid their new human bodies on the Earth in a circle, with their feet to a fire, allowing their bodies to act as the spokes of their human Medicine Wheel. For four Suns and four Sleeps they dreamed. On the first Sun, they dreamed of the illumination that came from the East and how to better understand the opening of the Golden Door that leads to all other levels of imagination and awareness. They dreamed of the lessons of the coming worlds and of how each woman could contribute her talents to make those future worlds full of harmony, truth, equality, and peace. Each Clan Mother's vision was different, for she was given a unique way in which to understand her personal Medicine. The understanding of life and of the breath of life that supports all human beings as they move through their

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Earth Walks permeated the senses of the dreaming women, giving them a wisdom of the Knowing Systems they would use in the physical realm.

The dreaming continued into the second Sun, when the visions changed to the lessons of the South. Each woman saw the way that she could use her personal faith to assist in breaking the behavior patterns that had placed the Human Tribe in bondage. The magic of innocence and childlike wonder, celebration, and playfulness filled their dreams with joy as they were shown the pleasures of physical life. Each woman was given a deep appreciation of the simple things that made the Earth a place of beauty. The dreaming continued and the lessons of humility and the consequences of self-importance came into view. Each Clan Mother was shown the abundance that the group could create through *unity* and how they could work together to pass the combined legacy of wholeness to humankind.

As Grandfather Sun rose for the third time, the dream focused on the lessons of the West. The place of all tomorrows, the West or Moon Direction, brought forth the vision of *equality* that was necessary for the future of wholeness to be assured. By honoring the talents and Sacred Spaces of all life forms as well as each other, the circle was enveloped with a feeling of unity while the beauty of each woman's part of the whole was revealed. The preservation of Traditions and the abundance of the Mother Planet came into view as each woman saw her role as a Guardian of fertility and truth. The ability to go within her own heart and to know her truth in order to make balanced decisions became a part of the Whirling Rainbow Dream. The function of Grandmother Moon's cycles and how each woman could



find those rhythms within herself whirled through the visions of every Clan Mother. The events that would come later in the story of humankind were revealed as the Whirling Rainbow Dream brought visions of a blending of the Human Tribe far in the distant future. The peace and illumination that had been present in the First World of Love would return when the Earth Tribe had completed its lessons through trial and error.

The final revelation of completion, when all would be healed, had brought the dawning of the next Sun. Grandfather's light covered the Above World in rose-tinted glory once more. The dream then turned to the North and showed the Clan Mothers that *life, unity, and equality* would last for *eternity* as the lesson of each was fully learned. The wisdom of all that had been revealed and how each Rite of Passage brought all things closer to wholeness was implanted in the wombs of all Thirteen Clan Mothers. There the dream would grow and flourish in the warm darkness of their womb spaces, places of balance and vision, the inner Medicine Bowls of these Whirling Rainbow Grandmothers. The North vision then presented the lesson of gratitude, allowing each woman to return thanks from her heart for the vision of wholeness that had been received.

The seeds of the future had been planted in the here and now. The dreams of every human Child of Earth were honored as necessary parts of the whole. These Grandmothers of humankind were forever pregnant with the lessons, the challenges, and the aspirations of the Children of Earth. The dreams of All Our Relations were tied within that Sacred Dream Hoop of Wholeness that would one day come into



manifestation. These future dreams and lessons would be birthed when the time was right for the Earth's Children to learn and gather the wisdom. The Rites of Passage, or change, that would mark the birth of each vision had taken root in the present. Each set of life lessons would unfold as it was called forth by the Human Tribe's desire to alter their paths, changing and growing in unity.

The inner knowing and vision that each Clan Mother held would rest inside of her heart. The dream of who she was and what her talents represented was nestled within her womb. The opening of those visions would come when the purification of the Above World was complete. In the following Suns and Sleeps, it would be necessary to give birth to the promise held in the Whirling Rainbow Dream, so that the promise of the lights of wholeness could be seen all over the world. The fire that had provided warmth for their feet during the four Suns and Sleeps of dreaming began to pulse and change form. The heart of the Earth Mother began to emerge as a living, new-flaming sun, deep within the Inner Earth. This heart-fire began to beat a different rhythm that would allow All Our Relations to feel the constant love and deep connection to their true Mother.

