

When Women Lead

By Ohki Siminé Forest

Excerpts from A talk delivered at the Bioneers Conference
San Rafael CA October, 2005

Ancient Mongolian prophecies speak of the beginning of the Era of Woman in 1985 which will last for the next 5,400 years. We're now leaving the Era of Man that also lasted 5,400 years. This is good news for all of us! The transition from the Era of Man into the Era of Woman will happen through what is called the Door of the Earth, which has to do with women claiming their power from the earth. There's an old Maya prophecy called the return of the Plumed Serpent, known as Quetzalcoatl, who brought from the Pleiades the high civilization of the Maya people. The prophecy says the Plumed Serpent returned in 1987 as a feminine consciousness rising in each of us, coming from under the earth starting in Palenque, the third eye of the Americas, and spreading into the whole world.

In the Mongolian prophecy, it's called the Restitution of Women and is a cosmic awareness entering our solar system, and thus our Earth Mother, helping our feminine force to be heard. As a result, women all over the world are awakening to their power, even in the most patriarchal pockets of mentality. When I was a child, my mother used to say to me: "Ohki, there is nothing more powerful than a decided woman. Remember this all your life...."

Later on, I came across ancient Native teachings which say exactly the same as my mother -- that there's nothing more powerful on earth than a circle of decided women, because the Feminine is the universal force through which all creation

manifests....

Ancient ways teach that proper balance in the world will happen only when the primary circle of Earth wisdom is held by women and when men enter the women's lodge to learn from them. But for men to enter the Earth Lodge there must BE an Earth Lodge held by women. For a woman to enter into the male Sun Lodge as many do today, to make a career for instance, she must have a very strong root to the Earth to avoid the danger of disconnecting from her natural Lodge.

This is a common problem in Western culture where connection to the Earth Lodge is almost gone. From my Native perspective, it is not necessarily about men and women being equal. We must celebrate our differences with great respect and learn from one another about the feminine and masculine aspects of all life.

Women must hold the dream of the Earth, just as men hold the vision of the Sky Lodge, and together we weave a balanced world. By first entering the Earth Lodge, all people learn a deep respect for the gift of life as embodied in women, children and the natural world. When men learn this, the Sun Lodge will not be the harsh, disconnected and out of balance world we know these days, but a Sun Lodge of great wisdom and vision. A good place to be. We, women, are natural educators and we must stand for nature, for Mother Earth, for our children, for justice.

The Bow of Authority is not out there in the culture, in the Sun Lodge, it's right here, in the Earth. We must claim our authority from the Earth. Pray to Her, find our strength in Her, know that everything we need to survive comes from Her. Many have forgotten this dimension. It is our responsibility to teach ourselves, the men and the children, how to remember and reconnect with this primary reality.

How will the world change when women lead? A great deal, I would say. With drastic changes for the better. The Mongolian shaman I studied with used to say. "Think about what would happen if women all over the planet would right now seize and manage together all the money (including the virtual money)". Women holding circles together would not permit homeless people, children begging in the streets, many ill, many starving and dying in terrible ways. There's a natural sense of economy and care in our womb.

It is the work of women to hold the economy of our families and communities.... By dropping our self-consciousness and competitiveness, we can begin to make a real difference. This is how we are true leaders, for in fact we're already powerful leaders within our wombs. In re-creating the women's clans, the mother's clans, we'll be able to stand for what is right, not isolated as we have been for thousands of years. In solidarity to one another, this fight will be less painful. For it is together, in our women circles, that we'll find the way to lead powerfully alongside with men.

It is in the Earth that we women will find our identity, yet it is in the Sun Lodge that we will find our vision.

However, the way the Sun Lodge is today, it's not a place where we easily learn who we are, and how to open the door to that inner knowledge. Only when women are at the center of the community as the basic force can men find their true place, and communities be in balance. For a true society to flourish, where men can wear their feathers, and be their feminine selves as powerful warriors and protectors of Mother Earth and the community, women must reclaim their place at the central circle.

Welcome to the Era of Woman.