

Native Baha'i Message - Prophecies Fulfilled

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Ancient Prophecies for Modern Times

[by Bette Stockbauer]

Although history has depicted native cultures as primitive and sometimes barbaric, in our own day a much richer picture is emerging. French author Pierre Honore minutely examined the original journals of the conquerors. There he found records of what they encountered in the New World - huge cities with urban populations well-versed in the arts and sciences, following finely ordered systems of law. Archeological excavations of modern times have verified these accounts, unearthing sophisticated cities and pyramids that rival those of Egypt.

Most importantly the native peoples themselves are stepping forward, revealing traditions and sacred knowledge they took underground 500 years ago when the conquerors came. They speak now because they understand the import of the present times.

Their sacred sciences tell them the world is at a turning point, that its choices today will determine the future course of civilization. Their prophecies have instructed them to travel out into the world and tell us of the dangers we face. These voices are important for us to hear because they speak from hearts that have tried to remain true to their sacred teachings - to live in the way of brotherhood and simplicity, establishing harmony with one another and with all living things.

This is what they say:

* We are entering a time of purification and can expect to witness chaos and destruction in all the kingdoms of nature.

* It is a time for the reuniting of the races. Barriers of religion and nationality will begin to fall as all people realize their essential unity.

* We must heal the damage done to Mother Earth, the source of life, and recognize that all living things are endowed with spirit.

* In the coming times we will see the return of one or more Great Teachers who will guide us into the future.

In his book *The Return of the Bahana*, Robert Boissiere discusses the widely held belief among native peoples in the imminent return of a savior figure, and claims that it in no way differs from the Christian belief in a second coming. In the legendary history of many tribes there is a story of a teacher similar to Jesus who taught the spiritual mysteries and an ethical way of life. When he left, they say, he promised to return at a time when the Earth would be in great turmoil, to guide humanity into the future. He is best known by the names of Quetzalcoatl and Kukulcan.

North America

Thomas Banyacya has traveled the world for almost 50 years speaking about the prophecies of his tribe, the Hopi. For centuries the Hopi have lived in one of the harshest environments of the US - perched on a desert mesa in Arizona. Their ancestors chose such a place to settle because they knew it would keep their people close to the creator. They continually reaffirm their reliance on God by an annual series of rituals asking the spirits to supply their every need.

In 1948 a group of Hopi elders accepted the task of warning the world of the events that the Hopi prophecies foretold. The prophecies themselves instructed them to approach the UN. It took 44 years of effort, but in 1992 they were finally permitted to address the General Assembly (SI December 93, p.17). This beginning led to another gathering at the UN in 1993, called the

"Cry of the Earth Conference", when leaders from seven nations released their prophecies.

Hopi prophecies speak of the return of Bahana, their True White Brother, who left them in ancient times, promising to return.

They wear their hair in bangs to form a window, they say, by which to see their Elder Brother when He returns. It is also an identifying mark for the Elder Brother to recognize them.

Black Elk and Crazy Horse were leaders of the Lakota Sioux in the late 1800s, a period which saw in the US the decimation of many native groups. Each had a vision of the future.

Black Elk saw that his people would be plagued by famine and sickness and war. They would lose heart and the sacred hoop of his nation would be broken. But he saw a vision of his own nation being reunited after seven generations and becoming part of the greater hoop of all the nations of the earth. Then he saw the daybreak star rising in the east, and heard a voice that said: "It shall be a relative to them, and who shall see it shall see much more, for from there comes Wisdom; and those who do not see it shall be dark." Black Elk thought this meant that a great Prophet from the East would bring a message to his people.

Crazy Horse's vision foretold the darkness that descended on his people. He saw the coming of automobiles and airplanes and the tragic world wars of the modern era. He saw his people gradually awakening after the last war and beginning to dance again under the Sacred Tree. Then amazingly he saw that dancing along with his people were representatives of all races who had become brothers. Thus he foresaw that the world would be made whole again, not just by his own nation but by all peoples working together.

Among the Lakota, the Crow, the Chippewa and other Native American tribes, the White Buffalo is one of the most sacred symbols. It represents purity, sacrifice and a sign that prophecy is being fulfilled. The Messiah honored by the Lakota Sioux is the White Buffalo Calf Woman who brought the Sacred Pipe and established the foundation of their ritual and social life.

When she left, she turned into a white buffalo, and promised some day to return. In 1994 a white buffalo calf was born in Wisconsin; in 1996 another was born in South Dakota. For the native peoples these births have been a sign to "mend the hoop" of the nations, to establish brotherhood within the family of man, and return to a spiritual way of life.

Jake Swamp of the Mohawk nation tells of the Peacemaker, Deganawida, who unified the tribes of the Iroquois Confederacy. The

Peacemaker foresaw the turmoil and destruction that would destroy the lives and culture of the Confederacy tribes. But he also saw a time beyond when there would come a great Prophet who would be a World Uniter. He would come in the same spirit as other prophets before Him, but would renew the spirit of man in a way more worldwide and all-embracing than ever before in history.

In 1969 the elders of Dhyani Ywahoo's Tsalagi/Cherokee group decided to release teachings that have been kept in secret since the conquest. Through books, lectures and workshops, Dhyani Ywahoo is disseminating that knowledge. She claims that her own Ywahoo lineage was founded by a legendary prophet called the Pale One who rekindled the sacred fires throughout the Americas.

She says: "The Pale One is a cyclically incarnating being. He comes when the people have forgotten their sacred ways, bringing reminders of the Law, recalling all to right relationship. He is expected soon again, and he may be alive even now. It is good."

