

Fourth World Journal



We are not divided but ONE

By Susan "Lightening Hand" Perna

Last night the Great Spirit came to me in a vision to prepare me to write this article. These were the powerful words of wisdom that the Great Spirit imparted to me: "We are not divided but ONE!" meaning we are not separate, but we are all connected to each other through the Creator."

Right after that another powerful message from the Great Spirit thundered in my ear: "A good leader cannot lead the people unless he becomes one with them." meaning one cannot lead until he understands the people's hearts-becomes one with them."

I have heard the cries of my Native people. The silence has been broken and my heart weighs heavy with grief, Oh Great One hear my prayer:

"Oh Great Spirit whose voice I hear I the wind and the rain and thunder, hear my cry and the cry of my people. Oh Great Spirit, help us to hear as you speak. Help us once more to face the East, proclaiming thy warmth, the West, and feel soft wind on face and through hair. Oh Great Spirit, speak to my people to the north, to the south, on the mountains, in the valleys, let them

hear thy voice and follow. Oh Great Spirit, there be many tribe less, without a Chief, wandering in the wilderness alone. We ask you, Oh Great Spirit, to band us together and give us a Chief to guide, direct, teach our people. I seek a place where the elders can speak without fear and the children can listen without shame, a place where the holy men and holy women can pray and give blessings, a place where the warriors can have purpose again, show me the way out of the land of bitter water and into the land of sweet grass and sage so I may point the way to others." Hoka heyshni. Written by Great Spirit leader "Fire Eagle"- Harold Parker

Today there is too much arguing that goes on between the full bloods and mixed blood Indians. There are many of the full bloods who have taken it on themselves to call Natives with mixed ancestry outsiders, wanna-be's, and half breeds just to name a few. They harbor resentment over such trivial issues and deny mixed bloods or as I call them "the true hearts" and the "shadow children" the rights to the teachings of the elders and the cultural ceremonies. Intolerance grows like cancer and tend to choke away at the goodness of man. It was not the hope of the ancestors to have these prejudices of mixed blood versus full blood to linger on. One can see this through many of the quotations from Chief Seattle to Chief Sitting Bull. Those powerful and wise leaders saw a day when people from all Nations would be together as one and heal Mother Earth and each other- Adrian Case.

Though the full bloods have left the "true hearts" and "shadow children" to their own devices, one question remains: who is going to teach the future generations the way of the Red Road? In the not so distant past Native Americans

were small bands of people who were strangers in a strange land. Occasionally one band would meet another and they would come together for the good of all and their children. They would repeat this process and in time they came to be known as Native Americans, today. We are a people of many cultures and many of us mixed with Native blood. And if all of us seek the Red Road to the one God who is colorblind and is himself the color of water then does that not mean we are all his children? All we seek is guidance from those who know the way, those who have fathered us. We only want to be treated as family, yet some of the full bloods have turned their backs on us and have told those that would guide us to be silent -Raven One Heart- R.B.

However what they didn't count on is that we each have a piece of the puzzle and together we have the whole picture. A new generation has been born, those that can truly see what the creator intended for all. Let us all look beyond the color and see the heart of the new people, for all that has been done is in the past and cannot be undone, but we today can work to repair and heal and become one people as we were meant to be by passing on the wisdom of our ancestors to one another and treating each other with brotherly love. *"We need to put our past prejudices aside and make a way for the new generation,"* so said Dennis Binns.

Since the full bloods have left us the "true hearts" and the "shadow children" in the parched barren desert to live as Nomads wandering around with no clear sense of direction, It is up to each one of us to find new teachers who will guide us back to the land where the living waters flow freely; where all are welcome to drink of the

spiritual waters of our ancestors words of wisdom that will quench our thirst and satisfy our bellies. In the ancient of days after the Nomad tribes spent days on end wandering in the wilderness by alone with no leader they would eventually band together and chose a new leader. And in time the Nomads would outnumber those who cast them out. This is symbolic of what is happening between the full bloods and the mixed bloods today. The so called "wanna be's cling more dearly to the value system of caring for one another and expressing brotherly love more so than the full bloods. This goes to show that some of the full bloods did not really value the system of the so-called "tribes" in the first place! If they did then they never would have rejected their own people in the first place.

We the people must come together, (the communities, and society) to unite as a whole to heal the ones who were forsaken so that future generations will not be left in the darkness and start following the path of our ancestors. Will you join us on the Red Road of healing? Would you be willing to call those who are different than you sisters and brothers? The Creator and our ancestors have given us a vision of global peace. A warrior has emerged within me; I have woke up, and this warrior is standing before the world, he is standing for respect, trust and to be heard. A fierce storm is coming and few will survive; those who do will be taught to live from the land as we once did and love and accept one another without prejudice. The difference between the Indians of the new world is that, they will become one race, given only one language.

We need to quit thinking of race and start working for the world that the Great Spirit desires

of us. There will not be any more radically distinct languages; their voices will become one; as all others have disappeared; the new indigenous tribe will emerge. Let us get back to the old ways. Let us move away from materialistic dreams and move closer to caring for each other like our ancestors did. That is my desire. Let us learn from our ancestors. The key to many things can be found there. Much can also be learned there. Let us remember and move forward to create a world that the Great Spirit wants us to have. Let us be strong caretakers of Mother Earth and let us also teach others.

New nations will stand and use their voice's to be heard as we sing our songs of peace, play our drums, and dance to a new beginning. *As the new Americans Indian inhabits this nation, we will never surrender. "We will survive. I dream to inspire and I inspire to dream,"* so said Gaylord Spirit Hawk Brooks.

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Ever since I found out about my Native American ancestry I have been heavily involved in walking the Red Red." I pray and meditate on a daily basis to become closer to my Creator. The vision I had for the Fourth World Journal came to me from Spirit.

A very prominent and respected American Indian medicine woman told me that the Creator told her that I was born a medicine woman and that writing is my medicine. My teacher the Medicine woman taught me that anyone could be a medicine woman or man, not just Native people. Creator blesses everyone with gifts not just a certain race or class of people. The Creator's

power is not restricted either. It can be used however it best serves a purpose.

About the author

Susan Perna is a freelance writer. She has written several articles touching on spirituality and mental health. I have written for several magazines including *Spotlight on Recovery magazine*, *Phatitute* literary journal, *Buddhism.org*, and *Open Minds Quarterly magazine*.

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