

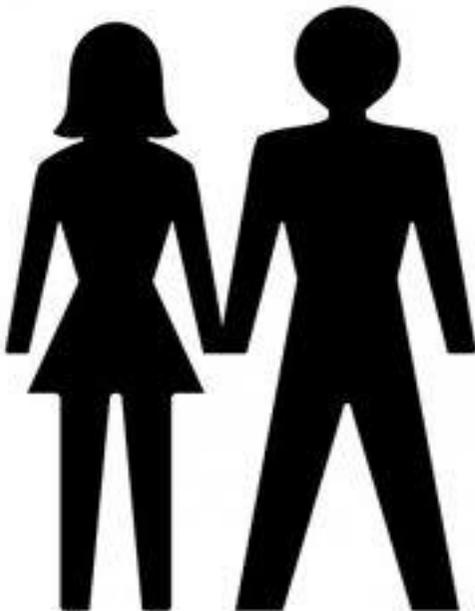
What I see....What I Have To Say About It....

By Mary Lynn Lawson

There is an imbalance in the tribe that starts at a very personal level for us all, not only because we are humans, men and women, but also because of the times we are living in. Regardless of what religion you practice and study, in all of them there is an "order". There is a purpose and a place for everything that the Creator (God) has made. Even in science (the big bang theory), which belongs to the Creator (God) also, there is an order. They call it math.

If you want to be a teaching tribe, you must not memorize tradition, ceremony or dance, but to use your tradition to remind you of WHY you dance, WHY you praise, WHY you pass it on. To be wise is to sit down and listen and this I do not see.

I hear gossip, as the women, who are emotion, exchange frustration about one another. They complain about each other and the opposite sex. I see the men keeping occupied with the trivial because they are not behaving with their purpose. They are disrespected so then become unloving only to leave us (who are all emotion) only to what is wrong. We feel unloved and so we are disrespectful. So we gather, the women rushing about trying to pass on what they know, trying to feel loved. The men trying to memorize a step, and object needed for the job, a purpose: respect.



In all the religions I have studied, it always breaks down to the same lesson: the order of things. Did you know in all of them, in all languages, it says this: "man is beautiful, a beautiful thing, created by the Great Spirit and loved by the Great Spirit. Woman also, is a beautiful thing, created by the Great Spirit and loved by the Great Spirit." But as all things created, we go in order. Man, did you know that you are commanded by the Creator (God) to be loving to your wife? Do you know why? It's because of your design. In the Creator's design you are first to fight and the first to die, for the Creator, for family, which is a precious gift from the Creator. This is a beautiful thing. Woman, (I will type it again:) WO-MAN, is the opposite of man, if you will. You are to nurture and to love and to keep love alive. This is the Creator's (God's) design for you. Did you know, woman, that because of this beautiful nature that you have been given you tend to NURTURE your husbands in a fight for order and security? That is not the way. Your way is to be respectful to man. Your "nurture" leaves it out of your "nature". Get it?

I did not come understand this lesson lightly nor do I pass it on with frivolity. To teach you must first learn. To learn you must first seek (also the new). To seek you must sit down and first listen.

Tribe, come to order: Why do you dance? Why do you pass on tradition? Why are you unwilling to allow the new when the Creator has told you wisdom is just this, a spiritual growth, a seeking of things you do not yet know, not just what those before you know? It happens in yourself and that brings you into the presence of the Creator (God). The Why to it all. Women, do you not trust your own dance, your own wisdom? Men, do you not trust your own ceremony?

You ARE Native. Your very creation makes you that. Your blood itself makes you that. The Creator made you that. You are responsible as a tribe to learn before you teach. Do not memorize movements, but have faith enough in who and what you are to say. I did listen and the Creator gave me this new dance or this new ceremony when in me He planted the seeking of the dance and the

ceremony. Brothers and sisters, where is your love and respect, if not for each other? When you think you are weak, you are. When you think you are strong you are. It is not weak to realize that being respectful is a beautiful and gentle thing. It is not weak to realize that being loving will gain you respect.

Stop criticizing each other. Stop seeking the artifacts that prove your existence and start living with knowing that you are by the Creator that which you already seek. The purpose of us gathering together is that feeling when you dance not the steps you take. The council house is not your somber place. Get it right or the Creator will be displeased! Punishment. It is a place of praise and above all, joy! Do you exist with enough joy in your heart for the Creator (God) to rise up in front of all of us and lead? Why do we not trust ourselves? Why do you say to each other that you are not this or that because you have not learned to be? You cannot "learn" to be a Cherokee any more than I can "learn" to be African or a Chinese can learn to be Australian. You are born what you are. Therefore, love what you are and OWN what you are. You are Cherokee! Dance! You are Cherokee! Give Praise!

When you learn the JOY of it all, the steps will be learned and ceremony memorized. When you stop correcting each other you may realize we are a teaching tribe because we learned something that we did not already know, and so a new tradition is born!



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