

Introduction to Ways of the Dreamers and Lighting the Eighth Fire

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*An Abstract Outline for Educational Training 1st Course of 10 Course series.
(This outline does not include personal tasks, techniques and emotional therapies
that would be included in a full course curriculum)*

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I come from an oral tradition, from Annishanabe and Norwegian descent. My mother's side is Metis, French and Scotch Cree, Ojibway, Chippewa and Dakota Sioux - and all them are Annishanabe. My mom's heritage traces through the plains and lakes following the trade routes to the east coast on Turtle Island. My father's comes along from Norwegian lineage. They had their courtship on USA side of the Canadian border, which doesn't recognize mixed bloods. They call us "burnt wood" (oral traditions speak in symbols - also, "contrary apple." This means red on inside and white on outside. Mixed bloods were under siege from the traditions of both European and Native heritages, so they basically went underground. I grew up in the Red River Valley that runs from South Dakota all the way north to Manitoba. The river flows north through the middle.

I was raised with a foot in both worlds. The business structures consisted of farming/hunter and military structures that were all oriented to European models. Reservations, farms, missile bases, air force bases, etc., surrounded our community and all claiming God on their side. True seekers like myself had many questions with no one willing to answer so we allowed ourselves to be absorbed into the current social fabric.

I grew up through the eras of 1950's and 1960's and made it out alive. When I decided to turn to the culture I came from I was led to Grandfather Eagle-Heart (Turtle Mountains, ND). He helped me weave my spirits back together. Earth medicine and farming provided the common ground/language. I had developed a skill set to produce great crops but money management was conflictual. So, I was working through these value priorities that separated my blood. That would be my journey.

Grandfather Eagle-Heart took me under his wing. He talked about prophecy in a language of "theory." Prophecy comes from a set of visions that have been orally passed on. He would talk this way. **Prophecy, like theory** needs to be proven and tracked by questions. This is where we will go tonight.

The 7th Fire Prophecy comes out of the Annishanabe Iroquoian lineage of Native American heritages. According to the prophecy we are at a time on planet when we are deciding whether we will light the 8th Fire. Humans are going to have to make a decision if we're going to light the 8th Fire of peaceful co-existing with all of nature or not.

Introductions:

Talking Stick is an old tradition. It's usually decorated by the 4 worlds of Animal, Plant, Mineral, Color. We pass the stick to introduce ourselves and this is often called "stringing of the beads." Each person is like a bead of knowledge. When you string the beads together you create the intelligence of the whole. We have to connect ourselves.

Getting in the word thing:

Grandfather Eagle-Heart weaves words together - by breaking down the illusion of words. When we use English language nouns it gives us an engineered outcome. Words are sound symbols that hang in the air and create entry points and exits in the great mystery. When you use words in a symbolic way like metaphors they get your imagination going by expanding which we call dreaming. We want to get the Dreamers working together from all species.

Today "Dreamers" are often understood as "healers." They would expand their spirit into their patient's body, find an entry point, expand, and get information, re-construct and come back. Like a partnership. Shows up in artists where people get into a creative groove inside a stream of consciousness and flowing with it.

Words are entries and exits to streams of energy consciousness. Currently, a translation gap exists between academia and oral traditions. It is an expression of duality and yet they are very similar. Both have their own scientific protocols, methodology and craft, which is research. Oral Tradition science is called empirical research. It's a science of watching and learning like "parenting."

Examples of word translations:

Lighting the 8th Fire. Lighting - a symbol of awakening. Fire is the word used for a duration of time, or the life of a spirit. For example, when I look at an eco-system I may say that its spirit, or Fire burns for a 100 cycles or years. We don't take Fire as a noun with a determined definition. We think of it as a length of time that life thrives. We also use the word fire as a way of speaking to the spirit of something.

In the Southwest the spirit of a form is called Kachina Hey, or in Annishanabe we call it Manitou Hey. Lighting the 8th Fire means awakening that Spirit or fire of co-existence with all of nature's children. Think through it a bit.

I met Grandfather Eagle-Heart in 1989 (passed in 2006) and Grandma Shanadi Crosby, an Apache Elder in 2003. These two have been my main mentors and we're pretty good friends. Shanadi is a granddaughter of Geronimo. A wise lady. Both have been teaching me. Eagle-Heart has a round house a place he took me while teaching me a lot of things. He said that a long time ago, before India crashed into Europe, there were 7 continents on Earth. Each one was a Fire. Each one had **its own intelligence of the continent or place (genus loci)**. The total collective intelligence of each of these continents is where the 7th Fires prophecy originated. There was also a time when the continents would break apart. We're close to that now. India has a high risk fault line that threatens to break apart. He explained the evolution from that early beginning into how it is understood today. Kind of like a creation story with a prophecy emerging.