Australia and New Zealand

Among the Australian aboriginals it is believed that each tribe has a responsibility to take care of one part of the environment. They believe that underground minerals are a vital part of the earth's energy grid and are greatly concerned about the excessive mining in

modern times, particularly of uranium. In 1975 the elders met in Canberra, drawing together over 350 Aboriginal people. They gave a warning of cataclysms to come and told the people to go out and teach their knowledge to the world, to prepare it for a future time when we would go back to our beginnings - when all cultures will exist as one.

The Waitaha nation claims the most ancient lineage in New Zealand. When the nation was broken up by warriors from the Pacific the elders concealed 1,000 years of their generational history and wisdom teachings, passing the knowledge on through only a tiny number of people in each generation. In 1990 the elders saw in the heavens a configuration that was a sign for them to release their sacred knowledge. A book, *The Song of Waitaha* by Barry Brailsford, contains these teachings. In their language wai means water and taha means gourd, implying the idea of a water carrier, the sign of Aquarius.

South America

The Kogi are a pre-Columbian tribe who live an isolated existence in the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta in Colombia. They are one of the few who escaped the destruction of the Europeans and still live their lives in accordance with their ancient spiritual heritage. Alarmed by the excessive mining and deforestation of modern times, in 1990 (for the one and only time) they allowed a BBC television film crew to visit them and document their lives. Calling themselves "The Elder Brothers", they wished to issue an urgent warning to the "younger brothers". High in their mountain lands, they see that the earth is drying up, the sources of water that should give sustenance to the plains below are no longer vital. They warn us that the earth is dying and, "When the Earth dies we will all die."

Willaru Huarta grew up in the jungles of Peru, studying with the shamans. He says that his native Quechua Incan prophecies predicted the white man's coming would bring 500 years of materialism and imbalance. But now they say that era is coming to an end and the Age of Aquarius will "signal the return of Light to the planet and the dawn of a golden era. We live in a time of the fulfillment of prophecy." Now he tours the world teaching his simple message: "Humanity should cure itself and give help to the poor. Regenerate yourself with light, and then help those who have poverty of the soul. Return to the inner spirit, which we have abandoned while looking elsewhere for happiness."

The Q'ero are another Peruvian group that are releasing prophecy, traveling to the industrialized nations to hold ceremonies and share their vision of the future.

Mayan Prophecy

Hunbatz Men tells of an ancient confederation of Native American elders made up of representatives from Nicaragua to the Arctic Circle. They have been meeting for thousands of years and continue to do so today. Before the Spaniards came the

confederation decided to hide the Mayan teachings, entrusting certain families with their care. Hunbatz Men is an inheritor of that lineage. In his book *Secrets of Mayan Science/Religion*, he reveals teachings that mirror the Hindu and Buddhist ones of astrology, meditation, and the septenary root of creation.

He speaks of Kukulcan and Quetzalcoatl, not so much in light of an expected return, but rather in terms of the possibility that each of us can attain the same exalted stage by treading the path of attaining knowledge. "To be Quetzalcoatl or Kukulcan is to know the seven forces that govern our body - not only know them but also use them and understand their intimate relationship with natural and cosmic laws. We must comprehend the long and short cycles and the solar laws that sustain our lives. We must know how to die, and how to be born."

What is enlightening in all of these statements is their consistent tone of reconciliation. The native groups are opening their doors to people of every color, speaking of themselves as Rainbow Warriors. Their elders have reminded them to "remember the original instructions" when each tribe was given by the creator a mandate to follow. That mandate has told them that now is the time to heal the past, despite the centuries of pain and persecution. Now is the time to join together and work in harmony to rehabilitate the planet and establish an era of alignment and peace.

Native American Prophecies Fulfilled

[from a talk by Lee Brown at the 1986 Baha'i Continental Indigenous Council, Fairbanks, Alaska]

There was the cycle of the mineral, the rock. There was the cycle of the plant. And now we are in the cycle of the animal coming to the end of that and beginning the cycle of the human being. When we get into the cycle of the human being, the highest and greatest powers that we have will be released to us. They will be released from that light or soul that we carry to the mind.

But right now we're coming to the end of the animal cycle and we have investigated ourselves and learned what it is to be like an animal on this earth.

At the beginning of this cycle of time, long ago, the Great Spirit came down and He made an appearance and He gathered the peoples of this earth together and He said to the human beings, "I'm going to send you to four directions and over time I'm going to change you to four colors, but I'm going to give you some teachings and you will call these the Original Teachings and when you come back together with each other you will share these so that you can live and have peace on earth, and a great civilization will come about." And he said "During the cycle of time I'm going to give each of you two

stone tablets.

When I give you those stone tablets, don't cast those upon the ground. If any of the brothers and sisters of the four directions and the four colors cast their tablets on the ground, not only, will human beings have a hard time, but almost the earth itself will die."

And so he gave each of us a responsibility and we call that the Guardianship. To the Indian people, the red people, he gave the Guardianship of the earth. We were to learn during this cycle of time the teachings of the earth, the plants that grow from the earth, the foods that you can eat, and the herbs that are healing so that when we came back together with the other brothers and sisters we could share this knowledge with them. Something good was to happen on the earth.

To the South, he gave the yellow race of people the Guardianship of the wind. They were to learn about the sky and breathing and how to take that within ourselves for spiritual advancement. They were to share that with us at this time.

To the West He gave the black race of people the Guardianship of the water. They were to learn the teachings of the water which is the chief of the elements, being the most humble and the most powerful. When I went to the University of Washington and I learned that it was a black man who discovered blood plasma, it didn't surprise me because blood is water and the elders already told me the black people would bring the teachings of the water.

