

The Snake On My Desk !

By Rick Runningbear

One day I was walking through the living room of my house and glanced at the old antique roll top desk that I have there with all my stuff on it. I was startled to see a black snake there on the rim of the roll top with his head down resting on the chair. He was just there, unannounced and calmly presenting himself to my view! There was a snake in my lodge!



I sometimes leave a small door open that separates my bedroom from the outside patio area, and I now believe that is where Mr. Snake entered my abode when I was least aware. He came in there, perhaps on a mission, which was beyond his comprehension as well as mine.

It is my perception that sometimes animals present themselves to human beings in an unusual way so that the person has the opportunity to utilize that animal as a "totem medicine" during some phase of life. This is what I perceived with the snake on my desk. He was there on a mission from Creator to give me some kind of a message. It was an "omen".

I beheld the black snake for a few moments and marveled that he was right "up in my face" so to speak. I decided he had fulfilled his mission here and it was time for him to travel on to his next assignment. I took a staff that is one of many I keep in my house, and I gently placed it under his body. He roused up slightly feeling the staff on his body and let me know I had his attention. I lifted him up maybe an inch, as his head was already inclined towards the floor. I did not want to rush him. I could see he desired to

come down to the floor and he did it slowly. As soon as he was fully down on the carpet he began to weave his way towards the open door from my bedroom to the patio. He seemed to know the route, as perhaps the way he gained entrance at the beginning.

I followed him with a occasional gentle nudge to his side to make sure he continued his course to the outer world. He continued until he was at the door and he just dropped off onto the ground and went his way. It was a gentle non-violent interaction between he and I.

I set myself to thinking about this event. I knew I was in a time of life when things are changing, and certainly there is need to change. I began to think of Snake and his teachings and medicines.

First of all, Snake is misunderstood and maligned way out of proportion. Creator put snake here for a reason. He is good and eliminates rats and mice and other pests near our homes.

Snake has long been associated with healing. Remember the "snake oil medicine man" of the old west? He traveled about promoting snake oil for various ailments. The oil of snakes can be rendered by applying their bodies to heat and collecting the oil from them.

Perhaps you have seen the medical symbol of a staff with two serpents entwined around it. And also we know of the Biblical account of when the image of a snake was help up before the Israelites so that they may behold it and be healed of any snake bites incurred in the wilderness. Yes, Snake medicine implies healing.

Snake also means "Transformation". Snake sheds his skin at least once a year. He leaves the "old self" behind and becomes "transformed" and something greater and better than he was before. When Snake presents himself to you, it means you also, are ready for transformation in your life.

If Snake presents himself to you, it could mean that you need "growth" in your life. Why does the snake shed his skin? It is because he is growing in

size and the old skin has become too small. He puts on a new skin that is large enough to accommodate his new achievements and developments. Snake totem in your life means personal growth.

If you work with Snake in your life as a medicine totem, you will find healing. Many of us need healing. It may be physical, it may be mental, it may be emotional, it may be spiritual. All these kinds of healing are addressed by Snake working in your life. Do not be repulsed by Snake if he presents himself to you. It can be a very good thing!

Snake teaches us simplicity. We of Native descent often refer to animals in terms that pertain to their appendages or lack thereof. We humans are the "two leggeds". Many animals have 4 legs and we call them the "four legged". Birds are the winged ones. And Earth worms and snakes are the "no legged"!

Yes, legs and wings are useful and great appendages to have. But Snake has found a way of moving rapidly and effectively over the ground and up onto trees using no legs at all! He has muscles in his body that permit him to writhe and move in an efficient way to propel himself forward. We can learn from this! Many times great things can be achieved in our lives by very simple means! Remember "KISS"? "Keep it simple stupid!"

Snake presented himself to me right in my own domain. He left politely without causing me any harm, and I also respected him. He gave me the totem medicines of healing, transformation, growth, and simplicity.

I invite the reader to always be aware and looking at the events of every-day life. If an animal presents himself to you in an unusual way, it is likely not to be just happenstance, it was for a reason to show you the way and give you a message and medicine for your life. Be spiritually aware of what goes on around you!

Rick Runningbear