Dreamers from these continents or other regions may be in various forms carrying signatures such an animal, plant, mineral or shape as a representative of their region. By the means of natural lifestyles those signatures are imprinted into their respective energy fields and activated before commencing into the dream time. The symbol signatures were the trail to be tracked as their spirit traveled through time and space. They also acted as an authentication. When the Dreamers found each other, they would exchange and share knowledge. But they didn't talk about it when they came back into their physical body. For protection and the building of legends the knowledge was left up to special groups to explore before practicing within their regions. Eventually the propaganda strategies shifted the perceptions of the dreamers into a dark perception called witchcraft. The 7 Fires Prophecy like other published works such as Black Elk Speaks, Mayan prophecies, Book of Revelations, Egyptian Zodiac predicting a time when the earth would go through a great purification. What will happen?

Some people talked about the 7th Fire ending around 2001. They said that the end of the 7th Fire would be highlighted by a major event. They didn't know what the event was. A Fire = 112 years. This counting calendar was expressed by 4 Cycles around the outside the turtle shell. The turtle shell of most species has 13 major sections inside and 28 sections around the outside. Four 28's is 112. The Annishanabe tracked from one eclipse to another eclipse. I am not sure of what type of eclipse was utilized.

[This next part needs some citation that is pending, for I am sure I was wrong in the way I presented it.] There is a citation that tracks the beginning of one the fires around the time of Henry Hudson's birthday. That citation suggests that one of the 7th fires of the 112 years each, ended with the collapse of World Trade Center, 2001 A.D. which was constructed on the very spot where Henry Hudson signed a treaty with Native People [of Manhattan Island].¹ This

suggestion requires more study! The Book was called “Henry Hudson and the Algonquins” by Evan Pritchard.

Elders have racism issues just like we do. This I experienced firsthand. In the year 2000, I drove to N. Dakota to a Sundance ceremony. It was a Dreamer’s Sundance with options to pierce the flesh as an exit of wounds and offering. It was held in N. Dakota some 40 miles north of the geographic center of North America. Built in the tribe’s tradition we constructed a big arbor out of fresh wood shaped like a circus tent. Trees were cut and a large one was placed into a hole in the center of the arbor. We danced in the cubicles around the outside just like the turtle shell. The center is all open. The elders would come in, sit at drum with pipes nearby and do prayers continually. The drums start at dawn and end at dawn usually around the summer solstice. We dance for 4 days with no water or food - all the sick, wounded come in to the center and get comfortable. We danced to absorb and release their illnesses and transfer to the tree, asking for healing. After 4 days all the leaves die on the tree, taking the illnesses to the creator.

On the 3rd day of this Sundance, Grandfather Eagle-Heart handed us the 1978 Freedom of Religion Act for Indians and a letter from the United Nations inviting him to World Peace Summit of 2000. He asked us to dance for him to give him strength to make the trip. His words “If the UN doesn’t listen to spiritual leaders of the world, many people believe the prophecies of many regions will be manifesting or coming true”. We danced that day. He didn’t make it. His wife got ill with TB and he was too weak to go but I heard maybe that his nephew Jesse Cree, went in his place. That is what I was told, but I do not know for sure. A year later the whole World Trade Center came down, then tsunamis, Katrina, etc.

Lighting the 8th Fire was interpreted by a lot of elders - as a unification of dreamers to dream in a new way of experiencing this planet. Elders may be the ones to get it first entrusting their faith in rebirthing. They’re going to be the first ones back in new forms. I have no answers for this discussion.

A common question is how do we ignite the Dreamers? Some Elders first ask “how do we decide this?” And answer with “just notice when somebody comes to you in friendship - if they’re armed or not”. You can tell who the dreamers are and who are not! There are different Elders saying different things that I’ve accumulated over the years. For example, Grandma Shanadi has spoken of visions that occurred a couple of months ago. She thought that Mother of Earth is allowing the creation of impotence on the planet - between GMOs and intervening with the natural evolution of the plants like trees. Basically, the message was interpreted that each species is going to start reducing its population - an impotence. Fewer babies. Nature will step in and create population control because we’re not doing it.

Another example is the Southwest Inner Tribal Council - we meet once a month with the goals of softening human relations between the city and border town reservations. Not easy. Something about borders creates that pushing away. Not a natural thing. This is more of an imprinted thing. This expression of uniting dreamers comes through creating an All Faiths Ceremonial Grounds.

Hesitations:

- In alternative Dreaming, Healing, Medicine or Lifestyles - we pushed the edge. Can get dangerous in the public eye
- Repeating historical patterns
- Need for Guidelines and Mentoring

Movement and discussions bring up the properties of historical imprints and if the discovery of the purposeful perfection (which we call medicine) the transition will ignite the 8th Fire of co-existing.