To the North He gave the white race of people the Guardianship of the fire. If you look at the center of many of the things they do you will find the fire. They say a light bulb is the white man's fire. If you look at the center of a car you will find a spark. If you look at the center of the airplane and the train you will find the fire. The fire consumes, and also moves. This is why it was the white brothers and sisters who began to move upon the face of the earth and reunite us as a human family.

And so a long time passed, and the Great Spirit gave each of the four races stone tablets. Ours are kept at the Hopi Reservation in Arizona at Four Corners Area on Third Mesa. I talked to people from the black race and their stone tablets are at the foot of Mount Kenya. They are kept by the Kukuyu Tribe. I once had the honor of presenting a sacred pipe at the Kukuyu Tribe carved from the red pipe stone of Mount Kenya. I was at an Indian spiritual gathering about 15 years ago. A medicine man from South Dakota put a beaded medicine wheel in the middle of the gathering. It had the four colors from the four directions; He asked the people, "Where is this from?" They said, "Probably Montana, or South Dakota, maybe Saskatchewan." He said, "This is from Kenya." It was beaded just like ours, with the same colors.

The stone tablets of the yellow race of people are kept by the Tibetans, in Tibet. If you went straight through the Hopi Reservation to the other side of the world, you would

come out in Tibet. The Tibetan word for "sun" is the Hopi word for "moon" and the Hopi word for "sun" is the Tibetan word for "moon".

The guardians of the traditions of the people of Europe are the Swiss. In Switzerland, they still have a day when each family brings out its mask. They still know the colors of the families, they still know the symbols, some of them. Each of these four peoples happen to be people that live in the mountains.

So we went through this cycle of time and each of the four races went to their directions and they learned their teachings.

It was in Newsweek not too long ago that eight out of ten foods that people eat on the earth are developed here in the western hemisphere because that was our Guardianship, to learn the teachings of the earth, and the things that grow from the earth. We were given a sacred handshake to show when we came back together as brothers and sisters that we still remembered the teachings.

It was indicated on the stone tablets that the Hopis had that the first brothers and sisters that would come back to them would come as turtles across the land. They would be human beings, but they would come as turtles. So when the time came close the Hopis were at a special village to welcome the turtles that would come across the land and they got up in the morning and looked out at the sunrise. They looked out across the desert and they saw the Spanish Conquistadores coming, covered in armor, like turtles across the land. So this was them. So they went out to the Spanish man and they extended their hand hoping for the handshake but into the hand the Spanish man dropped a trinket. And so word spread throughout North America that there was going to be a hard time, that maybe some of the brothers and sisters had forgotten the sacredness of all things and all the human beings were going to suffer for this on the earth.

So tribes began to send people to the mountains to have visions to try to figure out how they could survive. At that time there were 100,000 cities in the Mississippi Valley alone, called the mound civilization: cities built on great mounds. Those mounds are still there. If you ever go out to Ohio or the Mississippi Valley, they're tourist attractions now. There was 100,000 cities of Native people and they were wondering how they could survive. They began to try to learn to live off the land because they knew a hard time was going to come. They began to send people to have visions to see how we could survive this time. People came on the east coast and they went across this land to the west and they were told in the prophecies that we should try to remind all the people that would come here of the sacredness of all things. If we could do that, then there would be peace on earth. But if we did not do that, if we had not come together as a human family, the Great Spirit would grab the earth with his hand and shake it.

And so, if you read the treaty negotiations from Red Jacket of the Six Nations on the east coast of this land clear to Chief Joseph and Chief Seattle on the west coast of this land, they all said the same thing. Chief Joseph said, "I accord you the right, and I hope you accord me the right, to live in this land." Always we were trying to live together. But

instead of living together, you all know there was separation, there was segregation. They separated the races: they separated the Indians, and they separated the blacks. In the state of Washington it was against the law for an Asian to marry a white person up until not too long ago. There was separation.

So when they got to the west coast of this land the elders that were made aware of these prophecies said they would then begin to build a black ribbon. And on this black ribbon there would move a bug. And when you begin to see this bug moving on the land, that was the sign for the First Shaking of the Earth. The First Shaking of the Earth would be so violent that this bug would be shaken off the earth into the air and it would begin to move and fly in the air. And by the end of this shaking this bug will be in the air around the world. Behind it would be a trail of dirt and eventually the whole sky of the entire earth would become dirty from these trails of dirt, and this would cause many diseases that would get more and more complicated. So the bug moving on the land, of course it's easy to see now. In 1908 the Model-T Ford was mass produced for the first time. So the elders knew the First Shaking of the Earth was about to come about - that was the First World War.

In the First World War the airplane came into wide usage for the first time. That was that bug moving into the sky. And so they knew something very important would happen. There would be an attempt to make peace on earth on the west coast of this land and so the elders began to watch for this. They began to hear that there was going to be a League of Nations in San Francisco so the elders gathered in Arizona around 1920 or so and they wrote a letter to Woodrow Wilson. They asked if the Indian people could be included in the League of Nations.

At that time the United States Supreme Court had held that a reservation is a separate and semi-sovereign nation, not a part of the United States but protected by it. This became a concern because people didn't want the reservations to become more and more separate. They didn't want them to be considered nations. So they did not write back and the Native people were left out of the League of Nations, so that circle was incomplete. In the League of Nations circle there was a southern door, the yellow people; there was a western door, the black people; there was a northern door, the white people; but the eastern door was not attended. The elders knew that peace would not come on the earth until the circle of humanity is complete, until all the four colors sat in the circle and shared their teachings, then peace would come on earth.