The Clan Mothers stood around that pulsing heart and became a part of it once again. The fire of love that each carried traveled up and out of the Inner Earth to create the Aurora Borealis. These rainbow lights sent forth the promise that the Whirling Rainbow Dream was in progress and that the Earth would never again be destroyed by fire. The colors of the Aurora touched the Sky Nation and signaled the beginning of the lessons of healing the world. The Human



Nation would need to learn each lesson on the Medicine Wheel in order to claim the completion of spiritual wholeness. The love of the Earth Mother was present in every colored beam that danced across the indigo, star-studded blanket of the Sky Nation. The dancing colors heralded the message that the Earth Mother's legacy of Life, Unity, and Equality for Eternity had been passed to the Thirteen Clan Mothers. The Sisterhood had been formed. The mission of carrying the Legacy of Woman and the lessons of wholeness to the Children of Earth could now begin.

When the purification of the Above World was complete, twelve of the Thirteen Clan Mothers emerged from the Inner Earth with those faithful humans who had chosen to repopulate the Above World. Becomes Her Vision would wait in the Dreamtime until her twelve sisters had completed their first Rites of Passage, collecting their lessons and taking their experiences into her understanding. Then, Becomes Her Vision would go through her Rite of Passage and join the others when she became the realized dream, taking a human form.

Later, the reunited Clan Mothers would build the first Turtle Council House that would house the Sisterhood. Half of the oval house was to be built below the soil so that the darkness of the womb within would be filled with the rich perfume of the Earth Mother's breath. The domed roof was to be covered with mud and leaves and stones that would form the shell of Grandmother Turtle. The arms, legs, head, and tail of Grandmother Turtle were to be sculpted in soil and covered with tiny Stone People. The future Council House would be built on a site of the Earth Mother's choosing.

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There was much to learn about being human. The Rites of Passage each Clan Mother passed through would then allow the Earth Mother to fully understand her human children in a good way, through feeling the human experiences of her thirteen aspects. The Earth Walk of each Clan Mother brought many winters of wisdom, and finally triumph, as Becomes Her Vision became the realized dream of the Legacy of Woman, allowing the Thirteen Sisters to become united as one.

The Turtle Council House stood for many worlds of time while the Clan Mothers taught their human children the love of the Earth Mother. Every Clan Mother had a body that did not age like those of the Human Tribe. When it was time for the Thirteen Mothers to return to the center of Inner Earth without their bodies, the Turtle Council House disappeared from the face of the Earth. Then the Human Tribe was forced to use the tools they had been taught by the Clan Mothers to become the living examples of truth that the Great Mystery had created them to be.

We do not need an archaeologist to search for the remains of the Turtle Council House in the Four Corners area of North America. Now the Turtle Council House can be accessed through our hearts. The Thirteen Original Crystal Skulls hold each Clan Mother's library of wisdom and their spirits are always available to us when we enter Tiyouweh, the Stillness. Today, the symbol of Turtle is a reminder of the fertile legacy that we are being asked to reclaim for All Our Relations.

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Entering the Council House of the Thirteen Original Clan Mothers



When I was passed the stories of the Thirteen Original Clan Mothers by Grandmothers Cisi and Berta, I was told that the gifts of the Clan Mothers would forever be a part of the Earth. I was taught that any Two-legged could access the wisdom held by these Grandmothers of the Turtle Council House if she or he had an open heart and a desire to tap into the feminine principle. The aspects of the Earth Mother and Grandmother Moon that took form as the Thirteen Clan Mothers are found in every living thing, in all seasons, and in every location on our planet.