[At this point in discussion, four medicine wheels are presented. Students draw out in circles with north being the top like maps.]

Significance: When the sun and stars turn on their fire in spring, it is a making love to the earth and the chi that is generated from the making love gives birth to all elements and species often called Earth's children. We're born of the earth as a result. Everything about the earth is a result of that. The following is a way of understanding the classification (taxonomy) of what is born of this lovemaking.

1st wheel: Color World/Spectrum of Light Waves of Fire

2nd Wheel: Mineral World of Earth

North: Gemstones, precious metals - North: Organs. Collective intelligence of her precious gems are go into our organs.

East: Crystals - East: Crystals are the brains of mother earth. Carry strong intelligence from its geological birth location because that's where it was born, just like us. It's not the crystal that has the healing power, it's our intent going through the crystal. When I use a crystal, I'm taking my brain, spirit, and intent then accessing the stream of Collective Consciousness within the crystal and amplifying it onto what I'm manifesting.

South: Sands and loams and clay. Skin of mother earth. Skin problems? Poultices, etc.

West: Rocks and stones - Bones and muscles of mother earth. Using the words as entry points. Have problems with bones/muscles? Talk to her rocks and stones, the knowledge is in there because of what it's made of.

Working with the mineral world: will clear information with minimum distortions if you have an unpolished rock. Polishing covers the openings and exits - you're enclosing it. Polished can be good for channeling a strong current. Unpolished minerals have not sealed something in & and this is the best way to go.

3rd Wheel: Plant World of Waters

North: fruits and vegetables – plant world organs, food, fruits, nuts are all carrying the knowledge of mother earth's organs. If it's GMO or hybrid you're cutting off the information of mother earth into all organs of all species that gives instructions of how to evolve with the earth.

East: Trees – plant world brains, relates to the brains of all species

South: grasses/grains/herbs – plant world skin, relates to the skin of all species

West: Shrubs and bushes – plant world bones/muscles, have regulatory function when converting one form into another producing energy. Shrubs regulate the flow of elements through their location and convert to the proper speed, direction and distribution. For example, with light and dark the angles of light waves change creating different visuals and variations of heat for species habitats. The shrubs and bushes grow in clumps and clusters.

4th Wheel: ANIMAL World of Air

North: 4-leggeds - Air; organs carrying the intelligence - has to do with their mobility. They live within the zones of the underworld and upper world. The 4-leggeds cast themselves in different spaces - travel in the upper and lower world as they carry the intelligence of the earth's organs.

South: Swimmers – Akin with air and water; carrying the intelligence of the skin of earth's waters.

West: Crawlers – kin of the air and earth, they also carry the intelligence of the skeletal system bones and muscles of mother earth.

East: Winged ones – kin of primarily air they carry the brains of the air, winds and transition zones between other cosmologies of stars and suns. Grandma Shanadi taught me that her Apache cosmology doesn't classify like this, they classify in zones not by species classification. Their symbology for salt water is the color green with a symbol of large waves. Fresh water is shown as blue water and symbolized as small waves. A geographical communication is expressed by the layering of the symbols and colors to designate the species of that region.

The area/zone inside these circles is a void that births a form that carries a catalyzing function. This is a zone where everything comes together. Catalysts, like humans, have the intelligence of these **4 Worlds**, as summarized below. What sets us (humans) apart from the other animals? The animals are connected to the intelligence of the place (their environment) instinctively through their senses. They don't need the advanced brain for decision making. Humans are not connected this way. In fact, many human lifestyles suppress the senses' abilities to function at the skill level of other animals. The sensory connections need to be developed. We have to recognize it and accept it as part of lighting the Eight Fire. Humans are a catalyst. **We can't continue to separate and live without each other anymore. We need each other to change the course of mother earth's death!**

THE 4 WORLDS WHEEL: **Review**

- East: WORLD OF COLOR/Fire (light spectrum)
- South: WORLD OF PLANTS/Water
- West: WORLD OF MINERALS/Earth
- North: WORLD OF ANIMALS/Air

Let's give all these things movement: by putting them together and adding an action/function/purpose:

Balanced Choreography of Energy Movement
(How to stay in Balance)

North: Receiving:

Air- 4 Legged, Green, fruits veggies nuts, gems - when you eat you are receiving knowledge, information and nutrition. Receive with your mind - like a radar dish, like animals do when they receive info. Bring it in by dreaming into all areas that you are conscious of.

East - Determining/dreaming:

Fire - Winged Ones, Red, Trees, Crystals all have an action like a sprout that seeks resources (info) determining the routes with each moment of movement.