So they knew things would happen. Things would speed up a little bit. There would be a cobweb built around the earth, and people would talk across this cobweb. When this talking cobweb, the telephone, was built around the earth, a sign of life would appear in the east, but it would tilt and bring death. (the swastika of the Nazis) It would come with the sun. But the sun itself would rise one day not in the east but in the west. (the rising sun of the Japanese Empire) So the elders said when you see the sun rising in the east and you see the sign of life reversed and tilted in the east, you know that the Great Death is to come upon the earth, and now the Great Spirit will grab the earth again in His hand and shake it and this shaking will be worse than the first. So the sign of life reversed and

tilted, we call that the Swastika, and the rising sun in the east was the rising sun of Japan. These two symbols are carved in stone in Arizona. When the elders saw these two flags, these were the signs that the earth was to be shaken again.

The worst misuse of the Guardianship of the fire is called the "gourd of ashes". They said the gourd of ashes will fall from the air. It will make the people like blades of grass in the prairie fire and things will not grow for many seasons. I saw on television not too long ago that they were talking about the atomic bomb, the gourd of ashes. They said it was the best-kept secret in the history of the United States. The elders wanted to speak about it in 1920.

They would have spoken of it and foretold it's coming if they could have entered into the League of Nations. The elders tried to contact President Roosevelt and ask him not to use the gourd of ashes because it would have a great effect on the earth and eventually cause even greater destruction and a the Third Shaking of the Earth, the Third World War. I'll get to that in a few minutes.

So they knew after the Second Shaking of the Earth when they saw the gourd of ashes fall from the sky then there would be an attempt to make peace on the other side of this land. And because the peace attempt on the west coast had failed, they would build a special house on the east coast of this Turtle Island, and all the nations and peoples of the earth would come to this house and it would be called the House of Mica and it would shine like the mica on the desert shines. So the elders began to see they were building the United Nations made out of glass that reflects like the mica on the desert so they knew this was the House of Mica and all the peoples of the earth should go to it. So they met and talked about this. They said that in the 1920s they had written and they had not been responded to, so they said this time we better go to the front door of the House of Mica because things might get a lot worse.

So elders representing a number of tribes I believe drove to New York City. When the United Nations opened they went to the front door of the house of Mica and they said these words: "We represent the indigenous people of North America and we wish to address the nations of the Earth. We're going to give you four days to consider whether or not we will be allowed to speak."

They retreated to one of the Six Nations Reserves in New York State. The Six Nations Reserves are keepers of the Great Law of Peace of the prophet that appeared here in North America, Dekanwidah. And this Law of Peace is still recited, it takes four days between sunrise and noon. Each year an Indian, by memory, must recite it about this time of year. Four days later they came back and I believe the nations of the earth heard that the Indians had come to the door. And they voted to let the Indians in. They wanted to hear what they had to say. But the United States is one of five nations of the United Nations with a veto power and still they were concerned because this time the Native sovereignty was even stronger. And I believe they vetoed the entrance of the Native people.

So then they knew other things would happen on the Earth, and the United Nations would not bring peace on earth but there would be continuing and deepening confusion. And that the little wars would get worse. So they retreated to the Six Nations Reserve and they talked about this and they said the time is really getting close now... 1949. They said, "We're going to divide the United States into four sections and each year we're going to have a gathering. We're going to call these the 'White Roots of Peace Gatherings'." They began to have these around 1950. And they authorized certain men to speak in English for the first time about these prophecies.

One that I used to listen to many times, over and over, was Thomas Banyaca. He is a Hopi man. He was authorized to speak in English about what was on the stone tablets and he has dedicated his life to doing this. And they began to tell us at these gatherings, they said "In your lifetime you're going to see things happen." It was strange when they said it in the 1950s and 1960s but now it seems very clear. But then it was unusual... They said "You're going to see a time in your lifetime when the human beings are going to find the blueprint that makes us." They call that now, DNA, deoxyribonucleic acid. They said, "They are going to cut this blueprint." They call that now, genetic splicing. And they said, "They're going to make new animals upon the earth, and they're going to think these are going to help us. And it's going to seem like they do help us. But maybe the grandchildren and great-grandchildren are going to suffer"... The elders said long ago, "They will release these things, they will use them." This is going to be released not too long from now. They are making new animals. The elders talked about this. They said, "You will see new animals, and even the old animals will come back, animals that people thought had disappeared. They will find them here and there. They'll begin to reappear."

They said, and I know many of you are from tribes that also have this prophecy, "You're going to see a time when the eagle will fly its highest in the night and it will land upon the moon." Some tribes say the eagle will circle the moon. Some tribes say the eagle will fly it's highest in the night. "And at that time," they say, "Many of the Native people will be sleeping," which symbolically means they have lost their teachings. There are some tribes that say it will be as if they are frozen: they've been through the long winter. But they say, "When the eagle flies it's highest in the night, that will be the first light of a new day. That will be the first thawing of spring." Of course, at the first light of a new day, if you've stayed up all night, you notice it's really dark. And the first light, you want to see it, but you can't. It sneaks up on you. You want to see it change but it's dark and then pretty soon it's getting light before you know it. We're at that time now. The Eagle has landed on the moon, 1969. When that spaceship landed they sent back the message, "The Eagle has landed."

Traditionally, Native people from clear up in the Inuit region, they have shared with us this prophecy, clear down to the Quechuas in South America. They shared with us that they have this prophecy. When they heard those first words, "The Eagle has landed," they knew that was the start of a new time and a new power for Native people. There was absolutely nothing strong before us now. We may do anything we wish.

In 1776 when the United States Government printed the dollar, in one claw [of the eagle], if you've ever noticed, there is an olive branch in this claw. They said that represented peace. The Indian elders shared with me in South Dakota that to them that represents the enslavement of black people. In the prophecies of the Six Nations people they say there will be two great uprisings by black people to free themselves. We've seen one about 1964. There will be a second, more violent one to come.