Cisi and Berta told me that just before it was time for the Thirteen Clan Mothers to Drop Their Robes and return to the heart of the Earth Mother without their physical bodies, the Thirteen Crystal Skulls were made. These Crystal Skulls represented the wisdom that was gathered by the Clan Mothers and included all of the love and talents that formed the Legacy of Woman.

I was taught that before the separation of Turtle Island into continents and before the golden ages of various cultures that have made up the Fourth World of Separation, each one of the Crystal Skulls was housed in a place where



women gathered to share Medicine. I was taught that most of these sacred sites were in the center or middle section of the one great land mass of Turtle Island. The central section of Turtle Island is presently called North and South America and did include parts of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

Cisi told me that some replicas of the Thirteen Crystal Skulls were made by humans over the centuries to bring pretended power to certain cultures or spiritual sects. The result was disastrous since those societies were seeking to control others through fraudulent means and supposed spirituality. The leaders of the religious cults of various civilizations who sought to enslave the populace through hierarchy, patriarchy, or matriarchy had forgotten the original intent of the Thirteen Clan Mothers. Life, Unity, and Equality for Eternity is the Legacy of the Sisterhood that includes all people and life forms.

Berta told me that the Crystal Skulls were made in the form of human skulls to represent the collected wisdom found in the human potential. The Earth Mother, who is a living being, holds this wisdom because of the passages of her Thirteen Aspects, the Clan Mothers, into human forms.

Berta explained that because of the Earth Mother's mind-set, no outside influence could harm the crystal libraries held in the skulls. The consciousness contained in the Crystal Skulls does not include the human fears that can draw negative influences. Berta said that through the ages, any person who sought to use the Crystal Skulls for evil ends was a fool. The center of each skull contains the reflection of the Great Smoking Mirror. The smoke-filled illusion in front of the mirror is that anyone could send any intention, good or bad, to another person *without having it*



boomerang back. The purity and clarity of these clear quartz skulls merely reflects any intention sent back to its point of origin. The joke is on the sender in every case because the only reflection seen in the Skull's crystallized form is the face of the sender. As the Mayans say, "I am another one of yourself."

Cisi and Berta both said that even if one of the Thirteen Crystal Skulls were destroyed by human hands, the total information is held in every one of the thirteen. The wisdom of how all things are interrelated is kept in these living libraries. This set of records also includes how the Earth Mother is related to every other heavenly body in our solar system, galaxy, and universe. It is no wonder that some people who have telepathically connected to one of the original skulls, now known as the Mitchell-Hedges skull after its modern discoverers, have felt that its origin must be another planet or civilization from the stars.

The Stone People are the libraries of Earth and hold all records of the Earth's true history. There are two reasons that quartz crystal was the stone substance used to fashion these skulls. The first is that the Earth Mother's body contains an enormous amount of quartz, which she uses to maintain clarity and focus. All quartz on Earth contains the solidified memory, feelings, and cycles of the Mother Planet's evolving process. Because of the connection of quartz to the element of water, you might say that the internal feelings and thoughts of the Earth Mother are transmitted through these pockets of quartz. Her sense of timing and rhythm are transmitted from these quartz crystals in much the same way that crystals are used inside of some watches and clocks in our modern world to regulate accuracy.

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The second reason is that originally in the Turtle Council House, light was reflected under the base of the skulls and would form a rainbow of color through the top of the skulls. The Aurora Borealis comes from the top of the Earth Mother's head, or North Pole, representing the Whirling Rainbow's promise of world peace. The Whirling Rainbow Dream is the prophecy of all races, all nations coming together in the Fifth World of Peace that we are now beginning.

For the human Children of Earth, the skulls are a reminder that the Thirteen Original Clan Mothers dreamed the Whirling Rainbow of Peace at the end of the First World of Love when they were inside the subterranean caverns of Earth. Later, when the Turtle Council House was built, it was half below the soil and half above, representing the marriage of the Natural World and the Spirit World, Mother Earth and Father Sky, the female and male principles. Inside the Turtle Council House, where the skulls were first housed, the sunlight came through the holes in the walls and illuminated each Crystal Skull, sending the combined consciousness of the Clan Mothers into the interior of the structure.