South - Giving/expressing:

Water – Swimmers, Yellow, Grasses and Grains, Clays and Loams all express in a giving way. Water is like the blood of the earth that gives. Water carries emotions so evaporation of earth's water is releasing mother emotions. Radiate it out, giving to all.

West - Holding Transforming/ Converting

Earth – Crawlers, Orange, Shrubs and Bushes, Rocks and Stones all convert energy hosts by holding and then transforming. Earth is the physical container, for example my body.

Learn how to do it with each other and with the other hosting bodies. Let mother earth teach you what's in there. The Wheels are guidelines to help you steer dreaming. Most ancestors taught it in fours. You have to have four points of reference to create an orientation to the space around you. A mapping. Four is a movement number – not a whole or prime number. The ancestors didn't want a language to lock something down with no movement. Being change or movement is inevitable.

NINE SPIRIT PERSONALITIES – This teaching reaches into several lineages of study. They go by many names, usually archetypal in presentation broken down into 9 distinct zones of space with individualized functions. Some areas of study that carry this study into present time are the Zodiac, Jungian psychology, Lakota/Dakota Cosmology, Hebrew scrolls and Annishanabe Midiwin Society.

The concept goes something like this: Starting with the word “Soul” meaning that which is whole within itself. **Imagine** that the soul divides into 9 individual and connected spirits and then is cast into many forms learning and evolving while maintaining communication links to all spirits of the whole. Each of the nine create what we would call a personality usually understood by signature functions like the balanced choreography wheel.

Examples of the muse-like titles are Guardians/Keepers/Divas/Scouts/Spies.

Or **imagining #2**; what if your soul (which travels through all space everywhere) divided itself into nine spirits and they all incarnated at the same time into nine different bodies - imagine that - and when your ego sleeps or goes into trance - you are all communicating with each other - then you separate out when your ego wants to have an individualized experience.

You know you're connected but have no visible way of knowing what that is. Our ancestors mapped that out with 8 positions/directions on wheels and a host position is in the center. Eight perspectives to start gathering relationships to the central spirit who is seeking wholeness.

Task: Find the spirit personality that comes from each of the 4 Worlds, and be the Catalyst. We start this way by creating a relationship. Easier to integrate everything if you give it a relationship to the 4 Worlds.

I was told the Annishanabe People go far back - to the time of Atlantis with remnants found tracing trade routes of streams, rivers, rocky mountains, etc.... I have traced a lot of this for myself through different symbols of the plant, animal and mineral worlds. The symbols were the Turtle, Potatoes, and crystals. Traced the potatoes to Machu Pichu - the origin of potatoes. One elder told me there was once 160 thousand varieties given by Peruvians. Turtle shells trace into all the original continents.

Look for one of the animals, plants etc. That have been around wherever you go or have been. Find out where it fits (crawler, swimmer, winged) on the Balance Choreography Wheel and trace it in your body. Make contact with other Dream teachers and make physical contact. Notice the break in habitual pattern? If nature intervenes by breaking out of its habitual pattern, (i.e., a bird swoops down at you) it could be an intervention. Notice what were you thinking when the animal came upon you. The message is in the moment. One can also ask a plant to teach you? Or maybe ask which plants are teaching you? Perhaps the question is "What's the history in my body that keeps it from being connected"? My tyrants are ragweed, alcohol and grain pollens.

We're at a very ugly but opportune time on the planet, it is so easy to take sides, but the Dreamers have to come through that and give the message to exist within duality. Honor it. Find a way through those ways and have conversations like we're having tonight. Share knowledge so we can get through these times so we're not polarized.

Question? How do you know if I am in judgement?

Answer: I'm "judging" if I'm talking about something or someone without expressing any redeeming values about the perfection of that movement? I'm "judging" if I'm not talking about all sides of the issue, like up-side or down-side? I'm "judging" if I'm holding a position - versus holding while discussing, then transforming? I'm "judging" if I'm not allowing the message to be transformed through my body, I'm only holding it.

Reply: Calling it love works for me.

Time to close and in doing so I would suggest everyone practice hugging by giving with emotions and not with body. Ah Ho!

'NEW AMSTERDAM, THE ISLAND AT THE CENTER OF THE WORLD'. THE EXHIBITION

This extraordinary exhibition, which borrows its title from Russell Shorto's bestselling history, brings together some of the earliest, most important and visually exciting documents of 17th century New York from the Dutch National Archives and other public and private collections.

The highlight of the exhibition is the now-famous letter, dated November 5, 1626, from one Pieter Schaghen, listing, among other items, the purchase of Manhattan for 60 guilders (falsely converted to \$24 in the 19th century). The Native Americans actually saw this transaction as a treaty for the usage of land, not a purchase.