I'll get back to what that means in a minute. In the other claw is 13 arrows. The founding fathers of the United States said that represents the 13 States. But the elders say that represents the enslavement of the Native people. When the Eagle landed on the moon, they decided to print a special silver dollar to commemorate that. I don't know how many of you noticed it. The original design showed the spaceship landing on the moon but at the last minute it was changed to an actual eagle. And in the eagle's claws is the olive branch, but the arrows are gone. The elders said, "That's our prophecy- we have been released."

There was one more uprising coming for the black race of people and then they will be released and this is also going to have an effect on Native people, a good effect. There's a whole new set of prophecies from the Iroquois people about that and I won't have time to go into that this morning.

But we're in that time now. We're between the first light of a new day and the sunrise. The sunrise is about to come and when it comes up everyone is going to see it. But you know how it is in the village there's a few people that get up early, and there are some that sleep until noon. They said when that Eagle lands on the moon, the powers will begin to come back to us.

As an alcoholic person, I feel that one of our greatest diseases is alcoholism. Within seven days of the time of the Eagle landing on the moon, the first Native alcoholism program was started on an Apache reservation in Arizona. Within seven days of the time the Eagle landed on the moon, the Freedom of Indian Religion Act was introduced into the United States Congress.

Eventually it was passed in November of 1978, signed by President Carter, making the song that Kevin sang legal to sing in every state of the United States. It was punishable at one time to go to jail for 10 years and/or a \$10,000 fine for singing a song or doing a sweat. This was changed in 1978 the legislation was introduced in 1969, less than seven days after the Eagle landed on the moon. These are the physical manifestations of the spiritual prophecies that we have.

So he said at this time you're going to see that things will speed up, that people on the earth will move faster and faster.

Grandchildren will not have time for grandparents. Parents will not have time for children. It will seem like time is going faster and faster. The elders advised us that as things speed up, you yourself should slow down. The faster things go, the slower you go.

Because there's going to come a time when the earth is going to be shaken a third time. The Great Spirit has been shaking the earth two times: the First and Second World Wars to remind us that we are a human family, to remind us that we should have greeted each other as brothers and sisters. We had a chance after each shaking to come together in a circle that would have brought peace on earth, but we missed that.

Tonight they were talking on the news about the sign for the Third Shaking of the Earth. They said they're going to build what the elders called the "house in the sky". In the 1950s they talked about this: they will build a house and throw it in the sky. When you see people living in the sky on a permanent basis, you will know the Great Spirit is about to grab the earth, this time not with one hand, but with both hands. Many of you of Native background may have heard "the spirits will warn you twice, but the third time you stand alone." We've had two warnings, the first two World Wars, but now we stand alone in the third one. As it says in the Baha'i Writings, there will be no-one protected. When this house is in the sky, the Great Spirit is going to shake the Earth a third time and whoever dropped that gourd of ashes, upon them it is going to drop.

They say at that time there will be villages in this land so great that when you stand in the villages you will not be able to see out, and in the prophecies these are called "villages of stone", or "prairies of stone". And they said the stone will grow up from the ground and you will not be able to see beyond the village. At the center of each and every one of these villages will be Native people, and they will walk as "hollow" shells upon a "prairie of stone". They said "hollow shells" which means they will have lost any of their traditional understandings; they will be empty within. They said after the Eagle lands on the moon some of these people will begin to leave these "prairies of stone" and come home and take up some of the old ways and begin to make themselves reborn, because it's a new day. But many will not. And they said there's going to come a time when in the morning the sun is going to rise and this village of stone will be there, and in the evening there would just be steam coming from the ground. They will be as steam. And in the center of many of those villages of stone when they turn to steam, the Native people will turn to steam also because they never woke up and left the village. And this used to bother me when I was a young man. I used to ask the elders, "Isn't there anything we can do?" And they said, well, it's just that way that if a person does not have the spiritual eyes to see, it's very hard to show them. Or if they don't have the ears to hear, it's very hard to speak with them. We wish that we could go get them all but we can't. It's just that some are not going to wake up. But some will wake up.

And so they say there's going to be the "third shaking of the earth." It's not going to be a good thing to see but we will survive it. We will survive it. And when we survive it, then there's going to be another attempt to make a circle of the human beings on the earth. And this time the Native people will not have to petition to join but will be invited to enter the circle because they say the attitude towards us will have changed by then, and people will let us into the circle and all the four colors of the four directions will share their wisdom, and there will be a peace on earth. This is coming close. A lot of times when I share this message of the prophecies, people say, "Can't we change it? Could we stop it?" The answer is yes.

The prophecies are always "either/or". We could have come together way back there in 1565, and we could have had a great civilization, but we didn't. Always along the path of these prophecies, we could have come together. We still could. If we could stop the racial and religious disharmony, we would not have to go through this third shaking. The elders say the chance of that is pretty slim. It seems to me like it's pretty slim, too. But they say what we can do is we can "cushion" it. The word we use is "cushion". We can cushion it so it won't be quite as bad. How do we do this? We do this by sharing the teaching that will reunite us.

The Hopis in their prophecies say there will be a religion that comes here. Maybe it will be true and bring unity, or maybe it will not be true and not bring unity. If it does not bring unity, a second religion will come, and the people of this religion are known in the Hopi language as the Baha-ni, the people of Baha. Ni means "people of". So I was looking for the people of Baha. I wondered who the people of Baha were. I was a Baha'i for quite a while before somebody told me that Baha'i means "people of Bahà". I thought, 'O my God!' Here I was looking for it all these years and I never even noticed it! And I had already found it!