Today, one of the original Crystal Skulls, the Mitchell-Hedges skull, which was discovered in the early 1900s, is being displayed and is traveling to many museums and foreign countries. In the interior of Mexico, I have been in the presence of two more of the originals—one that is guarded by an ancient Toltec and Aztec Medicine Society and another that is in the competent hands of a family of healers. These are not the Crystal Skulls that were once in museums. My other teacher, Joaquin Muriel Espinosa, told me



that the Crystal Skulls that have been placed in museums (like the one that was later stolen in Mexico City) are not originals but rather replicas that do not hold the records or mind-set of the Clan Mothers.

Joaquin, Cisi, and Berta all told me stories of how some of the original Crystal Skulls were housed in Mayan, Toltec, Aztec, and Inca, as well as other North American Indian tribal centers. These stories told of how a few of the Crystal Skulls were lost when the oceans reclaimed parts of the land on the east and west coasts of North, Mezzo, and South America at the end of the Third World. My teachers said that the Earth Mother had chosen to ensure that some of the Crystal Skulls would forever be in her keeping, away from her destructive human children. These Elders told me that many humans would dream of the Crystal Skulls and become a part of the Whirling Rainbow Dream of Peace but that only those who had earned the right, through connecting to the Thirteen Original Clan Mothers, would become the Guardians of the actual Crystal Skulls.

Many people on our planet believe that they are connected to the Crystal Skulls through visions they have had or through spiritual messages they have received. Some believe that they are supposed to rediscover the actual skulls. If this was the truth, in fact, those people would have been guided to the actual places where the existing Original Skulls are being kept by the human beings who hold the honored roles of Guardianship. My Elders told me that every human being is connected to the Thirteen Original Clan Mothers and that when a person is ready for that level of spiritual experience, the dreams of the Crystal Skulls, the

Whirling Rainbow, or the Clan Mothers will come to them. This form of initiation is merely an entry point into the Medicine Wheel of the Clan Mothers that will give each individual the right to begin learning the lessons available. The paths to wholeness that are formed by each Clan Mother's spoke on the Medicine Wheel are filled with lessons about developing personal abilities and may take many years to complete.

I was taught how to focus on those lessons and how to persist in my personal growth by Cisi, Berta, and Joaquin. They taught me these seven points of wisdom that I would like to share with you.

1. There are no rules on how to grow or change.
2. All self-imposed rules or judgments are limiting illusions.
3. The Great Mystery cannot be solved, so don't try.
4. Everything you seek can be found inside of you.
5. Laughter and irreverence dissolve the illusions and the fear.
6. Unseen worlds exist within the tangible and cannot be separated.
7. You ARE, the moment you decide to BE.

I feel that I could write an entire book on those seven lessons and so I will leave it to each individual to find understanding for herself or himself.



The manner in which each person contacts the Thirteen Original Clan Mothers is up to that individual. The following exercise can assist those who would like to try it in the way I show others. To take this journey, you must first understand some basic principles.



How to Contact the Thirteen Original Clan Mothers

To enter the realms where the Thirteen Clan Mothers live, we must first seek the loving gifts that they represent inside of ourselves. The Orenda or Spiritual Essence holds those gifts in infinite readiness inside the Sacred Space of each individual. The question of how to define the Sacred Space is answered with our imaginations.

If you can imagine a sphere around you with your body in the center, you will have discovered your Sacred Space. The circle forms the equator of the bubble that stretches above your body into the sky and below your body into the Earth Mother, creating the union of physicality and spirit. The Sacred Space encapsulates all your thoughts and feelings, your body, your spirit, your dreams and visions, and your sense of Self. Inside your Sacred Space, you have a Sacred Point of View that is determined by all that you are and all that you have experienced.

