

Return of the Ancestors Gathering Northern Arizona * April 18-28, 2009

By Maria Peterson

There has been a lot of focus on the year 2012 and prophecies of the Mayan indigenous people. The prophecies state that "Those of the Center may unite the Eagle of the North with the Condor of the South. We will meet, for we are one like the fingers of the hand." These gatherings are fulfilling a great Mayan prophecy that states, "When the Eagle once again flies with the Condor, a lasting peace will reign in the Americas and will spread throughout the world to unite humanity."

So In 1995, Mayan Elder Don Alejandro Cirilo Perez Oxlaj held the first gathering of elders in Guatemala, which is known as the Center, the Land of the Quetzal. Two years later, in 1997, the second gathering of Indigenous Elders was held in South America in Bogotá and the Amazon jungle of Columbia, the land of the Condor. In 1999, the third gathering was held in North America in New Mexico, the land of the eagle.

After these three gatherings, the Sacred Staff that created the gatherings was exhausted and broke. So for ten years nothing happened until this past April. From April 18-28, 2009, The Return of the Ancestors Gathering under the guidance of Adam Yellowbird convened in Northern Arizona in Sedona, Dead Horse Ranch State Park, the Grand Canyon and the Navajo Reservation.

During the opening ceremony the Mayan prophecy "the Condor of the South dancing in the same circle as the Eagle of the North" was fulfilled when an Inuit Elder from Iceland drummed in the circle of elders with the Condor Dancers from South America.

Ten days of ceremony, healing and prayer contained speeches and wishes from each of the elders. All the tribes that were represented from around the world gave this message for those who attended and participated: "This intention is to bring inspiration to the world thus birthing clear decisions and manifesting a conduit of hope for our children, the future wisdom keepers of the world."

As each tribe presented their own focus and desire for 'the New Age', a common theme emerged that gave a direction and tangible way to bring an inspiration of hope to the children of the world, the future generations. Five parts or steps came forward.

First, honor the Great Spirit through ritual. Create your own personal relationship with this great being through some sort of sacred ritual that you can live everyday. Secondly, honor Mother Earth by treating her with respect and using her resources with care instead of wastefulness. Keep her clean, and share her resources with all races, all life. Her resources are for all of us, not some of us. One elder stated, "If we don't take care of Mother Earth, she can not take care of us."

Thirdly, take the grace and love of this personal relationship with the Creator and Mother Earth into your family. Share and teach your wisdom, knowledge and ritual with your children. In order for them to carry on the wise ways and grow from them we must

teach our wisdom and show them through daily action how to live in ritual and sacredness.

Fourth, move out from this center you have created with the Creator and Mother Earth in yourself and your family and bring what you have learned into service in your communities. Share your wisdom and ritual with the community that you live in. Provide some service or work to keep your community vital and whole.

The fifth, keep alive the language of your tribe. The language is what designates you as a member of the tribe. It is sacred and like a password into your tribe. It is how you communicate your ideas and express yourself. It is a vital way to connect sacredly with your ancestors, your descendants and your fellow man.

Five hundred years ago, the Mayan ancestors wrote on stone, prophecies for the upcoming years, thus creating the Mayan calendar. Many people have interpreted the end of the calendar as the end of the world. The calendar does not predict the end of world, but the end of an era and the beginning of a new era. The Return of the Ancestors Gathering is here to give us direction and focus as we enter that new era. This focus creates hope and unites us all, as all parents and people hope for a better world for ourselves, our children and future generations.