I was stubborn and didn't want to become a Baha'i but my grandfather who passed away, you know he must have found out about it in the next realm because he came back to me four times in dreams to tell me, "Hey, look at that again, look at that again. Look one more time."

Baha'i... it means "light or glory". Baha'i means "follower of the light", or the people of Baha. We've been waiting for these people for a long time. They say they will bring a Teaching that will unite the earth. So we need to share this Teaching. They say the fire will come from the North. So here we are, in a circle, in the North, talking about the Bahà-nis, the "people of Baha..."

Interpretation of Ancient Navajo Chants

[by Annie Khan]

He who is all wise, all knowing, brought to the Navajo people something like a Holy Book except that the Navajo could not write at that time so He gave it to them in the form of chanting. To chant is to speak in rhymes like poetry so that the ancient wisdom is remembered longer. This chanting is like the Holy Scriptures. It tells the Indians what to look for at the 'Time of the End' when he would come to the people again.

One of the Holy Medicine Men said that the 'Time of the End' is like two more stages to climb forward: the first is to have the Spirit of the people live again, and second, the people shall melt into one, meaning that true love between people shall be practiced. In the chanting He (the wilderness Great Spirit) has said that He is expected in the east, but also expected in the west. As He comes and brings these good things of the spirit and of love, it will be the most happy and glorious occasion.

The 'melting into one' is like the wonderful feeling of the Navajo girl when she falls in love and says of her beloved "Hey John, how I melt when I see him!" But the love of the Great Spirit and of mankind that comes in the New Day is so great that all the world's afflictions and its dangers can in no way harm us.

In the chants it says that when this New Day comes to us it is like the birth of a new baby, like a mother bringing her new baby home from the hospital. Everybody in that home cries "let me hold the baby!" even the grandmothers, even down to the little ones, all cry: "Let me hold the baby; it is so clean; it is so fresh; it is so wonderful!" So the new religion is clean and fresh in the same way because it has none of the prejudices and misunderstandings that the older religions have accumulated down through the centuries.

The new Faith comes also to the Indians like the Sun at dawn. As the sun rises it touches the peaks and buttes first with its light; then slowly it moves down into the canyons. The light is at first visible only to a few who are awake, high up and watching. Some of the Navajo and other people Indian peoples are like people down in a deep canyon. They are listening for the Voice of the Great Creator, but do not know where to look for it yet because the dark shadows blind them. But there are some Indians who are as if they are on the mountain tops and they begin very early to dance and sing with joy when they see the Glory coming.

The fact that the new Light is said to come like the dawn warns us that, even as the early sunlight rises up through the mists of morning and slowly drives away the dark shadows of the canyons, so the coming of the New Teaching will not be widely visible at first, but will reach in the beginnings only those whose spiritual eyes and ears are open. It is taught, however, in the chants that even the people down in the dark canyons will hear the Voice of the Great Spirit and they will search for Him until they also receive the Light of the New Day. Many of the Navajo people now believe that this glorious light has come, but we must seek it out with understanding hearts, even as lost children seek for their father in the wilderness.

The chants say that there are two signs of the New Spirit that all the people should look for. The first sign is the NINE POINTED STAR that must come from the east. The number nine is the sign of the highest unity, for all members can be found in this one number, and so all religions and races and nations will come together in love and unity under the sign of the NINE POINTED STAR.

(NOTE: the nine pointed star is one of the symbols of the Baha'i Faith)

Another sign of this coming is that there will be a great chief in the east who will wear (symbolically) a headdress with twelve feathers. The chants say that these twelve feathers mean twelve great principles that He will bring to mankind. If we search carefully we will find that these twelve principles of world unity have already come to the world and, even in this day, are beginning to bring people together in unity, understanding and love.

In the Unity Chant the Great One says He will come like the dawn and like the Shepherd who gathers His flock and brings all the wandering sheep back together again. In the Day of Unity you will walk in beauty; the beauty will walk before you; the beauty will walk behind you; you will be surrounded by beauty. Through the beautiful writings of a new Prophet of God, these meanings will become very clear. Man himself in this Age has found many ways to create beauty. With all these beautiful things we must now have beautiful minds. With beautiful hearts we will talk in beauty. The speech of all men will be in beauty.

Again in another place in the chants He says that those who speak with beautiful speech will lead the world to beauty and He says the center of this beautiful speech comes from a Holy Mountain. What is the most Holy Mountain in the world? Is it not Mt. Carmel in the Holy Land where the Bible says "...the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, They shall see the glory of the Lord?"-Isaiah 35:1-2. This is closely linked with the Promised Day of the New Spirit when "the desert shall rejoice, and blossom like the rose." Today, Mount Carmel, which, only a few decades ago was nothing but desert, is now being covered with beautiful gardens. From there we are beginning to hear the Message of Beauty and of the Spirit that is awakening the World.

So are the prophecies of all peoples of the Day of Unity being fulfilled. These prophecies of the Navajo clearly foretell the coming of Baha'u'llah with the symbol of the nine pointed star.

The Return of the "White Buffalo Calf Woman" Prophecy of the Lakota

Pat Locke's interview of Jaci Left Hand Bull, 1989

...I decided to interview my friend Jaci Left Hand Bull, a Sicangu who practices the Lakota spiritual traditions and who is simultaneously a practicing Baha'i.

Pat Locke - First, I'm curious about how you feel about being a Lakota woman in today's world.