The Sacred Point of View is fed like a fetus by a spiritual or nontangible umbilical cord. Each person has thousands of



spiritual fibers that extend into the world from the navel. When the person is open and ready to feel life, these sensory threads spread out like rays of the sun. When a person is tired, hurt, vulnerable, or ill at ease, these same filaments can twine together to become a thickly knotted umbilical cord of light. The relaxed umbilical cord can then be attached to the Earth Mother when the weakened person lets go enough to receive the Earth Mother's healing or energy. If the person is not aware of how to use this spiritual umbilical cord, it may knot up, stopping the life force from entering the body and sometimes causing terror stomach or nausea.

From this place near the navel that we call the Vibrant Core, humans sense all things through patterns, rhythms, or vibrations. Inside our bodies, our thoughts, feelings, sensations, and perceptions combine to form our individual Sacred Points of View. Every life form's Sacred Point of View is comprised of personal likes, dislikes, opinions, feelings, thoughts, and/or experiences. Unfortunately for the Human Tribe, we have also adopted hearsay, rumors, fears, the opinions of others, and preconceived notions in our Sacred Points of View. That is one reason why the people of our human race have such a hard time finding personal truths. Our Sacred Points of View are often buried under the opinions we have adopted from others when we did not seek or find what was true for ourselves. These adopted untruths make up the mental matter and chatter that keeps us from respecting our own Sacred Spaces and Sacred Points of View. For this reason alone, it is oftentimes difficult for some people to quiet the mind and enter the Silence or Stillness inside their Sacred Spaces.



My Grandmother Twylah taught me that the Sacred Space can be found in between the *in* breath and the *out* breath. Holding the breath to the count of ten allows us to stop the outer world and to open the door that leads to the inner world of the Self. I developed a way to get to that place within myself so I can connect to my Orenda (Spiritual Essence). By inhaling, holding the breath for a moment, then exhaling, I can calm myself and enter the Stillness. Then I listen to find the small, still voice of love within my heart. The voice of the Orenda, which always speaks from love, stops the outer world's chaos from impinging on my senses. In this place of quietness that exists within myself, I am able to find the Eternal Flame of Love from the Great Mystery that feeds the voice of my Spiritual Essence. In my body, it is located in my heart, but it may be located in a different place for others.

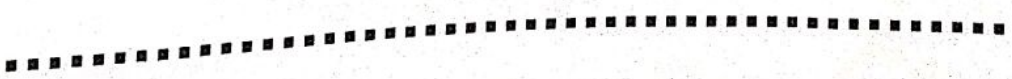
The Orenda is an extension of the Creative Source or Great Mystery. The feeling of connectedness and loving compassion is always there. There is no fear or pain present, just a sense of peace. Getting to that place is a skill like any other and takes practice. For a while, during the development of this skill, a person may simply encounter a feeling of finding that safe space and the Stillness. Later, through developing Swan's Medicine of *surrendering*, a person may begin to hear the inner voice that always speaks the truth with unconditional love. This place inside the Self is where the Thirteen Original Clan Mothers live. The Turtle Council House is the spiritual Self's place of heightened awareness and total receptivity and the seat of the female principle.



It may take practice for some people to let go, getting rid of the adopted mess of chatter that has been collected from others over the years. This mental dusting and house-cleaning is necessary to clear the Sacred Space of other limiting viewpoints. Once this clearing is done, the feeling of total connection and inner peace is earned and found. The next step is finding the feelings, ideas, and viewpoints that belong to the true Self. All of these true parts of the Orenda that are reclaimed will have a very positive influence on any individual's life.

The Orenda, or Spiritual Essence of who we are, hears the call to wholeness and then sends the invitation to those whose hearts are open. We must stop our worldly activities and retreat to hear the Orenda's voice. It is an open invitation and no judgments are made by the Great Mystery or the Clan Mothers if that Child of Earth is not ready. All members of the Earth Tribe will eventually find their ways back home to the loving arms of the Earth Mother, even if coming home means nestling in the Earth Mother's soil after death. For those who want to feel the joy on the other side of physical pain and sorrow, the Turtle Council House is open now.