Jaci Left Hand Bull - I'm used to strong women, in a womanly sense. The strongest women I know were my grandmothers and mother. So when the feminist movement in the seventies seemed to deny womanhood in favor of a female-malehood, I really didn't get it. My body is obviously made for bearing children, and my instincts are to nurture those children. For awhile that was put down, like a curse we had to overcome. But my brain is as good as my brother's and just about that time (the 70's), I started to teach Indian children's culture classes, and as I drew on my own cultural background I found myself repeatedly seeing male and female balance in all things, in all the teachings of the

earth, so I went with it, and through teaching it came to a deepened understanding of the beauty and wisdom of male and female. Then I also learned that one of the major teachings of Baha'u'llah is equality, but not identical sameness, of the sexes. It made sense to me.

I am a feminist, but I believe that equality, especially in the spiritual realm, already exists. In the physical world it can be demanded, but unless it is also earned, or won, it leads to nothing in the end. Because Lakota women, who have protected our culture over the generations, have earned it, the traditional people do respect women as spiritual and social equals. So to use one's body AND one's mind for the good of the people is how one wins the recognition and appreciation of equality. All life is a balanced partnership. It's Lakota. It is also one of the teachings of Baha'u'llah that a necessary step in the attainment of world peace is the recognition of the equality of women and men and the full participation of women in the affairs of the world. The womanly perspective of the mothers is needed at all levels. To me, that's not a foreign, or non-Indian concept. But DOING it, will take effort, especially in the non-Indian world.

Pat Locke - How many Indians do you estimate are Baha'is in the Americas?

Jaci Left Hand Bull - There are probably over 200,000 Indian Baha'is in the Americas. Most, the vast majority are in South America, where there are very large populations of Indians, many who don't even speak Spanish. But Central America also has quite a few thousand especially among the Mayan Indians.

Pat Locke - Why do you think so many indigenous people have become Baha'i?

Jaci Left Hand Bull - I think indigenous people are initially attracted to the Baha'i faith for two or three reasons. For some, it is the fact that the teachings of the faith emphasize the importance of preserving Native cultures. We know that we, and all Indians, have been under tremendous pressure to assimilate into non-Indian ways, so it is a confirmation for many to learn that a messenger of God brought this particular teaching over a hundred years ago.

For others it is the genuine, "no strings attached" love Baha'is have for one another and for all people. It's unconditional love. Because of the abusive or exploitative "love" that so many indigenous peoples of the Americas have experienced for generations, a genuine appreciative love is like a glimpse of what life is supposed to be, respectful. For others it is various specific teachings of the Faith that attract- like the equality of all people, or the teaching that there is only one God, that His messengers - Christ, Moses, the White Buffalo Calf Woman - brought specific teachings for a time and place.

But, these are only what initially attracts Indians to the Faith. Later it is the spiritual recognition of the Creator, manifested in Baha'u'llah, for this long-promised age that is now dawning.

Pat Locke - Some people seem to have the impression that an Indian has to surrender his or her identity as an Indian in order to become a Baha'i - what is your reaction to this idea?

Jaci Left Hand Bull - Well, it is understandable that Indians would think that, they'd have to give up something. We only have to look at our parents or grandparents lives to see what accepting a "new" religion can do. We lost so much.

To be a Baha'i is a purely voluntary decision. We know that some imposed religions actually banned native language and culture, dances, music, etc. To see some of the music and dance festivals put on by Indian Baha'is and to listen to conferences held in languages that were nearly extinct, is inspiring. If you believe that the arts are an expression of the spirit, it is even more significant.

I really admire those whose instinct it is to protect the people's right to be who we are - to be Indian. So it is those who look more closely, with keener observation, who see that rather than doing away with Indian ways, the Baha'i teachings actually protect them.

I know a number of Indian Baha'is who still pray and maybe more joyfully and humbly than before, in the traditional ways, with the Pipe, in the sweat lodge, even in the Sun Dance. Did you know that Baha'is are strongly encouraged to arise and pray at dawn? I remember watching my grandpa doing that and watching for the morning star.

When the Calf Pipe was brought out 2 years ago, it gave us a good chance to really think about what that Pipe represents. To me, it's like the very center of the Lakota people, as well as what binds us together as a people. It's both the center of the medicine wheel, and the hoop of the medicine wheel. It's a powerful mystery, and yet there is also the tangible Pipe bundle. We are a fortunate people to still have that bundle, the physical center point of our people-hood and our spiritual history. After the Pipe, came the ceremonies, one by one, that offer spiritual guidance for us as we journey through this material life. And the White Buffalo Calf Woman said we'd go through tests and difficulties, and that she would return in the dawn of a new day. The way of the Pipe isn't dead, it's organic and it's alive.

When she said she'd return, it was a promise. Some of us believe that the promise has been fulfilled. We care a lot about our beliefs, and about being Indian. Others don't believe the promise is fulfilled, that's their right, too. One thing about Lakota ways that I'm really proud of is the respect for another's vision, for their spiritual understanding. No need to condemn. It seems to me that to argue about spiritual belief would be most disrespectful of each other and of the Creator.

My uncle, Adam Bordeaux was a healer - he had strong medicine and to the end he was always learning, and always interested in what others understood, and yet I can never remember him ever condemning others spiritual beliefs. He always protected the people, especially the elders who couldn't speak English.

Pat Locke - Based on your travels among Indian people throughout the Western Hemisphere what have you observed about Indian Baha'is and the practice of their cultures?

Jaci Left Hand Bull - In Central and South America the pressure to give up Indian ways has been going on somewhat longer than in North America. But millions of Indians have hung on to their language and their ways. Those are the places where there are now the most Indian Baha'is. In other places, the Indians had nearly lost the language and the arts - music, dance, special clothing, but among the Indian Baha'is in those places there is an active effort to protect what is left and to nurture it back to full blossom again. It's the only place where I've observed that actually happening.

For example, the Guymi Baha'is of Panama's mountains have built a cultural center - NOT for tourism- but as a place for development of economic and social programs within the cultural context - by the Guymis themselves, to protect what was seriously threatened by outside pressure. And this is done without politics, government funding or specialists.

To see what they are doing for families for education, for women, is amazing. They are a people like us, strong and determined. About midnight one night last winter I watched a dozen circles of 10-15 people in each circle, under a beautiful large shelter, consulting about the things that could strengthen the spiritual lives of their families, would keep the children safe and growing up loving the Guymi values. Everyone participated, men, women and youth. They had decided to consult in this way. Then later, each group shared its vision with the entire gathering and some full community decisions were made. It reminded me of many work- shops and conferences I'd attended in the U.S., but this had a totally Indian, spiritual climate. They are Baha'is, and are the only Guymis actively involved in preserving the culture as a living, functioning, organic, shelter for the people. These Guymis didn't give up a thing except hopelessness.

Pat Locke - How do you as a Lakota woman reconcile your culture and the Baha'i Faith?

Jaci Left Hand Bull - First of all our name Lakota means peace, amity - harmony - balance. We perceive the universe as being inter- related and inter-connected - that's our most significant prayer "mitakuye oyasin" - "all my relations" - we understand this relatedness in fours - the four directions, the four winds, the four elements of life (fire, water, air and earth), the four colors - red, black/blue, white and yellow, that are symbolic of the four races of humankind. This world view is sacred and is based on the teachings of the White Buffalo Calf Woman.

This Lakota world view meshes with the Baha'i world view. The same Creator that sent Moses and Jesus also sent the White Buffalo Calf Woman and Baha'u'llah - the prophet founder of the Baha'i faith. So it's not difficult for me to reconcile the teachings of the White Buffalo Calf Woman and Baha'u'llah. I see it - Baha'u'llah's teachings - as the next step of Lakota ways. Only now we take our place in the world community, with all Indian people united.

Pat Locke - Some have referred to the Baha'i faith as a 'cult', what is your reaction?

Jaci Left Hand Bull - My reaction is surprise. Is the way of the Calf Pipe a cult? Or Christianity? Perhaps the people making that remark don't know that the Baha'i faith is the second most widespread religion in the world, with nearly 6 million members, representing every race, culture and thousands and thousands of languages. Mostly indigenous people - people of the earth - bright, strong, determined, and spiritually alive. Only Baha'is themselves are permitted to contribute to its funds.

It has non-governmental organization status at the U.N. and has contributed positively to many deliberations, especially in the area of human rights. It doesn't have any secret rituals. Naturally some will oppose it - perhaps because of fear or growth, or because they don't know what the faith actually teaches. But then, Jesus Christ and his followers were opposed and persecuted, for over two centuries. People rejected Him in His own lifetime.

Not all Lakota become followers of the Pipe way. The first one to encounter the Sacred Woman, not only didn't appreciate who She was, but tried to violate Her. Before making judgements or accusations, an honest investigation of the facts should happen and a respect for another's spiritual beliefs that do no harm to others should be offered.

Mayan Prophecies of Chilam Balam

The prophecies of Chilam Balam (the Jaguar Priest) date from about 1168 AD. When the Katun 13 Ahau is coming to an end [ie. 1844]...

The sign of the true God on high, there will come to us
The upright beam [the standard of God], it will manifest itself
To light the world.
The union ended, envy ended,
When the bearer of the future sign came to us,
The priest lord,
You shall see it from afar
Coming.
The fame of the beam [standard] comes
To awaken us.
From everywhere
It comes to us.
To the power of Itzamna
Approaches our master, Itza.
Your brother is coming now.
Receive your bearded guests from the east,
Bearers of the standard of God.

Receive the word of God which
Comes to us on the day of resurrection
Which is feared by all in the world, Lord
You are the unique God who created us
Take advantage of the word of God
Whose sign you raise on high
Whose beam you raise upright
That you raise upright so that it may be seen
It changes the splinters that come out of it
It changes them after the rainbow appears
Shown throughout the world,
It is the sign of the true God of heaven.
That is the one you shall worship, Itzas
You are going to worship its ensigns on high
You are going to worship the true faith
You are going to worship the True God
Believe the word of the One God,
For his word came from heaven,
And it counsels you, Itzas.
It awakens the world, makes them believe.
Within another Katun
I wept for my words, I, Chilam Balam
When I explained the word of the True God
Lord forever over the earth.

The prophecies of Chilam Balam foretell the coming of the twin bearded guests from the east bearing aloft the "upright beam" beginning in 1844 AD. This is the "word of the "One God" come down "from heaven" which will "light the world" and "awaken" humanity on the "day of resurrection". The Baha'i Faith began in 1844 AD. The twin bearded guests from the east are Baha'u'llah and his forerunner, the Bab. They brought the message that will "light the world" and "awaken" humanity on the "day of resurrection".

Referring to this "day of resurrection" the Baha'i Writings state:

"O ye people. The Sun of Reality hath appeared and flooded all regions with its glorious light; it has upraised the Standard of Oneness of the world of humanity and summoned all mankind to the refulgent Truth. The cloud of Mercy is pouring, the zephyr of Providence is wafting and the world of humanity is being stirred and moved. The Divine Spirit is conferring eternal life, the heavenly lights are illumining the hearts, the table of the sustenance of the Kingdom is spread and adorned with all kinds of foods and victuals. O ye concourses of men! Awake! Awake! Become mindful! Become mindful! Open ye the seeing eye! Unstop the hearing ear! Hark! Hark! The soft notes of the Heavenly Music are streaming down, ravishing the ears of the people of spiritual discernment. Ere long this transcendent Light will wholly enlighten the East and West!" - `Abdu'l-Baha

These prophecies of the Toltec and the Maya have been explicitly fulfilled.