We enter the Turtle Council House every time we sit in silence and listen in order to receive. Hanging on the walls inside the Council House, we can see the Thirteen Medicine Shields of the Clan Mothers, and next to each shield we can see a Crystal Skull illuminated from the captured sunlight being funneled through the holes in the earthen walls. The ceiling of the Council House is arched like the inside of the Turtle Mother's shell, and there above, the rainbow



lights dance as they are reflected from the top of each Crystal Skull.

There are two small ceremonial fires, one burning at each end of the lodge. Above these fires that represent the light of both worlds, the natural and the spiritual, are smoke holes. The smoke holes signify the open doors in both worlds where the illusions and confusions are allowed to escape, when we find clarity through the Eternal Flame of the Orenda or Spiritual Essence. In the center of the highest point in the turtle-shell-shaped roof is a removable circle of thatch that can be opened to the sunlight or to the Medicine Bowl of the night sky. Below this opening is where a person seeking entry would stand, creating the third fire. This fire is unseen because it lives inside the seeker's heart and is only brought to a blazing point through the seeker's reconnection to the Eternal Flame of Love. Rediscovering that fire is accomplished through the male, demonstrative side of our natures. Then, receiving it and giving it a home in the heart is the role of the female principle.

The Wisewomen who have carried the knowledge and wisdom of the ages sit outside on the grass-covered ground, encircling the Council House in an enormous wheel. They are softly singing and giving thanks for another Child of Earth who has chosen to come home. Their voices are as one and provide the strength and support needed to stand in the light of total truth and be healed of the pain found in human illusions.

The Thirteen Original Clan Mothers, whose greatest desire is to see every Child of Earth reclaim the love and inner peace, are calling to all of the Human Tribe. The strength each Child of Earth needs in order to come home is

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found inside the Orenda where the Sacred Hoop of connection to the Great Mystery and all life is never broken. The Sisterhood provides the support needed to find that connection and the pathway home to the true Self. The silvery webs of the Whirling Rainbow Dream have never been stronger. There is a life net of loving compassion waiting for those who have the courage to face the woundedness and reclaim the love. Our hearts will be cradled in a homecoming tear, our spirits will become at one with our bodies, and we will own the wisdom that we hold in our hearts. We are being asked to become our visions and to use our talents so that together we can create the living dream of world peace.

The gentle winds of change are stirring in the Four Directions to bring the homecoming songs of the Wisewomen to all nations, all races, all creeds. The Rainbow Dream is alive and dancing. The Creature-beings are showing us the road of rediscovering the sacredness of being human. The Stone People are offering to teach us how to retrieve the records of all that has been and the prophecy of all that will be. The Standing People and the Plant People offer us shelter and food for the body and spirit. The Lodge Fires of the Ancestors light our way to the stars by spanning the Great Medicine Bowl of the night sky. The silver horn of Grandmother Moon reminds us that our Orendas fill the Medicine Bowls of our hearts with love; and yet, for some, it is not enough to see these gifts the Great Mystery gives all of the Earth Mother's Children because they are blinded by false needs and old pain.

Patiently, the Thirteen Original Clan Mothers observe this picture of the Earth Tribe, just as if Grandfather Sun had painted it in the evening sky. The Clan Mothers wait,



Special thanks to my editor, Barbara Moulton, who gave me the space to go through my final Rite of Passage by writing this book, allowing me to become my vision. You have become a sister, a friend, and a midwife who assisted me in giving birth to the Legacy of Woman. Throughout the eighteen years of pregnancy that it took for me to pass through the lessons of these Thirteen Clan Mothers, I often wondered how I would be able to share the wisdom passed to me by Cisi and Berta. You have earned your Medicine name, Dreamweaver, because through your understanding of the Grandmothers' dream, it has now taken form, being shared with the sisters and brothers who walk the paths that lead to wholeness. My heart is full.

